

PRACTICAL EVANGELISM

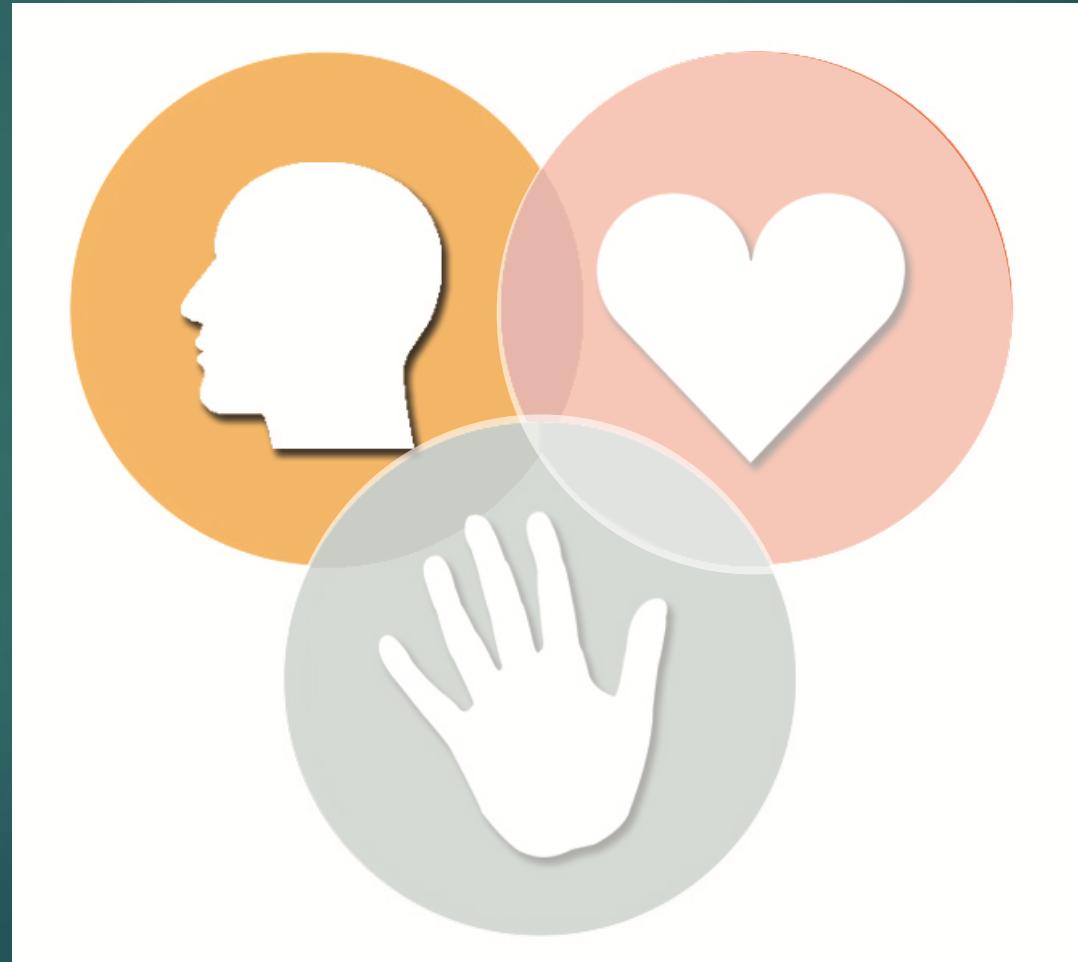
CITYLIGHT CHURCH, FEB 2020

PART 1: EVANGELISM BASICS

HEAD // HEART // HANDS



HEAD // HEART // HANDS



HEAD: The Bible & the Call to Evangelism

- ▶ “**Evangelism**” (EV): **sharing the good news about Jesus.**
 - ▶ (from Greek euaggelizo “to proclaim good news”)
- ▶ **The word “gospel” comes from an Old English word meaning “good news.”**
- ▶ ***The gospel is good news!***

HEAD: Some Biblical Exhortations for EV

► “The Great Commission”:

► **18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20)

► “Ordinary” believers doing EV: Acts 11:19-21

HEAD: Some Biblical Exhortations for EV

- ▶ “**Ordinary Believers**” doing EV:
 - ▶ “The fact remains that most converts [in the early church] were made by anonymous Christians whose witness led others to their faith”
 - ▶ Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*
- ▶ ***Evangelism is for everyone!***

HEAD: Some Biblical Exhortations for EV

▶ Paul unpacks the “logic” of EV:

- ▶ **9 if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** **10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**
- ▶ **14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?** **15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent?** As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
- ▶ (Romans 10:9-10, 14-15)

HEAD // HEART // HANDS



HEART: WHY do evangelism?

*Because God is so glorious
and hell is so horrible.*

HEAD // HEART // HANDS



Some Citylight EV “core values”

- ▶ Your “three”
- ▶ Pray, Love, Introduce, Speak

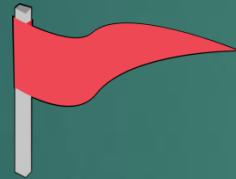
Pre-Evangelism

PREPARING TO SHARE

Pre-Evangelism: Some Principles

1. (Pray, Love, Introduce)

2. “Fly the flag”



& “test the soil”



3. Let your light shine (good works; Matt 5:16)



4. Be genuine (care about them; be honest about you)

5. Personal Testimony (Mark 5:19; John 9:25)

3 Parts of a Personal Testimony

1. “B.C.” – what you were like before Christ
2. How you came to Christ
3. How Christ has changed your life

- ▶ Some tips:
 - ▶ No more than 5 minutes.
 - ▶ Prepare short, medium, & long versions
 - ▶ Practice, practice, practice! (Citygroups)
 - ▶ Watch out for “the testimony trap”
 - ▶ “I’m so glad that works for you.”



A few good things that aren't the good news

- ▶ **Jesus as moral teacher** » “Look at Jesus’s amazing teaching”
- ▶ **Christianity as the best way to live** » “Live this way & life will go well”
- ▶ **Personal fulfillment** » “Live this way & you’ll be happy”
- ▶ **Jesus & justice** » “Christianity has actually done a lot for the world”
- ▶ **How Jesus changed your life** » “I once was blind but now I see”

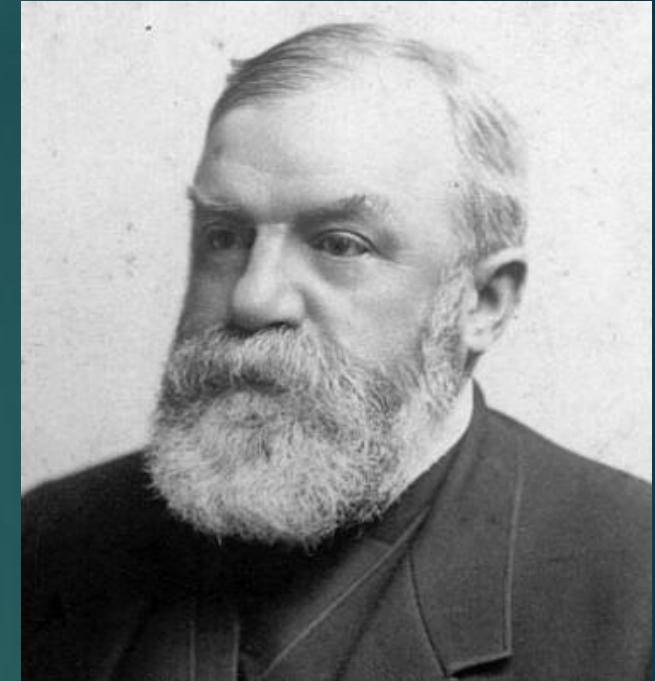
All of these things might be great to talk about, but they are not the good news!

Evangelism

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

“It is clear you don’t like my way of doing evangelism. You raise some good points. Frankly, I sometimes do not like my way of doing evangelism. But I **like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it.**”

- **D.L. Moody** (19th c. evangelist)
to a critic



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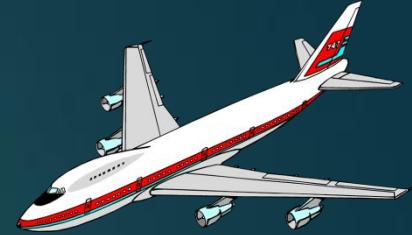
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All of these things might be great to talk about, but they are not the good news!

*At its heart, the gospel is the **good news** (**message**) about **Jesus** – especially his **death** and **resurrection** – and how this **brings us to God** and **changes our lives**.*

The Essential Gospel



- ▶ “Christ died for your sins. Repent and believe in him.”
- ▶ “Call on the name of Jesus and God will save you.”
- ▶ “Jesus saves.”
- ▶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever would believe in him would not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

The Essential Gospel: 3 Elements

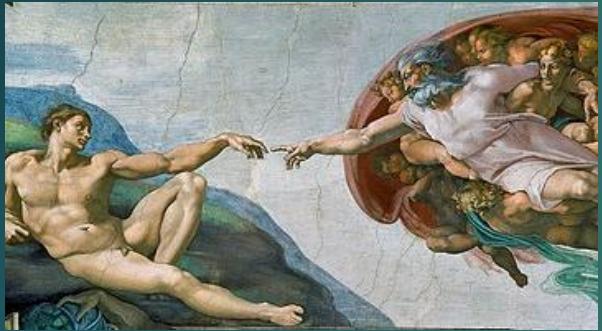
1. **The person & name of Jesus** (Rom 10:9-10; Acts 4:12)
2. **What he did (saved us from sin & its effects)**
 1. (i.e., his substitutionary death on the cross for sin and his resurrection; Rom 4:25; 10:9; 1 Cor 15:3; 1 Pet 2:24)
3. **How to respond (repent and believe)** (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38; 3:19)

Evangelism: Two Helpful Frameworks

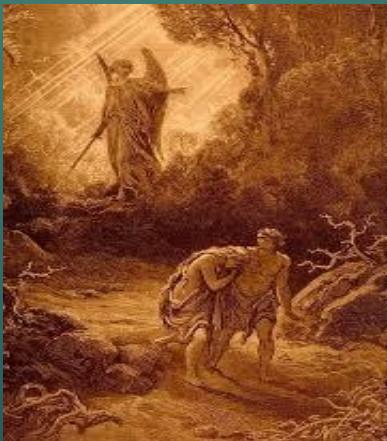
Framework 1:

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, NEW CREATION

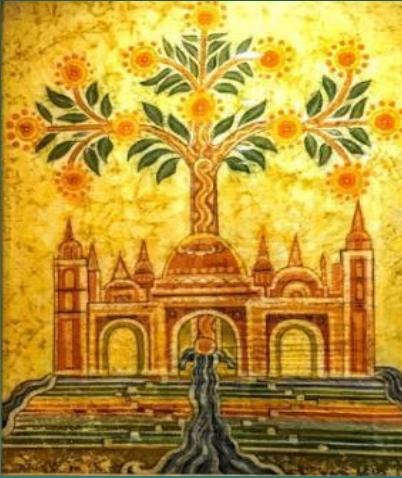
Framework 1



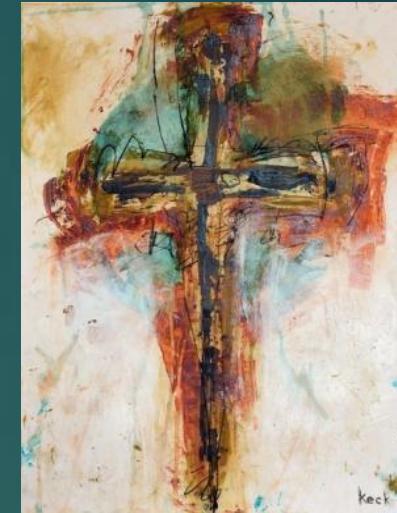
Creation (Gen 1-2)



Fall (Gen 3-11)

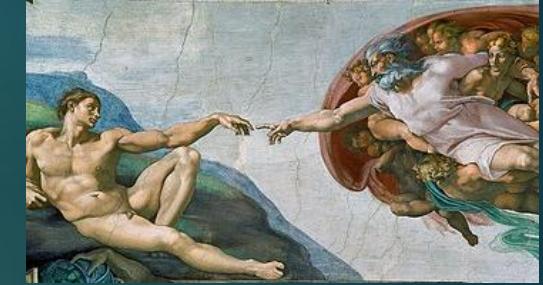


**New Creation
(Rev 21-22)**

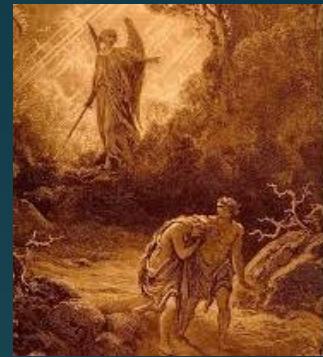


**Redemption
(Gen 12-Rev 20)**

The Story: Creation



- ▶ God created everything good. (Gen 1:31 etc.)
- ▶ He created us in His image. We have value. (Gen 1:28)
- ▶ He created us to know Him. (John 17:3)
- ▶ We were made to live at peace with God and with one another. (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:13-16)



The Story: Fall

- ▶ **But we all turned away from God. (Isa 53:6)**
- ▶ **We've all gone our own way, separated from God and messing up our lives.**
- ▶ **When I look into my own heart, there's a lot of evil there. (Jer 17:9)**
- ▶ **We know we don't live the way we're meant to. We break God's laws and break God's heart.**
- ▶ **Everything is broken. (Look at the world we live in!)**
- ▶ **When we turn away from God, the source of life, the result is death.**

The Story: Redemption



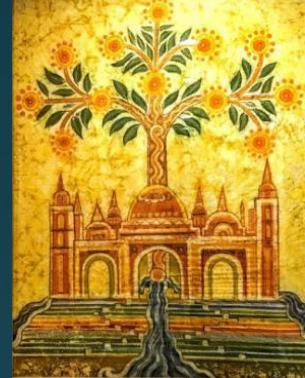
- ▶ **But God made a way to save us.**
- ▶ **(Israel - created to be a light to the nations)**
- ▶ **Jesus: lived the way we should have lived; he died the death we should have died. He died in our place. Christ died for our sins.**



(some ways to express atonement in Christ)

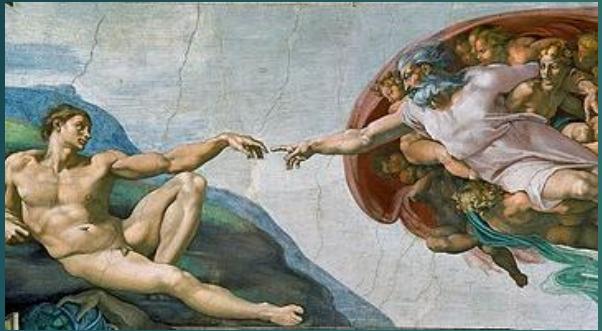
- Jesus died so we might live
- Jesus took our sin away so that we might be forgiven
- Jesus took the curse so that we might have the blessing
- Jesus was cast out so we might be brought near

The Story: New Creation



- ▶ Jesus **rose again** so that we might become new creations in Him (2 Cor 5:17)
 - ▶ ... have eternal life in Him
 - ▶ ... be forgiven in Him
 - ▶ ... be restored and renewed in Him
- ▶ And now we're with Him forever

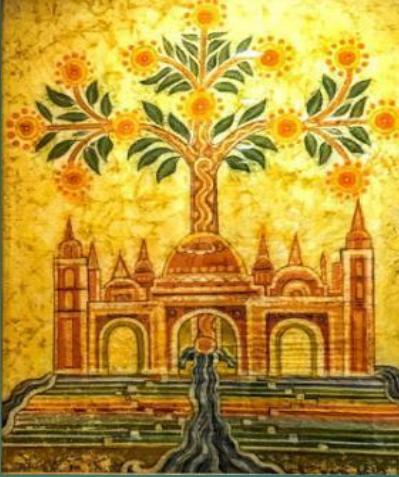
Framework 1



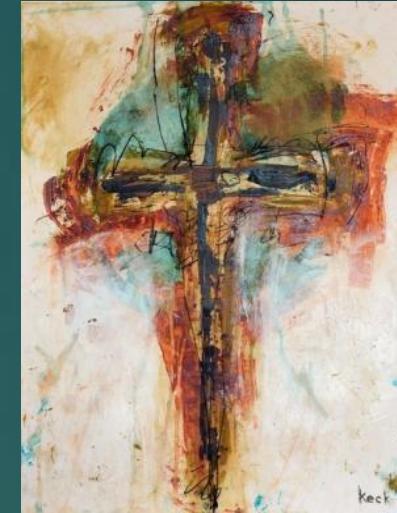
Creation (Gen 1-2)



Fall (Gen 3-11)



**New Creation
(Rev 21-22)**



**Redemption
(Gen 12-Rev 20)**

Framework 2:

GOD, HUMANITY, CHRIST, RESPONSE

Framework 2



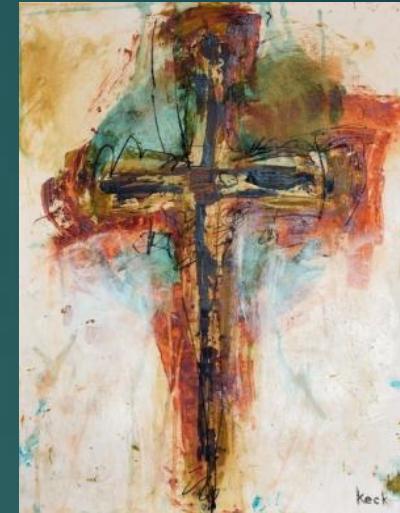
God



Response



Humanity



Christ

The Word of God is our authority.

“The Bible says that...”

Framework 2: God, Humanity, Christ, Response

God:

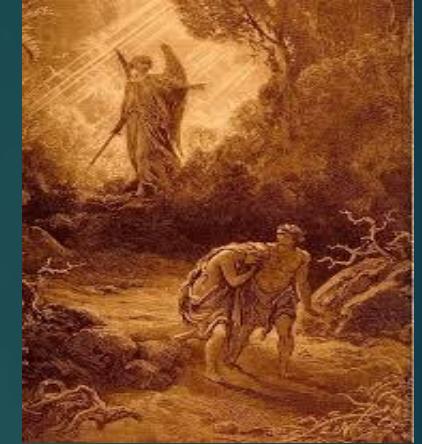
- ▶ Created everything good.
- ▶ Perfectly wise and loving and just.
- ▶ He created us in His image.
- ▶ We are created to be in relationship with Him.
- ▶ He's the source of life.



Framework 2: God, Humanity, Christ, Response

Humanity:

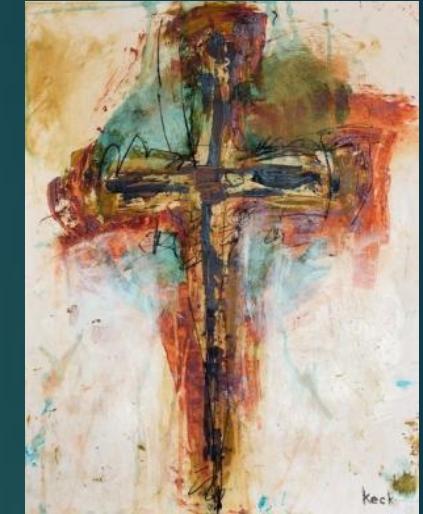
- ▶ We've all turned away from God.
- ▶ We're separated from God.
- ▶ We live with guilt, shame, and fear.
- ▶ We're cut off from the source of life.



Framework 2: God, Humanity, Christ, Response

Christ:

- ▶ God in the flesh (fully God // fully human)
- ▶ Without any evil or wrong (sinless)
- ▶ He lived the perfect life we should have lived.
- ▶ Died the death we should have died.
- ▶ Christ died for our sins.
- ▶ He gets our sins; we get his perfect record.
- ▶ He rose to conquer evil and death.



Framework 2: God, Humanity, Christ, Response

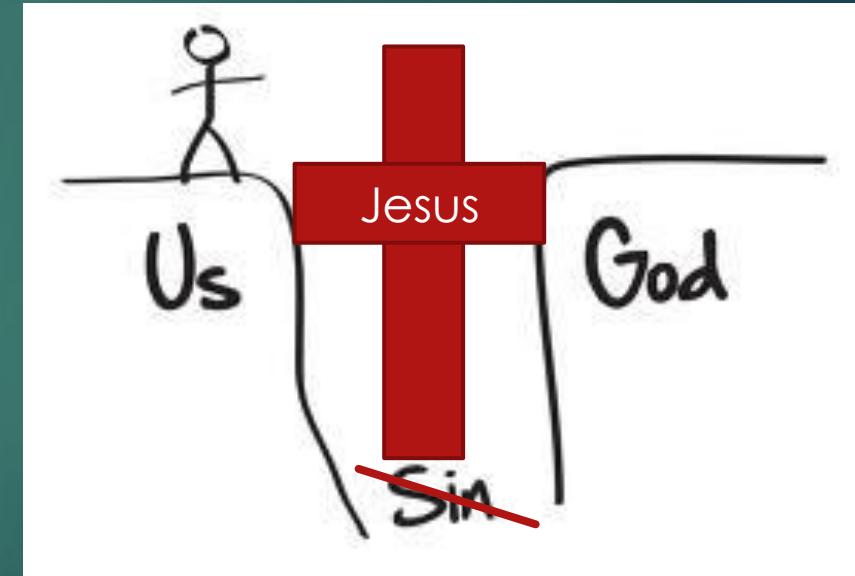
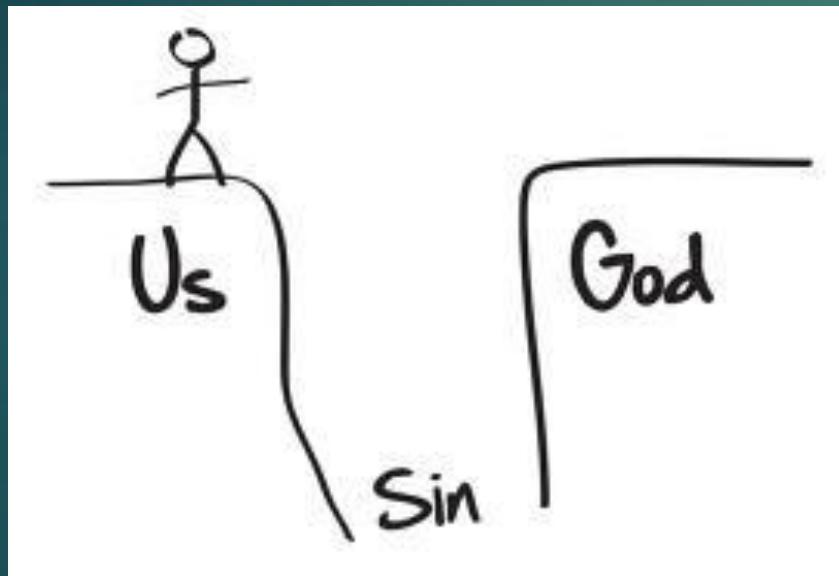
Response: (what to do & what the result is)

- ▶ Turn **from sin and to God.**
- ▶ Our wrongdoing is forgiven.
- ▶ We receive new hearts.
- ▶ We gain new power over sin and evil.
- ▶ We live with God forever.



Framework 2: God, Humanity, Christ, Response

- ▶ “The Bridge Illustration of the gospel” (web search)



Putting it All Together

Conversation Pathways

- ▶ **Start with where they are at** (interests, beliefs, values, personal history)
- ▶ **Ask questions to draw people out (“What?” “Why?” “How?”)**
 - ▶ “Wow, what was that like for you?”
 - ▶ “Huh, I’m curious, why do you think that is?”
 - ▶ “That must have been tough. How did you get through it?”
- ▶ Listen for:
 - ▶ **Beliefs**
 - ▶ **Values**
 - ▶ **Pain**
- ▶ **“Are you a spiritual person?” / “Do you have any spiritual beliefs?”**

7 Things to Remember

1. **Everyone already “knows” God – even if they say they don’t! (Rom 1:18-23)**
2. **Be honest & winsome**
3. **Avoid traps & dead-ends (e.g., politics; Christian culture)**
4. **Get to the gospel (don’t get sidetracked)**
5. **Use the Bible!**
6. **Ask for a response.**
 1. “Does this make sense to you?” “Is there anything that would prevent you from turning from sin & believing in Jesus today?”
7. **Salvation is GOD’s work, not yours**

Some Resources

- ▶ Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency: Speaking the Truths of Jesus into the Everyday Stuff of Life* (2017)
- ▶ Elliot Clark, *Evangelism as Exiles* (2019)
- ▶ Jimmy Scroggins, Steve Wright, *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* (2016)
- ▶ Tim Chester, *From Creation to New Creation* (2010) – (The Bible as Story)
- ▶ J I Packer, *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God* (2012) - Theology