

Appendix 01

Want More Meaty Training?

>>Look here for group curricula and activities, key web-sites, and books to read>>

Group Curricula

Bill Hybels' "Walk Across the Room"

>> Comprising a book, DVD, and study guide, this 4 session series is the perfect follow up to SIGN. I won't give too much away here, but it's really practical, inspiring, and empowering as it teaches you the amazing difference you can make to another's eternity simply by taking the risk to walk across the room and reach out in conversation to those beyond your comfort zone.

Paul E. Little's "How to Give Away Your Faith"

>> Written back in 1966, this nine-chapter book continues to be one of the best guides to cultivating an evangelistic life. Perhaps your small group members could each purchase a copy, taking turns to build basic group studies around each chapter to cement what you've read? Paul Little writes from a wealth of experience, and offers many insightful tips to witness naturally.

Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron's "Way of the Master" (WOTM)

>> Especially if you're into street evangelism, you can't go past www.wayofthemaster.com/ as a hub for techniques, tracts, and training tools. Check out their basic approach with this flash presentation: <http://www.livingwaters.com/good/AreYouGood.html>. Every person will say they're a "good person," but each of us also has a conscience aware that we fall woefully short of God's standard for righteousness as laid out in the Ten Commandments. WOTM explores this tension, and uses the Law to bring us to recognize our need before a Holy God for grace and mercy, provided through Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice. Whether you work through the DVD series, join the School of Biblical Evangelism, listen to "Hell's Best Kept Secret," or read one of Ray Comfort's entertaining books ("You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence But You Can't Make Him Think!"), there's always lots to learn. That said, their approach does play into some of the unfortunate stereotypes surrounding evangelism. So, learn some great skills, and then perhaps incorporate the analogies and approach within a broader frame like that offered here in SIGN.

Rob Bell's Nooma DVD "Trees"

>> This 15 minute DVD is a fantastic example of sharing *The Big Story* in a way that connects with our culture. Borrow or buy a copy, show it to your small group, and then work through some of the questions in the DVD's insert for a great one week study. It's also a great resource to lend to a non-Christian friend who wants to get a handle on what Christianity is about.

Web-Sites to Explore

SIGN Magazine

>> A lot of the material in this course bounces off ideas explored in the quarterly e-magazine we've put together called SIGN. SIGN is designed to inject new life into our witness in a post-Christendom/post-modern age, giving new words for the old story and fresh ideas in place of stale formulas. Shoot an email to david.benson@kbc.org.au and you'll be registered to automatically receive each edition. But, if you're keen to check out a number of the foundational back issues, then you can read it online:

http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/sign_09june ("what is evangelism?")

http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/sign2_09july17_e-mag ("what's our message?")

http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/sign_september2009 ("a Spirit-empowered witness")

http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/sign_09december ("incarnational evangelism")

<http://pathways.kbc.org.au/passing-it-on/>

>> This web-address is a launching point to the couple of teaching videos you watched during the course (*The Big Story* and *The Judge Analogy*). Additionally, you can follow the links to share *your story*, and engage in a forum discussion surrounding how to be an effective Sign in a world like ours.

<http://offthemap.com>

>> If you're tired of program based evangelism, and want it to be doable for ordinary Christians—like Jesus' own model of interaction with outsiders was—then this is your site. It's fresh, creative, and for the spiritually adventurous it offers a guide for evangelism when you're off the map traditional approaches follow. The "ordinary attempts" page is gold for practical ideas.

http://www.rejesus.co.uk/home/index_n

>> A British site offering a good example of internet evangelism, reaching out to seekers who are jaded with traditional Church but are open to re-considering Jesus.

<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/>

>> Two-Ways to Live is how the Sydney Anglicans (Matthias Media) explain the Gospel. It's true to *The Big Story*, and explains the faith in a Kingdom-centred way. Also, check out their "Two Ways" tract.

<http://wonderingfair.com>

>> This blog bridges the gap to secular culture, by gently revealing the identity of the "unknown gods" we worship. This is a great example of thoughtful Christianity in action.

Meaty Reads

Theological Foundations For Evangelism

The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church
(edited by Paul Chilcote & Lacey Warner)

>> Pretty much all the heaviest theological hitters in one volume, laying out the most solid foundation possible for understanding our call to mission and evangelism in the world.

The Gospel in a Pluralist Society; Open Secret; Truth to Tell (Lesslie Newbigin)

>> Newbigin was a fantastic theologian who forged his understanding of, and approach to, sharing the Gospel, over decades while in the challenging pluralistic context of Indian mission.

The Ragamuffin Gospel (Brennan Manning)

>> Perhaps the odd book out in this collection, Manning's book is an incredibly inspiring exploration of God's amazing grace, and how this should shape our understanding, living, and communication of the Gospel. Brennan writes from the perspective of a reforming alcoholic.

The Master Plan of Evangelism, with study guide (Robert E. Coleman)

>> If you can get a book on evangelism to sell over a million copies, you must be saying something important! This classic on evangelism has gone through over 60 reprints, and is still one of the best books unpacking Jesus' pattern of evangelism. His call is to deeper engagement, life-on-life, rather than large but superficial evangelistic events. Coleman guides us through the eight phases of Jesus' ministry with the twelve disciples: selection, association, consecration, impartation, demonstration, delegation, supervision, and reproduction. Well worth a read, and even a study as a group, using the discussion questions provided.

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense; Surprised by Hope (N. T. Wright)

>> A great guide by a top theologian to understanding the core of our mission and message.

A Theology for the 21st Century of the Church in Mission and Evangelism (Dave Benson)

>> We live in challenging times for sharing about Jesus. So, how are we to understand our call to point people to Jesus? Our fundamental need today is not for new techniques, but rather a substantial theology that grounds all we do. This essay explores the motivation, mode, message, and medium for being a faithful and effective witness in the 21st Century. You can read this essay online, at <http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/evangelism-mission-theology>.

Understanding Our Cultural Situation

Most of the following books come from the American context, but the overlap is significant enough to still learn a load about the people we're trying to reach.

They Like Jesus but Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations (Dan Kimball)

>> This book is probably one of the best ways to get a feel for our culture's attitude toward Christianity, and how we can engage the increasing numbers who think Jesus is maybe alright, but the Church is a waste of space. Kimball is sensitive to our context, but thoroughly orthodox in his theology, making his book a good read.

UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity—and Why It Matters (David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons)

>> Based on solid research from the Barna Group, surveying 16-29 year olds outside of Christianity, this book explores the most common perception of Christians that are making us look unChristian. Perhaps the best feature of this book is the contribution of key Christian leaders at the end of each chapter, laying out an alternative vision of who we are and what we should be about, that would revolutionize the public's understanding of the faith.

Lord Save Us from Your Followers: Why Is the Gospel of Love Dividing America? (Dan Merchant)

>> Also known as “The Bumper Sticker Man,” Dan Merchant travelled across America in a suit made of all kinds of bumper stickers (“Jesus Saves” etc.) getting into meaningful conversations with your average outsider to Christianity in America. He explores why there is such backlash against Christianity today, and lays out some great suggestions (from a somewhat liberal perspective) for bringing Love back into the what and why of sharing the Gospel.

Australian Soul: Religion and Spirituality in the 21st Century (Gary Bouma)

>> Finally, a sufficiently rigorous but accessible book exploring the spiritual situation in contemporary Australia. This offers great insight into where your neighbours and non-Christian family and friends are at in their thinking and attitude to Christianity, informing your own witness.

The Thinking Teen (Dave Benson)

>> Check out chapter three in this academic project, exploring the cultural situation for Australian, American, British, and Canadian non-Christian adolescents, especially as it affects their attitude to Christianity and the Bible. If you’ve heard words like postmodernism, pluralism, secularism, consumerism, and the like, and want a way into understanding the signs of the times so that you can share more effectively, then this may be a helpful place to start. You can access it from http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/the_thinking_teen.

Best Books For Seekers

*Back in session 3 (Step 5, Bridge > Gifts) I suggested a range of best books to give away to spiritual seekers. Try reading these before you give them away, as then you’ll have confidence in what you’re giving, providing a platform for further discussion. (The bonus is that this reading will also help you grow in your own understanding of the Gospel and how to share it in non-religious ways that call people to freedom in Christ.) Rather than re-state all the same books here again, I want to highlight what I believe are the **two best books to give away**, both by the same author ...*

The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith + The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism (Tim Keller)

>> Tim Keller is Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, and is shaping up as a C.S. Lewis of the 21st Century. He has one finger on the pulse of our post-Christendom culture, and another on the heart-beat of God in the Bible, making him an amazing example of contextualized evangelism. *The Prodigal God* is ideal for those with some Christian background, who have rejected the Church as irrelevant to life or legalistic and restrictive. It repaints the heart of the Christian faith through an exploration of Luke 15, exploring two ways to die (younger brother = self-satisfying sinning; older brother = self-righteous moralism), but one way to live (receiving grace from the prodigal God). Then, *The Reason for God* is ideal for non-Christian friends with substantial objections to Christianity, but who perhaps haven’t understood what following Jesus is all about. The first half of the book deals with six objections (e.g., salvation through Jesus alone is too exclusive; I can’t literally believe the Bible), and the second half of the book lays out a fresh and beautiful understanding of Christian belief, especially the Gospel. Read it, then give it away!

Becoming a More Effective and Intentional Sign Post to Jesus

True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In (James Choung)

>> Half story, half guide on how to share your faith, this book does an excellent job exploring the way we understand and explain the Gospel. Choung challenges escapist versions of faith, and lays out “The Four Circles” approach to witnessing, where we have a mission right here and now on this Earth. His method forms the basis for our approach in sharing *The Big Story*.

Just Walk Across the Room (Bill Hybels)

>> Reviewed earlier, this is a fantastic place to start if you want to sharpen your witness.

Becoming a Contagious Christian (Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg)

>> This book, written before *Just Walk Across the Room*, gives more detail on the *what* of evangelism: discover your own evangelism style; develop contagious Christian character; learn to direct conversation towards matters of faith, and so forth. It’s a useful evangelism manual.

The Unexpected Adventure: Taking Everyday Risks to Talk with People about Jesus (Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg)

>> Evangelism is meant to be an unexpected adventure, following God’s Spirit to step out and share with whoever He lays on your heart. What could happen if you took this seriously, if you engaged the adventure? This book gives you a taste, tying together stories and solid teaching.

Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People’s Hearts the Way Jesus Did (Randy Newman)

>> What do you do when people don’t want to hear about Christianity? Follow Jesus’ lead and ask a question. Half evangelism, half apologetics, Newman’s book guides you to understand the questions people are asking of us as Christians (e.g. Why are Christians so intolerant?), and the kind of questions we can ask to open up a genuine discussion leading to life.

The Complete Evangelism Guidebook: Expert Advice on Reaching Others for Christ, 2nd edition (edited by Scott Dawson)

>> This book brings together over twenty of the most influential evangelists across the world (Luis Palau, Josh McDowell, Rick Warren, etc.) to each share punchy insights (about 8 pages per chapter) into more effectively sharing Christ with a whole range of people groups: family, friends, co-workers, strangers, senior adults, athletes, military, Buddhists, Muslims, Asian students, addicts, the unemployed, singles, lesbians, and on and on it goes—a great guide at a glance.

Power Evangelism (John Wimber)

>> Ever noticed the pattern in the Bible: the Spirit moves in power, and people get saved? Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard Christian Churches movement, strikes an excellent balance theologically as he explores what it means to work with the Spirit as you share the faith. Heard of *divine appointments* and *power encounters*? Both often-used terms trace back to this book. It’s a fantastic read, and will really change the way you view your call to point people to Jesus.

Radical Reformation: Reaching Out Without Selling Out (Mark Driscoll)

>> Ever feel like Christianity has become too domesticated, too safe? Wondering what happened to the radicals who used to reach out in a way that was culturally relevant yet on fire for Jesus? Driscoll will challenge your categories, and give you a glimpse of what your faith could be.

***Witnessing Without Fear: How to Share Your Faith with Confidence (15th Anniversary Edition)*
(Bill Bright, foreword by Billy Graham)**

>> Another classic evangelism book, this time written by the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, Bill Bright. This book helps you discover a natural but confident witness as you seek to point those you love toward Christ. It's very practical, and there's lots to learn here.