

THE CHRISTIAN MAN COACHING GUIDE



A RESOURCE TO DECIDE
WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU WANT TO BE

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10. SHARING MY FAITH

Coaching Goals

- To gain confidence about why and how to share your faith
- To interact with your coach about sharing faith
- To develop the tools and skills to share your faith
- To identify three friends for authentic spiritual conversations and pray for them
- To role-play sharing your faith with your coach
- Other: _____

The Big Idea: Many people are ready to become Christians right now. They are ready, willing, and able, but no one has ever actually engaged them in an authentic spiritual conversation.

Let's get it started!

- How big of an issue is sharing your faith for you, and why?
- What are the questions you would like answered about sharing your faith and having authentic spiritual conversations?

The Big Picture

Men are asking, "How can I acquire boldness in spreading the gospel? What are some practical ways I can share my faith at work? What is a great way to break the ice with people?"

Interact: Read and discuss Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20. Ask your coach about his experiences in sharing his faith.

Blue Like Jazz author Donald Miller, in his business book *Building a StoryBrand*, has created an incredible summary of what happens in every story worth telling: "A CHARACTER who wants something encounters a PROBLEM before they can get it. At the peak of their despair, a GUIDE steps into their lives, gives them a PLAN, and CALLS THEM TO ACTION. That action plan helps them avoid FAILURE and ends in a SUCCESS."³

You and I—we are the guides. As guides, we need two things: (1) someone in despair who needs a guide, and (2) a plan of action that leads that person to reconciliation with Christ and the people they love.

³Donald Miller, *Building a StoryBrand: Clarify Your Message So Customers Will Listen* (Nashville: HarperCollins Leadership, 2017), 20.

Action Step—How to Have Authentic Spiritual Conversations with Your Friends: What follows is a step-by-step process to help a person change their life in Christ. First, we'll discuss how to break the ice and start a spiritual conversation. Then I'll give you a proven, time-tested way to share your spiritual story. Finally, I'll give you what you need to help someone become a believer in Jesus.

Step 1: Start Spiritual Conversations: Everyone has thought about God, and most people would love to talk to someone about spiritual things. Use this “Golden Question” to break the ice: *“Where are you on your spiritual journey?”*

Step 2. Share Your Story: After you've listened carefully, tell the person you're talking with where you are on your spiritual journey by adapting your 3-Minute Elevator Story that you've prepared in advance, using the following guide.

How to Prepare a 3-Minute Elevator Story

Use this worksheet to prepare a 3-minute “elevator speech” of your faith story (testimony). Time it to about one minute for each of the three sections. You can always talk longer if you have more time, but by doing it this way, you'll “always be prepared” (1 Peter 3:15).

Interact: Work and revise with your coach until your speech tells your story in a compelling, pithy way.

BEFORE (150 words): What was your life like before you embraced Jesus? Empty, confused, lonely, disillusioned, futile, lacking significance, without purpose or meaning, discontent, successful but still not happy? As much as possible, relate your story to what you know about their story.

HOW (150 words): How did you come to profess faith in Jesus? Where? Who showed you the way? Why did you respond? As prompted, mention the love and holiness of God, being convicted of your sins, hungering for something real, understanding who Christ is, desiring eternal life, asking Jesus to forgive your sins, and having faith in Jesus.

AFTER (150 words): What has Christ done in your life since? Pick areas that have changed which relate to the person's struggles.

Step 3. Share Jesus' Story: You are the guide, so now it's time to tell them about Jesus and his gospel. Here are three essential ideas and corresponding verses to guide what you say.

1. *God loves you very much.* John 3:16
2. *Jesus died to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life, purpose, and meaning.* John 10:10; Romans 5:6; Ephesians 2:8–9; 1 Timothy 1:15.
3. *We become Christians when we personally confess our sins and believe in Jesus.* John 1:12; Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9; 4:15.

Interact: Read and discuss now these verses with your coach until you are comfortable that you understand and can explain the gospel of Jesus.

Read them later to someone after you've heard their story and they've heard yours.

Step 4. Ask the Platinum Question: Many people are ready to become Christians *right now*. They are ready, willing, and able, but no one has ever actually asked them this Platinum Question: *"Have you ever personally confessed your sins and put your faith in Jesus?"*

To not ask this question would be like you walking into a car showroom, drooling over a car, and after thirty minutes of talking it over with a salesperson, hearing them say, “I can see you’re really interested in this car. Tell you what. Why don’t you give me your name and phone number and I’ll call you in a couple of weeks to see if you’re still interested?” The salesperson would have missed their moment. So please, ask this question! What comes next will last forever.

Step 5. A Prayer of Faith: If they say in response to the Platinum Question, “No, I have not,” then ask them if they would like to. If they say yes, here’s a prayer you can pray out loud, one phrase at a time, asking them to repeat after you:

Lord Jesus, I need You.

I believe you love me and came to die for my sins.

I am filled with a deep sorrow for my sins.

By grace through faith, I receive you as my Savior and Lord.

Please forgive my sins and save my soul.

Thank you for your forgiveness, the gift of eternal life, and the promise of life to the full.

Please change me into the person you created me to become. Amen.

Action Step—Identify Friends: Write down the three people with whom you would most like to have an authentic spiritual conversation, and start praying for them:

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Interact: Complete this section by role-playing the five-step process with your coach, keeping the three names you wrote down in mind as you role-play.