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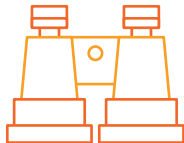
# EVANGELISM TOOLKIT

## GFM Best Practices



### GATHER A TEAM—DON'T GO IT ALONE

- Find those already being invitational in their daily lives and gather them up
- Pray and dream together—be open to what God could do in your midst
- Build a structure for prayer, event planning, accountability, and celebration



### CAST YOUR VISION WIDE

- Tell good stories of the work that God has already done
- Compel a holy discontent for the lost using Bible study and prayer



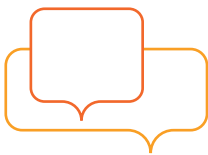
### MAKE A PLAN

- **WHAT?** Events, structures, relationships—what will you develop and invite people to?
- **WHO** will be involved? What qualities make a great leader in this effort? Who is your target audience? Who needs an invitation?
- **WHEN?** Build this into the academic/ministry calendar, being mindful of seasonal rhythms and availability.
- **HOW?** What training is needed? What accountability structures are needed? How will progress be measured?
- Take your answers to these specific questions and create a summary or mission statement for your effort.



### AMPLIFY SOCIAL AWARENESS

- Establish best practices for follow-up: one-on-one meetings, coffees, lunches, etc., as well as a clear system for delegating follow-up responsibilities
- Invite other believers into relationships to build trust and share vulnerably
- See page 5 in toolkit to get started



### DEBRIEF

- Establish room for learning and growing
- Consider:
  1. Where has God been at work?
  2. What has gone especially well?
  3. What needs improvement?
- Report God's movement and celebrate



### CELEBRATE!

- Celebrate extravagantly, loudly, and visibly every time someone comes to faith

Where would you like more coaching?  
Pick one specific aspect and let's work together!



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# INTERNAL BARRIERS

"NOT SURE  
GOD IS AT  
WORK HERE"

- Pray for "eyes to see"
- Ask a friend to help you prayer walk the campus and look for ways God is moving
- Use the [2+ Prayer Card](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_

"I'M TOO BUSY"

- Practice prioritizing people and trusting God with work
- Look at your calendar and identify ways God can use your existing rhythms to talk about faith
- Teach the "[Rule of Life](#)" seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_

"I DON'T  
WANT TO  
INTEGRATE MY  
FAITH/WORK  
COMMUNITIES"

- Take some risks
- Trust God with the outcome
- Take the first right step
- Pray expectantly
- \_\_\_\_\_

"WHAT HAPPENS  
IF I FAIL? ARE  
THERE ACADEMIC  
CONSEQUENCES?"

- God is in control—practice trusting him by taking small risks of faith and witness
- \_\_\_\_\_

"I DON'T WANT  
TO BE AWKWARD IN  
CONVERSATIONS"

- Live in a way that provokes questions
- Be vulnerable about your life
- \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTERNAL BARRIERS

*"IT'S HARD TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS IN MY GRAD SCHOOL CULTURE (LAB RESTRICTIONS, WORK/LIFE BALANCE, NOT SOCIAL)"*

- Grad students are often lonely, so reach out to show you care
- Invite others to pursue just 1–2 people to invest in outside the Christian community
- Practice role-playing how to give good invitations and hold conversation
- \_\_\_\_\_

*"I DON'T KNOW ANY NON-CHRISTIANS"*

- Identify who your "neighbor" is beyond your Christian community
- [Network mapping](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_

*"IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE IN MY DEPARTMENT CARES ABOUT FAITH"*

- 3-minute testimonies like a 3-minute thesis
- [2+ Prayer Cards](#)
- [Threshold training](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# WHY: THEOLOGY OF A GOD WHO INITIATES ALL THINGS

## CREATION

**IT ALL BEGINS IN CREATION. GOD IS THE GREAT INITIATOR.**

**Genesis 1; 1:28**

God initiating and humans responding in fruitfulness is a pattern for all time and in all things.

## STORIES

**GOD INITIATES STORIES OF FAITHFULNESS—STARTING WITH ABRAHAM**

**Genesis 12:1; 13:14–17**

Abraham doesn't "find God." God calls Abraham to father a people, inherit the land, and bless the nations. He makes promises of his faithfulness to Abraham as he calls Abraham into significance.

## PREPARES THE WAY

**GOD PREPARES THE WAY IN FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE**

**Deuteronomy 31:8; Psalm 136:16**

God promises to lead Israel in their calling to be a light to the nations—even through their 40-year journey in the wilderness.

## REDEMPTION

**GOD INITIATES REDEMPTION BY SENDING HIS SON**

**Isaiah 7:14; 1 Peter 1:20**

The Messiah's coming was planned by God before creation and announced hundreds of years before his arrival.

## JESUS

**JESUS COMES TO PAVE THE WAY**

**John 1:14; Galatians 4:4–5; Mark 1:17; John 20:21**

In the Gospel accounts, Jesus gathers disciples who will multiply his ministry of salvation. He led the way. His disciples followed after him, and so do we.

## MINISTRY

**WE HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY BEING LED AND INITIATED BY GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Colossians 4:3; Acts 16:9–10**

Paul believes that God is the acting agent in evangelism, preparing the way, opening doors, and inviting human partnership in spreading the message of salvation.

## ACTION

**PUT THIS INTO ACTION!**

As image bearers, we get to participate with God. Pray for eyes to see where God is at work and join him!

Who is God calling you to initiate a relationship with?



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# HOW: BUILDING BRIDGES TO RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

## PRAYING FOR RELATIONSHIP

- First, be a good friend, not someone looking to start a relationship as a “project.” You’re not fixing someone but are inviting them to be loved by God.
- Be faithful in your own prayer life. God wants to speak to you and care for you.
- Utilize the [2+ Prayer Cards](#) as a tool to consistently pray for others.
- Take weekly or monthly prayer walks with other believers around your campus, asking Christ for opportunities to talk about your faith.
- When you encounter a roadblock or resistant friend, don’t take it personally but choose to pray instead.
- Use prayer as a tool to trust in God’s work in and around you, meditating on the truths of his Word and the promise that he is indeed redeeming all things, including your friends and you!

## LISTENING WITH THE SPIRIT

- Practice being a good listener.
- When you listen, pay attention to three voices:
  1. The voice of the Spirit doing work in your friend and you
  2. Pay attention to what the other person is saying and not what you want to say next. Think about a good secondary question you can ask to learn more about what they mean.
  3. Listen and notice what’s happening inside of you. Identify any negative emotions you might be feeling and hand them to Jesus. Do this so that you can be available to your friend.
- THRESHOLDS ([5 Thresholds Resources](#)):
  1. Be open to what the Lord could be doing in someone’s life.
  2. With help of the Spirit, discern what threshold they are in and respond in kind.
  3. Don’t be afraid to take a risk in asking a question about what the right next step could be for your friend, depending on what threshold they are in.

## INITIATING CONVERSATION

- Operate out of expectation, not fear. God has this and you!
- To initiate friendship ask open-ended questions:
  1. What’s your family like?
  2. What traditions did you have growing up?
  3. What do you dream about doing with your life?
- When you’re ready for spiritual conversation, ask:
  1. What do you think about spirituality?
  2. Do you have any practices in your own life that help you emotionally and spiritually?
  3. What do you think about Christianity?
- When you’re ready to make an invitation (e.g., to an event):
  1. Invite with expectation, being open to rejection, and understanding that God’s timing doesn’t always line up with yours. Trust his movement as you faithfully give invitations.
  2. If they say yes, go with them to the event and follow up afterward. Be available for continued conversation.

## GOOD INTEGRATION

- Work with a campus minister to practice reflecting on how your faith impacts your work and vice versa. Be able to articulate this succinctly.
- Be open with others about how your life and academics are shaped by your faith, including things like your hobbies, exercise, favorite movies and art, or the church or small groups you attend regularly.
- Practice with your campus minister and other Christian friends on how to share your testimony in three minutes or less without the use of “Christian-ese” or cliché Christian language. Critique one another’s presentations with care and thoughtful suggestions. This may be a familiar format if you have practiced giving your thesis in three minutes.
- Brainstorm with others about ways to describe how Jesus has changed your life: your “pre-Jesus” life versus your life with Christ now.

## READY TO MAKE A PLAN?

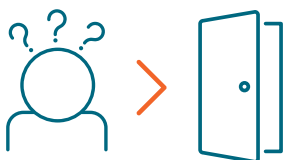
### RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

**EXPERIMENT!** If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!  
**GET FLEXIBLE** and try new things. This is an opportunity to grow.  
**PRACTICE** being good inviters and initiators.  
**DEBRIEF** what we are learning at our events.



#### THRESHOLD 1-2 (SOCIAL EVENT)

- What events could you invite non-Christians to that would be fun for everyone?
- Identify one activity that creates broad interest and momentum.
- Examples: concerts, festivals, food, outdoor activities, sports, etc.
- Goal: casual, fun, trust building, connecting with community



#### THRESHOLD 2-3 (CURIOUS SEEKER)

- Events that communicate Christian content and/or worldview
- Events that offer good opportunities for follow-up conversations can catalyze movement to the next threshold
- Follow up events designed for the curious with a seeker event.
- Examples: lectures, debates, Veritas Forums, concerts, film discussions, Socratic Happy Hour, Theology on Tap
- Goal: relevant and engaging—meant to add intellectual or entertainment value and be a bridge to the next threshold



#### THRESHOLD 4-5 (HARVEST)

- Prepare with current fellowship and practice gospel presentation. Brainstorm and practice good follow-up skills.
- Event must have a clear, convincing, and winsome call to faith with time for response
- Help new believers share their story
- Examples: large group worship, Proxe Station, small group or GIG, one-on-one conversation



#### KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING!

- Pair evangelism events with ways to connect new people to existing ministry or new ministry implementations.
- Invite other campus ministries to join you to garner more excitement and continued momentum around events and future growth.
- Be ready to equip new believers to host small groups (SG) with non-Christian friends. See if you can plant a new SG among the friends of the new believer. Have leaders ready and expectant.
- Follow up, follow up, follow up! Make sure your follow-up plan is clear, solid, and manageable before your event.