

Evangelism Training

Explaining the Gospel (i) Two Ways to Live

*When an
opportunity arises
what will I say?*

*What exactly is
the Gospel?*

***How do I explain
the Gospel simply
and clearly?***

*How to use the
Two Ways to Live
outline*

*'Anyone can
score a goal when
the time comes'*

Evangelism Training – First Steps (summary)

[See separate notes (available from the Resource Centre)]

At the first Evangelism Training evening we concluded that:

- evangelism means telling people the gospel;
- our role is to tell people while it is God who opens blind eyes;
- our motivation for evangelism is to be for the glory of God and the good of men and women as they are rescued from darkness to light. But also, we do evangelism out of simple plain obedience to God's command.

Most importantly we also concluded that we *can* actually do evangelism, beginning to raise spiritual matters with friends and contacts through the course of life. God uses ordinary Christians to advance his salvation plan, people like us. Let's pray he'll use us. Let's be willing to be used.

Explaining the gospel

“But when an opportunity arises, what will I say?”

When talking about our faith we sometimes get a clear chance to explain what Christianity is all about. In such situations though, it's easy to feel like we've fluffed our lines and missed the opportunity. Although we'll speak about Jesus and his message in a way that is true and honest, what we say is cluttered and unclear. The truth is, we'll always feel like that to some extent, but we can prepare for such opportunities and learn to speak not only with passion and authenticity, but also with clarity.

The aim of our second Evangelism Training evening was to begin this preparation by learning an outline of the gospel. Having this in our minds will help us to speak clearly when the time comes, without rambling or lapsing into Christian jargon.

“Two Ways to Live”

The outline we began to learn is called, *Two Ways to Live*. It was written by some Australian Christians and is now used all over the world. It runs through the gospel in six steps or boxes:

1. God is the loving ruler of the world.
2. Humanity has rebelled against God.
3. God will punish our rebellion.
4. God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying in our place.
5. Jesus rose from death to rule over all things and to offer us new life.
6. Will we keep on living under our own rule or submit to Jesus?

The full outline can be viewed at **www.twowaystolive.com**. It is also available in little blue booklets on the Resource Centre.

Each of the six boxes in *Two Ways to Live* has a diagram, a short explanation and then a Bible verse. We tried to learn this outline by:

- seeing it presented a number of times;
- practising drawing the diagrams;
- practising giving the short explanations;
- learning the interconnecting questions that capture the logical flow from one box to another.

It takes practice to lodge the outline in our minds. After rehearsing it on our own a few times, it's helpful to present it to a family member or Christian friend. After this, we could ask a non-Christian friend or colleague if they wouldn't mind us running through it with them.

The point of learning an outline like this is not so we can all recite exactly the same words when talking about the gospel. Rather it puts a logical structure in our minds which we can then, in time, explain using our own words.

The final question of *Two Ways to Live* is crucial: “Which way represents the way you want to live?” This gets us to the heart of evangelism, asking people about *their* response to Jesus Christ. If that final question is not included in our presentation of the gospel, we’re not actually engaging in evangelism.

“Anyone can score a goal when the time comes.”

When it comes to evangelism, a church is a bit like a football team. Our ‘goal’ is to share the gospel with people. Some Christians are natural ‘strikers’ finding many opportunities, but most of us feel more like ‘mid-fielders’ or ‘defenders’. Whoever we are though, we need to be able to take an opportunity if one comes along, knowing what to say. That’s the aim of learning *Two Ways to Live*: the outline enables anyone to score a goal by explaining the gospel clearly.

“Where do we go from here?”

As we present the gospel there are different responses, questions and objections we may encounter. Addressing these will be the focus of our next two Evangelism Training evenings on **Thursday 20th January** and **Tuesday 15th March**.

Two Ways to Live training material

Copies of the training material (DVDs) are available from the Church Office. These would be an ideal resource for small groups wanting to review the material or explore it in greater depth.

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