

Week 11 Evangelism: Developing an Emotional & Personal Connection

This effort must gradually move into the more emotional or **personal** aspects of the friendship. By emotional we mean; **positioning yourself** to be able **to offer advice, counsel and help** regarding the more personal parts of someone's life. We mean the intentional effort to make the friendship go deeper. That is to begin to talk about the more important aspects of life, death, family etc.

In the emotional connecting phase we are in the **"yellow zone"** for sharing the gospel. We have a little wiggle room & can _____ entering into _____ spiritual things. In this phase of the friendship we are intentionally focusing on _____ **the friendship into the more serious aspects of life and _____ ourselves to offer spiritual guidance.**

1. **Guiding the friendship** into the more *serious aspects* of life.

Our 1st goal is to: *Is to steer the _____ and _____ of the relationship more and more towards **things that really matter**. Things like marriage, parenting, finances, feelings, conflicts, illness, death etc.*

Look for _____ in the conversation, culture & media.

The problem with **'sanitizing'** the relationship of all possible **'unclean' 'offensive' or 'unchristian'** elements is that you will have less and less material to use as a catalyst for deeper spiritual conversations. These immoral or ethical quandaries give you incredible material!!

Start physical, get personal.

Start with talking about the important physical things that occur. A **news story**, a **cultural event**, a **job related issue**, a **family predicament** and take the time to listen and address the issues, but look for ways to **ask specific questions** that force the conversation into the more personal!

Ask the right questions...

*What is your opinion about...? What would you do if...? How does that make you feel?
Have you ever thought about it this way...?*

Question _____, expectations and values.

One of the major goals in this stage is to get our friends **to question reality** and **to question their expectations of life and for their value system/worldview to be challenged/rocked.**

_____ **your worldview.**

We must constantly look for ways to model our worldview. We must look for ways to **give our opinion** of the topics/events at hand, in subtle and gracious ways. We must constantly be **leaning on them mentally.**

Share openly. Admit weaknesses.

One of the best ways to get more personal and take the conversation deeper & to model your worldview, is to admit failures. When you fail, you have fallen short of your worldview, your standard (God's standard) and when you talk about it, things happen.

Have the goal of discussing something personal every time together.

A major goal that I have is that in every encounter I have, whether over a game night, a movie night, a football game, a road trip, a bike ride...I want to have gotten personal at least once about one issues, no matter how big or small.

Create an environment of safety; through similarities & empathy.

We want to get closer and closer relationally, personally and emotionally to our friend in this stage. And one of the best ways to do that is to put your similarities; likes, dislikes, struggles, emotions on display.

*My wife and I struggle with that as well...I know how you feel...I am scared of that as well!
I've made that mistake 1,000x!*

2. Positioning ourselves to offer spiritual guidance.

Our 2nd goal is to: ***Is to position ourselves within the relationship to be able to offer welcome advice & counsel and to position ourselves to help them actually consider spiritual realities.***

Share openly. Admit weaknesses.

Admitting a weakness is one of the best ways to get someone else to share a weakness. By 'falling on your sword' you are show them that it is safe to be vulnerable. And socially, it is very normally for someone to feel that they must reciprocate by sharing a weakness.

Look for _____ weaknesses and use your successes to project.

If you are strategic in which weakness you share; by finding a mutual weakness in your friend, you will subtly be able to address their weakness and provide solutions to a problem they otherwise wouldn't have opened up about!

Use your own weaknesses and victories to _____ change.

Again, by discussing your own weaknesses (which parallel theirs) you will be modeling in your sharing how they could overcome their own weakness, without sounding condemning or judgmental.

Look for opportunities to give practical/logical advice, which has its roots in the Bible, that you can point to later: One of the best cases for Christ and for the validity of the truths in the Bible are when those truths and prescriptions **come true in reality**. When we give sound advice that works out, and then point to the Bible as it's source, the Bible becomes more convincing. The opposite is also true. When society fails, because they didn't follow God's prescription that is a great time to point it out, that God had it right. These happen most often in marital situations, parenting, finance, business...

Look for _____ parallels in the conversation, culture & media.

In this stage we are looking for anything that has a 'spiritual cause'. Anything in a **movie, a song, a crisis, an event**, that has spiritual significance...so that we can discuss that spiritual significance. Tragedies, illness, suffering, loss, death, disappointments are great opportunities.

Put God on _____ . _____ his design, his desire and his will.

In this stage in the friendship we are looking for anything that can put God on display.

We are looking for chances to say: **"This is God's design for marriage..."**

"Here is God's purpose for money..." "The Bible says this is why we get sick & die..."