

Ask Admire Admit

“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” Ephesians 6:19

Point to ponder:

- Is the hardest part of sharing the gospel is bringing it up? Why?

Mastering these 3 habits will help you bring the gospel up more naturally and proving to people you care about their lives and that is incredibly important!

ASK ADMIRE ADMIT

ASK GREAT QUESTIONS!

- Asking questions does three powerful things:

-- It breaks down barriers and opens up hearts.

“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’” John 4:7
Question: In what ways did Jesus’ simple question break down barriers and open up hearts?

-- It helps you understand and empathize with others.

“Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” 2 Timothy 2:23-26

-- It gives you time to pray and ask God for help.

“...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” Matthew 10:19-20

- Learn to ask questions that **engage, not enrage.**

-- Jesus asked engaging questions!

In the Gospels, Jesus asked about 300 questions at various times to various people.

In Mark 16 alone Jesus asked 16 questions. Here are just a few:

- Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign?
- Who do people say that I am?
- What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

- Move from secular stuff to spiritual subjects.

Secular Subjects:

“Where do you go to school?”

“Do you play any sports?”

“What do you do for fun?”

“Favorite bands? Movies? Apps?”

Spiritual Subjects:

“Do you go to church anywhere?”

“What are your spiritual beliefs?”

“Do you believe in an afterlife?”

“What do you think about Jesus?”

*The goal is **not to trap** them but to **understand** them and to naturally and gently turn the conversation toward Jesus and the gospel.

Take a moment to think about questions you can ask a Friend or stranger. Would you ask the same questions or would they be different? Take a moment to write one or two down on each category.

*Friendship Questions

*Stranger Questions

Find a friend and practice asking questions that can lead to understanding others and leading to Jesus.

-Role play

-Great videos clips to use as discussion starters www.somethingamazing.net/God or /value

ADMIRE EVERYTHING YOU POSSIBLY CAN ABOUT WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

- Focus on areas of commonality, not areas of difference.

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.’” Acts 17:22-23

Bible Study Time!

- What did the Apostle Paul find to admire about the Athenians pagan beliefs?

- What can you learn from what Paul did?

• Admiring what you can about what they believe will build bridges, not walls.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Proverbs 15:1

-- You can find something to admire about every belief system.

Remember that just because you are admiring an area of what someone believes or how their religion causes them to behave you are not endorsing their belief system.

If you can't find anything to admire in their belief system at least admire their honesty in sharing it with you.

Once you begin to clearly share the gospel message they'll immediately understand the areas of difference but be more open to consider it if you've listened deeply to them.

ADMIT THAT THE REASON YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN IS THAT YOU ARE SO MESSED UP YOU NEEDED SOMEONE ELSE TO RESCUE YOU (JESUS!)

“Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.” 1 Timothy 1:13-15

-- This “humble” strategy shatters stereotypes.

-- It shows that we are just “one beggar showing another beggar where to find the bread.”

-- It prepares the way for a real gospel-focused conversation as opposed to just an evangelistic presentation.

The next hand out shows you how to use your testimony to admit what you believe.