

What now?

YOU'VE EXPLAINED THE GOSPEL WHAT NOW? ASK 2 QUESTIONS:

- “Does that make sense?” (If they say “no” explain it again. If they say “yes” ask the next question.)
- “Is there anything holding you back from trusting in Jesus right now?” (From here the conversation can go three ways which are all seen in Acts 17:32-34)

“When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’ At that, Paul left the Council. A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris and a number of others.” Acts 17:32-34 (NIV 1984)

There are 3 generally responses to the gospel:

- 1. Some will reject the gospel and mock you (so be strong!)**
- 2. Some will be intrigued and want to find out more (so be sharp!)**
- 3. Some will be ready to trust in Jesus right away (so be strategic!)**

1. SOME WILL REJECT THE GOSPEL AND MOCK YOU (SO BE STRONG!)

“When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered....” Acts 17:32

- Remember that persecution is part of being a Christian witness.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” 2 Timothy 3:12

- Count it an honor to be mocked or marginalized for Jesus.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

- Treat the ones who persecute you with love and respect.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.” Romans 12:14

-- Stay calm and speak softly.

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

-- Refuse to argue.

“...the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.” 2 Timothy 2:24

-- Ask questions that make them think.

“Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. They came to him and said, ‘Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?’ But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. ‘Why are you trying to trap me?’ he asked. ‘Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.’ They brought the coin, and he asked them, ‘Whose image is this? And whose inscription?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they replied. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.’ And they were amazed at him.” Mark 12:13-17

2. SOME WILL BE INTRIGUED AND WANT TO FIND OUT MORE (SO BE SHARP!)

“...but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’” Acts 17:32

- Some people need time to process, think and wrestle with questions.

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’ Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’ ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:1-7

- Keep the relationship going and try to help them find solid answers.

-- Your “Get out of Jail Free” Card: “I don’t know but let’s keep talking” (and then search for an answer to their questions.)

-- Where to find solid answers:

Your Pastor/Student Pastor/Life group leader

Gotquestions.org

Carm.org

Dare2share.org/worldviews

- Keep praying for them.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:1,3-4

3. SOME WILL BE READY TO TRUST IN JESUS RIGHT AWAY (SO BE STRATEGIC!)

"A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others." Acts 17:34 (NIV 1984)

- Prayerfully and strategically persuade them to A, B, C...

-- **Accept** Christ (you can lead them through a prayer or not)

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

-- **Belong** to a church (get them plugged into a good church)

"not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

-- **Commit** to THE Cause (encourage them to tell others)

"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere..." 1 Thessalonians 1:8

- Help them grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus!

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

-- Helpful resource: www.mvcministries.org/grow

-- You now have a disciple so show them what is shown to you!