

REACHING THE SECULAR MIND

EVANGELISM AT THE FRONT DOOR

South Houston District

REACHING THE SECULAR MIND

- ▶ Many people today are indifferent to religion or feel they have outgrown it.
- ▶ A major challenge of evangelism is the task of convincing a secularized society of the need for an external source of meaning for life. Many people do not accept the Scripture as God's word or believe in an absolute moral standard. They are also very reluctant to commit to an organization or church with a code of values.

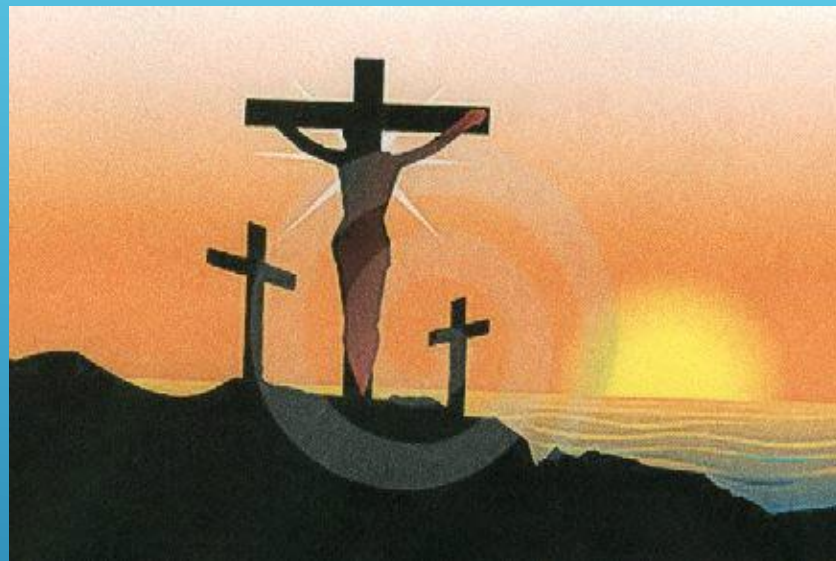
- ▶ Invite people to a special church event
- ▶ Find out the spiritual needs of the community
- ▶ Offer to pray with people who mention a spiritual need
- ▶ Engage in evangelistic conversations when people are open to such conversations.

DOOR TO DOOR EVANGELISM CAN BE
USED TO:

- ▶ For years the church has been living in the sin of silence...the Great Commission has been the “great omission.” Despite the fact that Jesus told believers, five times by imperative commands, to go into all the world to make disciples, fewer than 1 in 10 will ever share their faith with someone who is lost.

- ▶ **THE GOSPEL IS STILL PERTINENT**
Even worse, only 1 in 20 has ever led in their entire Christian life more than one person to Christ. How tragic! Believe me, I was no better. That is why today I have a fire for evangelism. I must share the gospel because as Jeremiah 20:9 says, “his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.”

- ▶ I am going to share some of the experiences that I have had in my many years of evangelism. You can learn from my mistakes. You may have better ways yourself, but what I have learned the hard way, you can learn the easy way



HE DIED FOR YOUR SINS AND MINE

- ▶ “Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to their heart”
- ▶ The tangible achievements of humanity are more important to people minds than the invisible world of spirituality.

REACHING THE SECULAR MIND

- ▶ What do you say when the person opens the door and there you stand? (Your very first words)
- ▶ What is the best time to evangelize your community?
- ▶ How do you pair up?

Well, you got 1 out of 3 right.....keep reading thru this

short presentation
AT THE FRONT DOOR

- ▶ I have learned from experience that when I knock on someone's door, I am invading their free time and I must respect their privacy.
- ▶ If no one answers, I do not look through a window or through an opening in the door. I ring the door bell first if there is one and I give them a few seconds to answer the door. If no one answers, only then do I knock and then only twice.

▶ My first line is “I apologize for taking some of your time but I am (your first and last name) from the (church name) and we are out trying to find what we can do as a church to serve the community.”

▶ “Is there something that you feel that we as a church can do to help this town/community?” This is very non-threatening. It gives them an easy out and doesn’t try to cram religion down their throat. If they give you an answer, I usually write it down

WHEN THE DOOR OPENS

- ▶ If they give you an answer, I usually write it down and say that we are trying to help the community as part of our church's Outreach.
- ▶ Ask if they have a church home.....If they have a church home I say "That's great!" "As long as you have a relationship with Jesus Christ and have a church home, that is the main thing."

WHEN THE DOOR OPENS

- ▶ If they do not then of course I hand them a card with the church's address, times of worship, and a phone number on it. Our church has post card size cards that tell the times of Sunday school, worship services, Wednesday night Bible Study, the phone number, website (if any), and the phone number on it.
- ▶ Always ask....."May I leave this information (Bible track) (If they don't have a church home and are willing to accept both a Bible track and the church's card, then by all means give it to them).

- ▶ The greatest thing I learned was that the power is in the message and not in the messenger. God the Father draws sinners, the Holy Spirit convicts the lost, and Jesus saves them.
- ▶ God saves, We only bring the message. The power is in the Word of God...in me there is no power. Saving is God's responsibility, not mine. It is not their response to our ability but their response to God's ability.

▶ Even the worse job of evangelism is still better than no evangelism at all.

THE POWER OF THE WORD

- ▶ I pray this inspires you and equips you.
- ▶ Matthew 9:37-38 says that, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” I pray you will be one of them.

▶ The harvest is plentiful.....Jesus said so
and I believe his word. GOD'S WORD ENABLES AND EQUIPS

▶ If they do not have Church home, ask if you may drop a easy read booklet the next time you are in the neighborhood that will propel their lives into abundance. (The big fat claim)

▶ Jesus said: I come so you can have life and have life more abundantly

▶ Make it a goal to keep your **MAKE THE BIG FAT CLAIM**

- ▶ You may discover that there are better times for you to go but from my experience, I have found that the best times are around 10 a.m. to around 12 p.m. and the best days are Saturday mornings.
- ▶ Another great time is around 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday nights. (Except Friday nights during Texas High School football season, then try Thursdays)
- ▶ Those days are best I have found since most people are in a much more receptive mood than on Monday night which they have children to feed, homework for them to do, they are tired or not the most cheerful on Monday's anyway.

BEST TIMES

- ▶ It is always preferable to go with someone else. Men with men and women with women is ideal. Mixing a married man with a married woman or single woman is not ever appropriate. Plus with two people you have one person that can be praying while you talk. And the fact that if you meet someone at the door and they are dressed inappropriately, you have another witness with you to testify about what, if anything, happened.

GO TWO X TWO

▶ If a person answering the door has little interest, or wants to argue about theology, then there is no spiritual thirst. To try to open a line of dialogue may cause hostility, anger, and perhaps a deafness.

▶ Respect their right to say no. If they are not interested, you can say thank you for your time and offer them a Bible track and the church's business card but if they refuse that, then don't try to force one into their hand

SOMETIMES THEY WILL SAY NO!