

STAGE: WITNESS

SHARE YOUR STORY

LEVEL 2 — FROM CONVERSATIONS TO GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Master the Art of Natural Faith Sharing and Leading Others to Christ — A Comprehensive 10,000+ Word Resource

By Kyle Lauriano · kylelauriano.com

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Level 2 — Share Your Story

From Conversations to Gospel Opportunities. Comprehensive & Expanded Edition (10,000+ Words).
Master the Art of Natural Faith Sharing and Leading Others to Christ. Turn Everyday Conversations Into Gospel Opportunities and Help People Take Next Steps in Their Faith Journey.

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INTRODUCTION — WHY STORY-SHARING MATTERS

The Power of Personal Testimony

Your story is your most powerful evangelistic tool.

Why?

It's Authentic

- Real experience
- Can't be argued with
- Genuine conviction
- Lived out transformation
- Authentic power

It's Relatable

- People see themselves
- Common struggles
- Similar journey
- Emotional connection
- They understand

It's Compelling

- People listen to stories
- Stories stick in memory
- Emotional hooks
- Engaging format
- Hard to ignore

It's Personal

- One-on-one connection
- Relationship building
- Trust development
- Vulnerability creates openness
- Intimacy forms

It's Obedience

- Jesus commanded sharing
- Mark 5:19 — “Go home and tell”

- 1 Peter 3:15 — “Always be ready”
- Revelation 12:11 — “Overcome by testimony”
- Biblical imperative

The Goal of This Resource

This guide teaches you how to:

1. Recognize Gospel Opportunities

- When conversations open doors
- How to discern readiness
- What signals interest
- How to sense Holy Spirit leading

2. Share Your Story Naturally

- Without being preachy
- In conversation format
- Contextually appropriate
- At right moments
- With authenticity

3. Clearly Present the Gospel

- What to say
- How to explain Christ
- How to invite response
- How to handle hesitation
- How to call to decision

4. Handle Common Objections

- “I don’t believe in God”
- “Religion is hypocrisy”
- “The Bible isn’t reliable”
- “I’m a good person”
- And 10+ more

5. Follow Up Effectively

- Next steps for new believers
- How to disciple them
- How to encourage them
- How to connect them to church

- How to support growth

PART 1 — UNDERSTANDING YOUR STORY

1.1 Refining Your Testimony

Your Story Has Three Parts

BEFORE: Your Life Without Christ

- What was the struggle?
- What were you searching for?
- What was empty or broken?
- What motivated you?
- What was the problem?

TURNING POINT: How You Met Jesus

- What happened?
- Who shared with you?
- What convinced you?
- What did you understand?
- When did you decide?

AFTER: How Jesus Changed You

- How are you different?
- What's better?
- What gives you peace?
- What brings joy?
- What's your purpose now?

Crafting a Short Version (2–3 Minutes)

This is your quick story:

Format: Before → Turning Point → After

Example:

"I grew up in church but didn't really believe. I was searching for meaning in other places — career, relationships, achievements. But nothing satisfied. Then a friend invited me to a Bible study, and I heard the Gospel clearly for the first time. I realized Jesus died for me, and I needed Him. I gave my life to Christ that night. Now I have peace, purpose, and hope. I'm part of God's plan."

Length: About 2–3 minutes (240–450 words)

Crafting a Long Version (5–8 Minutes)

This is your full story with details:

- More specific about your struggle
- More emotional detail
- More about your turning point
- More examples of change
- Can be shared in detailed conversation

Example:

“I grew up in church, but honestly, God felt distant. I went through the motions, but my heart wasn’t in it. As a teenager, I started looking for meaning in other places. I became obsessed with success and achievement. I worked hard, made good money, had nice things. But inside? Empty. Lonely. Searching.

I tried everything — relationships, hobbies, accomplishments. Nothing worked. I felt like something was missing, but I didn’t know what.

Then my friend invited me to a Bible study. I almost said no, but something inside told me to go. The leader talked about how Jesus offers real life — meaningful, purposeful, abundant life. And for the first time, it clicked. Jesus wasn’t just a historical figure. He was God who loves me personally. He died for me. He rose again. He wants to be in relationship with me.

That night, I went home and prayed. I told God I was sorry for trying to do life my way. I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. And something changed. I can’t fully explain it, but peace came into my life like I’d never experienced.

Now, years later, I have purpose. I know God loves me. I’m part of His kingdom. My relationships are deeper. My life has meaning. Everything changed when I met Jesus.”

Length: About 5–8 minutes (700–1,200 words)

Practice Your Story

You should be able to tell:

- **2–3 minute version** naturally
- **5–8 minute version** with detail
- Both should feel natural, not rehearsed
- Both should feel authentic
- Practice aloud (important!)

1.2 Different Story Versions

Story for Different Audiences

Version 1: For Non-Religious People

- Start with universal struggle

- Don't use church language
- Avoid Christian jargon
- Relate to their world
- Clear about what changed

Version 2: For Skeptics/Atheists

- Address intellectual questions
- Show reasoning
- Not just feeling-based
- Acknowledge doubts you had
- Show faith as logical

Version 3: For Children/Young People

- Age-appropriate language
- Relatable struggles
- Clear about Jesus
- Hope and meaning focus
- Simple and direct

Version 4: For Cultural/Religious Different Background

- Respect their tradition
- Show respect for journey
- How Jesus completed it
- Bridge from their faith
- Common ground

Version 5: For the Grieving/Struggling

- Show God's comfort
- How faith sustained you
- Hope in hard times
- God's faithfulness
- Not dismissive of pain

PART 2 — CONVERSATIONS AND OPENINGS

2.1 Recognizing Gospel Opportunities

Common Openings

These are moments when people are open:

Hardship or Loss

- Someone shares difficult news
- They're grieving
- They're struggling
- They're overwhelmed
- They're vulnerable

Search for Meaning

- "I feel like life's missing something"
- "Is there more to life?"
- "I want my life to matter"
- "What's the point?"
- "I'm not sure what I believe"

Life Changes

- New baby (mortality awareness)
- Marriage (life direction)
- Illness (mortality, faith questions)
- Job loss (security questioned)
- Major life transition

Questions About Faith

- "What do you believe?"
- "How do you stay so calm?"
- "What keeps you going?"
- "Do you believe in God?"
- "What's Christianity about?"

Values and Life Perspective

- "How do you make decisions?"
- "What matters most to you?"

- “Why do you do that?”
- “Where do you get your strength?”
- “What gives your life purpose?”

How to Recognize Readiness

Signs Someone is Open:

- They ask questions about faith
- They share personal struggles
- They seem to be searching
- They mention emptiness or meaning-seeking
- They bring up spiritual topics
- They seem open to conversation
- They ask your opinion on values/faith
- They mention church or belief
- They’re going through transition
- They ask how you handle challenges

Signs They’re Not Ready:

- They change subject quickly
- They seem dismissive
- They’re defensive about faith
- They’re clearly busy
- They’re not engaged
- They seem skeptical (sometimes)
- **Note:** Even skeptics can be open; don’t dismiss

2.2 Starting Conversations Naturally

Opening Gambits

When Someone Shares a Problem:

YOU: “That sounds really hard. How are you holding up?”

THEM: “I’m managing, but I’m stressed.”

YOU: “Yeah, I get it. I went through something similar a while back, and it really shook me. But it actually led me to something that changed my perspective on everything.”

THEM: “Oh yeah? What was that?”

YOU: [Now you can naturally share]

When Someone Asks How You’re Doing:

YOU: “I’m doing well, actually. Things have been crazy, but I have peace about it.”

THEM: “How do you stay so calm?” or “I wish I could feel that way.”

YOU: “Well, that’s actually a recent thing for me. I used to be a total stress case. Something really changed for me a few years ago that shifted my whole perspective.”

THEM: [Usually asks what that is]

When Someone Asks What You Do on Weekends:

YOU: “Weekends are great! I spend time at church, which is a big part of my life now.”

THEM: “Oh, are you religious?” or “Yeah? What’s that like?”

YOU: “Well, I wouldn’t say religious exactly. I have a relationship with Jesus, which is different. But it’s central to who I am.”

THEM: [Often opens conversation]

Making It Feel Natural

Key Principles:

1. Listen First

- People want to be heard
- Ask questions
- Let them share
- Show genuine interest
- Listening opens doors

2. Look for Connections

- Find their struggle
- Connect to your experience
- “I’ve been there”
- “I understand”
- Empathy builds bridges

3. Share Naturally

- Not like a sales pitch
- Conversational tone
- Real language
- Your authentic experience
- Genuine sharing

4. Give Permission for Questions

- “I’m happy to talk about it”

- “Feel free to ask anything”
- “I get skepticism”
- “It’s okay if you disagree”
- Openness invites openness

PART 3 — SHARING NATURALLY

3.1 The Conversation Flow

Step 1: The Setup

Begin by listening and connecting:

YOU: “You mentioned you’re going through a lot right now. I’m genuinely curious — how are you dealing with all this?”

THEM: [Shares struggles]

YOU: “Man, that’s a lot. I remember when I was in a similar place...”

This is the moment you bridge to your story.

Step 2: Your Story

Share naturally:

“I was really struggling a while back. Life felt empty even though it looked good on the outside. I was successful at work, I had friends, but inside I felt lost. I was searching for something, but I didn’t know what.”

“A friend invited me to a Bible study, and I was skeptical at first. But something the leader said just hit me. He talked about how Jesus offers real life — meaningful, purposeful life. And for the first time, it made sense.”

Key: Make it personal, not preachy.

Step 3: The Bridge to Gospel

Transition from your story to the Gospel:

“The thing is, everything changed when I understood what Jesus actually did. It wasn’t just about being a good person or following rules. It was about having a real relationship with God through Jesus.”

THEM: [Usually asks what that means or listen to continue]

Step 4: Explain Jesus

Clearly but naturally:

“Basically, Jesus came and died for us. Our sins separate us from God, and Jesus paid the price for that through His death. He rose from the dead, proving He’s God. When we trust in Him, we’re forgiven and we can have a real relationship with God.”

Use simple words. Not churchy language.

Step 5: Make it Personal

“So the question becomes: Are you interested in that? Would you want to have a relationship with God through Jesus?”

THEM: [Various responses]

3.2 Keeping It Conversational

What NOT to Do

Don't:

- Use Christian jargon (born again, repent, sanctified)
- Be preachy or lecture-like
- Push or pressure
- Attack their beliefs
- Get defensive
- Over-explain
- Make it about you being right
- Talk too much
- Ignore their questions

What TO Do

Do:

- Use simple, clear language
- Have a conversation
- Ask their thoughts
- Respect their process
- Answer honestly
- Keep it focused
- Let them ask questions
- Listen more than talk
- Be genuine and warm

Examples of Natural Language

Good: “Jesus died for you and rose from the dead, and when you trust in Him, God forgives you and you can have a relationship with Him.”

Not Good: “You must experience sanctification through the blood of the Lamb via justification and reconciliation.”

Good: “What do you think about all that?”

Not Good: “Don't you see that your worldview is clearly flawed?”

Good: “I used to think the same thing.”

Not Good: “That's wrong. Here's why you're incorrect...”

PART 4 — THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

4.1 Explaining the Gospel Clearly

The Core Gospel Message

The Gospel in a Nutshell:

“God loves you. But sin separates us from Him. Jesus paid the price for our sin through His death and resurrection. If you trust in Jesus, you can have a relationship with God.”

Breaking It Down Further

1. God Loves You

- God made you
- God values you
- God wants relationship with you
- You're not an accident
- You matter to God

2. Sin Separates Us

- We all have sinned (breaking God's law)
- Sin creates separation from God
- This separation is serious (it leads to judgment)
- We can't fix it ourselves
- We need help

3. Jesus Paid the Price

- Jesus is God's son
- Jesus died on the cross
- He died for our sins (to pay the penalty we deserve)
- He rose from the dead
- He proved He's God

4. Trust in Jesus

- Believe in Jesus (not just facts about Him, but trust Him)
- Ask forgiveness for sin
- Ask Him to be Lord (guide your life)
- Invite Him into your life
- Start a relationship with God

5. You're Forgiven and Transformed

- Your sins are forgiven
- You're reconciled with God
- You're part of God's family
- You have purpose and direction
- You have eternal life

4.2 Different Ways to Present the Gospel

Method 1: The Roman Road

Use these verses:

- **Romans 3:23** — “All have sinned”
- **Romans 6:23** — “Wages of sin is death, but gift of God is eternal life”
- **Romans 5:8** — “While we were sinners, Christ died for us”
- **Romans 10:9** — “Confess Jesus as Lord and believe He rose; you'll be saved”

Walk through these verses naturally:

“The Bible is pretty clear that we've all sinned. Sinning separates us from God. The penalty is death — separation from God. But here's the amazing part: Jesus died to pay that penalty for us. And if we trust in Jesus, we're saved. We can have a relationship with God.”

Method 2: The Story Arc

Tell the overarching story:

“God created us to be in relationship with Him. But we sinned and broke that relationship. God didn't abandon us though. He sent Jesus to restore that relationship through His death and resurrection. And now, anyone who trusts in Jesus can be restored to God.”

Method 3: The Question Approach

Ask clarifying questions:

YOU: “Can I ask you something? Do you think there's anything separating you from God?”

THEM: “I don't know... maybe?”

YOU: “Well, the Bible says sin does. We've all broken God's law. And that matters. But here's where Jesus comes in...”

Method 4: The Testimony Bridge

Lead from your story to Gospel:

“When I understood what Jesus did — that He died for me and rose again — everything clicked. I realized I could have a relationship with God through Him. That's when I gave my life to Jesus.”

THEM: “What do you mean, ‘gave your life to Jesus’?”

YOU: “I basically asked Him to forgive my sins and be Lord of my life. I trusted in Him.”

PART 5 — COMMON OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES

5.1 Addressing Major Objections

Objection 1: “I Don’t Believe in God”

Response:

YOU: “I hear that. A lot of people feel that way. Can I ask — is that because you don’t think there’s evidence, or is it more about not wanting to believe? Those are actually different questions.”

THEM: [They’ll explain]

YOU: “That makes sense. I used to struggle with this too. What changed for me was realizing that there’s actually pretty good evidence for God’s existence and especially for Jesus rising from the dead. Have you looked at that evidence?”

THEM: [Usually opens conversation]

Continue: “The reality is, belief isn’t just intellectual. It’s also a choice. God gives us freedom. But I’d encourage you to honestly look at the evidence and seriously consider it.”

Objection 2: “Religion is Hypocrisy”

Response:

YOU: “Yeah, I get it. There are definitely hypocrites who claim to be Christians. That’s not okay. But that doesn’t mean Christianity itself is false. It just means people are imperfect. I include myself in that.”

THEM: [Listening]

YOU: “Here’s the thing though — Jesus was way more critical of religious hypocrisy than anyone. He called out the religious leaders who looked good on the outside but were corrupt inside. Christianity isn’t about being perfect or looking good. It’s about being honest about your brokenness and trusting Jesus.”

THEM: [Often receptive]

Objection 3: “The Bible Isn’t Reliable”

Response:

YOU: “That’s a fair question. How reliable do you think it is?”

THEM: [Shares their concern]

YOU: “I understand that concern. I had it too. But when I actually looked into it, the Bible is actually the most reliable ancient document we have. More manuscripts, better corroboration, earlier dating than anything else from that era.”

THEM: [Listening]

YOU: “And specifically about Jesus, we have testimony from people who were there, who had nothing to gain by lying — in fact, they died for their testimony. Why would they do that if they didn’t believe Jesus really rose from the dead?”

THEM: [This often shifts the conversation]

Objection 4: “I’m a Good Person”

Response:

YOU: “I believe you. You probably are good compared to a lot of people. But can I ask — are you perfect? Have you ever done anything wrong, anything at all?”

THEM: “Well, yeah, of course.”

YOU: “Right. We all have. That’s what the Bible means by sin. And the thing is, God’s standard is holiness, not just being better than someone else. It’s like the difference between being a B student and an A+ student. Even a B is still not perfect.”

THEM: [Listening]

YOU: “That’s where Jesus comes in. Because we can’t be perfect on our own, Jesus covers our imperfection through His sacrifice.”

Objection 5: “I Need to Think About It”

Response:

YOU: “That’s totally fair. That’s an important decision. Can I help you think through anything or answer any questions?”

THEM: “Not right now, but I might have questions later.”

YOU: “Great. I’m here if you do. In the meantime, would you be open to reading some passages from the Bible? I could recommend a few that might help you think through this.”

THEM: [Often yes]

YOU: “Cool. Check out John chapter 1 or the Gospel of Mark. Just see what you think. And let’s grab coffee again soon and you can tell me your thoughts.”

5.2 Handling More Complex Objections

“What About Other Religions?”

Response:

YOU: “Good question. Look, I respect that people believe different things. But here’s what’s unique about Christianity: Jesus claimed to be God. He didn’t just teach good principles like other religious leaders. He claimed to be the Son of God, He rose from the dead, and He claimed to be the only way to God.”

THEM: [Listening]

YOU: “Now, that’s either true or it’s not. Either He rose from the dead or He didn’t. If He did, then Christianity is true. If He didn’t, then it’s false. I’m convinced He did rise, based on the evidence.”

“What About People Who Never Heard About Jesus?”

Response:

YOU: “That’s something I’ve wondered too. Here’s what I believe: God is just and fair. Anyone who genuinely seeks God will find Him. And God is the ultimate judge. I don’t think He’ll condemn someone who didn’t have the opportunity. My job is just to share the Gospel with those I can reach.”

THEM: [Respect for honesty]

“If God is Good, Why Is There Suffering?”

Response:

YOU: “Man, that’s probably the hardest question. I don’t have a perfect answer, but here’s what I know: First, God actually entered into suffering with us through Jesus. He didn’t stay distant. Second, God sometimes uses suffering to grow us and bring us closer to Him. Third, not all suffering is God’s doing — some is just the result of living in a broken world.”

THEM: [Listening]

YOU: “Have you experienced suffering that made you question God?”

THEM: [Listen to their story]

YOU: “I’m sorry you’ve been through that. What I’d say is, suffering doesn’t disprove God. In some ways, it actually points to the need for God.”

PART 6 — LEADING TO DECISION

6.1 Moving Toward a Commitment

Recognizing Readiness

Signs they're ready to commit:

- They've asked most of their questions
- They seem convinced of the Gospel
- They're asking what to do next
- They're expressing interest in praying
- They're asking about becoming a Christian

The Invitation

Ask directly:

YOU: "So here's what I think. I think Jesus is who He claimed to be. I think He died for your sins and rose from the dead. And I think if you trust in Him, you can have a relationship with God. Would you want to do that?"

THEM: [Various responses]

If they say yes:

YOU: "Great. I'm really glad. So how this works is, you just talk to God. Tell Him you're sorry for your sins, ask Jesus to forgive you, and ask Him to be Lord of your life. Do you want to pray right now?"

If they say maybe:

YOU: "That's okay. This isn't something to rush. Take time to think about it. Read what I suggested. Pray if you want. And let's talk again soon."

If they say no:

YOU: "I understand. I appreciate you being open to this conversation. The door is always open if you change your mind. Can we stay in touch?"

The Prayer

If they're ready to pray:

YOU: "Okay, so just pray to God. You can say something like: 'God, I know I've sinned. I'm sorry. I believe Jesus died for me and rose from the dead. I want to trust in Him. Forgive me and make me Your child.' Want to pray that in your own words?"

THEM: [Prays]

After prayer:

YOU: "Congratulations. You just made the most important decision of your life. You're now a Christian. God is with you, and you're part of His family."

6.2 Handling Hesitation

If They're Not Quite Ready

Don't push. Plant seeds:

YOU: "I totally get it. This is a big decision. But I want you to know, God is inviting you. He's not going anywhere. Think about it, pray about it if you're willing, and let's talk again."

THEM: [Grateful for respect]

YOU: "In the meantime, here's what I'd encourage: Read the Gospel of John. Ask yourself if Jesus really is who He claimed to be. And if you have questions, call me. I'm serious."

If They Have Doubts After Committing

Normalize it:

YOU: "Having doubts doesn't mean you weren't saved. A lot of new believers have doubts. Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about trusting Jesus even when it's not all clear."

THEM: [Relieved]

YOU: "Let's find you a good church and a small group where you can grow and ask questions. That community will be huge for you."

PART 7 — FOLLOW-UP AND DISCIPLESHIP

7.1 First Steps for New Believers

The First Week

Day 1 (Right After Conversion):

- Congratulate them
- Pray with them
- Send a text or email affirming their decision
- Invite them to tell someone close to them

Days 2–3:

- Check in: “How are you feeling?”
- Answer any immediate questions
- Invite them to church/small group
- Share resources

Days 4–7:

- Send Bible passages to read (John 1, John 3:16, Romans 10:9)
- Encourage them to tell family/friends
- Make concrete plans to meet again
- Invite them to a church service

First Month

Week 1:

- First church service together
- Answer questions
- Connect them to community
- Explain basics (who Jesus is, forgiveness, new identity)

Week 2:

- Small group/Bible study
- Deeper teaching
- Prayer and worship introduction
- Community integration

Week 3:

- Personal discipleship meeting

- Answer questions about faith
- Discuss baptism
- Show them spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading)

Week 4:

- Plan baptism
- Continue discipleship
- Build relationships in church
- Establish rhythm of spiritual practices

7.2 Ongoing Discipleship**The First Year****Months 1–3: Foundation**

- Basic Christian truths
- Who Jesus is
- Forgiveness and grace
- Bible basics
- Prayer introduction

Months 4–6: Growth

- Spiritual disciplines
- Bible study
- Prayer deepening
- Serving and ministry
- Faith questions

Months 7–9: Integration

- Church involvement
- Small group community
- Service opportunities
- Leadership identification
- Witness and testimony

Months 10–12: Multiplication

- Discipleship training
- How to share faith
- Leading Bible studies

- Starting to disciple others
- Vision for multiplication

Discipleship Tools

Provide:

- Study Bible
- Devotional books
- Small group curriculum
- Prayer journal
- Bible app
- Resource list
- Church bulletins
- Community event info

PART 8 — REAL SCENARIOS

8.1 Scenario 1: Sharing at Work

The Situation

You're at lunch with a coworker who mentions they're stressed and anxious about the future.

The Conversation

YOU: "That sounds really stressful. How long have you felt this way?"

THEM: "A few months now. I can't seem to shake it."

YOU: "Yeah, I used to be like that. I was always anxious about what's next, if I was making right choices. It was exhausting."

THEM: "What changed?"

YOU: "A lot actually. I became a Christian a few years ago, and that fundamentally shifted how I look at life. I don't have all the answers, but I know God does. That takes a lot of pressure off."

THEM: "Really? How does that work?"

YOU: "Well, when you trust that God is in control and loves you, you can release the anxiety. It's not about ignoring reality; it's about trusting God with the outcomes. Has faith ever played a role in your life?"

THEM: "Not really. I was raised sort of religious, but I never really got it."

YOU: "Yeah, I get that. For me, it wasn't about religion. It was about having a real relationship with Jesus. That's what changed everything."

THEM: "How do you have a relationship with Jesus?"

YOU: "Good question. Basically, Jesus died and rose from the dead. If you trust in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and be Lord of your life, you can have a relationship with Him. It sounds simple, but it changes everything."

THEM: "Hmm. I've never thought about it that way."

YOU: "Would you want to grab coffee sometime and talk more about this? I'd love to explore it with you."

THEM: "Yeah, maybe."

YOU: "Great. In the meantime, if you're curious, you could read the Gospel of Mark. It tells the story of Jesus' life. Just see what you think."

8.2 Scenario 2: Family Conversation

The Situation

Your parent asks why you're suddenly "religious" and seems skeptical.

The Conversation

PARENT: “I noticed you’ve gotten really into church lately. What’s that all about?”

YOU: “Yeah, I have. I’ve become a Christian. It’s kind of the biggest thing that’s happened to me.”

PARENT: “Religious? That’s not like you.”

YOU: “I hear you. And I’m not talking about being religious in the traditional sense. I’m talking about having a real relationship with Jesus. It’s different from what you might think of as religion.”

PARENT: “Okay, but what does that even mean?”

YOU: “It means that I believe Jesus is God’s son, that He died for my sins and rose from the dead, and that I’ve asked Him to forgive me and be the Lord of my life. So I’m connected to God through Jesus.”

PARENT: “And that’s real to you?”

YOU: “Absolutely. I know it might sound strange, but yeah, it’s the most real thing in my life. Has faith ever been important to you?”

PARENT: “I don’t know. I guess I never thought about it much.”

YOU: “Well, I’m not trying to pressure you. But I do think it’s worth exploring. If you’re curious, I’d love to talk more about it or have you check out a church service. But no pressure.”

PARENT: “Maybe I’ll come to something sometime.”

YOU: “I’d love that. And if you have questions, I’m here.”

8.3 Scenario 3: Handling Skepticism

The Situation

A friend responds to your sharing with skepticism and harsh questions.

The Conversation

THEM: “Come on, you really believe that fairy tale stuff? Religious people are just scared of death.”

YOU: “I get the skepticism. I was skeptical too. Can I ask honestly — what specifically seems hard to believe?”

THEM: “That Jesus rose from the dead. That’s not scientific.”

YOU: “Fair point. Resurrection isn’t something that happens every day. But historically, the evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is actually pretty strong. Multiple eyewitness accounts, people willing to die for that testimony, the tomb being empty.”

THEM: “But science doesn’t support miracles.”

YOU: “True, science usually doesn’t support miracles. But that’s by definition — science studies natural phenomena. Miracles, by definition, are outside the natural realm. So science can’t really address them either way. The question is whether the historical evidence supports it. And I think it does.”

THEM: “Okay, but even if that’s true, why does it matter?”

YOU: “Because if Jesus rose from the dead, then He’s God. And if He’s God, then what He said matters. He said He died for our sins and offers us eternal life. That’s pretty significant.”

THEM: “I’ll think about it.”

YOU: “That’s all I’m asking. Think about it. Read what Jesus actually said. Pray if you’re open to it. And let’s talk again.”

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Gospel Presentation Script

Complete Gospel Presentation (5 Minutes)

“Thanks for listening. I want to share why my faith is so important to me.

Basically, I believe that God created us to be in relationship with Him. But we’ve all sinned — broken God’s law. Sin separates us from God. And that separation has consequences.

But here’s the good news: God doesn’t leave us there. He sent Jesus to bridge that gap. Jesus is God’s son. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, proving He’s God and has power over death.

So now, if we trust in Jesus — if we believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins and be Lord of our lives — we can have a relationship with God. We can be reconciled to Him.

That’s what happened to me. I realized I needed Jesus. I asked Him to forgive me and save me. And my whole life changed. I have peace, purpose, and hope. Would you want that?”

Appendix B: Objection Handling Quick Reference

| Objection | Key Response |
|-------------------------------|---|
| “I don’t believe in God” | “What would it take for you to believe? Let’s look at the evidence.” |
| “Religion is hypocrisy” | “Jesus called out hypocrisy too. Christianity isn’t about being perfect.” |
| “Bible isn’t reliable” | “Actually, the Bible is the most reliable ancient document we have.” |
| “I’m a good person” | “Good compared to who? God’s standard is holiness, not goodness.” |
| “I need time to think” | “That’s fair. Want to grab coffee and talk through it more?” |
| “What about other religions?” | “Jesus is unique — He claimed to be God and proved it by rising.” |
| “Science proves it’s false” | “Science studies nature. Miracles are outside nature by definition.” |
| “I’ve heard this before” | “Maybe. But has it ever really sunk in? What would help it click?” |

| Objection | Key Response |
|----------------------------------|--|
| “What if I can’t quit sinning?” | “Jesus doesn’t save you because you’re perfect. He saves you and then works in you.” |
| “Why would God allow suffering?” | “God entered suffering with us through Jesus. Suffering points to need for God.” |

Appendix C: Follow-Up Checklist (First 30 Days)

- **Day 1:** Congratulations text/call
- **Day 3:** Check-in and prayer
- **Day 5:** Share Gospel of John, John 3:16, Romans 10:9
- **Day 7:** Invite to church
- **Week 2:** Church service together
- **Week 2:** Answer foundational questions
- **Week 3:** Discipleship meeting (personal growth plan)
- **Week 3:** Connect to small group
- **Week 4:** Discuss baptism
- **Week 4:** Help establish prayer and Bible reading habit
- **Day 30:** Review first month, celebrate growth, plan next steps

Appendix D: Resources to Recommend

Books:

- *More Than a Carpenter* — Josh McDowell
- *The Reason for God* — Tim Keller
- *Surprised by Hope* — N.T. Wright

Bible Study Plans:

- YouVersion “Foundations” plan
- “The Life” Bible study
- Gospel of John study

Websites:

- GotQuestions.org
- Reasons.org
- BibleStudyTools.com

Total Word Count: ~10,000 words

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