

Loving P.W.C. Through Christ

1 Peter 3:13-17 Be Prepared, Build Bridges to the Gospel

We saw past 5 Sundays, Gods' Priority:

- **Acts 4:7-20** Pet. & Jn., See all as Jesus sees them: broken, need redempt.
- **Mark 12:29-31** Priority: love neighbor/all, as much as we love ourselves
- **Luke 15:1-7** Seek out the lost, welcome—no one is less imp. in His eyes
- **2 Corinthians 5:16-20** Ambassadors help everyone we cross path, make a step closer Christlikeness: **Engage → Evangelize + Establish → Equip**
- **John 4:31-8** PWC is Ripe for Gospel harvest, we want to be a part of going. We want to overcome our inhibitions to tell our Savior's story. Let's be a church loving Jesus over again, hearts compelled, make Him real to others

1Peter 3:13-17 The church under trial makes bridges, spotlighting Jesus.

I. Honor Christ v.15, set apart, **sanctify Christ in your heart.** Do the internal work first. Be fertile soil so when life happens you reflect His hope & power.

II. Peter reminds us that even if slandered for Christ v. 14, 16,17 **we have a bridge**—Christlike lifestyle that puts to shame arguments against Him, us.

III. Make a defense, with gentleness & respect, of your hope in Jesus v.15b The world is hopeless! Their conscience is never clear, by contrast yours is! Get ready to share what your days with hope look like for you- fear of measuring up to others, fear of not good enough for God, God cares about me!

To be prepared to tell God's story, we find bridges/ways to intersect folks

So, pray for humility to sensitively approach this person.

1. Neediness bridge - deep down, all are needy Rom 3:23 For all have sinned

2. Listening bridge detect some common point to move discussion upward Acts 17:22-31 morality, decline, why people do, recent disasters, war...

3. Questioning bridge what's their opinion about why things are wrong, what's their life's story, is there a place where I can show empathy?

4. Personal testimony, your life story to bring light to the hope you have

From broken, no hope, crisis. Telling your story with Jesus as the hero. He's taken the old soil of my life, giving me new ground. His careful hand leads me, I have new power, awesome freedom to be the real me in Him! Suggested Helps:

General religious questions:

- Do you think about spirituality or religious matters?
- Where are you in your personal search for meaning, purpose in life?
- How has that gone for you so far?
- What is your religious background?
- Did you grow up going to church?
- What does your church teach (or what is your personal idea) about the way a person goes to heaven?
- How has your religion made a difference in your life?
- What do you think is out there when we die, what's on the other side?
- Do you think of yourself as needing forgiveness?
- Is there a specific question/matter that's hanging you up on your journey?
- If you were to die tonight and stand before God, and He asked you "Should I let you into my heaven?" What would be your response?
- If He asked you then, "Upon what basis should I let you into my heaven?" what would you reply?
- For a Catholic person you may ask, "What do you think is going to open the gate of heaven for you?"
- "I was just curious why you wear that cross."

Going Deeper: The goal in questioning is not for getting a "win." But rather, we want the person to explain herself. So we just use probing helps.

"What do you mean by that?" "How do you know that to be true?" "Could you maybe tell me where you get your information?" "What if you were wrong?"

For someone you have known for some time: You know, we have been friends for a while now. We have talked together about a lot of things, yet there is a very important part of my life I have never opened up with you. Could I share with you about my spiritual journey?"

-Is there something I could pray about for you?

-Do you see that you need forgiveness for your sin?

-Are you willing to surrender your life to God's leadership alone?

-Are you certain that Christ is your Savior, forgiving you of all your sin?

-Is there any reason to delay in asking Jesus to forgive you now and give you new life?