



THE LIVING SENT PODCAST: SHOW NOTES

EPISODE: **007**

TITLE: **How to Talk With People About Jesus (Without Ruining the Relationship)**

For some, the word evangelism or the phrase “sharing the gospel,” invokes feelings of anxiety and even fear. For others, the idea of sharing your faith is simply a turn-off. What If I told you there was another way? An alternative way to share your faith? A way to talk with people about Jesus without ruining the relationship?

1. Preach the Gospel to Yourself Daily

- a. Justin discussed approaching this first point from two directions.
 - i. First, how would you respond to this question, “What is the gospel?”
 1. We need to understand the gospel ourselves and why it is good news before we attempt to share the gospel with others.
 - ii. Second, do you make a habit out of interrogating your own thoughts, emotions, words, and actions with the gospel?
- b. *Bottom line: the more fluent you become in speaking the gospel to yourself, the more comfortable you will become with sharing Jesus with others.*
 - i. **Question: Read Psalm 42. How does the Psalmist “preach the gospel” to himself?**
- c. For more on this topic, check out Jeff Vanderstelt’s book, *Gospel Fluency*. [You can get it here.](#)

2. Seek to Understand Before You Are Understood¹

- a. Becoming a good listener takes time and intentionality. Jesus made a practice of this during his earthly ministry. Justin shared that out of the 183 questions asked of Jesus, he only directly responded to 3.
 - i. **Question: What do you think that means for his followers today?**
 - ii. *While there is much debate on the specific number, here are the 3 references to his direct answers: John 18:37; Luke 11:1; Matthew 22:36-37.*

¹ Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, (New York, NY: Simon and Schuster), 1989.



- b. In the recent study, *Reviving Evangelism*, “non-Christians” said that the top two qualities they look for in a person with whom to talk about faith are “listens without judgment” (62%) and “does not force a conclusion” (50%).²
 - i. **Question: What are qualities you look for in a person with whom to talk about faith? How can you hold to your values and convictions and still “listen without judgment?” Why or why not?**
3. **Prioritize Gospel Conversation Over Gospel Presentations**
- a. Gospel conversations are more contextually appropriate for our culture today. In other words, people are more receptive to having a dialogue about faith rather than listening to a monologue about faith.
 - i. **Question: On a scale of 1-10, how well would you score yourself in having a gospel conversation with someone? Sharing a gospel presentation?**
 - b. Scroll to the last page to see a sample gospel presentation that Justin frequently uses. *

As you go throughout your life in the days ahead, I challenge you to begin a gospel conversation with someone you know. It may be as simple as asking an intentional question about their faith journey and listening to their story with a genuine interest. Remember, you are not trying to convert someone; only God can transform a life. May our focus instead, be on obedience—sharing the Good News as we live S.E.N.T. in the world.

I’d love to hear from you this week. Reach out to me at justinwester.com/connect. Remember, you don’t *have* to Live SENT, you get to. See you next episode.

Justin

² *Reviving Evangelism*, Barna and Alpha USA, pg. 12.



Sample Gospel Presentation (Loosely based on Evangelism Explosion/Faith Witness Training)

The Bible says that you can know for sure that you have eternal life.

- 1 John 5:13- *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."*

The Bible says there are 5 things you need to know about eternal life:

1. Eternal life is a free gift
 - a. Romans 6:23- *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
 - b. And since heaven is a gift, it is not earned or deserved
 - i. You cannot try enough, work enough, or be good enough to earn eternal life
 - c. Ephesians 2:8-9- *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*
 - d. Why can't anyone earn their way to heaven?
2. Man has a sin issue
 - a. Romans 3:23- *"for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."*
 - i. Whenever we think of sin, we tend to think of big sins: murder, adultery
 - ii. But Jesus said,
 1. If you've ever hated your fellow man, you've already committed murder in your heart
 2. If you've ever lusted after another person, you've already committed adultery in your heart.
 - iii. Sin is much bigger than we tend to think: it includes anything we think, say, do or don't do.
 - b. Because of this, man is incapable of saving himself.
 - c. If good deeds could save us, we would have to be perfect.
 - i. Matthew 5:48- *"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect."*
 - d. With such a high standard, no one is able to save himself.
 - e. BUT, in spite of our sin
3. God
 - a. Is merciful, meaning he doesn't want to punish us.
 - i. 2 Peter 3:9- *"the Lord...is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."*
 - b. But the same God who loves us is also perfectly just.



- c. Meaning, he must punish our sin.
 - i. Exodus 34:7- *"[He] will by no means clear the guilty."*
 - d. So here is the cosmic problem: God loves us and doesn't want to punish us. BUT, he is just and must punish sin.
 - e. He solves this in the person of Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus Christ
- a. Jesus is both fully God and fully man
 - b. He came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place for us in heaven.
 - i. Isaiah 53:6- *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."*
 - c. Jesus Christ, took our sin in His body on the cross and offers you eternal life as a free gift.
 - d. This gift is received by faith.
5. Faith
- a. Faith is the key that unlocks the door to heaven
 - i. Key Analogy
 - b. Many people mistake 2 things for saving faith:
 - i. Intellectual faith
 - ii. Temporary faith
 - c. Saving faith is trusting Jesus Christ alone for eternal life—now and forever.
 - i. This means we trust in what he has done, not what we have done.
 - d. Saving faith is always accompanied by repentance
 - i. Repentance is a change- a change in the way you are thinking and living.
 - ii. Mark 1:15- These are Jesus's words –*"The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel."*