

# Sharing JESUS

{without *freaking* out}

EVANGELISM THE WAY YOU WERE BORN TO DO IT

Guide for an Eight-Week Journey to Grow as a  
Witness

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

FOR LEADERS OF SMALL GROUP STUDY: This listening guide follows the eight videos taught by the author, Dr. Alvin Reid, as he walks a live audience through the book *Sharing Jesus {Without Freaking Out}*. For best learning, follow this process:

--Ensure each participant has a copy of the book. Read the chapter for the week before the class setting and answer the questions designated below. [NOTE: You can get the book through amazon.com in print, digital, or audio formats. You can also get copies in bulk (20 copies or more) for only \$5.00 through Lifeway.com.

--Make sure each participant has a copy of this listening guide to use as they read each chapter and for the weekly group time.

--Each week in group time, show the video from [www.sharingJesusbook.com](http://www.sharingJesusbook.com) for the chapter of the week. Each video is approximately 15-25 minutes long. Participants can follow with this guide and fill in the material. After the video:

1. Lead a discussion of the questions found in the Eight Week Challenge at the end of the book beginning page 127. Feel free to add your own Scriptures, insights, and testimonies.
2. Close with prayer, focusing on the prayer requests located in the book. If your group is larger than 6-8 people, have them divide into smaller groups for prayer.
3. After week one, encourage participants to share brief testimonies of how they are implementing the lessons during their daily lives. You can also share a story of your own or ask a couple of people ahead of time to be prepared to share.

FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY: You can follow the same instructions as above, only you can do so over eight weeks alone or with a mentor or accountability partner.

WEEK ONE  
SPREAD THE WORD: DON'T OVERCOMPLICATE IT

*\*From this week's reading of the Introduction and Chapter 1:  
1. From the categories in the Introduction, would you describe yourself as a 1, 2, or 3?*

*2. In Chapter 1, can you relate to the story of Doc Reid's wife and the copperhead? Can you recall a time you were similarly freaked out? Why do you think we freak out about sharing Jesus?*

*3. Write down one gift, talent, and opportunity God has placed in your life to share Jesus. If you can't think of one for all three it's ok.*

*4. Which of the three questions in the evangelism catechism helped you most? Why?*

LISTENING GUIDE

*What Freaks You Out? (give at least 2 examples)*

Do the examples on the slides freak you out?

What are the top 2 fears according to Gallup?

*Why we struggle in our witness:*

1. Most of us are not \_\_\_\_\_ speakers
2. Aggressive, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ witness trainers
3. Sometimes, training makes us more \_\_\_\_\_ than confident
4. We have created the most elaborate Christian \_\_\_\_\_ in history

Principle ONE: God created you for his glory to \_\_\_\_\_ his gospel with the gifts, talents, and \_\_\_\_\_ he gave you.

Perspective: Lost people are more *amazed* at our silence than *offended* at our message.

The 3fold Prayer of the Witness: "God, give me this day

--An \_\_\_\_\_ to share Christ

--The \_\_\_\_\_ to see it

--The \_\_\_\_\_ to take it"

**APPLICATION:** Identify the one thing that most freaks you out about sharing Christ. Begin daily praying for the grace of God to overcome this.

WEEK TWO  
GOD IS NOT MAD AT YOU: UNDERSTANDING THE  
MESSAGE

*\*From this week's reading of Chapter 2:*

*1. Have you ever thought of the parallel between stories or movie plotlines and the gospel story?*

*2. The chapter is called "God Is Not Mad At You:" does it encourage you as a witness to know you don't witness to earn God's favor, because you already have it in Christ? Can you see how the more we grow in understanding the depth of God's love in the gospel story, the more likely we are to share it?*

*3. What is a way you have learned to communicate the gospel in the past? How has that helped you?*

LISTENING GUIDE

Gospel = Good news!

What's your favorite movie?

*\*Was reading about movies and their relationship to the gospel story a surprise to you? Which one stood out?*

## Our Great Gospel

The Bible has 66 books, but ONE \_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel in its \_\_\_\_\_: It's an ANNOUNCEMENT of Good News in Christ's death and resurrection

The Gospel as an \_\_\_\_\_: It's the Grand STORY of the redemptive work of God in Christ

**Principle Two:** In order to share Jesus confidently and consistently with others, first share him confidently and

consistency with \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Gospel Story

CREATION

FALL

RESCUE

RESTORATION

## 4 Truths about God

God is \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't have to be in control

God is \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't have to fear others

God is \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't have to look elsewhere

God is \_\_\_\_\_, so I don't have to prove myself

**APPLICATION:** Learn to "preach the gospel to yourself" daily. Before you become comfortable speaking to others about Jesus, become comfortable sharing with yourself.

WEEK THREE  
IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK: CONVERSATIONS, NOT  
PRESENTATIONS

*\*From the reading of Chapter 3:*

*1. The average adult has 27 conversations a day: does it help you to think less of presenting the gospel to a listener than having a conversation with a friend?*

*2. Doc Reid said, "A big reason we don't talk to unbelievers about Jesus is we don't talk to one another about Jesus." Do you find that to be true? Would it help your witness to talk about Jesus more in general?*

LISTENING GUIDE

Where do you love to have conversations?

When a person responds in a conversation, what then?

*NOTE: At the Landing Page for the book [www.sharingJesusbook.com](http://www.sharingJesusbook.com) you can find two videos of conversations role-playing the gospel being shared and people responding to it.*

Three helpful questions:

1) Does what we are discussing make sense?

2) Is there any good reason why you wouldn't want to receive God's gift of forgiveness and salvation?

3) Would you like to do so right now?

Decision time—what then?

You can follow this approach:

Pray for the person

Pray with them, helping them simply turn from sin to trust Jesus

You and the other person can thank God!

Follow up: \_\_\_\_\_ (Bible) \_\_\_\_\_ (Prayer)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Church) \_\_\_\_\_ (Witness)

### Presentation vs Conversation

#### PRESENTATION

Starts in our Christian \_\_\_\_\_

Assumes they know the Gospel somewhat

Focuses on the lost person as a sinner

Effective with people with a church \_\_\_\_\_

Focuses on immediate decision

#### CONVERSATION

Starts in the other person's worldview

Assumes they don't know the gospel

Focuses on the imago Dei in the sinner

Effective regardless of background

Hopes for a decision but understands the Spirit often works in a \_\_\_\_\_



Principle 3: Shifting from giving an evangelistic presentation to having an evangelistic conversation takes pressure off the witness and relates the gospel more clearly to an unbeliever.

Passion or Pain

Begin to note conversations that bring up a person's passion or pain, and apply the gospel there.

3 things people can tell

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_ about them.
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ what you are talking about.
3. If the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is on your life.

**APPLICATION:** Over the next seven days, pay attention to how many times people talk about their pain or their passion. This includes anything from trivial matters to serious, life-altering events. Think about how the good news of Jesus can speak to either their passion or pain.

WEEK FOUR  
IT'S NOT IN YOUR POWER, YET YOU ARE VITAL

*\*From the reading of Chapter 4:*

*1. Do you think very often about how God has placed you in this time and place in history? How does understanding that help you to share Jesus?*

*2. If you were to state in a sentence the "why" of your life, what would you say? How does that relate to other areas of your life as a leader, worker, parent, student, child, sibling, friend, neighbor, or other?*

*3. Doc Reid says, "Where you live doesn't make you a missionary, the mission you are on does, regardless of your vocation or location." Do you ever think of yourself as a missionary? How does that change things?*

LISTENING GUIDE

So much of your life consists of things over which you had no control...

Principle 4: God has sovereignly placed you in this world at this time with the \_\_\_\_\_ and gifts you have to live in a way that brings glory to Him and shows the joy of the gospel to others.

What Is Your WHY?

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9*

Start with JOY

APPLICATION: How can you bring joy to those you know?

WEEK FIVE  
IGNITION AND TRANSITIONS: CONVERSATION STARTERS  
AND SIGNPOSTS

*\*From the reading in Chapter 5:*

*1. What insight regarding prayer encouraged you in your witness? Is there anything in particular you might put into practice?*

*2. Did one or more of the approaches listed in this chapter give you insight into how you can share Jesus? Which one(s) and why?*

LISTENING GUIDE

Before you speak to others about God, speak to God about others.

Principle 5: Effective evangelistic conversations connect the unchanging gospel with the specific issues people face.

Approach 1: Stories

3 stories:

--Ask a person his or her story

--Share your story (Testimony)

--Share the \_\_\_\_\_ Story

Approach 2: Ask Good Questions

--When you attend church, where do you?

--What in your opinion is a real Christian?

Approach 3: Affirmation and Encouragement

*You can affirm someone \_\_\_\_\_ without endorsing their lifestyle generally.*

Approach 4: the Heart

--Some are " \_\_\_\_\_ " orthodoxy

--Some are " \_\_\_\_\_ " orthopraxy

--Some are " \_\_\_\_\_ " orthopathy

Approach 5: Go Deeper

Example: Begin asking servers if you can pray for them (and tip well!)

**APPLICATION:** Which of the five approaches seems more natural to you? Seek to use it this week with someone.

WEEK SIX  
START WITH THEM: LET THEM HELP YOU AND THEY WILL  
POINT TO THE GOSPEL

*\*From the reading in Chapter 6:*

*1. Think about your specific opportunities—your job, your hobbies, and your regular relationships. How might you leverage those to help you speak more regularly about Jesus?*

*2. What are some circumstances people you know face today (either believers or unbelievers) which could be a starting point to speak with them about Jesus?*

LISTENING GUIDE

Start with \_\_\_\_\_.

Principle 6: Expect people to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the gospel, and learn to share Jesus where they \_\_\_\_\_.

A Counseling Approach

-- \_\_\_\_\_ to their story

-- \_\_\_\_\_ with their story

--Redemptively \_\_\_\_\_ their story

APPLICATION: Ask a friend, co-worker, or family member to tell you their story. How might you empathize with their story, seeing ways your story relates to theirs? How might you retell their story from the perspective of being changed by Jesus?

WEEK SEVEN  
TALK, BUT WITH MORE THAN WORDS

*\*From the reading in Chapter 7:*

*1. Could you name people you know in the Concentric Circles who need to know Jesus? Was there someone in particular God has given you a burden for?*

*2. Does knowing we aren't called to answer every question a person raises give you confidence? If so, how?*

*3. Does the diagram showing the difference between a casual relationship and an intimate relationship help you in thinking about how you share with people you know well who aren't saved? How does the story by Spurgeon of the wife and her husband illustrate this?*

LISTENING GUIDE

Principle 7: Talk to the actual person in front of you about the

Jesus inside you; let them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the change Jesus makes in you.

What about Objections?

?

?

?

?



*NOTE: Doc Reid has a video on dealing with objections here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZncjBilatpw>

We must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel

In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the Christian message, they may be won over without a message by the way their wives live when they observe your pure, reverent lives. 1 Peter 3:1

**APPLICATION:** Think about someone you know very well who doesn't know Jesus. How might you show them Jesus in your life even as you share him with your lips?

WEEK EIGHT  
MAKE FRIENDS, NOT VISITS, DEVELOPING A PLAN

*\*From the reading in Chapter 8:*

*1. How does the story of the high school students developing a fitness plan encourage you to develop a lifestyle of witnessing plan?*

*2. Can you see parallels between getting healthier physically and getting more effective at witnessing? Can you see the same parallels in other areas of your spiritual life?*

*3. Think about the life plan you want to develop as a witness before class this week.*

LISTENING GUIDE

Principle 8: Developing a lifestyle of sharing Jesus consistently flows out of a plan to share Jesus regularly.

Life Plan for Witnessing

1. \_\_\_\_\_ focus your life in the gospel.

Live life as a mission trip.

2. Understand 3 key factors to help your witness:

-- \_\_\_\_\_

-- \_\_\_\_\_

--DEEP \_\_\_\_\_

3. Identify people in your circles of influence you already know who don't know Christ from the Concentric Circles exercise.
4. Regularly stop to assess your progress with a prayer partner or mentor.
5. Pray \_\_\_\_\_ for your witness.

#### MY GOSPEL PLAN

I devote my life to start my day in the Word and prayer, reminding myself of the truth of the gospel. I will then live each day on mission. I serve God joyfully as His beloved child, not as a duty.

I will remind myself daily how God has uniquely created me to serve Him effectively.

I will specifically seek to talk to someone in my circles this week, and be open to talk to others as I have opportunity.

I will regularly speak with \_\_\_\_\_ concerning my witness and my growth in the gospel.

I will daily pray for an opportunity to witness, for wisdom to see it, and for boldness to take it.

# MY PERSONAL PLAN