

## Relationship Evangelism Tools

Every Christian is called to be a witness for Jesus Christ; fulfilling the Great Commission is not a task for a select few. The Bible says that all those who have become Christians, who have been made new in Christ, are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). This means that we represent Jesus Christ to people around us.

While we may realize our responsibility to share our faith, many of us struggle with going public with our faith. This results in fear, guilt and frustration over our inability to lead others to faith in Christ. A number of evangelistic tools have been developed to help people share their faith, but many of them are primarily aimed at people who have the gift of evangelism. Relationship evangelism complements these tools as it focuses on building relationships, something that all Christians can do.

Relationship evangelism sees sharing our faith as a process rather than an event. It sees the potential of influence we can have over people as we live out an authentic, Christian life and care for the whole person. Relationship evangelism involves building meaningful friendships with people who are not Christians. This does not mean that we share the gospel only with potential friends, but that we reach out to people who are in our circle of influence by praying for them, caring for them and looking for ways to communicate the grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Relationship evangelism can be used effectively to witness to your family, neighbours, work colleagues and others whom God brings into your life.

Committing yourself to developing relationships with people outside the Christian community can be challenging. We have put together this set of tools to help you in this endeavour. You can start with the first introductory tool and proceed through the rest, or choose any tool and simply try it out.

### Level 1

Read the booklet “How Can I Break the Silence?”, which you can download in PDF format from: <http://discoveryseries.org/discovery-series/how-can-i-break-the-silence/>

Meet with 2-3 people and discuss this booklet using the following questions:

- a. What do you think of the “ACTS Strategy”?
- b. What did you learn about what friendship evangelism is and is not?
- c. What are 1-2 action steps that you feel convicted to do?
- d. How will you keep each other accountable to follow through?

### Level 2

#### Option 1

Register for the CSC Learning and Growth class on “Relationship Evangelism”. This will introduce you to the concept and challenge you to take some next steps in intentionally

\* Most resources are available through the Appleseed Resource Centre (library or bookstore).

developing relationships with and praying for several people who do not know Jesus yet and for whom God has given you a burden. Check out [www.cschurch.ca](http://www.cschurch.ca) to find out the next time the class is offered.

### Option 2

Meet with 2 friends for three weeks in order to view the DVD material “Cross the Street Challenge” (visit the Appleseed – Small Group Resource library) and work through the accompanying small group discussion guide. Decide what you will do in response to what you learned and keep each other accountable.

## **Level 3**

### Option 1

Ask your Christian friends or your small group to view the DVD series “Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith” by Hill Hybels (visit the Appleseed – Small Group Resource library), and we recommend you read Hybel’s book Just Walk Across the Room as you do the DVD study. To see an introduction to the material, go to: <http://www.justwalkacrosstheroom.com/>

### Option 2

There are opportunities to do relationship evangelism through the internet. One such Christian ministry is a website hosted by Power to Change Ministries in which they train volunteers to be involved in various types of web-based conversations and mentoring. To find out more, visit: [www.truthmedia.com](http://www.truthmedia.com)

## **Going Deeper Resources**

Finding Common Ground: How to Communicate with Those Outside the Christian

Community While We Still Can by Tim Downs

Becoming a Contagious Christian by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg

Going Public With Your Faith: Becoming a Spiritual Influence at Work by William Carr Peel and Walt Larimore

Lifestyle Evangelism: Learning to Open your Life to Those Around You by Joe Aldrich

\* Most resources are available through the Appleseed Resource Centre (library or bookstore).