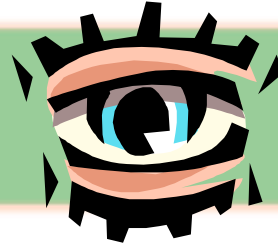


GOD'S

...developing a Christian worldview



VIEW

SHARING OUR FAITH...

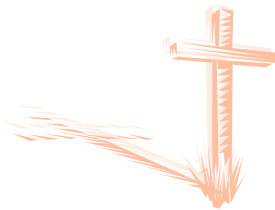
In what ways does the author feel it is easier to share our faith today?

Today we can tell those who are and are not believers. The culture is less Christian therefore Christianity is not seen as the establishment. It is counterculture and radical to be a believer that walks with God.

In what ways does the author feel it is harder to share our faith today?

Ignorance of the basic tenants of the Christian faith and the frequent hostility towards it.

What would motivate you to share the good news of Jesus' life, teaching, death on the cross for sins, and resurrection with someone else?



- Love and compassion for others
- Obedience to the Lord
- To be used by God
- Eternal consequences of unbelief

GETTING STARTED

What was J. Budziszewski's best advice for us?

Prayer!

Discuss the seven reasons for prayer in evangelism

Pray—for the chance to share your faith.
Pray—to be ready to share your faith.
Pray—for discretion in sharing your faith.
Pray—for the words to share your faith. (discuss the content on top p54)
Pray—for patience to listen as you share your faith.
Pray—for God to prepare your friends heart and mind as you share your faith
Pray—to thank God for the opportunity to glorify his name

Stress with the students that the mission of Jesus was to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). God is very ready to use us if our hearts are in line to pray in the manner listed above.

DEALING WITH FRIEND'S QUESTIONS



PLAIN QUESTIONS

Give a few examples of what the author describes as a "plain question" about faith.

- Is Christ a last name?
- What does the term Savior mean?
- What does the word gospel mean?
- Why do Christians say that Jesus died for their sins?

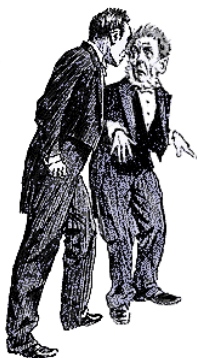
What should you do if a friend asks you a plain question about your faith?

Don't get too sophisticated and deep...Just answer it and continue the dialogue

What are some things that you should avoid or things you should do in answering plain questions?

- Using Churchy words that people do not understand — no "Christianese"
- Don't end the conversation — phrase answers in a manner to spawn further questions.
- Don't act like you know it all. It's OK to say "I don't know", but promise to find out an answer... then keep that promise

OBJECTIONS IN QUESTIONS



"An objection expresses a person's deeper qualms about the Christian Faith—perhaps uneasiness about puzzling ideas. These can often become a reason your friend gives **not** to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior." (Budziszewski page 56, emphasis in original)

Why is it important to tell the difference between a "plain question" and an "objection"?

A plain question just asks for information, an objection comes with a puzzle to solve with the person. A person with an objection will usually "come back at you" with skepticism about what you are telling them.

Why would it be important to ask clarifying questions before going into answering a person?

We need to use discernment to find out what the real issues are behind the objection. Is it just an honest intellectual struggle? Is there a personal issue that is driving it? Stress the importance of **listening** (both to the person and to the Holy Spirit) so you may interact in an informed and gracious manner about the situation.

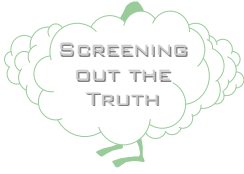
Certain questions may have certain answers, but the way in which we communicate an answer is just as important as what we actually say. Remember, you wouldn't want to use a hammer for every job around the house; sometimes you need very precise tools to get the job done correctly.

LISTEN WELL, BEFORE YOU LEAP!

Define and discuss the term Apologetics:

The defense of the Christian Faith against objections. **Read 1 Peter 3:15**

SMOKESCREEN QUESTIONS



What does the author mean by a “smokescreen” question?

Some questions are not real questions at all. They are simply ways for someone to avoid the real issue at hand and many times the questioner doesn't even take his own question seriously

Discuss the following three ways to dispense of smokescreens.



QUESTION THE QUESTIONER

Ask them a few questions... "Do you really think that?" "Is murder wrong?"



PLAYBACK

Go over all they have said and see if they want to hear answers. If not, then try to see what is holding them back.



MIRROR

See if they really are in a search for the truth or just trying to argue. Would they really accept Christ if they found answers?

Answer plain questions, **solve** the puzzles with the objector, and **blow away** the smokescreens.

Always remember that God has gone before you by the testimony of his creation (Psalm 19:1-6, Romans 1:20), placing hints in our longings (Acts 17:22,23), showing his design of human beings (Romans 1:26,27), giving us the principle of harvest (Galatians 6:7), and giving us a conscience (Romans 2:14,15).

See table on page 59 in Budziszewski for details on how God goes before us.

LIFESTYLE CONFLICTS

SCARCITY OF ACTIVITIES YOU CAN SHARE

What are some things you invite your Non Christian friends to do with you?

DEMANDS YOU CAN'T MEET

Many times we won't want to do this or that because we want to please the Lord and walk with Him. When situations like these arise with our friends, what four guidelines does the other give?

- Don't **argue**
- Don't **apologize**
- Don't **back down**
- Don't **get trapped**

BE AN INFLUENCER NOT THE ONE WHO IS INFLUENCED

“Satan will try to turn the tables by making you feel embarrassed about your faith—by making you think it is childish, silly, or intolerant. Another way is to pull you away from your partners in faith—to make you feel that “your kind of people” aren't the ones who worship the same Lord, but the ones who pledge the same club or have the same color skin. Still another way is to weaken your discipline and suck you into sin—especially into an entwining, addicting sin like, drunkenness, drugs, or sex. That strategy is one of the Enemy's favorites because not many of us human beings doubt God and then start sinning. Most of us start sinning and then doubt God.” (Budziszewski page 62)

So remember: You can have friends outside the faith, but for your deepest comrades you should look to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Hang out with the holy. Get in with the godly. Spend time with the saved. Know who your real family is, the one where the Father is God. (Budziszewski page 63)

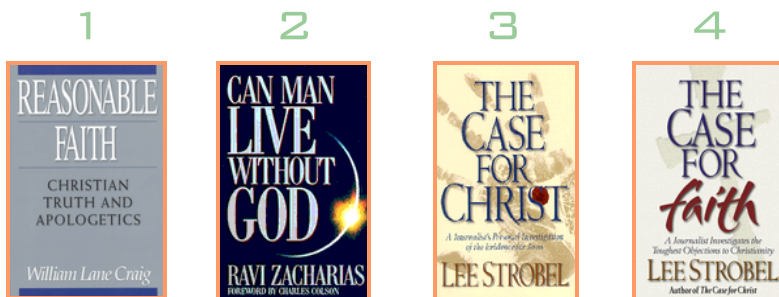
EVANGELISM RESOURCES

1. Evangelism that Works by George Barna
2. Engaging Unbelief by Curtis Chang
3. Witnessing without Fear by Bill Bright
4. Finding Common Ground by Tim Downs
5. The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman



APOLOGETICS RESOURCES

1. Reasonable Faith—Christian Truth and Apologetics by William Lane Craig
2. Can Man Live Without God by Ravi Zacharias
3. The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel
4. The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel



5. When Skeptics Ask by Geisler and Brooks
6. The Best of Josh McDowell—A Ready Defense edited by Bill Wilson
7. The Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics by Norman Geisler
8. More than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

