

Gospel Workshop #2

This Workshop is different from Gospel Workshop # 1, there is no need to lecture or read this time. Simply give your students the hand-out and have them study each method one at a time and practise it with another student. First up is the Gospel Hand. Direct your students to...

- Read the introduction and study the outline
- Say the phrases and do the actions several times
- Look up and read the verses several times each
- Read my model presentation at least three times then....
- AFTER YOU HAVE PRESENTED A MODEL DEMONSTRATION FOR THE STUDENTS THEY MUST...
- Practice doing it by themselves
- After that they should get into groups of two or three and practice saying it to each other. Each person should present it at least three times to become familiar with the basic outline –attempting to build on it each time
- This part of the workshop should take at least to 3 hours.

Hand each of your students a Steps to Peace with God booklet. Direct your students to ...

- Read the instructions (below) about presenting the booklet
- Read *Steps to Peace with God* from cover to cover to familiarise themselves with the booklet
- Get into groups of two or three and practise sharing the Gospel with the booklet
- 30 minutes max

Have your students read Sharing the Word of Truth below. Give them time to write their own version- twenty minutes

- They must read it a few times to get it into their spirit
- They should then practice in pairs for twenty minutes

The Gospel Hand:

This is a great way to present the Gospel one- on- one using only your hand to help your friend visualise what you are saying.

After sharing your testimony say, *“Can I show you how God changed my life.”*? If they say ‘no’, thank them for their time and make your exit. If they say ‘yes’, tell them you will use your fingers as a “visual” for them. Each finger stands for something.

BELOW IS THE BASIC OUTLINE, PRACTISE EXPANDING ON IT. I have also included my full presentation of the Gospel Hand. Keep in mind it is only a model- YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT MY WAY. You will notice I like to start the Gospel from the BEGINNING, that's because a Gospel presentation that starts with Jesus can seem arbitrary to someone who knows nothing of God, creation, the fall, and the need for a sacrifice. When you begin to use this Gospel presentation you may prefer not to mention creation, the fall etc.; I would suggest you tailor your presentation to the needs of the person you are sharing with.

1. God loves you with a powerful love - Jeremiah 31:3- (thumb)
2. God points His finger at you/us – Romans 3:23; 6:23 (index finger)
3. Jesus stands out from everyone who has ever lived – Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24 (middle finger)
4. Jesus selfless act requires a response/ commitment – John 1:12- (ring finger)
5. Don't stay distant from God (the thumb)- John 3:36- (little finger)

A Model Example

Hold your thumb: The thumb is the strongest of all the fingers and reminds us that God loves us with a powerful love called, *“An everlasting love”* He says, *“I love you with an everlasting love”*(Jeremiah 31:3) He created us to have a close personal relationship with Him. Mankind walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden before there was any sin to ruin our relationship and spoil God's world. God also created us with the same inner nature as Himself-we were spiritually, morally, emotionally and intellectually (to some degree) like God at one time. He gave us a free-will, we could make our own choices and we chose to be independent of God by sinning- doing wrong. Not only did sin ruin Gods world and spoil people's lives but it offended God because He is Holy and just and can't stand the sight of sin.

Point your index finger at the person: Now God points His finger at us because we have *“All sinned and fallen short of Gods glorious standard”* (Romans 3:23NLT) and get paid for the sin we do in this life; the Bible says *“The wages of sin is death”*(Romans 6:23)- That's eternal death in a place called hell

Hold your fingers up for comparison- point to the middle finger: But there is Jesus, He stands head and shoulders above all men. No one can point a finger at Jesus because He never sinned yet He died willingly on the cross for our sin; the Bible says *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Jesus died as our substitute on the cross and then rose from the dead three days later to prove that He was and has the power to change us from the inside out so we can stand faultless once again in God's presence.

Point to the ring finger: This finger holds the wedding ring. The wedding ring is a symbol of a couples love and intimacy when they marry. Similarly, Jesus Christ wants us to have a close personal relationship with Him. We do this by turning from our sin and receiving Him into our heart (or our spirit if your hearer will understand) and allow Him to change us from the inside out. The Bible says,

“as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”(John 1:12) When you receive Jesus Christ into you, you become a child of God.

Point to the little finger: This finger is the farthest from the thumb and we are like the last finger when we want nothing to do with God. When choose to live our own way, we can never close the distance between us and God; the Bible says, *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36* So now you have a choice to make; you can receive Jesus as your Saviour and Lord and become a child of God or you can continue in God’s anger and one day soon end up in hell. What do want to do?

If your friend wants to receive Jesus, then either lead them in a prayer of commitment or encourage them to pray their own prayer from the heart- Help them a little if necessary.

Alternately you can take out your pocket New Testament, turn to the last page and read, “Are you ready to receive Jesus”? If they are ready, they can pray the prayer below.

After they’ve prayed, you should pray for them. Sometimes I ask the person what their immediate needs are and ask God to do a miracle for them. If you are able to disciple the person yourself my The Real Deal Bible Study –Evangelism Training would be perfect for them. This Bible-study will give them a good grounding in discipleship, the Word and will train and focus your new disciples on the harvest straightaway.

Using Steps to Peace with God (booklet):

When sharing the Gospel one-on-one, *the Gospel Hand* and the use of *Steps to Peace with God* booklet are my favourite methods. Both are simple presentations, both start from the BEGINNING, and both are very visual. There are several ways to lead into Steps to Peace with God- BELOW ARE TWO

When I hear of a person sick and dying at home or a hospice I’ll visit them. I ask, if they have peace with God and are certain they would go to heaven when they died. If they say ‘no,’ I say, *“I have a little booklet here called Steps to Peace with God, it will take just four minutes to read with you, is that okay”?* After I have led them to Christ I tell them that the one who forgives all our sins can also heal all our sicknesses and diseases (Psalm 103:3). PRAY IN FAITH FOR HEALING.

Another approach is to talk to someone you know has a lot of strife or stress in their lives and say, *“John I have noticed you seem to have very little peace in your life; Can I tell you how I found peace”?* If they say, ‘yes’, simply share your testimony. After sharing your testimony, say, *“Can I show you how you can find peace too”?* Simply introduce the booklet, sit beside them and read it to them pointing to the diagrams and occasionally asking if they understand.

There is a prayer of commitment at the back of the booklet. After leading your friend to Christ pray for them. It is helpful to ask them what their most pressing need is and then pray asking God to meet it.

Sharing the Word of Truth:

The Word of Truth, not too be confused with the word of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8) is simply the Gospel packaged and delivered to a person in a way that makes a person feel the message was immediate and specifically for them –which of course it is (Matthew 28:18-20; 2Peter 3:9)

Recently I was ministering in a town in central New Zealand and went to a restaurant with a friend of mine. The waitress came over and took our order. I wanted to share the Gospel with her but the restaurant was busy, so I knew I had to be quick. I decided to share the Word of Truth with her.

I began by asking her name, she told me it was Penny. I told her we were Christians and that I didn't want to freak her out but I had a message from God for her. I said, *"God told me to tell you that He loves you and wants to have a close personal relationship with you, but there is something between you both that is stopping that from happening, it's called -Your Sin. But God wants you to know that He dealt with sin by sending Jesus to earth. Jesus took the punishment you deserve when He died on the cross so now you can be forgiven. And He rose from the dead three days later to prove that He is God and has the power to change you forever. If you turn from your sin and turn your life over to God, He said He will do just that."* I stopped there because I felt the Lord wanted me to.

She stood and stared at me in silence for about four seconds; her eyes filled with tears and said, 'I knew something special was going to happen to me this year'! I gave penny a Gospel tract. When I went to the counter to pay the bill I couldn't see her at first. She was sitting on a low box studying the tract I gave her. When I left I realised I'd had a divine encounter. **This is a fun and exciting way to share the Gospel as you don't know what's going to happen next.**
