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RESOURCE: NEW BELIEVER'S GUIDE TO HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH  
First Steps for New Christians  
Greg Laurie

*The Cornerstones of the Gospel*

**Baiting the Hook**

**Knowing How to Bait the Hook**

Today there are all types of sophisticated devices that harness the latest technology to detect schools of fish, utilizing radar, electronics, and depth finders. There is even a special camera that an angler can now use to take a peck under the water and see where the fish are. Then there are thousands of lures you can choose from.

When we go fishing for men, we need to realize that what works for one does not necessarily work for another. I am not suggesting that the essential gospel is not the same for every person, for indeed it is. The bottom line is that very message. At the same time, however, we may initially approach different people with different "bait" to get their attention.

**Different Bait for Different Fish**

For instance, if someone is strung out on drugs and/or alcohol, you might emphasize that only Jesus can fill the void that person has tried to fill with these substances. If you one struggled with these yourself, you could share you own personal story of how God filled the void in your life you once tried to fill with these cheap worldly imitations. If it is not your personal experience, you could mention the stories of some you probably know personally who came out of this kind of background and are now walking with the Lord.

If you are speaking to a person who is terminally ill or is on his or her deathbed, obviously the most important thing to that person is no so much filling a void in his

or her life but preparing for eternity. You could share the great promises of Scripture concerning life beyond the grave when we put our complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ. And if you come upon a person who has gone from relationship to relationship, trying to fill a void for God with a man or a woman, you could speak of what it is to have a relationship with the living God who will never abandon or “dump” him or her.

Some people may offer a quick statement about the Lord to practically everyone they meet. That can be good to some degree, but it is far more effective to take the time to share the gospel with one person. Like Jesus, we need to recognize the specific needs of individuals. God wants us to be responsible “sharp-shooters” not haphazard “machine gunners”!

You may not have noticed this yet, but the favorite subject of conversation for most people is themselves. That is why one of the best ways to share one’s faith is to simply listen. That’s right – listen.

You could compare this type of evangelism to a visit to the doctor’s office. The doctor starts by saying something like, “Tell me where it’s hurting.” He does this so he can make a proper diagnosis. Then, after carefully listening to the description of your pain or ailment, he will prescribe the appropriate medication or procedure.

In the same way, one of the best ways to begin sharing Christ with others is to ask them about themselves. Find out about their family and background. Ask them what their thoughts are on a number of subjects. When a person shares his or her ideas, however, you don’t want to immediately start disagreeing with him or her. Saying something like, “You actually believe something as stupid as that?” “What an idiot!” or “Wrong again, Philistine!” will only put that person on the defensive.

Just listen. Take it in. Then your turn will come. Try to build a bridge from a statement that that person has made. For all practical purposes, that is what Jesus did when he conversed with (not just spoke to) the woman at the well. He asked her questions. He drew her out. He listened. He responded. And a conversion took place that day.