

Lesson 170 – Clever Ways to Share the Gospel Without Saying a Word:

START WITH A STORY: There was a barber that thought that he should share his faith with his customers more than he had been doing lately. So the next morning when the sun came up and the barber got up out of bed he said, *"Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."*

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, *"I want a shave!"* The barber said, *"Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment."* The barber went in the back and prayed a quick desperate prayer saying, *"God, the first customer came in and I'm going to witness to him. So give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."*

Then quickly the barber came out with his razor knife in one hand and a Bible in the other while saying *"Good morning sir. I have a question for you... Are you ready to die?"*

LESSON THEME: How can I share the gospel even more?

INTRODUCTION: Is it possible to share the Gospel without using words? It might be a challenge to even stop and think about, but I assure you, it IS possible. In fact, there are dozens of ways to squeeze every last bit of witnessing you can out of your 24-hour day. Check out some of these great ideas!

LESSON: Here are many clever ways to witness to everyone about Jesus (*sometimes without even saying one single word about Him*). It goes without saying that when you use these methods, you ought to live out a good example. In other words, don't decorate your house for Jesus, yet have constant loud music, partying, and keep the place looking like a dump! It ruins your testimony to do that.

In addition, I'm not saying you have to use all of these methods simultaneously. In other words, you don't have to plaster your car with 10 bumper stickers, a front tag, and a cross hanging from the mirror (*making it a "Jesusmobile"*). You can use one or two methods I mention and make it look stylish.

1. WALL QUOTES AND HOUSE DECORATIONS - Decorating your house with scriptures and other similar decorations is not only a great way to witness to all of your guests and neighbors; **it's also something God actually commanded the Israelites to do**. Consider this passage in the Old Testament:

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And **thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates**"* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; emphasis mine).

You can put wall quotes in just about every room of our home. You can buy these quotes on eBay or Amazon, or you can find a local vinyl shop to make them for you. They are made of vinyl, and they simply stick to your wall. They only cost about \$6-20 per quote, and most online sellers will do custom orders for you (*if they don't have a scripture you'd like*).

Think about it: A wall quote is usually far less money than a painting or picture frame, and it reveals God's wonderful truth!

And, unlike having a verse in your closed Bible, it will be read by everyone who comes in the room. It's **COMPULSORY**.



[ILL – I'll never forget sitting in the hallway waiting for my demerits in college... and reading the Scripture verses on the walls like: **Proverbs 15:10** "*Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.*"']

Other ways you can decorate your house include the following:

- Garden flags with scriptures, crosses, and such on them.
- Nativity scenes during the holidays, instead of Santa or pagan decorations
- Paintings of religious scenes
- 10 commandments stone or plaque display in your yard or on your wall

Adrian Rogers once made a great point. He said, "Sometimes we Christians get all upset when they take down the 10 commandments from some public building. **Question:** How many of you have the 10 commandments posted in your own home?" Great point, Adrian!

2. BIBLE IN YOUR OFFICE OR WORK AREA - Another easy way for you to witness to others about Jesus is to show people how much you value the Word of God. Consider having a Bible on your desk at the office, in your home, in your work area. You can even keep a copy of the Bible in your car. Of course, you can use other decorations, too.



By doing this, you're showing others that you read the Bible regularly and **that you hold God's Word in high esteem**. It will also be handy in case you have the opportunity to witness to someone verbally. You can also get in a quick reading or devotional during lunch.

3. DECORATIONS FOR YOUR CAR (RADIO, BIBLE) - Decorating your car with classy symbols or bumper stickers is also a great way to share the gospel with other drivers. Just make sure you don't suffer from excessive road rage or speeding, for that would be a horrible testimony!

Here are things you can do with your car to share Jesus:

- Hang a cross from the mirror
- Bumper sticker or vinyl decoration with a scriptural quote or the name of Jesus
- Front tag or rear tag with Christian symbols or scriptures.

Keeping your radio stations programmed to Christian music or good preaching stations.

4. GOSPEL TRACTS - Gospel tracts are small pieces of paper with the gospel message printed or written on them. You can get them from most churches, and you can also find them in printable form on the internet.



There are lots of opportunities for you to give these out. For example, you can give them out to your cashier at the grocery store, to people soliciting money on the street (perhaps with a small donation), in public areas, and so forth. All you have to do is smile and say, "Hello. May I give you this?" Most people will agree to take it.

You could even take a day to write a personal story about what Jesus has done for you, and then add a short section on how to be saved.



Gospel tracts may seem outdated, but I've heard many people talk about being saved from a gospel tract! Charles Spurgeon used to write scriptures and messages on paper and drop them onto crowded streets, hoping that someone would pick them up and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA/ONLINE - Many people have blogs, social media accounts, and so forth. What a perfect opportunity to stand up for Jesus Christ! I'm not saying you **MUST** have a social media account, but if you already have a blog or social media presence, why not use that space to tell others about Jesus? Talk about church events. Talk about how much God means to you.

Post scriptures on your account or on your profile. Share helpful articles and videos that explain God's truth so that your friends and family will notice and have an opportunity to be saved. Share funny stories. There are many opportunities to really impact your followers, family, and friends. The ungodly sure use it to spread their junk. I say let's use it to spread Jesus!

Also talk about your shortcomings and how thankful you are that Christ died to pay the penalty for your sins.

However, don't use the same account to show pictures of you drinking beer with your friends, having cleavage pop out of your shirt, and all the other nonsense that people post on Facebook or Twitter. It goes against the very Bible you're trying to preach!

6. TEXT MESSAGING - Even if you don't want to verbally share the gospel on the phone, you can always use text to send scriptures, share articles, invite people to church. Text messaging is a great way to talk to others about Jesus, or invite them to a church event.



7. HOLIDAY CARDS - If you send out cards for birthdays, Christmas, or other holidays, buy cards that have scriptures in them. Otherwise, consider writing a scripture in the message of the card. That is a great way to share God's word in a friendly way. It helps put people's mind back on the most important thing in the universe: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

8. PRAYING FOR MEALS AT WORK, RESTAURANTS - We should never pray a vain prayer for the sake of making ourselves appear "pious and holy" before others. Jesus warned

against making prayers for this purpose: *"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"* (Matthew 6:5-6).

Jesus isn't condemning all forms of public prayer, however, for even He prayed publicly: *"And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would"* (John 6:11).



Consider that Jesus prayed both in private, such as in the garden of Gethsemane as well as in public, like the healing of Lazarus, for example:

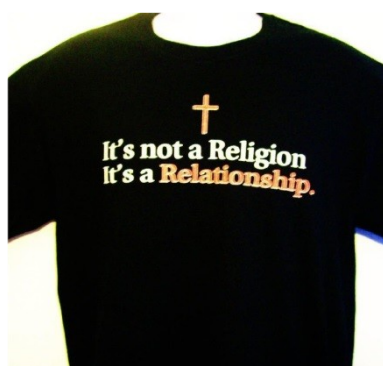
41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.
 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.
 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

Instead, Jesus is just warning against using prayer as a pretense to appear “holy” or super religious, with the main goal being an attempt to win favor with men. However, genuinely praying is a great way to witness to others about your faith in Jesus! Think about it: Suppose you sit down in a crowded office to have lunch, but you stop, bow your head, and say a quick prayer privately. Someone may be watching you out of the corner of their eye, and your prayer may speak to their conscience.

Even if you’re with a coworker or acquaintance who is non-religious, you could say something like, “*Excuse me while I give thanks to the Lord,*” or “*Do you mind if I give thanks for this meal?*” Most people will consent. Just don’t do it in an “I’m holier than you” kind of way.

There have been times that I’ve forgotten to give thanks for a meal, and then I looked over and noticed my wife praying privately. When I saw that, it immediately rebuked me!

9. EMAIL SIGNATURES - If you use email often, you can usually create “signatures,” which is just a short phrase or paragraph that will automatically post at the end of every message you write. Why not put a scripture like John 3:16 in that signature and say, “This is my favorite Bible verse,” or something similar. Alternatively, you could just say something about Jesus.



In addition, you can even choose email addresses with something about Jesus in it. It’s a quick and easy way to share the gospel without being “preachy” or “pushy.”

10. BUSINESS CARDS - If you hand out a lot of business cards, consider posting a scripture on the back, or along the bottom. If nothing else, you can post a Jesus fish or a cross. That’s an easy way to let others know that you are a Christian, and

that Jesus means something to you.

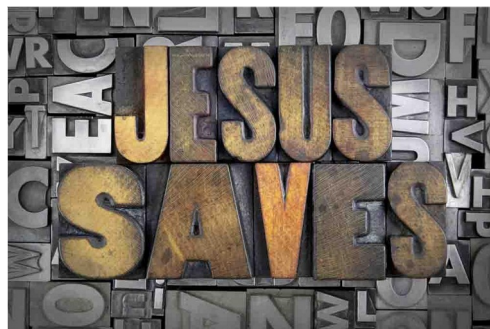
11. CLOTHING/ APPAREL WITH QUOTES - Another easy way to witness without speaking is to wear clothing with scripture, crosses, or the “Jesus Fish” symbol on them. There are plenty of hats, t-shirts, tote bags, backpacks, jewelry, and more.

I’m not saying that your entire wardrobe has to be like this, or that you must wear this every day. I certainly don’t. But isn’t this an easy way to share Jesus? I mean, a tastefully designed hat with a cross isn’t tacky.

Most people are already sharing SOMETHING on their clothing.

People wear clothing with NIKE swooshes various logos, and everything else.

Why not have at least a hat or a couple of shirts that represent the most important being in the world, who offers salvation freely to whosoever believes on Him? Shouldn’t we be willing to represent Jesus? **However, I would warn against getting tattoos in this same way. God discourages that practice.** (see Leviticus 19:28)



12. JESUS SAVES ROUTER ID - When I set up the WI-FI router in my house, I had to scan my computer for other signals. **I had an idea: Why not name my router something to tell others about Jesus? So I named my WI-FI connection “Jesus**

Saves.” Anytime someone searches for internet signals to connect to, they’ll see this name.

It's simple, yet it may speak to someone one day. Who knows how the Lord may use that?

A few years ago someone asked me if I could fix their laptop. Windows was running too slow to do anything with. I turned it on it it's running 'Windows – Virus edition!' This was a shop computer for looking up parts on the internet. So I wiped it and installed linux. The password was "salvationinjesusalone". Every time that mechanic boots up his laptop, or installs software, or allows updates, or accesses ANYTHING requiring authorization, he must enter this password.

13. LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE - Last but not least, we can witness silently in the way that we lead our daily lives. Jesus told us to let our light shine before others: *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

When we treat people with respect, are faithful and loving to our spouses and families, help out those in need, and stand for righteousness in a wicked world, it can do wonders. Someone once said that "A glowing Christian testimony is worth an entire library full of arguments."

Let's share our faith in how we live our lives, and let's tell people how glad we are to have Jesus. Let's not be walking contradictions. When we make a mistake or sin, let us be quick to admit fault and tell others that what we did was wrong, and that we sinned against God in doing "such and such."

We should always be ready to share the gospel with anyone we can. Jesus said this: *"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 10:33). We should preach the gospel to every creature, and that involves using words. Keep in mind, there are many extra ways to share the gospel! Sometimes without even using words.