

Session 6

July 30, 2023



This is not an “evangelism program”. It will not teach you to argue someone into faith.
So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Why does Jesus matter today?

Why does Jesus matter to you?

Video: Reaching Your Verdict

What stuck out to you in the video?

What sounded like things you have said or heard?

Circumstantial “supporting” evidence
Why is it “supporting”?

Disciples before and after Jesus’ death and resurrection
How did the Disciples change from Good Friday to Pentecost?

Matthew 26:56, Mark 15:50, Acts 2:4, 4:31

To what do we ascribe this change?

James and Paul

What did the Disciples gain by boldly proclaiming Jesus?

Was it only a handful of people who saw, believed, and proclaimed?

How do people “meet” Jesus today?

I Timothy 1:16, John 20:21, Matthew 28:18, II Corinthians 12:27

Lee Strobel's story:

"It would require more faith to maintain my Atheism..."

"I decided to put my trust in Jesus"

Is this the same as "decision theology"?

Why / why not?

Why does the video not go into this distinction?

How many people had been praying for Lee?

What do we decide when it comes to faith?

How does "weighing the evidence" help?

"Over time, my philosophy, attitude, parenting started to change..."

How does Lee's statement about his life reflect faith?

Knowing what happened to the Disciples, what does "the truth will set you free" mean?

Why is the conclusion that "Jesus is who He says He is" uncomfortable?

How can we help others overcome this "discomfort"?

What "supporting evidence" does God give today?

How can you help give that to someone?

"Evangelism": quoting the bible

telling someone that Jesus died and rose

telling others your story

If Jesus really is who He says, what does that mean for you today?

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

6. Lee identifies the following list of implications to the “So what?” question concerning the true identity of Jesus. How do these statements strike you? What questions do they raise for you? Which of these statements, if true, would make the greatest impact on your life and why?
- If Jesus is the Son of God, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher; they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life.
 - If Jesus sets the standard for morality, I can now have an unwavering foundation for my choices and decisions, rather than basing them on the ever-shifting sands of expediency and self-centeredness.
 - If Jesus did rise from the dead, he’s still alive today and available for me to encounter on a personal basis.
 - If Jesus conquered death, he can open the door of eternal life for me too.
 - If Jesus has divine power, he has the supernatural ability to guide me and help me and transform me as I follow him.
 - If Jesus personally knows the pain of loss and suffering, he can comfort and encourage me in the midst of the turbulence that he himself warned is inevitable in a world corrupted by sin.
 - If Jesus loves me as he says, he has my best interests at heart. That means I have nothing to lose and everything to gain by committing myself to him and his purposes.
 - If Jesus is who he claims to be (and remember, no leader of any other major religion has even pretended to be God), as my Creator he rightfully deserves my allegiance, obedience, and worship.

Truths of Evangelism from Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go..." ... ²⁷ So he started out...

Listen to God – Through His Word and in prayer. Be ready to go to unexpected places.

on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians").

You never know to whom God will send you. Don't judge.

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,
As you share Jesus, you are only one of a group that God is working through.
Remember, it's God's work.

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."
Be available.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.
Look for natural openings in the conversation.

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
Don't shove, but accept the invitation to share.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading...
God works through His Word

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
God's Word is all One Story – about Jesus. Any place in scripture points to Jesus (some more easily than others)

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.
Usually, evangelism takes place with those you know and continue to walk and grow with. But sometimes, it's a short time together – reminding you that it's all God's work.

Remember, Philip was not "one of the 12",
He was one of those assigned to "wait on tables" (Acts 5).
God calls all Christians to be His Witnesses.

Summary of Grace

God Loves You!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

But man rejects God's love.

Sin separates man from God

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

The result is tragic.

The penalty is spiritual death

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 6:23

Christ took our place.

Christ was sinless.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin

Hebrews 4:15

Christ is the way to life with God.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Christ is the only way

Now is the day of salvation

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

II Corinthians 6:2

Grace & faith are gifts from God

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Saved- to do good works

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

Ephesians 2:10

Receive Him today!

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

John 1:12

You can have life to its fullest.

Repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:37-38

Thank you, God, for revealing your love

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10: 9-10

He keeps perfecting us

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Christ in you

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14