

Good News for Our City

How to tell your story and share your faith



The Training Center

The Training Center is a ministry of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas. The Training Center is the tangible expression of one of the three guiding metaphors that best describe the vision and mission of Fellowship; namely, that Fellowship is a “greenhouse,” a “training center,” and a “launching pad.” The necessary link between the greenhouse and the launching pad is the Training Center where people are prepared and equipped for leadership in life and ministry.



CORE TRAINING

Core Training is a track of ten training experiences for everyone at Fellowship. These ten trainings are meant to provide a starting point for engaging life at Fellowship and growing into a prepared and equipped spiritual leader. Whether you are new to Fellowship or have been around for decades, The Training Center is the place to start growing and developing.

BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

Panorama of the Bible
We Believe or Our Faith
Personal Bible Study

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Perspectives/GO Primer (coming 2019)
Leadership Lab
Great Commission: Evangelism & Discipleship (coming 2020)

LIFE AND GROWTH

Align Your Finances with the Heart of God
Re|Frame Family: Marriage and Parenting
Great Commandment: Worship, Prayer, and Spiritual Growth (coming 2021)

DISCOVER

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Good News for Our City

How to tell your story and share your faith

SESSION 1

SESSION 1:

Defining Evangelism

Evangelism seems to have drifted into individual personal “styles.” A believer is challenged to find his or her personal “style” of evangelism; your “style” is whatever you choose as your own preference. If you feel comfortable with your personal “style,” then that is all that matters. However, there are still people who are lost and couldn’t care less about your own personal style of evangelism! Evangelism is not about you. Evangelism is about God and what He has done through Jesus Christ... Developing an evangelistic lifestyle begins with your relationship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism flows from your personal relationship with the living Savior. Evangelism is a spiritual adventure.

– Douglas Cecil, *The 7 Principles of an Evangelistic Life*

What is Evangelism?

Evangelism is an event, process, and lifestyle. It is an event in the process of making disciples and should become a lifestyle for every believer; a lifestyle of spreading the Good News (Gospel) that God has provided a remedy for mankind’s hopeless condition of sin and separation from Himself.

Evangelism is not a program or initiative that lasts for a time and then fades away. Scripture is clear that evangelism is the calling and responsibility of every follower of Christ to

share the good news of Jesus Christ! There are many models and modes of evangelism found in Scripture and Christian literature. Therefore, every follower of Christ should be adequately trained and equipped to share the Gospel with those whom the Holy Spirit brings into his or her sphere of influence.

The specific term “evangelism” is not found in Scripture. It is an English word derived from the Greek word, “*euangelion*—good news.” Paul defines the “*euangelion*” or good news in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, “*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*” This is the good news in its most simple form.

However, something must be done with this news. The Scriptures have a word for announcing this good news, to *evangelize*. It gets translated many different ways. For example, in Acts 13:32-33 Paul said, “*We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.*” And again in 1 Corinthians 1:17, “*For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*”

In summary, “Evangelism is the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ with a view to bringing about the reconciliation of the sinner to God the Father through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.”

—Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

Our Mission

READ ALOUD:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20

1. Before Jesus gives this commission to His followers, He declares that He has all authority. What does the authority of Jesus mean in your life?
2. After the commission, Jesus promises that He will be with His followers always. How have you experienced Jesus' personal presence in your life?
3. The center of the commission is to "make disciples." How would you define a disciple?

4. Given that definition, how would one go about making a disciple?

5. “Go” is a helping verb that aids in our understanding of the mission. It gives some “umph” to the “make disciples” command. The idea is that we are not to be passive, waiting for people to come to us. Rather, we are to be active, going to where people are. Where do you regularly interact with people who do not yet know Jesus? How could you be more proactive to interact with not-yet believers?

Our Helper

READ ALOUD:

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

—2 Corinthians 4:4-6

1. How does the blinding of an unbeliever’s heart affect attempts at evangelism?

2. According to this passage, what is God's work in evangelism?

3. How can we acknowledge that work as we seek to share Christ with others?

Homework

To be “baptized” into the faith is symbolic of converting to be a disciple who trusts Jesus. This is the aim of evangelism. It is the beginning of a new life of “learning to obey all that I (Jesus) commanded.” The command to make disciples is rooted in Jesus’ *authority* to give the command and His *presence* that enables us to keep it.

This week pray and journal on two questions:

1. What are the biggest obstacles in my life to living out the Great Commission, and how do Jesus’ authority and presence address those obstacles?

2. Who are not-yet believers I know that need to hear the good news of God’s salvation in Jesus?