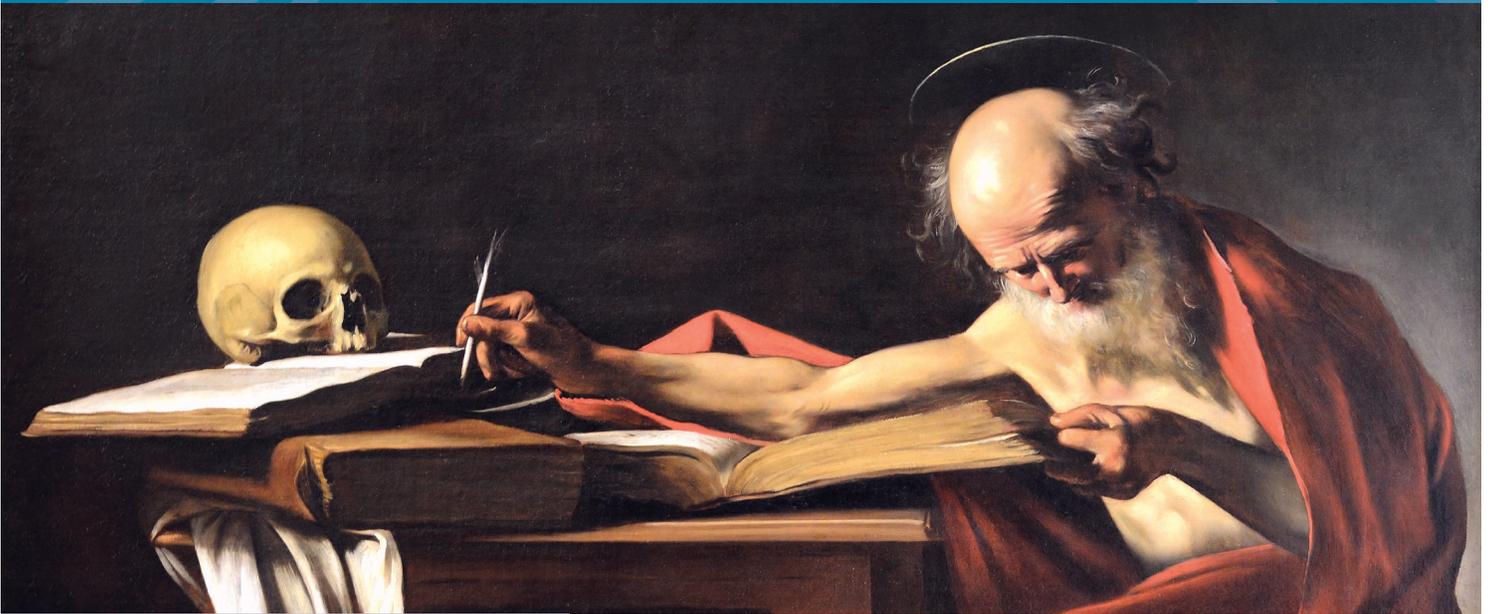


ONE GOOD REASON

a CATHOLIC FORMATION series



ST. PAUL STREET
+EVANGELIZATION+

A quick start guide
for relational
evangelization

A light to the nations.

“For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’”

ACTS 13:47 RSV-CE



Do you go to church? That simple question with a young man we never met before was the start to a conversation that would lead him back to the Catholic faith. After just two minutes the young man was in tears. Less than 10 minutes later and we were waiting in line with him for confession.

The truth is there are a lot of hurt, wounded people out there who have bought into the lies of the world. While they may keep up a façade, they are not happy. They are waiting for someone to reach out with them. They are not looking for someone to proselytize them, but to listen to them and to invite them into a relationship with God and the Church as an act of love.

It seems crazy right? That a simple question could lead to so many conversions to Jesus and His Church. Yet, we are witnessing the fruits of a revival. Our simple apostolate is rooted in listening, befriending, proclaiming the Gospel, and making an invitation to the faith. St. Paul Street Evangelization has become one small part of the

New Evangelization and our methods are expanding well beyond street evangelization.

The conversational tools in this packet have proven to be effective in starting two minute conversations about the faith that lead to discipleship. We encourage you to study these tools, use them, and remember that it takes time to master them. God wants us to be effective evangelists. With regular practice you will discover that God will use you as his instrument as He calls people back to Him.

Ice Breakers

How do you start a conversation about the faith with someone?

Use one of these ice breakers.

ICE BREAKER 1 — THE ROSARY

Hi, would you like a free Rosary? Yes? Great! Did you know that the Rosary is a prayer? Yes, it is a meditation on the life of Jesus. Here is a pamphlet on how to pray it. Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 2 – THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Hi, would you like a free Miraculous Medal? Great, here is a holy card that explains the medal. Basically, in 1830, Jesus’ mom Mary appeared to St. Catherine and promised whoever wears this medal will receive great grace from God. Many miracles have occurred through it and it is commonly known as the miraculous medal. It’s on a chain here so you can put it right on right now. Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 3 – POPE MONEY

Hi, have you seen this million dollar bill yet? Ya, it’s got Pope Francis on the front and explains the Gospel on the Back. Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 4 – HOLY CARD

Would you like one of these free Holy Cards of Jesus? Great! Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 5 – OPTICAL ILLUSION CARD

Check out this optical illusion card. Stare right there in the middle. Does it look like the dots are blinking? Ha, check out the story on the back. It talks about illusion and deception in this world. And about the devil. Do you believe in the Devil? Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 6 – RANDOM CROSS

Hey, that is a nice cross that you are wearing there around your neck (or a nice cross tattoo or cross t-shirt), Do you go to church?

— or —

ICE BREAKER 7 – OTHER:

It is useful to have something to give to a person such as a sacramental or holy card, but if you don’t have any of the above evangelization tools, use another conversation starter and find common ground. Always lead into the conversation by asking: Do you go to church?



Order high quality bulk supplies at: www.streetevangelization.com

One Good Reason

Situation: Person is a Catholic, does not go to Mass every week.

STRATEGY: Here you will try to communicate to the Catholic that going to Mass is important and necessary for salvation. We also want to encourage them to get to Confession and then take their faith seriously as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

10 Key Points to Remember:

1. Do you go to church? Are you Catholic?
2. Most Catholics don't get to Mass every week. Do you?
3. Can I give you "ONE GOOD REASON" why I make sure I get to Mass every week?
4. I know that my salvation depends on it!
5. Would I love my family very much if I didn't give her an hour of my time each week?
6. We can't get to heaven if we don't love God, and we can't love God if we don't give Him time, especially by getting to Mass each week!
7. Missing Mass is a serious sin which separates us from God. If you died in this state, where do you think you would go? Does this concern you?
8. The Good News is that God loves us and wants us to go to heaven. But to get to have we have to love God and keep His commandments, like getting to Mass, praying regularly, avoiding serious sin.
9. Confession restores our relationship with God. Are you willing to get to confession and to start taking your Faith more seriously?
10. Here are some resources, can I contact you about getting involved in this event at our Church?

Situation: Person is a Catholic, goes to Mass every week, but does not go to Confession often.

STRATEGY: Here we want to explain to the Catholic why the sacrament of Confession is important and encourage them to get to Confession and then take their faith seriously as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

10 Key Points to Remember:

1. Do you go to church? Are you Catholic?
2. Most Catholics don't get to Mass every week. Do you?
3. Great! When was the last time you have been to confession?
4. Can I give you "ONE GOOD REASON" why I make sure I get to confession regularly?
5. Well, when we commit serious sin, we separate ourselves from God and fall out of His grace.
6. If we commit one of these serious sins, and we die in this state, we can't get to heaven.
7. If we do not go to Confession often, it becomes very difficult to stay out of serious sin.
8. The way that God established for us to restore ourselves to His friendship is through Confession to a priest.
9. Also, each time we go to Confession it gives us strength to stay out of sin in the future and even could reduce our time in purgatory.
10. Here is a pamphlet on confession. What do you think; did I convince you to get to Confession as soon as possible? Can I contact you about getting involved in this event at our church?

Situation: Person is a Catholic, goes to Mass every week, goes to Confession often.

STRATEGY: In this situation you could try to help the person grow in prayer or meditation, like *Lectio Divina*, see if they are consecrated to Mary, and see if they would be interested in joining St. Paul Street Evangelization or some other activity at Church.

10 Key Points to Remember:

1. Do you go to church? Are you Catholic?
2. Most Catholics don't get to Mass every week. Do you?
3. Great! When was the last time you have been to Confession?
4. Wow, Awesome! Let me ask you this then, how is your prayer life? Do you pray every day? Do you know about meditation?
5. The saints tell us that meditation is absolutely vital if we wish to make progress in the spiritual life. It's good to try to make at least a short meditation every day. One way to meditate is called *Lectio Divina*, and involves praying with the Scriptures (give a pamphlet).
6. Are you consecrated to Jesus and Mary?
7. When we consecrate ourselves to Our Lord and Our Lady, they help us to grow in perfection, to get to heaven and to become saints. When we consecrate ourselves to them, we give them everything. Our whole lives and even our prayers, and in return they provide us the grace that we need to become

saints. If you're interested in doing it right now we can. Here are some Holy Cards with the prayers on them. You want to do it?

8. Great. Repeat after me ... OK, now that that's done, let me ask you something. One of the things that Jesus commanded of His disciples like you and me was to evangelize.
9. Would you be interested in helping us evangelize others or get involved at our Church? It's a lot of fun and very fulfilling. We can show you how to do it?
10. Great! I'll connect with you in a few days and let you know how best to get involved. Also, here is our business card and some literature about us and about *Lectio Divina* like we talked about. God bless you!



One Good Reason: Non-Christian

SUMMARY: If a person is not a Catholic, ask if they are a Christian. If so, we then want to give them a good reason to consider the Catholic Church. In doing so, we will first make common ground by proclaiming the Gospel or Kerygma to them. Then we will talk about the Church as follows:

10 Key Points to Remember:

1. Do you go to church? Are you a Christian? Oh great! Have you ever considered the Catholic Church?
2. Can I give you “ONE GOOD REASON” why I choose to be Catholic?
3. God became man in Jesus to save us from our sins. He founded a Church to be our guide, a channel of grace, and our surest means of salvation.
4. He founded the Church on Peter, in Matt 16. He said, Thou art Peter and on this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. He gave Peter the keys to the kingdom and told him that whatever he bound on earth would be bound in heaven.
5. It was here that Jesus was giving Peter His authority (the keys) and the gift of infallibility (binding and loosing).
6. The Church from the very beginning had a pope, bishops and priests, and it spread throughout the world and was known as being the universal Church. The word universal in Greek is Catholic. So the Church was Catholic from the very beginning.
7. Then 1500 years later, a Catholic priest named Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church, took 7 books out of the Bible, and changed the Church’s doctrine. Luther set off a chain reaction of splits and schisms. The church split and split and kept on splitting, and now today we have thousands of different denominations of Christianity.
8. The big problem with all these splits is how does a person know what is the true? How do we get to heaven? All Christians use the same bible but it gets interpreted in contradictory ways. For example, one Church says baptism is necessary for salvation. Another says that it’s not. One church says that once you are saved, you cannot lose your salvation. Another says that that is false. One church says that all you need to do to get to heaven is believe in Jesus. Another church says you need to believe but you also need to keep the commandments. This is a huge problem! How do you know what’s true?
9. Jesus never intended us to be confused about truth. He wanted us to be sure about what we are to believe and how we are to get to heaven. That is why he founded an infallible church with authority to teach and preach in His name. That Church is the Catholic Church. Does this make sense?
10. It made sense to me too. And once I found all this out, I knew that the surest means of salvation was in the Church that Jesus founded and I realized that I had a responsibility to join it. Here are some resources; can I contact you after you look these over to discuss them further?

SUMMARY: If a person is not a Christian but they believe in God, we then want to give them a “good reason” to consider Catholic Christianity.

10 Key Points To Remember:

1. Do you go to church? Are you a Christian? Do you believe in God? Yes? Oh great! What religion are you? Have you ever considered Christianity?
2. Can I give you “ONE GOOD REASON” why I choose to be a Christian?
3. Well, 2000 years ago there was a man named Jesus. Do you believe that Jesus was a real person? Yes. Do you believe that Jesus was a good man? Yes. Do you know that he was put to death as a criminal? Yes. Do you know why? No.
4. We know from reliable historical documents that Jesus was put to death for saying things that no ordinary good man would ever say. He said that He was God, that Heaven and Hell existed. That the only way to get to heaven was to believe in Him, follow him, and keep his commandments. He said that people had to eat his flesh and drink his blood. Basically, he said things that were either crazy or blasphemous if they weren't true.
5. Now, if I told you that I was God and that the only way you could go to heaven was to follow me, would you believe me? Do you know why people actually believed Jesus when he said these things?
6. People believed Jesus because he not only said these things but he also performed miracles to prove them. He raised people from the dead. He gave blind people sight. He cured people of leprosy. And then he performed the ultimate miracle, He rose from the dead after He was put to death.
7. After He rose from the dead, He appeared to hundreds of people, including his disciples, and many of them went to their deaths testifying to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah. That Jesus was God. That people needed to believe in Him to get to Heaven. But again, why would anyone believe these people? Why wouldn't people just think they were crazy. Imagine that I came up to you and told you that a buddy of mine who was killed rose from the dead, and that you needed to believe in Him to be saved. You would think I was a nut right? But let's say after I told you this, I said that to prove what I was saying I would raise your brother from the dead, and I did it. You would believe then because only God can perform miracles.
8. Now, one might say that that was thousands of years ago. How do we know it's true even today? Well, the miracles are still happening. For example, [Tell the Story of Fatima in Appendix C]
9. So, the reason why I believe in Christianity is because that Jesus said He was God, He proved it by miracles in the past, and He is still proving it by miracles even to today. When God gave me the grace to research this, and after I found out it was true and believable, then I had a responsibility to become a follower of Jesus. That was the first step. The second step for me was to figure out which Christian Church was the true Church. That was easy. The Catholic Church is the only Church that can trace its origin to Jesus Himself. All other churches were founded by men over 1000 years after Jesus died.
10. Here are some resources; can I contact you after you look these over to discuss them further?

One Good Reason

SUMMARY: If a person does not believe in God, we then want to give them a “good reason” to consider that God exists.

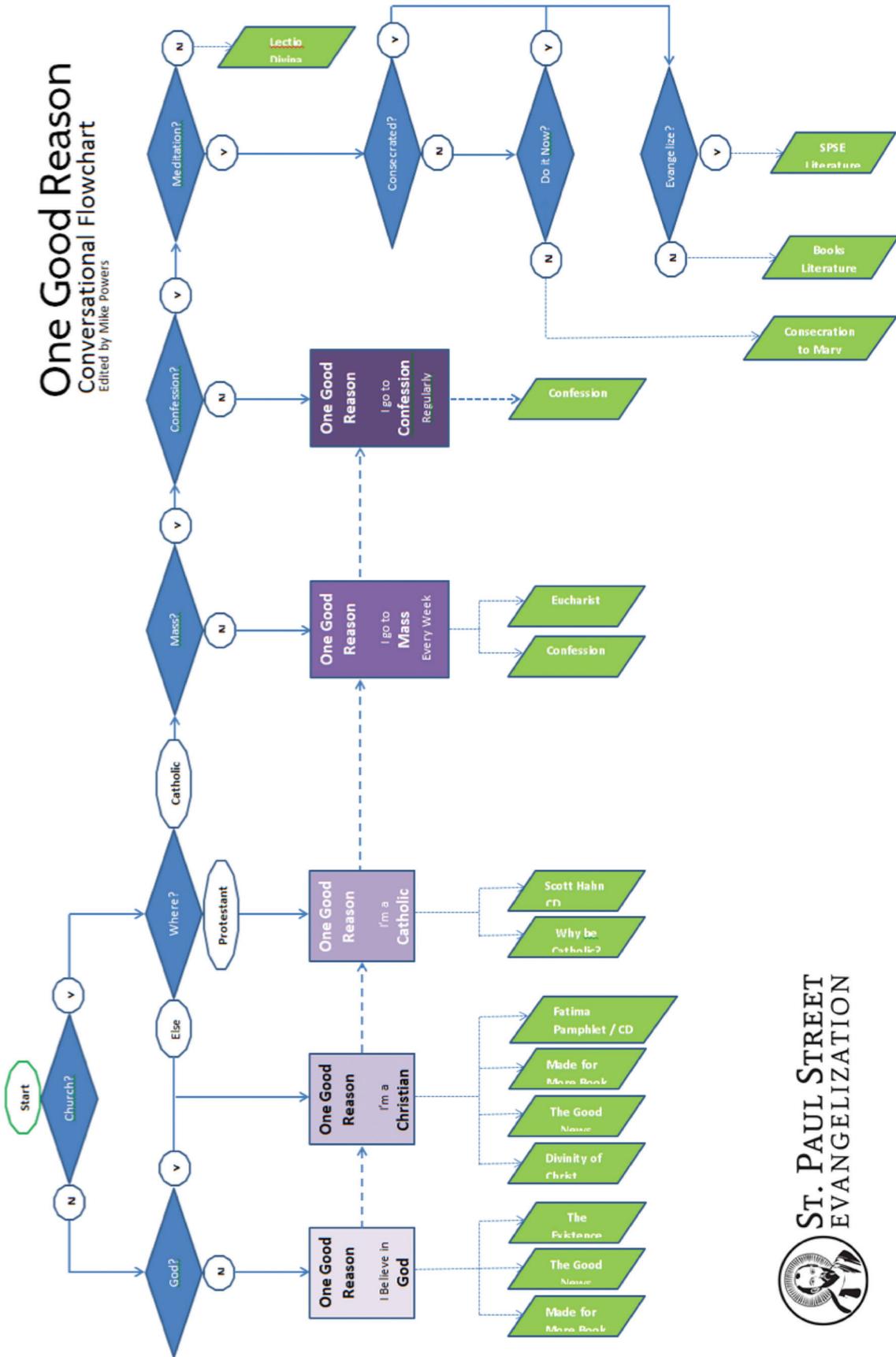
10 Key Points To Remember:

1. Are you a Christian? Do you believe in God?
2. Can I give you “ONE GOOD REASON” why I choose to believe in God?
3. Well, if I was walking down an ocean beach and found a watch, the fact that the watch existed would be proof that it was created.
4. I would never believe that over billions of years, in the bottom of the ocean, the watch slowly came together until one day it washed up here on the beach.
5. Well, the entire universe and even the most basic forms of life that we know of are much, much more complicated and finely tuned than any watch.
6. Not to mention the human cell, with all of it’s DNA, or the human eye. The eye is such an intricate and complex machine. Many people have converted to belief in the existence of God just by studying the eye.
7. So basically, one reason that I believe in God is because of the design evident in the universe and everything in it. But that isn’t the only reason I believe. There are many other “proofs” for the existence of God.
8. One of my other favorite proofs that God exists are miracles. Have you heard the story of Our Lady of Fatima?
9. In 1917 in Portugal...
10. I would love to talk to you more about this some time. I have a pamphlet on the Existence of God and a CD on Fatima in my car. I’ll run and get them for you.



One Good Reason Conversational Flowchart

Edited by Mike Powers







St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, non-profit Catholic evangelization organization, dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking our Catholic Faith to the streets. We do this in a non-confrontational way, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of those who witness our public Catholic presence. St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for you to share the Person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture.

Learn more and become a Supporting Member:
www.streetevangelization.com



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