



SAINT PAUL
STREET EVANGELIZATION

Street Evangelization Workbook

Praying Out Loud For Someone

Sometimes during an evangelization encounter people will share a struggle they're having. It could be that someone has lost a parent, is having a health scare, is having a problem in a relationship, etc. For a long time, we Catholics have had this habit of saying, "I'll pray for you", and then we may or may not actually pray for that person. Those days are over. From now on, we have to say, "Let's pray for that right now." Why wait? We should nip it in the bud.

This might be new and scary to a lot of Catholics, so we came up with the acronym A.C.T.S. to help you to pray out loud for someone:

- **A is for adoration**
- **C is for contrition or being sorry for our sins**
- **T is for thanking God for the blessings in our lives, and**
- **S is for supplication or asking God for whatever the person's intention is**

We should conclude our prayer by asking for the intention in the name of Jesus.

Using the space below, write out a prayer for our Catholic Church using the ACTS acronym.

Listen & Befriend

We want to get evangelization encounters off on the right foot, so we begin by offering someone a free rosary or Miraculous Medal. We recommend getting these blessed by a priest because this blessing turns a religious object into a sacramental which is a conduit of actual grace.

Keep in mind that grace is a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our salvation, and there are two kinds of grace - actual grace and sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace is the grace that saves. It is a sharing in the life of God Himself. We need to have sanctifying grace in our souls when we die if we want to go to heaven. Actual grace, on the other hand, is a supernatural push or encouragement. It doesn't live in the soul, but acts on the soul from the outside. It inspires someone to seek out salvation in Jesus. So when you give someone a blessed rosary or medal, you're giving them a great spiritual advantage!

Begin by saying, "Hi, would you like a free rosary?"

If they accept, you can say, "Did you know that the rosary is a prayer? It's a powerful meditation on the life of Jesus."

Then you can say something about your experience with the rosary:

- When I pray the rosary I'm more loving
- When I pray the rosary I'm less likely to sin
- When I pray the rosary I'm more at peace

You can do the same thing with the Miraculous Medal.

Offer it for free. Talk about what it is, and maybe share a personal story about it.

From here, it's up to the evangelist to carry the conversation. After someone accepts the rosary or medal, it's totally natural to ask them about their faith life.

Begin with a simple question:

- Are you a Christian?
- Do you believe in God?
- Where do you go to Church?

Then go deeper by asking open-ended questions. An open-ended question is a question that requires more than a yes or no answer. We want someone to think about what they believe, and why they believe it. Here's some examples of open ended questions:

For the non-Christian:

- What do you think happens to us when we die?
- What would you say the purpose of life is?
- Is there anything holding you back from the person you want to be?
- What's another good question?

○ _____

For the Protestant:

- How did you become a Christian?
- How do we get to heaven?
- What is grace? How do we get it?
- What's another good question?

○ _____

For the Catholic:

- How's your relationship with Jesus?
- How do you feel about what's going on in the world today?
- What do you think we'll be judged on when we die?
- What's another good question?

○ _____

Find Common Ground

After learning more about what someone believes, we should try to build a bond with them by establishing common ground. That's when you point out something that both of you can agree upon and appreciate. For example, for the Protestant, believing that the Bible is the inerrant word of God and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior are two things we both can agree upon and appreciate. When we listen and find common ground with someone, we are, in a small way, "befriending" them.

Proclaim the Gospel

Gospel means 'good news'. What's the good news? The Good News is what Jesus did for us in order to save us. Romans 1:16 calls the Gospel the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Pope Benedict XVI said that when we proclaim the Gospel to someone, God will stir their heart and faith can be ignited. Therefore, the ability to share the Gospel is the most powerful tool of the evangelist.

What exactly is the Gospel message? What do people need to hear?

There are 4 parts to it:

1. God's Original Plan
2. The Bad News of Sin
3. What Jesus did to Save Us
4. What We Must Do To Be Saved

Use the bullet points in this section to write out your first draft of the Gospel message.

God's original plan

- God is love.
 - There is one God in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- God is all-good, all-powerful, and all-knowing.
 - He is also a God of justice who rewards the righteous and punishes sinners.
- God created the angels, the universe and everything in it, and everything He made was good.
 - Human beings are the pinnacle of visible creation because we are made in God's image. This means that we are able to mirror God in the manner we know, understand, and love.
 - To love someone is to desire their good, and to make sacrifices for them to get it. The greatest good is heaven because everything else is temporary.
- God's plan is to make us partakers of the divine nature so that we can love Him above all else, and each other the way Jesus loves us. This is why we were created, and nothing else will ultimately satisfy us.

The Bad News of Sin

- Before God created human beings and the physical world, He created the angels.
- Satan and the other demons went from good angels to bad when they rebelled against God.
 - The Bible says that through the devil's envy death entered the world (Wis 2:24). It is likely that the devil and other demons were envious of God's plan for us that caused them to rebel.
 - Why are the devil and demons envious of us?
 - It could be because Mary, the mother of Jesus, was to have a higher place of glory than all of the angels.
 - It could be because the idea of worshiping God in the form of a man was repugnant to many of them because the angelic nature is on a higher plane than human nature.
 - It could be because they recognized that our destiny as children of God was objectively greater than the destiny of angels, which is that of messenger and servant.
 - Whatever the reason is, it's safe to say that because of God's plan for us, they rebelled and fell from grace, which led to their hating us.
 - Now they want to destroy us because we have something they lost and can't ever get back, the ability to enjoy union with God and to reign with Him forever.
- Satan deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve. As a result, they fell from grace and were separated from God.
 - Satan's strategy for our destruction hasn't changed. He seeks to convince us that God doesn't love us and that we can be happy without Him. He lies, tempts, discourages and seeks to divide us.
- The whole human race inherited this fall from grace. As a result, mankind is bound by the powers of sin, death and hell, and we're enslaved by the devil, the ruler of this world (John 12:31).
 - Hell is the worst thing that can happen to someone because every good thing we've ever experienced - love, joy, peace, beauty - comes from God. Hell is the permanent, total absence of all of it. Forever.
 - Hell is not primarily about fire. It's about loss - the loss of the only thing that can ever truly satisfy the human soul.
 - Hell is not something God forces on anyone. It is the final, permanent consequence of freely choosing to reject Him.
 - Our separation from God corrupted our nature: our understanding has been darkened, our wills are weak and we have a strong inclination to sin.

What Jesus Did to Save Us

- Jesus, the eternal Son of God, took on human flesh in order to save us. He atoned for our sins by His passion and death on the cross.
 - Sin had broken the relationship between God and humanity. The debt was infinite - because sin against an infinite God requires infinite reparation. No human being could pay it. So God paid it Himself (John 3:16).
 - Jesus's act of love of laying down his life for us was so pleasing to the Father that it outweighed all the sins that we would ever commit.
- Jesus became a man to fight and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
 - "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than him attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder." (Luke 11:21-22)
 - Who is the strong man? The devil. His castle? our world. What is his property? Us, the entire human race. Jesus is the one stronger than the strong man, the devil. Jesus attacks and overcomes the devil. The result is that the devil's possessions - that's us - are no longer enslaved and can go free.
 - Jesus turned the tables on the devil. The devil thought he defeated Jesus when He was crucified, but Jesus' plan was to destroy death from the inside, and to show us that He has power over death.
- Now, everyone who follows Jesus will rise from the dead and have eternal life.
- Jesus is the new Adam. The first Adam sinned against God and brought down the whole human race. The new Adam (Jesus) was faithful to God and redeemed us, bringing about our salvation.

What We Must Do To Be Saved

- Our response to Jesus should be gratitude, worship, praise, thanksgiving and surrender.
- In order to make what Jesus did ours, we have to put our faith and trust in Him, repent of our sins and get baptized. If we do this, we'll receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of salvation.
 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

- Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).
- Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5). This refers to baptism.
- Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him” (Acts 2:38-39).
- Jesus did not leave us orphans. He established the Catholic Church to teach us how to get to heaven, and to give us the grace we need to make it.
 - Jesus built His church on Peter after God revealed to him who Jesus is (Matthew 16:13-17). Peter is considered the first pope.
 - Jesus said that the powers of death will not prevail against His church. (Matthew 16:18-19). This means that the Catholic Church will exist until the end of time, and that the Holy Spirit will prevent her from teaching anything false when it comes to faith and morals.
- Jesus instituted the priesthood, and the Eucharist at the Last Supper, on the night before He was crucified (Luke 22:14-20).
 - Jesus said this about the Eucharist: “Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:53-54).
 - Jesus established the sacrament of confession for sins committed after baptism (John 20:19-23).
- The Church is the pillar and bulwark of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- Jesus wants everyone to be Catholic because:
 - We have the fullness of truth.
 - We have the seven sacraments, which is how God’s saving grace gets into our souls.
 - We have Apostolic succession, a direct unbroken line going back to the Apostles.
 - We have the Magisterium, the God-given authority to teach truth without error.
 - No other church has all of this.
 - Another reason Jesus wants all Christians to be Catholic is so that we can be unified like He and the Father are one (See Jesus’ prayer in John 17).

Here's an example of the Gospel message:

God created you. He loves you. He wants to be in a relationship with you now and forever in heaven. He's also a God of justice who rewards the righteous and punishes sinners

The bad news is that we've sinned. Satan tricked our first parents, Adam and Eve, into disobeying God. This resulted in our separation from God and spiritual death. So now, we all come into the world with a wounded nature destined for hell. And our wounded nature makes it difficult for us to know the truth and we're inclined to sin which weakens our ability to love one another.

The good news is that God loves us too much to leave us like that. So, Jesus became a man, atoned for our sins by dying on the cross, and rose from the dead for our salvation.

Jesus established the Catholic Church to teach in His name, and to give us the grace we need to make it to heaven.

Use the space below to craft your version of the 4-step Gospel message.

What We Need to Know About Salvation

1. We need to be intentional about going to Heaven.

The first thing we need to realize is that making it to heaven is the most important thing in life. Heaven is the pearl of great price, and it's what we were created for. If we don't go to heaven at the end of our lives, we will be failures. And, as you can see from Jesus' words below, it's hard to get to heaven. Therefore, we need to be intentional about getting there.

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matthew 7:13-14

2. We need the grace of the sacraments.

Grace is a supernatural gift of God bestowed on us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our salvation. So, because of what Jesus did two thousand years ago, we have access to the grace we need to make it to heaven.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

This is referring to baptism. In BAPTISM:

- Our sins and punishment due to sin is washed away
- Our soul is infused with sanctifying grace (the very life of God)
- The Holy Spirit dwells within us
- We become children of God

What else did Jesus say?

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you (John 15:5-7).

In order for us to do good, and to avoid being thrown into the fire, we have to be in Communion with Jesus. So how does that happen?

*He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.
John 6:56*

The CHALLENGE for the Christian is in staying faithful to Jesus. We can lose our salvation if we commit a serious sin. To help us overcome our sin, and to bring us back into a state of grace for sins we commit after baptism, Jesus gave us the sacrament of CONFESSION. We need to make use of this sacrament over and over again because we're still weak and inclined to sin due to our wounded nature and the world we live in.

Most of us don't realize how easy it is to commit a deadly sin.
Below are some examples of common, yet deadly sins:

- Having sex outside of the context of biblical marriage
- Not attending Sunday Mass unless you're sick or unable to get there
- Getting drunk
- Watching pornography
- Refusing to forgive someone

The bottom line is that we need to live a life of sacrificial love like Jesus did in order to make it to heaven. And without the grace of the sacraments, it'll be really hard.

3. We need to pray.

Prayer is essentially a conversation with God. It's not a monologue where it's just us doing the talking. It's not a wish list. It needs to be more than a religious ritual performed out of obligation. It's a living, personal encounter between us creatures, and our Creator - it's the most natural and most necessary act of the human soul.

Important: what makes our prayers heard depends not on the number of words, but on the fervor of our souls.

"Those who pray are certainly saved; those who do not pray are certainly damned"
St. Alphonsus Liguori

Different ways to pray

Vocal prayer

- Verbally communicating with God. We can praise Him, thank Him for our blessings, ask Him for good things, and express sorrow for our sins. We can use our words or someone else's (Our Father, the Glory Be, the Psalms, the Divine office).

Meditation

- We progress in our prayer life by doing more listening than talking. We do that through mental prayer (meditation & contemplation).

The most obvious way to hear what God wants to say to us is by reading the Bible, especially the Gospels. This is where MEDITATION comes in. Think of the mysteries of the rosary, and Lectio Divina. When we meditate, we use our memory, intellect, and will.

We use our MEMORY to present the subject matter to the mind (a mystery of the rosary, or a scene from the Gospels). The INTELLECT then reflects on, and draws meaning from what the memory has presented (what does the Gospel scene reveal about Jesus?). The WILL then responds to what the intellect has discovered (How is God calling me to change for the better?)

Contemplation

- The highest form of prayer is CONTEMPLATION. Contemplation is the receptive, more passive form of mental prayer. Where meditation works, contemplation rests. It's been called a wordless gaze upon God - a simple abiding in His presence.

St John of the Cross compared the relationship between meditation and contemplation to working, and the enjoyment of the fruit of our work. So meditation is the labor and contemplation is the harvest - and it is God who gives the harvest.

When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

4. We need to love.

And finally, the end game of the Christian life is to love, otherwise we're missing the point. Remember that to love someone is to want what's good for them and to make sacrifices for them to get it. How we love God and our neighbor is what Jesus is going to judge us on.

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value.
The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.
Galatians 5:6*

Some good examples of love are the works of mercy. These are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his bodily and spiritual necessities.

The Corporal Works of Mercy (for the body):

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the prisoner
- Bury the dead
- Give alms to the poor

The Spiritual Works of Mercy (for the soul):

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish the sinner
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Forgive injuries
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and dead
- And, of course, evangelize!

How is God calling you to love?

Sharing Your Testimony

The purpose of sharing your testimony is to draw the person you are speaking with closer to Jesus. A well-crafted testimony can:

- show that Jesus is real and active in the world today
- make an evangelist more credible and authentic
- build trust and removes barriers that may keep someone from turning to God
- be a good example of what a conversion looks like

A typical testimony has three parts to it:

1. My life before Jesus
2. How Jesus came into my life
3. How my life has changed

My Life Before Jesus

- Were you raised in a Christian or a non-Christian home?
- If you were Catholic, did your family practice their faith?
- Did you experience some kind of trauma?
- Were you lonely, anxious, or depressed?
- Did you have issues with drugs, alcohol, sexual impurity, gambling, or self-harm?
- Did you know that God loved you?
- Did something happen that turned you away from God?

How Jesus Came Into My Life

- Did you realize something was missing in your life?
- Did you wonder about God's existence?
- How did Jesus break into your life? What happened?
- Was it a major event or a series of small ones?
- Did someone talk to you about Jesus?
- Did death, illness, or some other calamity cause you to seek God?
- What steps did you take to move closer to Jesus?

One Good Reason

An evangelist needs to be able to articulate their reasons for believing.

Can I give you one good reason why I choose to believe in God?

If you were walking along a beach and came across a pocket watch, you would know just by looking at it that someone designed and made that watch. It would be absurd to think that it just came together after millions of years at the bottom of the ocean by some random process, and then one day just washed up on shore. Well, one human cell is way more intricate than any watch. Scientists have discovered a digital code in cells that's more sophisticated than anything man could ever design. And each of our bodies is made up of trillions of these cells. That's why I believe in God. It's obvious that our bodies have been designed by a super intelligent being.

What's another good reason for believing in God?

Speak the Language of the People

When evangelizing someone, it's important that we use language that anyone can understand. Try to answer the following questions in a short, concise, and easy to understand way.

Who is God?

Who is Jesus?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Who are the Devil and Demons?

Why do the Devil and demons seek to destroy us?

What is Heaven?

What is Hell?

What is prayer?

Why is it important to pray?

What is the Catholic Church?

What is the Mass?

Why is it important to go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation?

What is grace?

What is a sacrament?

What does it mean to have faith?

Go to streetevangelization.com/gospel-questions to see some of our answers.

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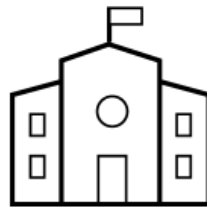
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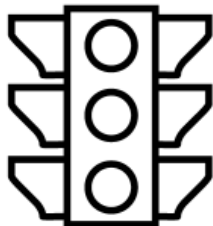
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