

## Evangelism Exposure Seminar 1

### A brief summary

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On Sunday evening, January 25, we held the first of two Evangelism Exposure seminars. For those who were unable to make it, what follows is a brief summary of what was covered in the seminar. The seminar was recorded as well and so it is possible to listen to it as well. The recording is available on the church's web-site at [www.thefoothills.us](http://www.thefoothills.us).

The seminar began with a brief overview of the Seven Orbits of Evangelism. This is the framework which is helping to guide our strategy in evangelism at Foothills. The Seven Orbits are: Prayer, Training, Meeting People, Proclaiming the gospel, Inviting to faith, Celebrating new believers and Discipling new believers. Rod briefly touched on each of the seven orbits and emphasized that it is an "all-play" strategy, meaning that anyone and everyone can find a way to be involved in evangelism regardless of their personality type or spiritual gifts.

The next part of the seminar was to spend some time in Scripture together. We studied 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and looked specifically at some of the motivations that arise out of the text for sharing out faith with others. Lots of good things we said in our discussion time and we all agreed on four main motivations for doing evangelism. The four main motivations are:

1. God's Judgment– Fear of Spending Eternity apart from God. Everyone must face the judgment of God and must give an account of their lives. Only those who have placed their trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus will be forgiven, restored and allowed to spend eternity with God. This, Paul says, is why we should try to persuade others.
2. The Love of Christ – Jesus died on the cross for all people and therefore all people died. Because Jesus loves all people enough to die for them we should be motivated to share the good news of his love with others.
3. New Christians become New Creations – People who choose to believe in Jesus and receive his free gift of salvation become new people. They don't stop being sinners, but they do receive the in-filling of the Holy Spirit and have new power to overcome sin. Their lives can change. This also should motivate us to spread the good news.
4. God is making his appeal through us – God has given us the ministry of reconciliation and has entrusted his message of grace and mercy to us. We are the ones whom God will use to invite others to come to faith. Therefore we should do what God has called us to do and what he has gifted us to do.

The third part of the seminar involved taking a short assessment to determine the style of evangelism that best fits each one of us. Leaders at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, IL has identified six different styles of witness that they see happening in the lives of people in Scripture. The six styles are: Confrontational, Intellectual, Testimonial, Interpersonal, Invitational and Serving. We took the assessment and then got into groups according to style

to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of each one. We also discussed in the whole group what we learned about ourselves and what we learned about evangelism from the exercise. Extra copies of the assessment will be on the table in the foyer if you would like to find out your witnessing style.

The last thing that happened at the seminar was a presentation of the Big Story gospel illustration. This illustration is similar to other illustrations in that it presents clearly the way that a person can be healed, forgiven and restored through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is different in that it starts from a place of common ground for both believers and non-believers: the world is a messed up place. It also is different in that it presents God as someone who wants not only to save individuals from their sin, but also wants to redeem all of creation. It emphasizes the kingly rule of God over all that he has made. Copies of this gospel illustration and an abbreviated script for how to share it will also be available on the table in the foyer.

At the next seminar on Sunday evening, February 8, we will look at something called the *Five Thresholds of Postmodern Conversion* to learn how better to identify the spiritual needs of our non-believing friends and how to help them move from one threshold to another. We'll also spend some time talking about how to have healthy spiritual conversations with our non-Christian friends. And we'll do more practicing of sharing the gospel using the Big Story. Please consider joining us!