

## Friendship Evangelism Part 1

**Overview:** Friendship Evangelism is not something you do; it is a lifestyle exemplifying who you are in Christ Jesus, an Ambassador of the Kingdom of God. Other quotes that explain how we should share about Jesus as Lord and Savior:

- “Live your life in such a way that people ask you why.”
- “People don’t care about what you believe until they believe you care.”
- “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words”  
(a statement attributed to St. Francis of Assisi).

### A. What is Friendship Evangelism

1. “Friendship Evangelism,” also known as “lifestyle evangelism,” or “relational evangelism. The main goal is to befriend an unsaved person and create an opportunity to share the Gospel of Good News with him or her.
2. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16
3. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a . . . gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners Luke 7:34
4. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness. . . 1 Peter 3:15
5. The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Prov. 11:30
6. Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession. Psalm 2:8

### B. The “**A**”mazing (**A**-Mayes-ing) Friendship Evangelism Method includes the

#### Spiritual Sandwich Technique:

**Compliment → Share the Good News of the Gospel → Compliment**

1. **Approach** - Boldly initiate a conversation that compliments that person in a friendly manner, getting him/r to agree with you at least 3x times.  
Example: “Hello, that sure is a nice \_\_\_\_\_.  
shirt/blouse/pet/sweet baby/garden/etc.
  - If in a shopping center: You like that shirt you’re wearing; right? Do you know where I can get one like that?
  - My name is \_\_\_\_\_; what is your name?
  - Nice to meet you, \_\_\_\_\_, my new friend.  
Person’s Name
  - Try to get them to shake your hand.
2. **Attitude** - Relate to people with kindness, love and compassion.
3. **Assess** - Discover and learn about their current challenges, needs, and desires through patient listening.  
Example: By the way, I noticed that you were \_\_\_\_\_ (limping/etc.); are you okay?  
How did that \_\_\_\_\_ challenge happen to you?

4. **Advocate** – is someone that defends or maintains a cause with enthusiasm or passion.
  - a) Share your testimony and your faith in a way that it makes sense to identify with the challenges or issues that person is facing; and if everything is fine in that person’s life then ask if you can pray a blessing prayer for them.  
Example: I know the best doctor that helped me can help you also. You may want to hear more about that; right?
  
5. **Adios Ending** – Spanish word with Latin origin means = “to God” (a – to + dios – God); also means Farewell, goodbye or hope to see you some other time.
  - a) End your conversation with a positive note always pointing them “to God.”
  - b) Be edifying and uplifting showing them a good outcome.
  - c) In conclusion, your last comment should always be something they will leave which makes them feel good about God.  
Example: Extend your hand to see if they will shake it. Then say something like:  
“My new friend, \_\_\_\_\_ I pray that God’s many blessings run to  
  Person’s Name  
overtake you, in the name of Jesus. Have a nice day.”

### C. What Friendship Evangelism is Not

1. Jonathan Dodson, founding pastor of City Life church in Austin, Texas, has practiced, and clearly respects, both forms of evangelism. However, in his new book, *The Unbelievable Gospel: Say Something Worth Believing* (a 2015 CT Book Awards winner), he argues that our current social-cultural moment has made the door-to-door model not only less effective, but potentially counterproductive. “Wave after wave of rationalistic, rehearsed (and at times coerced and confrontational) evangelism,” he writes in his preface, “has inoculated, if not antagonized, the broader culture.”
2. It is not pushy and mechanical.
  - a) According to Dodson, our gospel is often “unbelievable” to nonbelievers—and not in the too-good-to-be-true sense. Our “pressure to perform, to make the sale . . . distorts our message” and causes us to “act and speak in unnatural ways. Often, we sound as if we don’t really believe what we are saying.” Fearing that we will lose God’s favor if we don’t present the full gospel in a rigid formula every time we speak with an unbeliever, we become pushy and mechanical and thus lose the joy and intimacy of the gospel.

**Recommendation:** Endeavor to be a soul- winner because it’s one of the main reasons why we serve Jesus. He saved you, so go out and save others also.