

MOSAIC: CONNECTING WITH GOD AND OTHERS
EVANGELISM CYCLES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH
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MATTHEW 4:18-22
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Jesus called His first-century disciples to become “fishers of men.” He issues the same call to His disciples today. As we spend one more week focusing on Relational Theology (and supporting the Adult Bible Fellowship curriculum for this Fall) I want us to see the cycle of evangelism that begins the moment we trust Christ and continues on to our spiritual maturity.

MATTHEW 4:18-22

The church is the only organization that exists for people who are NOT already in it. If we forget this, we forget the reason for our existence. Years of growing to maturity in Christ will produce a deep-burning passion to reach people for Christ.

“Follow me and *I will make you* fishers of men” is Jesus declarative statement of the normal Christian life. The normal Christian life begins with following Jesus and results in fishing for people who are lost without Christ. It cannot be otherwise.

The three spiritual growth stages include Infancy/Childhood, Young Men/Women and Mothers/Fathers (1 John 2:12-14 and Philippians 3:10-11).

Sharing Christ and the good news about Christ (evangelism) occurs at every stage.

Spiritual Infant/Child: The woman at the well (John 4)

Spiritual Young Man/Woman: Peter (Luke 10)

Spiritual Mother/Father: Paul (1 Corinthians 9:22-23: “To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings.”)

The essence of spiritual maturity is both a life of evangelism and of caring for younger Christians.

Mark 4:28-29: “All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

John 12:24-25: “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

Let’s consider a few questions and suggestions:

Who led you to Christ? How did you come to the Faith?

Do you have spiritual children whom you have led to faith in Christ? What are their names?

How does it make you feel to know that one day they will welcome you into Heaven?

Are you sequestered from the world in your “spiritual bubble?”

Write down a list of places where you come into contact with people who are not yet Christians.

Make a list of people in your sphere of influence who need the good news of Jesus. Pray daily for God to open the doors to share your faith.

Schedule a time to develop friendships with those who need to come to Christ.

Paul says we should be prepared to share the gospel. What are the essentials of the Gospel—the things someone must know and/or experience to become a Christian?

1. The message of Christ is “Good News”. Jesus invited everyone to eat freely from His Bread of Life (John 6) and to drink deeply from His Living Water (John 7).
2. New life in Christ is so fantastic that it can be experienced only by being born again. A physical birth is not enough. Only a spiritual birth can make a difference (John 3).
3. Our sin stands in the way of experiencing the Bread of Life and the Living Water.
Romans 3:23-24: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”
Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
4. Jesus died in our place on the cross death to pay the penalty for our sin. Grace and forgiveness open the door for us into the presence of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
5. We enter into the life of Christ by personally receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
John 1:12-13: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

What might fishing look like?

Accepting the Rejected (John 4.)

Supporting the Struggling (Matthew 8).

Comforting the Hurting (John 11)