ENGAGING IN GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS TO MAKE DISCIPLES
In his book *The Rise of the Nones*, James Emery White cites some startling facts of this generation. The Nones are the religiously unaffiliated and their numbers are rapidly rising. Studies indicate that 40 percent of all emerging adults are clearly distanced from religion. The largest group, the religiously indifferent, “neither care to practice religion nor to oppose it. They are simply not invested in religion either way.”

Culture has changed. Some traditional gospel sharing methods are good, but not as effective in today’s culture. The nations, the millennials, and the Nones are not reached by conventional methods of evangelism.

---

**UNDERSTAND**

**WHY IT MATTERS**

Culture has changed. Some traditional gospel sharing methods are good, but not as effective in today’s culture. The nations, the millennials, and the Nones are not reached by conventional methods of evangelism.

---

**THE CHANGE**

**INCREASE IN NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Rise of the Nones, p. 45, James Emery White

---

**DO YOU THINK RELIGION AS A WHOLE IS INCREASING ITS INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN LIFE OR LOSING ITS INFLUENCE?**

- Increasing Influence: 5%
- Losing Influence: 15%
- Don’t Know: 34%
- 1940s: 21%
- 1990: 22%
- 2008: 21%
- 2012: 72%

IDENTIFY
KNOW THE DIFFERENCES

ACTS 2 WORLD
GOSPEL PRESENTATION

NOW THERE WERE DWELLING IN JERUSALEM JEWS, DEVOUT MEN FROM EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN.
— ACTS 2:5 —

PETER was able to speak to a group of people who:
• already believed in God,
• were monotheists,
• believed in the Old Testament Scriptures, and
• believed in a coming Messiah.

ACTS 17 WORLD
GOSPEL CONVERSATION

I FOUND AN ALTAR "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." WHAT YOU WORSHIP AS UNKNOWN, I PROCLAIM TO YOU
— ACTS 17:23 —

PAUL then went all the way back to creation and began working his way forward — laying a foundation for an understanding and subsequent engagement of the gospel. Paul shared with those who didn’t have any knowledge of the Christian faith to start with.

Paul’s intent was to build bridges of understanding upon which the two parties could meet.

TODAY’S WORLD
RELATIONAL GOSPEL ENGAGEMENT

Our mission field is growing significantly. We must to be prepared to reach the nations and the Nones in America. The mission field is here!

We are all called to be on mission engaging in relationships with sincerity to allow gospel presentations and produce disciples who in turn make disciples.
ASSESS
KNOW WHO YOU’RE REACHING

Beyond the boundaries of nations, or even our own yards, God has placed people in our paths so that we can help them know God. As messengers of reconciliation Christians are here to help people realize that “He is actually not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

The first task of any good missionary is to educate himself/herself on who it is they are trying to reach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTS 17</th>
<th>ATHENS</th>
<th>ACTS 2</th>
<th>JERUSALEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST</td>
<td>THE NONES</td>
<td>ACCEPTS BASIC CHRISTIAN BELIEFS</td>
<td>SAVING FAITH IN CHRIST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACTS 17 PERSON*

- Not very religious
- Does not believe in God
- Not necessarily an atheist
- Activist
- Liberal
- Younger
- Familiar with church
- Believes in God
- May not have heard a clear gospel presentation

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACTS 2 PERSON

- Holds to traditional values
- Conservative

*The Rise of the Nones, James Emery White
ENgage
Acts 17 Approach

The Story
A visually engaging narrative written with a non-Christian audience in mind to explain the gospel.

The booklet’s conversation guide and mobile app is a helpful means of engaging someone in conversation to explain the Bible’s four major plot lines of Creation, the Fall, Rescue and Restoration by asking four major worldview questions.

3 Circles:
Life Conversation Guide

How many times, in everyday conversations, do people engage you about their problems or challenges? It’s amazing how often people share their heartaches regarding their marriages, children, finances, addictions, depression – you name it. People are hurting, and they need hope.

This booklet and mobile app helps answer common questions in a simple and memorable way so that you can begin to naturally and actively share it with others.

It helps to give a biblical explanation of why life and the world are filled with brokenness.
This two-sided business-size card is more of a quick way to take a moment to share Jesus. It connects to the felt needs in quick conversation with a person. It has a picture of the bridge illustration on one side with the one verse of Scripture, Romans 6:23. On the other side are definitions of the key words in the verse. This card serves as a guide for the witness and is not intended to be given to the lost person as a tract.

ENgage acts 2 approach

ROMANS 6:23

ENgage

USE YOUR TESTIMONY: 3 STORY METHOD

LISTEN TO THEIR STORY

REALITY

TELL THEM YOUR STORY

TESTIMONY

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

May I share with you my personal story?

1. My life before receiving Jesus
2. How I received Jesus
3. How Christ helps me in my daily life

TRANSITIONAL SENTENCES

1. “I was wondering ________, have you established a personal relationship with Christ like I have described, or would you say that you are still in the process?”
2. Wait for response.
3. Would you like for me to take just a few minutes and explain how you can do this?
4. Present one of the three approaches to engage. Don’t be preachy or pushy! Smile and be conversational in your approach. Keep building the relationship.

TELL THEM HIS STORY

THE GOSPEL

AVAILABLE AT

ncbaptist.org/Romans623
NEXT STEPS

1) IDENTIFY YOUR CONTEXT: ACTS 2 OR ACTS 17
2) SELECT YOUR APPROACH
3) SHARE THE GOSPEL
4) MAKE DISCIPLES

BSCNC CONTACTS

Adult Evangelism and Discipleship

MARTY DUPREE
mdupree@ncbaptist.org
1.800.395.5102 x5565

RICK HUGHES
rhughes@ncbaptist.org
800.395.5102 x5563
336.406.6589

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US
evangelism@ncbaptist.org