

Sharing the Gospel with the F.O.R.G.I.V.E. Model

by Pastor David Jonathan Lynn

This model uses the acronym F.O.R.G.I.V.E. to outline 7 steps to sharing the gospel. Most steps have additional acronyms. Memorizing the acronyms for each step and the transitions will help you to share the gospel message.

1. **F**riendship: **Get to know them.** Empathize with them by discerning, relating, and meeting one of their needs.

Transition: Your example with the offer God made you. "I am so thankful that God..."

2. **O**ffer: **God has offered us unconditional L.O.V.E.**

Lasting fulfillment – John 10:10 "I am come that they might have life and have it to the full".

Overwhelming acceptance – Mat. 11:28 "Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest".

Value – Eph. 5:25 – "...Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."

Eternal life and forgiveness – 1 John 2:12,24 "Your sins have been forgiven on account of his name...and he promised us...eternal life."

Transition: There is no way to escape hell and have peace with God except through God. Sin separates us from God and peace, and...

3. **R**eality: **Each one of us has S.I.N.**

Shame – Rom. 3:23,6:21 "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.... things which ye are now ashamed of."

Internal anger – Genesis 4:3-7

Negativity – Job 10:1 "I loathe my own life; I will give full vent to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul."

Transition: Our sin separates us from God and sends us to hell. Many of the things we have gone through and done at times cause us to feel distant from God. We are never at peace with God until we deal with it. But...

4. **G**od: **G**od understands, loves and **C.A.R.E.S.** for us.

Concerned– 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Affirms us – 2 Cor. 1:21 “God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ.”

Relates– Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are yet without sin.”

Enriches us – 1 Cor. 1:5 “For in him you have been enriched in every way”.

Saves us – Eph. 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith....it is the gift of God.”

Transition: God loves and cares about you so much that he wants to give you a new beginning by helping you escape the things that bring downfall in your life. God took great initiative to show you his love by sending Jesus Christ...

5. **I**nitiative: **J**esus is **G**od’s **G.I.F.T.** of love to humanity. **H**e is **G**od (**John 1:1; 1 Tim 3:16**).

Gives freedom (John 8:36)

Improvement (1 Cor. 6:11)

Forgiveness of sins (John 3:16)

Took our hardships upon himself (Isaiah 53)

What he did: He came into this world and died on the cross; taking your pain and your sin so that God’s love, healing and mercy could be given to you in exchange.

Romans 3:25-26 “God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life’s blood so that by faith in him we could come to God...God did this to show that in the past he was just(right) to be patient and forgive sinners.... God is just(right) when he accepts people who have faith in Jesus.

Transition: He was then buried and rose again from the grave. All this, so that freely you could be given his love and forgiveness. The vehicle to receive his love is to repent and accept Jesus and his love into your life by faith...

6. You need to A.C.T.

Accept: Jesus and his love by faith. Rom. 3:28 "People are acceptable to God by faith in his Son

Call upon him. Rom. 10:10 "Whosoever called upon the name for the Lord will be saved."

Trust his love by following him. Mark 8:34 "Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples.... If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me."

Give Your Testimony.

Transition: Would you like to accept the love, healing, forgiveness and new life that Jesus has to offer?

7. To encounter, you need to T.R.U.S.T.

Tell them how to receive God's love and forgiveness through repentance of sins and faith in Jesus Christ.

Receiving prayers – help them pray to God if they want to commit their lives to Christ.

Uplift them in prayer and scripture. Give them a bible. Schedule an appointment for a bible study, church, and baptism.

Teach them the importance of discipleship and telling others.