

Pastor Jerry Wong
Bad News, Good News

Intro.

My favorite approach in sharing that good news is through the Bad News, Good News approach or to say it another way, “May I ask you a question?” The Bad news is something about you and the Good news is something about God.

Outline

1. Engage in the art of chit chat.
2. Pick your spot and transition to spiritual things.
3. Ask a question like, what is your spiritual background?
4. If you were going to die today or 100 years from now and God said “Why should I let you into heaven? What would you tell God?”
5. Has anyone ever taken a bible and shown you how you can KNOW for sure that you’re going to heaven?

We begin with three questions.

1. May I ask you a question?
2. Has anyone ever taken a bible and shown you how you can KNOW for sure that you’re going to heaven?
3. May I?

Alternative introductory statements

1. Use an introductory comment to get started in sharing the gospel. You can try, “I like talking to people about spiritual things, I was wondering if it would be okay for me to ask you a few questions about God.”
2. Other ideas include: “I’ve been given a homework assignment from one of the pastors from my church to talk with others about going to heaven, can you help me finish my homework assignment?”
3. The common understanding of a Jew during the NT time about going to heaven was similar to the scale approach. If your good deeds outweighed your bad deeds your chances in going to heaven are pretty good. You can ask them if they agree, why or why not?

Reminders.

- Don’t be shy to read the tract. If you can read, you can share the gospel!!!
- Some Americans are very time sensitive, so a way to save time is to chit chat and then to ask them the above three questions. This is a very direct way and is appropriate at times. Allow the Lord to lead you about timing and tact.
- If they don’t want to go through the tract, ask them if you can share the good news with them verbally.
- If they don’t like that either, then give them the booklet and ask them to read it on their own.

- Regardless of their response, remember to have good manners and be friendly. If you leave a tract at a restaurant, give a reasonable/generous tip and be friendly.

Bad News #1

- Main point: to understand that we all have sinned against God and have fallen short of His perfect standard.
- 99% of people will agree with this.
- This is an opportunity for you to share a little testimony of your own life and how you have sinned against God.
- Be open and honest, but don't feel that you need to "dump the truck" about every sin you have committed. Over sharing is not appropriate and so is a self-righteous attitude.

Bad News #2

- Main point: to see that because we have all sinned, we all deserve to be punished. Ultimately, that means going to hell. Now that is bad news.
- The point of the illustration is that just as a person earns good grades and earns a living, one also earns punishment for their sin and separation from God.
- You can share how you worked hard for a certain grade or how you got paid for a part time job you had. Emphasize that your teacher or employer didn't give you a good grade or a paycheck because you or they are nice person or because they are generous, but because you earned it. Likewise because we have all sinned, we all deserve to be punished.
- I like to review bad news number one and bad news number two before I go on. All of us have sinned against God and we all deserved to be punished for our sin.

Good News #1

- Main point: to know that Christ died for you. He died instead of me. I deserved to be punished for my sin and yet Christ was punished in my place. He took the penalty that I deserved for my sin, placed in upon Himself, and died in our place.
- Christ rose three days later to prove that He is God and that He had conquered sin and death.
- The beauty of the cancer illustration is that people see the idea of substitution. Instead of you dying of cancer, I would die in your place. I would die instead of you. In the same way, Christ died in my place. Christ died instead of me.

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Good News #2

- Main point: you can be saved through faith in Christ. We need to believe in Christ alone for salvation and not depend upon our good works or ourselves to save us.
- Doing good things is good, but they don't save. God is all for you loving your neighbor as yourself, paying your taxes, and being faithful to your wife. The key is that God is saying don't trust in good behavior to get you to heaven. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Only Christ can save us. The right

response to be saved is to believe in Christ for salvation and God will give us the gift of eternal life.

- You can gently remind them of what they said at the beginning of your conversation. When asked the question, “if you were to die today or a hundred years from now and God asked, why should I let you into heaven, what would you say?” Most say, “I’m a good person, I try and love my neighbor as myself, and I’ve never killed anyone.” Feel free to bring up what they said. Avoid being too confrontational or belittling their answer. Rather, the goal is to help them connect what they used to trust in to save them and the need to believe in Christ for salvation. You can say, “God is asking you to not trust in those things to get you into heaven, but to trust in Christ alone and God will give you the gift of eternal life.”

Close

- The beauty of the prayer is that it prompts them to respond to God. After hearing the gospel, they are challenged not to trust in good works or good living to save them, but to believe in Christ alone for salvation.
- It’s important to note that saying that prayer or any prayer does not save a person. The person of Christ saves us when we believe in Him for salvation.
- I normally read the prayer and ask them if it makes sense. If they say yes, I ask them if they would like to pray the prayer and trust in Christ for salvation. I will remind them that the prayer doesn’t save, only Christ saves. The prayer is a way to tell God what you are doing. If they want to pray the prayer and tell God that they are trusting in Christ for salvation, then I’ll say, “I’ll pray out loud and you can follow me my praying the prayer to God. You can pray it silently or out loud, whichever you prefer. Be mindful that you are talking with God.” I usually read only one sentence at a time and pause for them to do the same.
- If they believe in Christ for salvation I will congratulate them, shake their hand, and then finish reading the tract which emphasizes following up a new Christian. I like to chit chat afterwards and encourage them to come to church. Please get their phone number to call them to come to church and give them a church flyer.
- For a follow up test, you can try the three circles. Which of the following are you trusting in to save you? 1). Jesus alone. 2). Jesus plus good works. 3). Good works alone. If they pause, say something like, “I ask this question because I want to help you know for sure that you are going to heaven.”
- Most people say they are depending on Jesus and good works to save them. The problem is that God says this person has a misplaced confidence and in fact will end up in hell. God wants us to trust in Christ alone to save us.
- The Philippian jailer asked the question, “What must I do to be saved?” The bible says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”