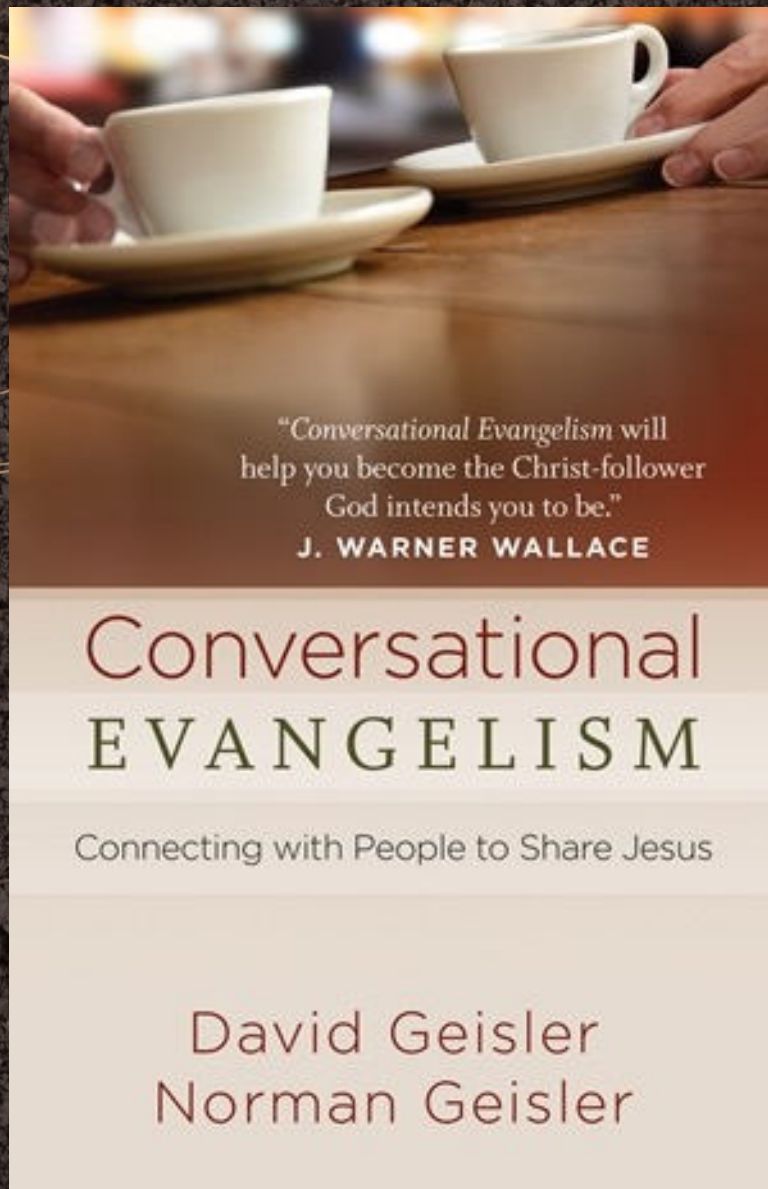


CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

NGIM

NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



"Conversational Evangelism will help you become the Christ-follower God intends you to be."

J. WARNER WALLACE

Conversational EVANGELISM

Connecting with People to Share Jesus

David Geisler
Norman Geisler



I now understand better what is holding back many people from coming to Christ....As I become more equipped and emboldened to add a spiritual dimension in my conversation with friends and colleagues, I discover that people are willing to engage in conversations of a spiritual nature much more often than I previously thought. Elder Hian-Chye,

Conversational Evangelism, page 15,







Key Perspective About
EVANGELISM

Our problems in Evangelism
are not one of methodology
but one of MATURITY!







**What if witnessing was something
you actually enjoyed doing?**





**Effective witnessing today begins
with changing our paradigms!**



There has been an
erosion of truth!

THEN
Confrontational
Rational Arguments
Monologue Presentations
Salesman Approach



NOW
Conversational
Relational Bridges
Dialogue Conversations
Co-Traveller Approach





EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- - will compel us to build spiritual bridges...



**...to your
unbelieving
friends from
the standpoint
of their
interest, not
your own!**





Why do smart people not believe in God?

(Jer. 17:9; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:18)



EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- **will compel us to use apologetics!**



“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

1 Cor. 15:14 ESV



What we need to remember!

There cannot be:

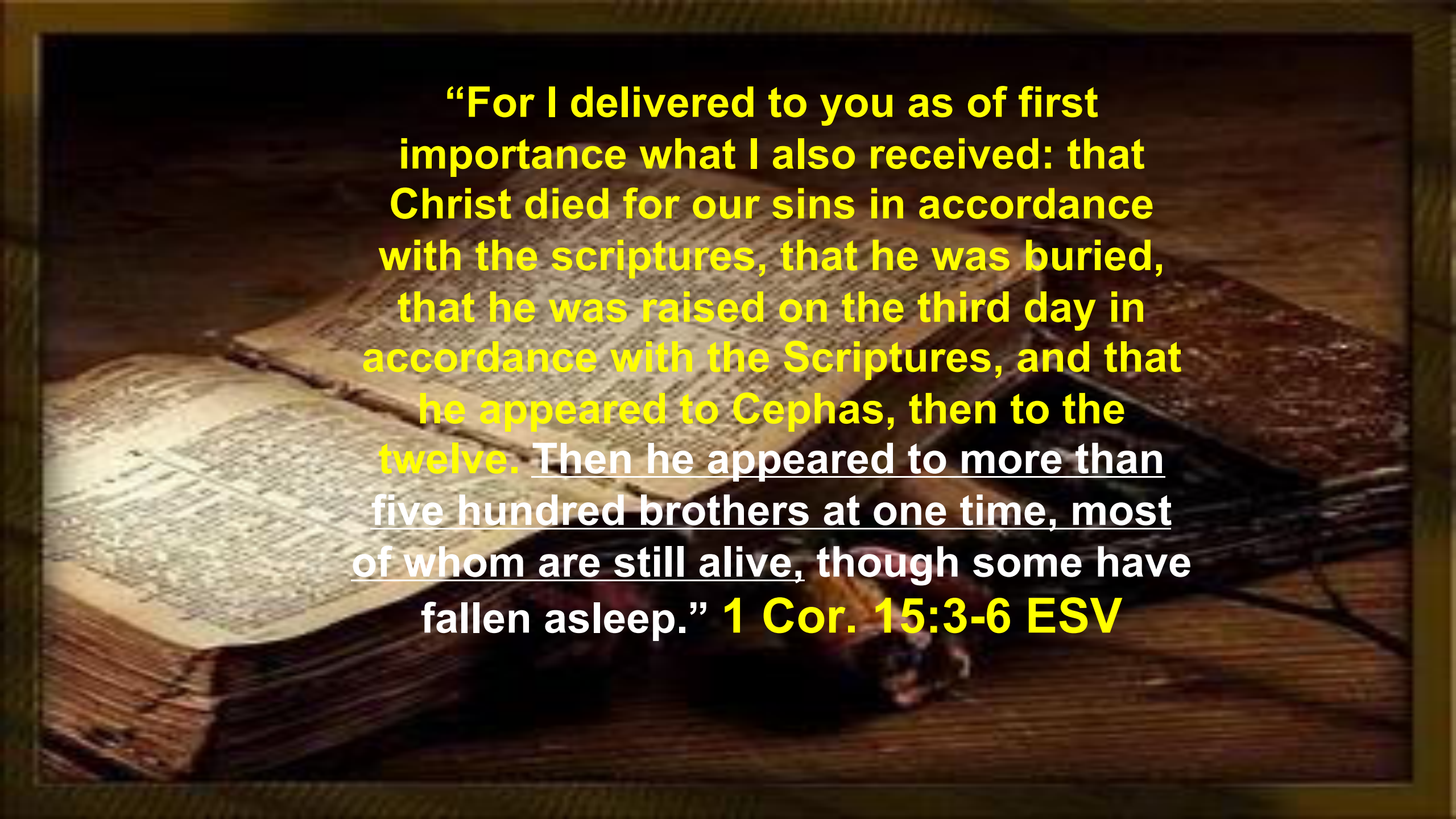
...the Son of God,

...the Word of God,

...miraculous acts of God,

...the salvation of God—

unless there is a God!

A stack of several old, thick books with yellowed pages and worn covers. A pair of dark-rimmed glasses is resting on the top of the stack. The background is dark and slightly blurred, suggesting a wooden surface.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.” **1 Cor. 15:3-6 ESV**

**God Wants All of Us to Defend
the Truth of the Christian Faith.**





The 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: ngim.org

What If they don't believe in object truth...?

1. **Truth about reality is knowable.**
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
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See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.ngim.org

What If they believe all religions are the same...?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. **The opposite of true is false.**
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
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See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.ngim.org

What If they believe in object truth but not the Theistic God?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. **It is true that the theistic God exists.**
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
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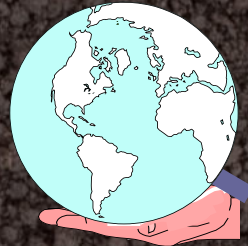
The Bottom Line:

Adding a classical apologetics approach to your faith is critical, especially in your witness today!

Your world view can color your conclusion

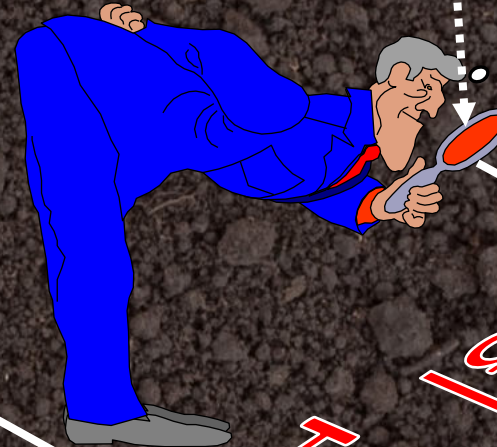
Theism

Miracles
Are
Possible



Atheism, Pantheism

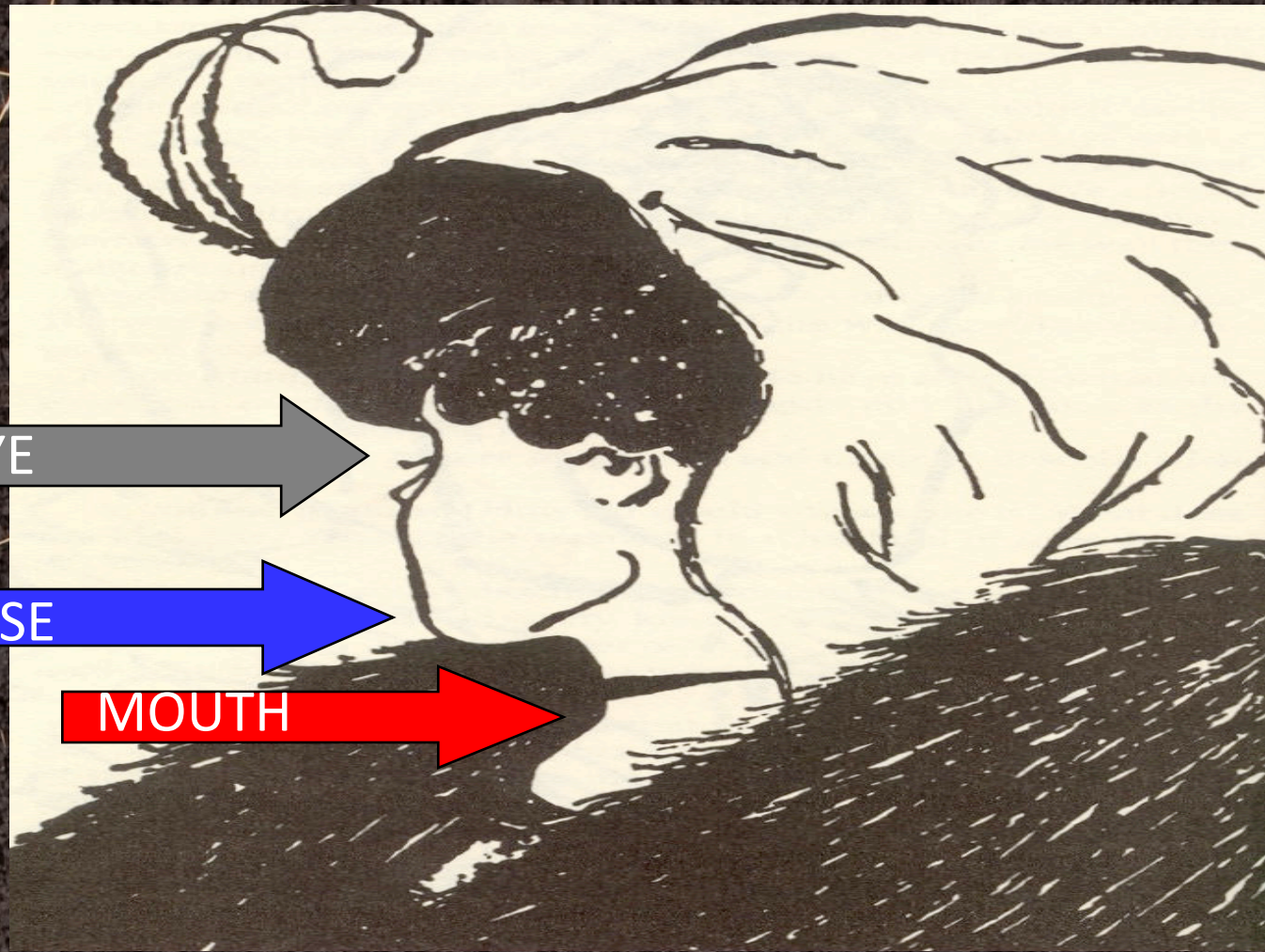
Miracles
Are Not
Possible



History
and
Truth



Old Woman or Young Lady?

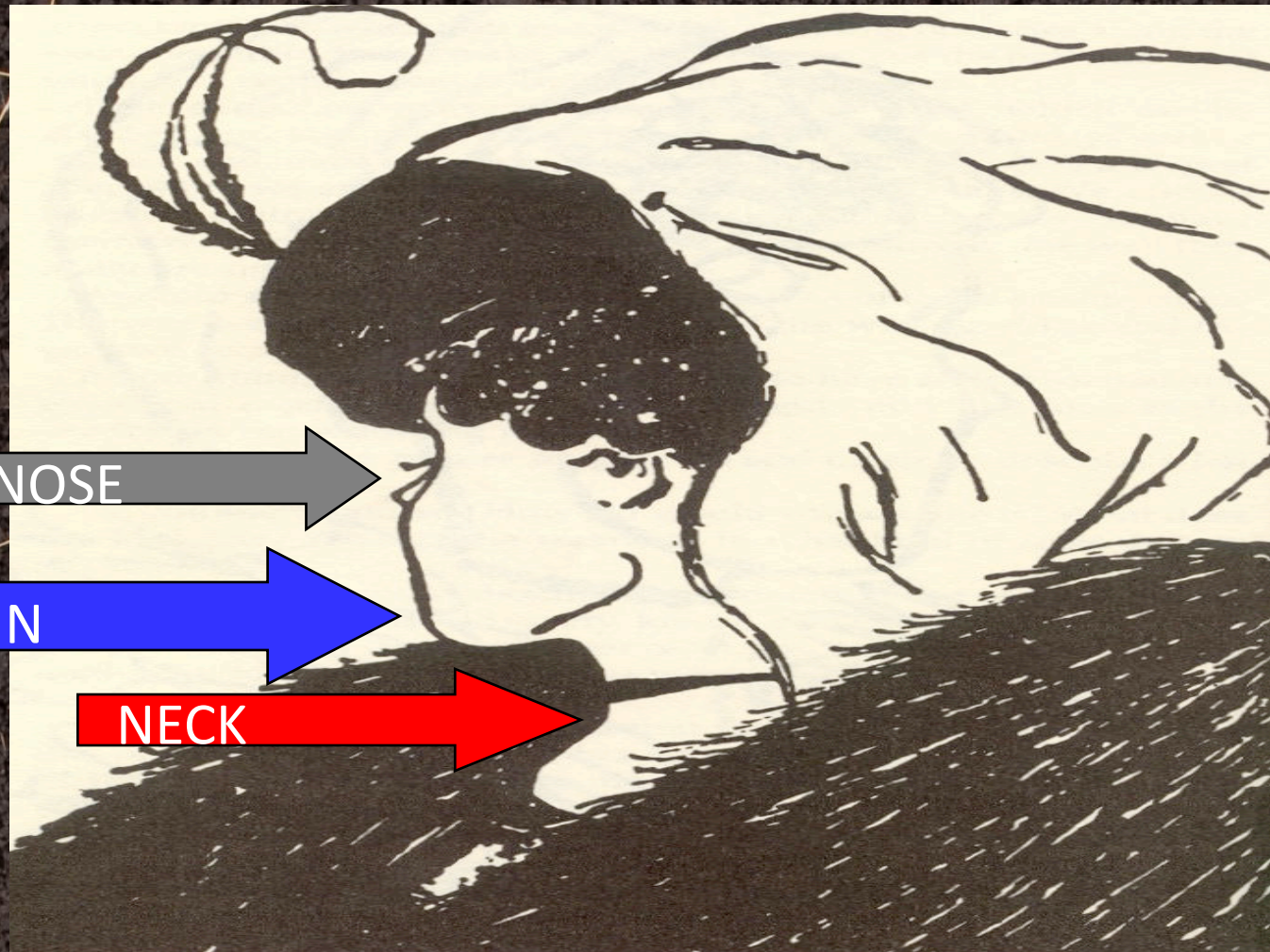


EYE

NOSE

MOUTH

Old Woman



NOSE

CHIN

NECK

Young Woman

Witnessing to a Hindu



Personal Example:

“I believe we all have the power to do what Jesus did.”

Hindu Grad Student, University of Texas at Austin

JESUS HAD A TWIN BROTHER

**“...it’s more likely
(that Jesus had
a twin brother)
than the idea that
God raised Jesus
from the dead...”**



**William Lane Craig vs Bart Ehrman
College of the Holy Cross,
Worcester, Massachusetts, United States – March 2006**

INCREASE YOUR CONNECTION!

Witnessing w/o
apologetics



Witnessing with
apologetics



NGIM



BOTTON LINE:

We need to add a certain kind of APOLOGETICS to our evangelism if we are going to be fruitful disciples of Christ in the culture we live in today.



Just as you
can climb
without ropes,
you can
witness without
using
apologetics,
but it may not
be advisable!



The Bottom Line:


**Adding apologetics can strengthen
your faith and embolden you witness!
TODAY!**

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

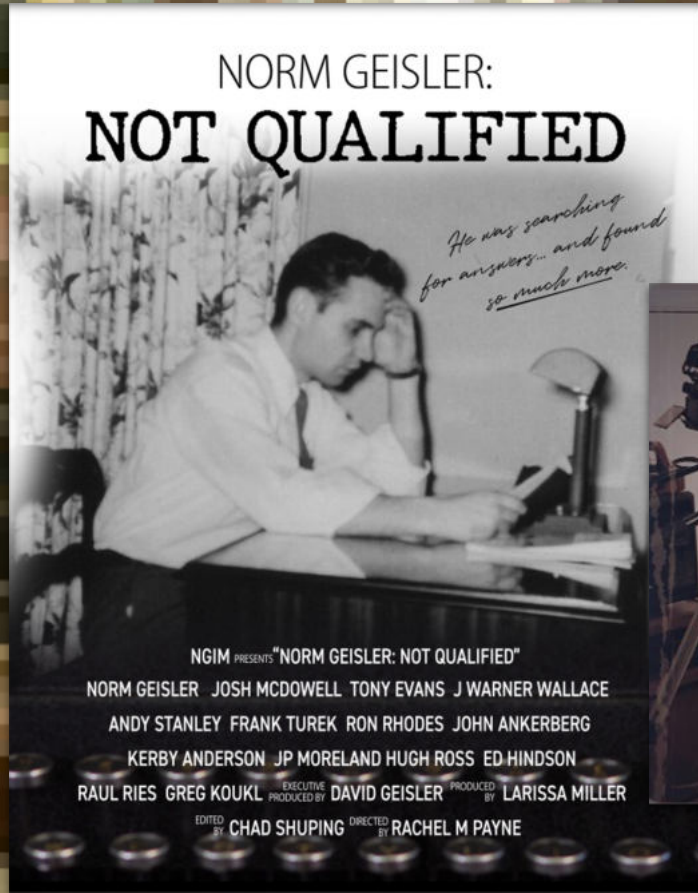
NOT QUALIFIED



Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey:

- 1. We have more common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**
- 2. That faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**
- 3. That there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet recognizing the important role of the Holy Spirit.**

Behind the scenes...



TAKE AWAYS

What do I feel unqualified to do that God may be calling me to do?

What do I need to learn that will help me to be a better witness for Jesus?

In what ways did God work in Norm Geisler's life that I should remember?

In what ways did the American church's disengagement with culture in the 60's through the 90's impact American values?

How did that impact what's happening today?

What do Christians need to do to better reach people today?



EFFECTIVE WITNESING TODAY...

- will compel us to use a conversational model that uses “lite” apologetics!



WHY SHOULD OUR APPROACH BE CONVERSATIONAL?

*“We live in a world in which people are **reluctant** to be told what is true. But they may be willing to see for themselves (as in a mirror) the **inadequacies** in what they believe by us asking them probing and thought-provoking questions.”*

Dr. David Geisler

NGIM



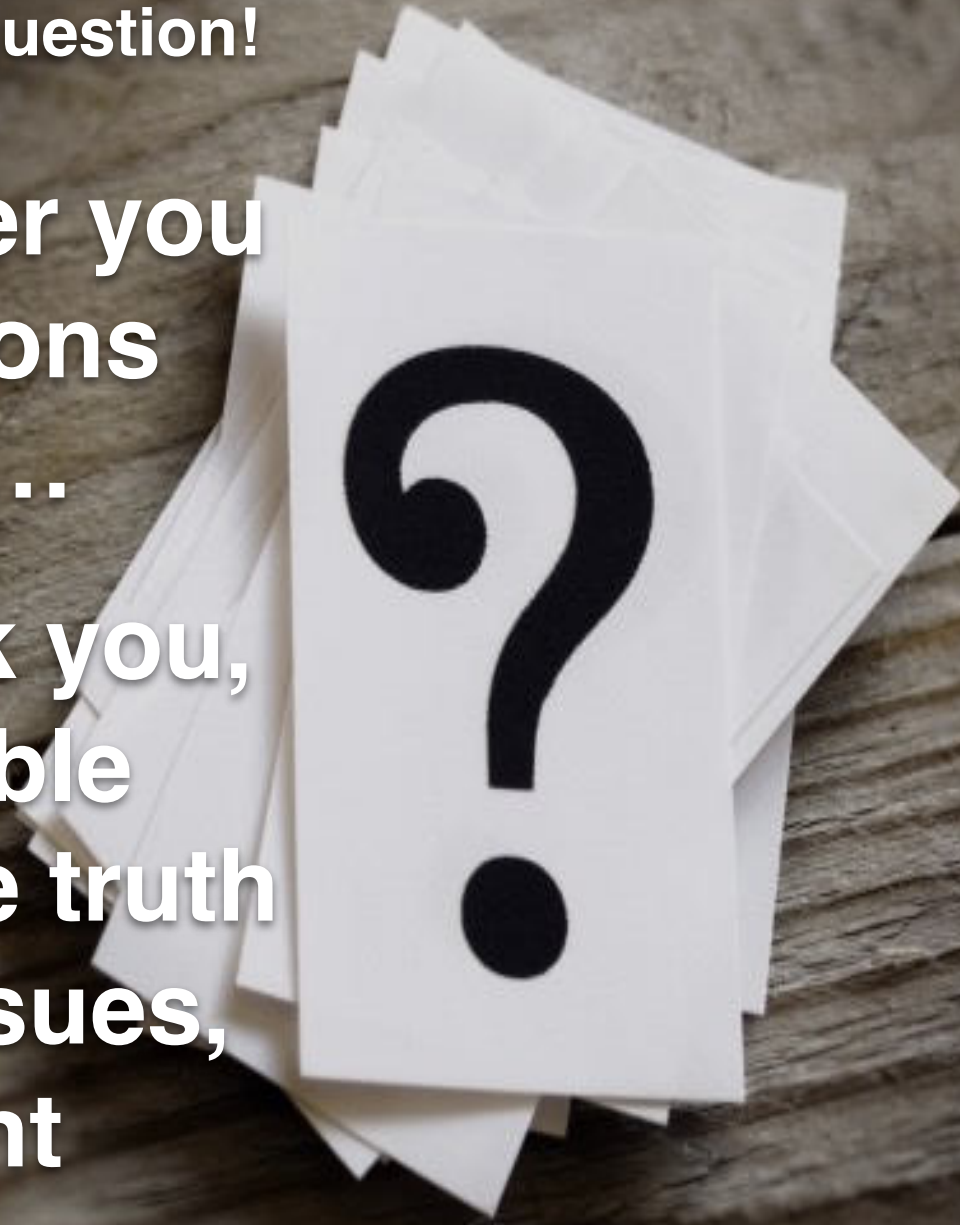
DAVID
GEISLER

When we evangelize, we need
to know where people are at.

Start with an exploratory question!

**“I believe I can offer you
some good reasons
to believe that...”**

**But first let me ask you,
“If it were possible
for you to know the truth
about religious issues,
would you want
to know it?”**





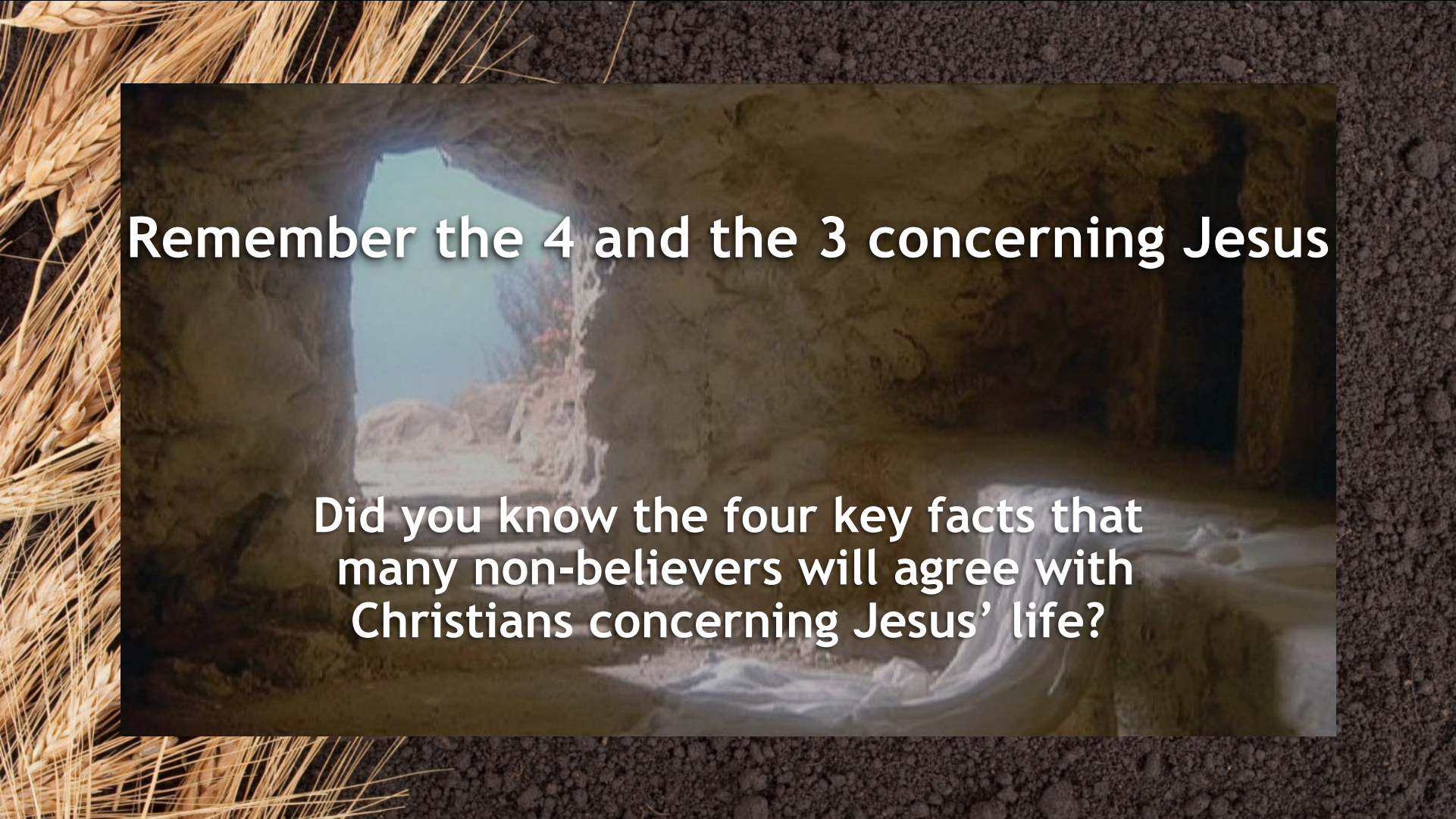
Example: Apologetic Lite Question

If you were coming to the end of your life and you met Jesus and other great religiously leaders.

If each of them suggested a different path, who's advice would you follow?

A photograph of a stone tomb entrance, likely the tomb of Jesus. The entrance is a rectangular opening in a rough-hewn stone wall. A yellowish-brown cloth is draped over the opening, tied at the ends. The scene is illuminated from the left, creating a bright glow and casting shadows. The background is dark and textured, possibly asphalt. On the left side, there are several stalks of wheat, some in focus and some blurred.

Wouldn't you follow the advice of the person who's been to the other side and come back to tell us about it?



Remember the 4 and the 3 concerning Jesus

**Did you know the four key facts that
many non-believers will agree with
Christians concerning Jesus' life?**



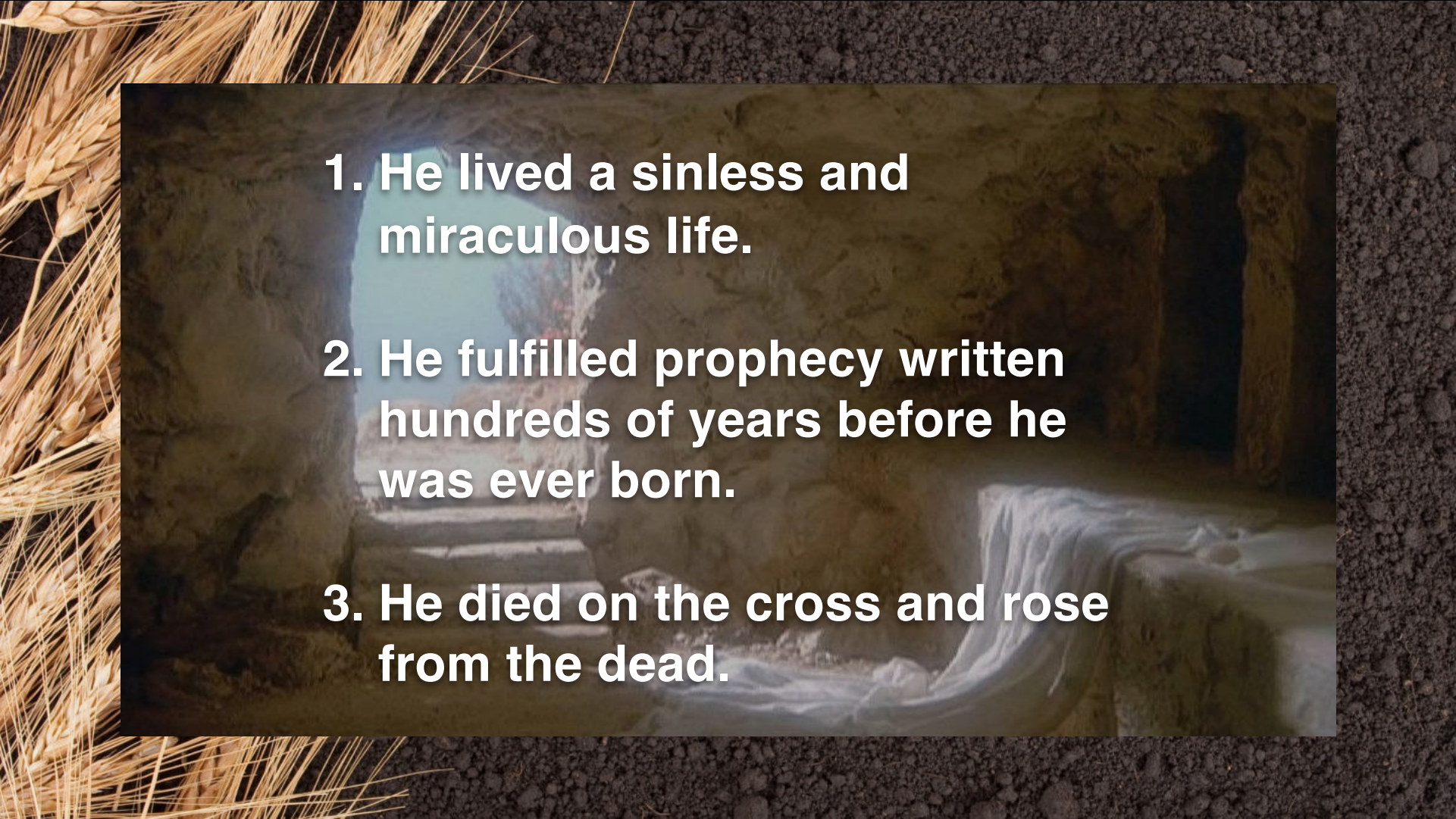
The Four Facts Are:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days latter.
3. Something happened to convince a large number of his disciples that he had resurrected from the dead.
4. His disciples (who knew him the best) were willing to die for their belief that Jesus appeared to them.



Did you know that...

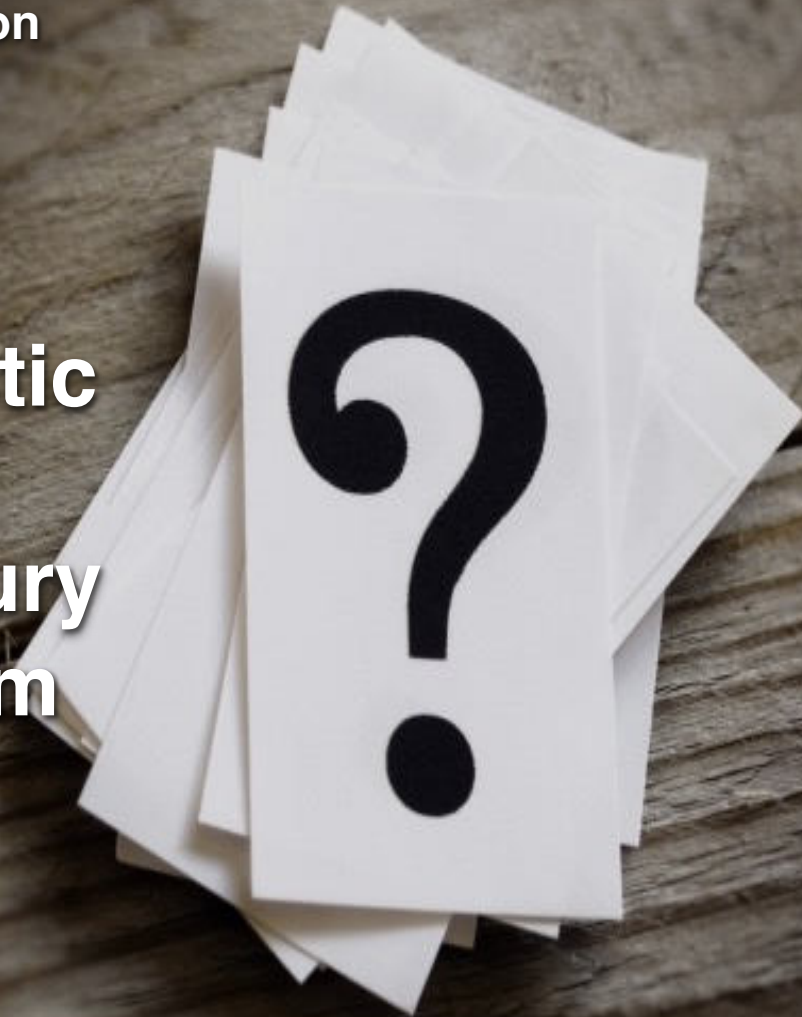
**...there are three
things that Jesus did to
prove that He was God!**

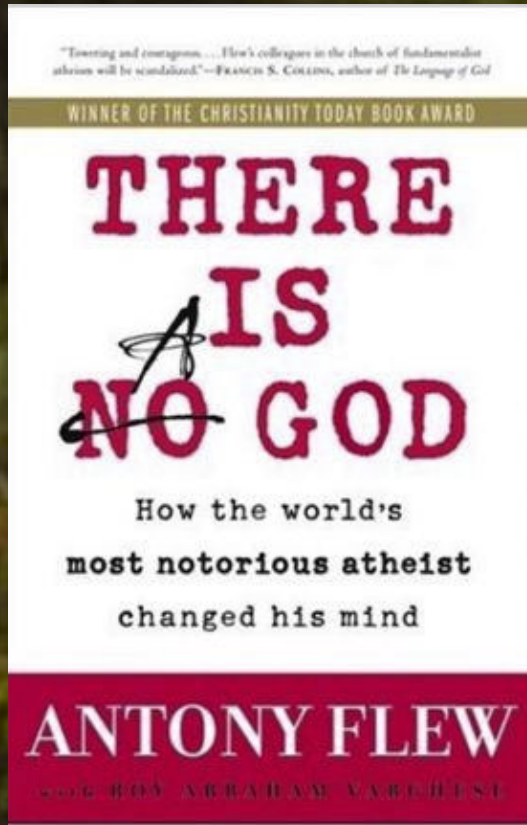
- 
- 1. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.**
 - 2. He fulfilled prophecy written hundreds of years before he was ever born.**
 - 3. He died on the cross and rose from the dead.**

Example: Apologetic Lite Question

**Did you know
that one of
the greatest atheistic
philosophers of
the twentieth century
gave up his atheism
before he died?**

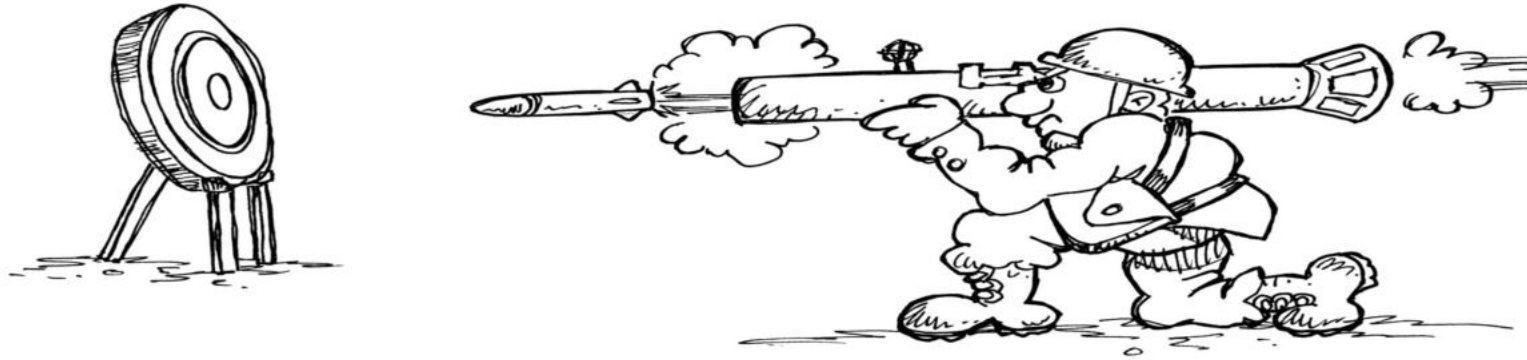
**Do you know
why he did this?**





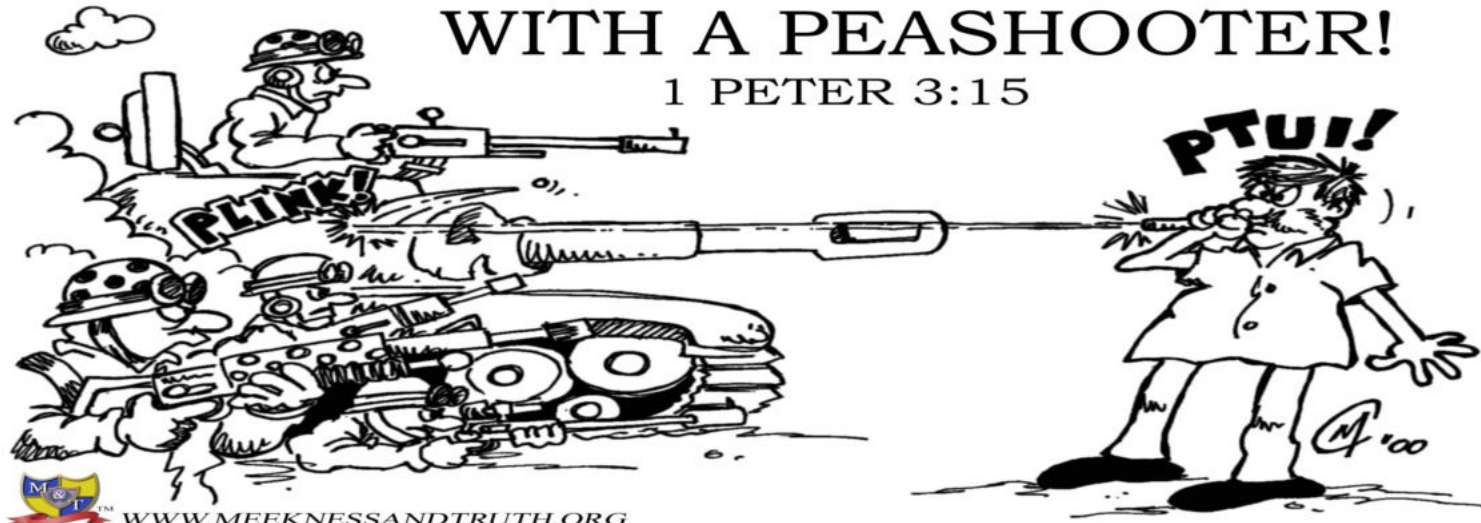
Antony Flew's Story

YOU DON'T GO TO TARGET PRACTICE
WITH A BAZOOKA!



BUT YOU DON'T GO TO WAR
WITH A PEASHOOTER!

1 PETER 3:15



Sometimes less is more!



INCREASE YOUR CONNECTION!

Witnessing w/o
apologetics



Witnessing with too
much apologetics



Witnessing with
lite apologetics



NGIM



Effective witnessing today begins by starting from the point of their interest and using “lite” apologetics conversationally.

**APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM
GO HAND IN HAND**



APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM



Some things just go
TOGETHER!

Understanding the Times We Live In!



We need to be like the men of Issachar and understand the times in which we live and therefore know what we should do.

See I Chronicles 12:32

**If we understand the times
we live in we will repackage
our approach in evangelism
and include something else!**




A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, round, yellow seed between the thumb and index finger. The hand is positioned above a dark, rich, textured soil. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the seed. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the soil.

We need to start with Pre-Evangelism!

“If *evangelism* is planting seeds of the Gospel, *pre-evangelism* is tilling the soil of their mind and heart helping them to be more willing to hear the truth.”

- Dr. David Geisler

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a mound of dark, rich, crumbly soil. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly more soil or a dark fabric. The lighting highlights the texture of the soil and the skin of the hand.

**But pre-evangelism
also involves helping
to change the nature
of the soil! Our job
is to help people to
CULTIVATE GOOD SOIL
in their lives so that
our seeds can be
more fruitful!
(Mark 4:8; Matt. 13:23).**

Pre-evangelism is important because people have many distortions!



Example: My wife's aunt



**How do I practice
pre-evangelism?**

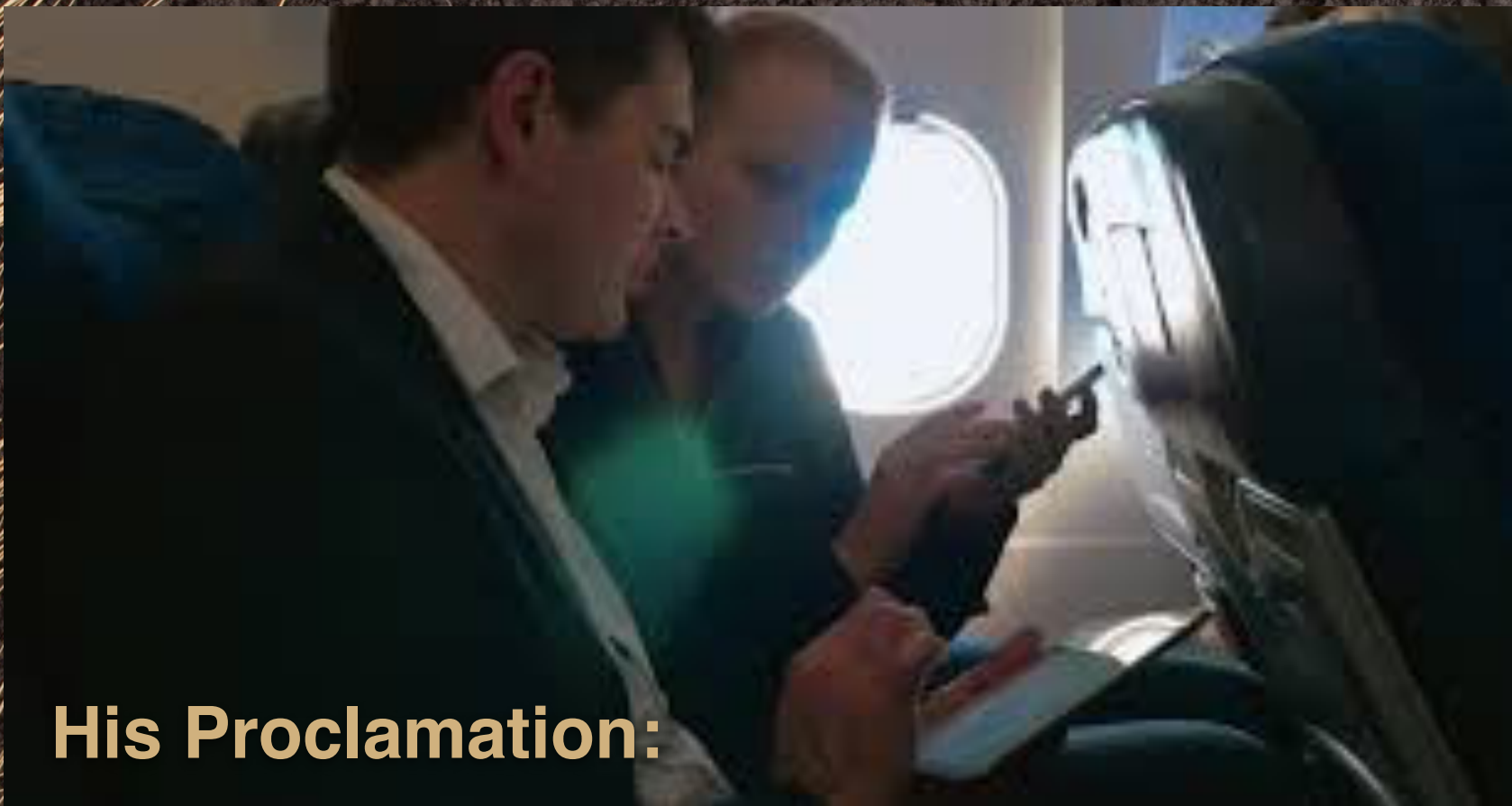


How do you reach those who don't think it matters what they believe?

What Does Pre-Evangelism Look Like?



A conversation with a professed atheist



His Proclamation:

**I think our country is
going in the wrong direction!**

A conversation with a professed atheist



His Response:

I think we need to get back to our founding forefather's values!

A conversation with a professed atheist



My Response:

Do you mean like Christian values?

**Moving from a general conversation
to a spiritual conversation!**



My Response:

**I believe that there is one question
that we must all come to some kind of
conclusion about before we die!**

Is there a Creator? And if so, am I accountable to this Creator in some way?





BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS

- 1. “I am accountable.”**
- 2. “I cannot measure up.”**
- 3. “I am a sinner.”**
- 4. “I need an outside source for help.”**
- 5. “I need what only Jesus can give.”**



My Driver in The Dominican Republic

**Did you hear what happened
in Vegas the other day?**

Your Response





My Response

What do you think is the source of this kind of evil?

**Turns out my driver was an
evangelical Christians for 25 years!**





Further Response (If needed)

Do you think it is possible that what it says in the Bible about mankind could possibly be true?

Do you realize that our problem is not just that we are capable of committing the same kind of crimes as Adolf Hitler or ISIS? Our problem is worse than that!



Further Response (If needed)

Our problem is that no matter how much good we do it is never going to be enough to get us off the hook in our problems with our Creator.

Do you realize that we are all accountable to our Creator in some way?



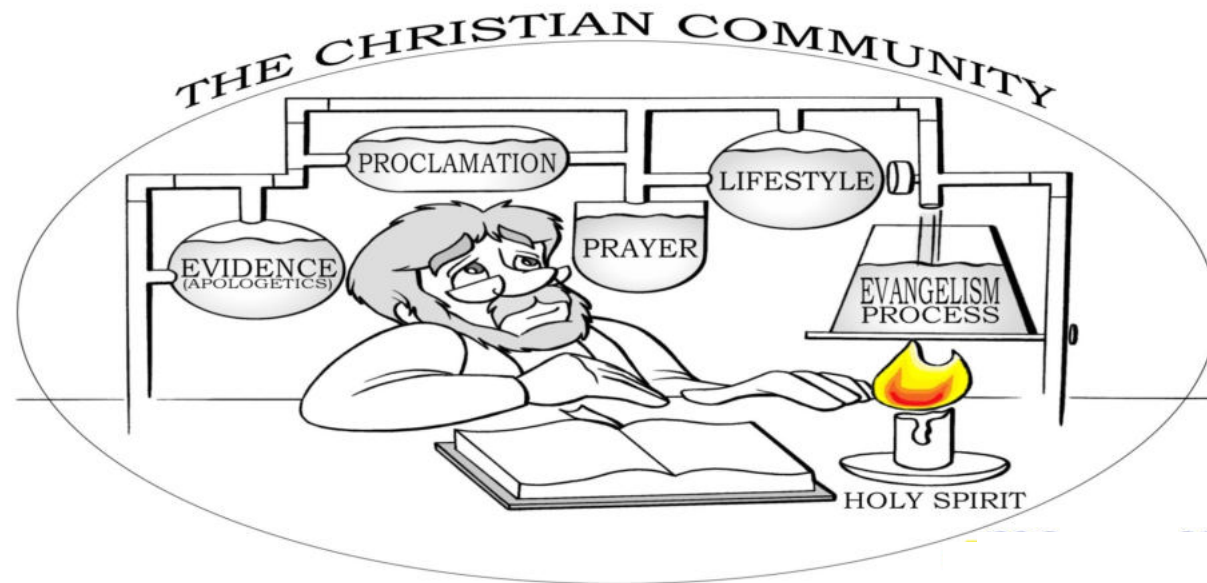
Tools



Talking with Others

The Vital Role of The Holy Spirit in Evangelism

A COMBINATIONAL APPROACH TO EVANGELISM



Conversational EVANGELISM



Remember We are Just the Instrument

“...God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27B ESV





What Do We Want to Trust
The Holy Spirit to do?

To empower us to speak in a way
that makes a difference.

ACTS 14:1

To empower us to live godly lives.

PHILIPPIANS 1:14



Remember that effective witnessing isn't just about pointing out the gaps in people's thinking because it is only the Holy Spirit that can help others to believe in Christ.

(Jn. 6:65; 1 Cor. 2:14; 12:3,).

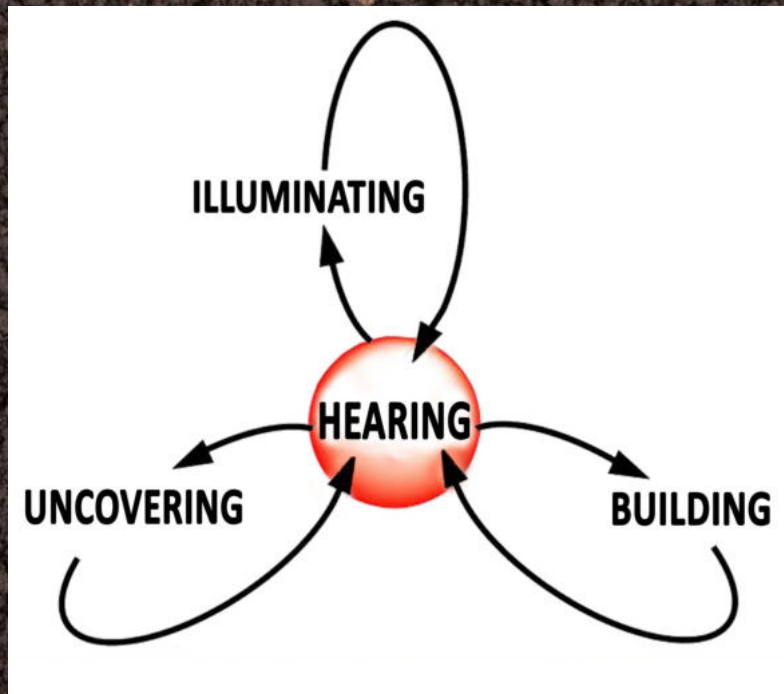




The Conversational Evangelism Model (In a nutshell)

We want to **LISTEN** to them, **LEARN** their stories, and **HEAR** the gaps (sour notes) in their beliefs. We can then help them **ILLUMINATE** these gaps by **ASKING QUESTIONS** that will **CLARIFY** their **BELIEFS** and **SURFACE UNCERTAINTY**. Then we want to **UNCOVER** the **REAL BARRIERS** that keep them from Christ and **BUILD A BRIDGE** to help them take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day (1 Corinthians 3:6).

4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder

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Conversational EVANGELISM

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Listen Carefully!

JAMES 1:19-20

My dear brothers, take note of this:
Everyone should be **quick to listen**,
slow to speak and slow to
become angry, for man's
anger does not bring
about the righteous
life that God desires.



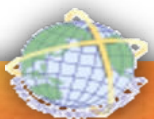
The Art of Listening

Helpful suggestion:

Reflect back what they are saying to you.

Example:

- *Now what I hear you saying is ...*
- *Tell me if I've heard you correctly. You are saying that ...*



HEARING CONVERSATIONS

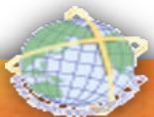


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Learn

Invest

Search



The Art of Listening



Learn their Story.



Conversational EVANGELISM

We are all on a spiritual journey!



There is a God shaped vacuum...

“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

Blaise Pascal

(French mathematician, philosopher, physicist)



Conversational EVANGELISM

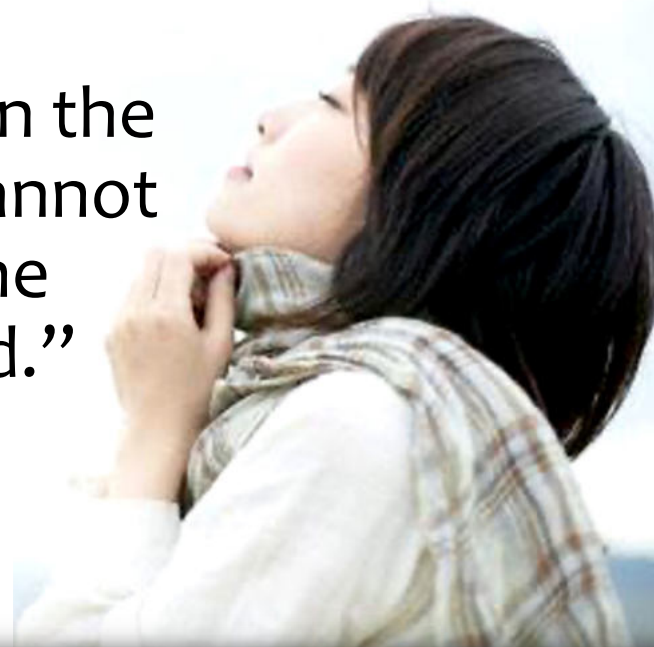


We Are All On A Spiritual Journey!

Solomon wrote that:

“He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end.”

ECCLESIAES 3:11



Conversational EVANGELISM

The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the wheat and the grain of the soil.

Steps to uncovering their STORY!

1. Ask questions about what is important to them.

“I’m curious what gives you the motivation to get up every morning other than getting a pay check or going to school?”





Steps to uncovering their STORY!

2. Ask questions about purpose and meaning.

Do you think it is possible that you and I were put here on this earth for some kind of purpose? If so, what do you think that was? If not, why do you think so?





Steps to uncovering their STORY!

Follow-up questions:

If you feel you have been placed here for a purpose, do you see yourself as being on some kind of spiritual journey?

Where do you think this journey is taking you?



The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the wheat and the grain of the soil.

Steps to uncovering their STORY!

3. Take note of the experiences that have shaped their beliefs and ask them about those experiences.



STEPS TO UNCOVERING THEIR STORY

STEP 3

Ask questions about their religious experiences.

STEP 2

Ask questions about purpose and meaning.

STEP 1

Ask questions to find out what's important to them.





Invest time in them.



**“a friend of tax collectors
and sinners!”**

Matthew 11:19, ESV



Search for gaps in their beliefs.



**Some Christians
have distortions
about witnessing.**

**“All we need
to do is pray
for people or
love people.”**





**“Why do you
need Jesus to
save you if you
can measure
up?”**

Dr. David Geisler



**“I guess I don’t
measure up.”**

Student at U.T. Austin

**HEAR the SOUR NOTES
people are singing to us!**



Conversational EVANGELISM

RELIGIOUS PLUARLISM



Pluralism



If all views are true

then nothing is true!

Pluralism



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of small, stylized Earth globes. Each globe is colored with blue oceans, green continents, and yellow landmasses. The globes are arranged in a grid-like pattern, slightly offset from each other.

Pluralism



*If you embrace
everything
you stand
for nothing!*

Don't Forget to to Really Listen



The fact is that some people hold to beliefs that are somewhat different than what their particular religion teaches!



Don't forget to focus on a few **sour notes**

Point out the most stand-out inconsistencies rather than pointing out all inconsistencies



ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS

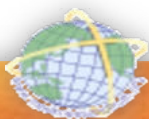


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Throw

Expose

Navigate





T
hrow light into the conversation.

Throw light into the conversation
by asking questions that clarify beliefs.



Asking clarifying
questions helps paint a
picture to help others see
themselves in a more
clearly light.



Questions that clarify beliefs

Ask them what do you mean by ...?

- I believe that Jesus died for us.
- I believe all religions are true.
- I'm not really religious.
- I believe in science not religion.
- The bible cannot be trusted.



Role Play

- **Find a person next to you to play this role play exercise. Each one of you will both play the role of the Christian and the non-believer.**
- **The person who is playing the role of the non-believer will read the statements I give you. The Christian talking to the non-believer must ask a clarifying questions in a way to shed greater light on their beliefs!**



Role Play

- For the next statement the person playing the role of the Christian will now play the role of the non-believer and repeat the process over (take turns playing the role of the Christian and non-believer).

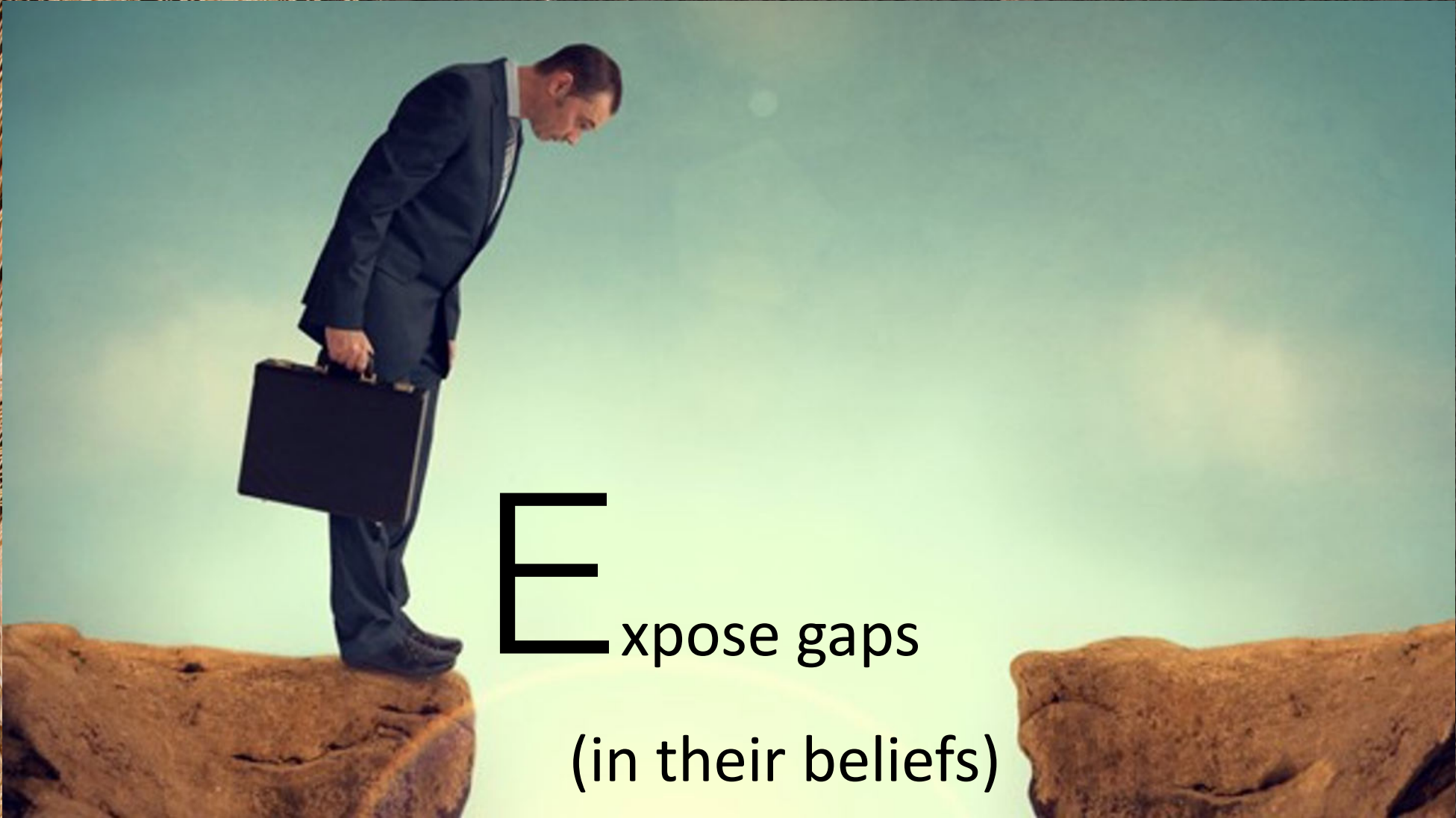


Questions that clarify beliefs

Ask them what do you mean by ...?

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- I believe in science not religion.
- The bible cannot be trusted.





Expose gaps
(in their beliefs)



Like an artist, asking questions helps paint a **picture** to help them see themselves in a clear light.



Expose gaps (in their beliefs) by asking questions that surface uncertainty and expose false beliefs.



How are we suppose to do this?

Begin with asking probing questions to get them to explore their beliefs.





Helpful Phrases

**I am curious
to know...?**

**Have you ever
considered...?**

Did you know...?

How is it possible...?

Would you agree...?



I am curious to know...?

**...what helps you to get
through these tough times?**



I am curious to know...?

**...has there ever been a time in
your church experience where
your relationship with Christ
became more meaningful to you?**

**Have you ever
consider...?**



**...the possibility that Jesus
was different than every
other religious leader that
ever lived?**

Did you know...?



**...the 4 and 3 concerning
Jesus?**

How is it possible...?



... to believe that there is no God and yet believe in such non-material things as truth, love, beauty, and goodness?

**The Right Questions Can Help Them
Better Face The Truth!**



Why Asking Questions is So Helpful?

“A person can close his ears to facts he does not want to hear, but if a pointed question causes him to form the answer in his own mind, he cannot escape the conclusion—because it’s a conclusion that he reached himself.”

David Reed, *Jehovah’s Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986) p. 113



ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS



Throw light...

Expose gaps...

Navigate by
using the 3 Ds



REMEMBER THE THREE D'S

Every question should keep in mind the 3 DS:

Doubt

Defensiveness

Desire




Conversational EVANGELISM

REMEMBER THE THREE D'S

Ask “Am I asking questions in a way that **surfaces** their **doubt** (**uncertainty**) about their own perspective, while at the same time **minimizes** their **defensiveness**, and yet **creates a** **desire** (**curiosity**) to want to hear more?”





**People may be reluctant
to get out of a leaky boat...**



**until you provide them a
better boat!**



Conversational EVANGELISM

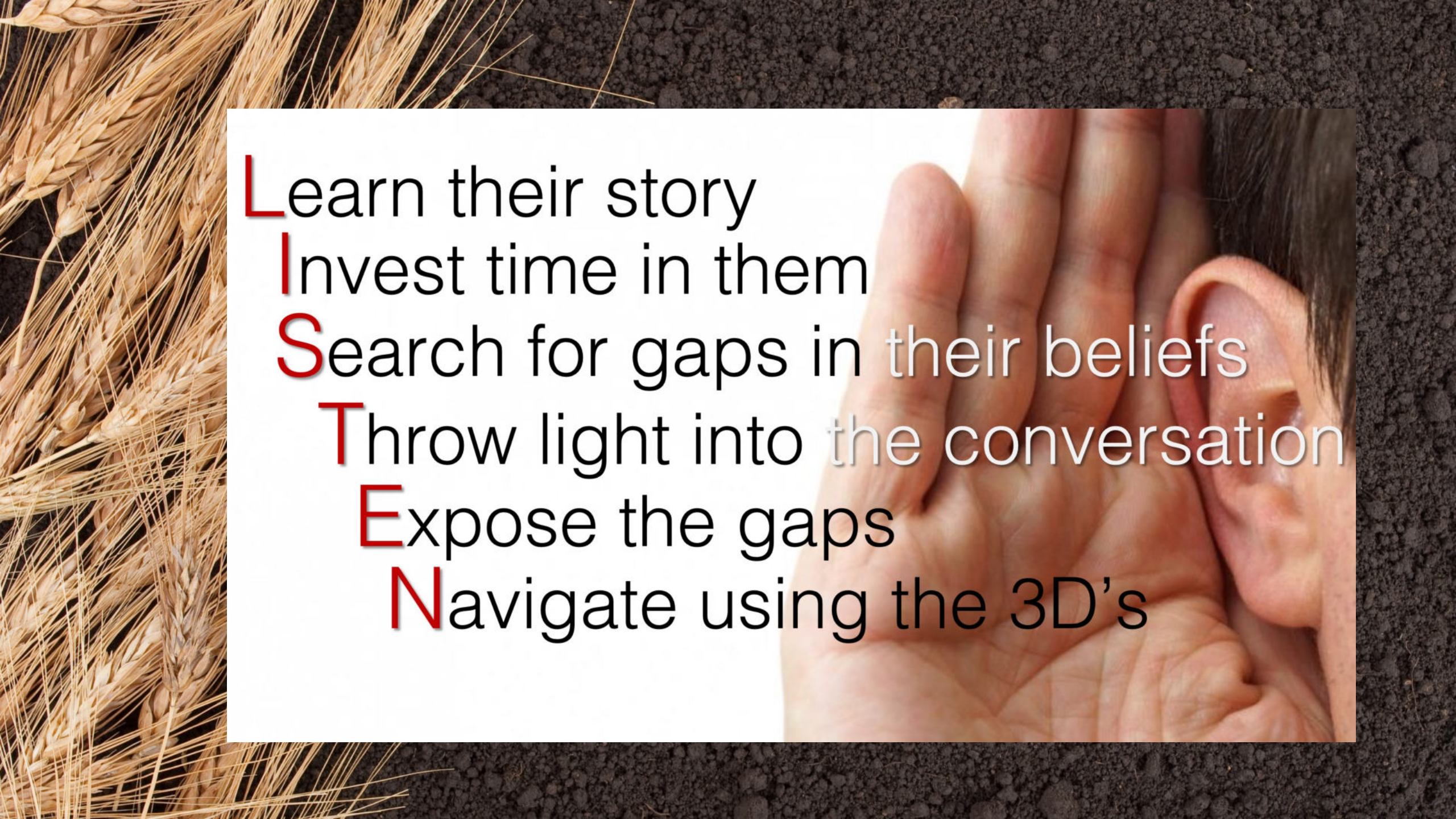
Questions that create a curiosity...



If you could travel back in time to any period and meet any person who is historically significant, who would you want to meet and why? (See conversationalanswers.com)

Out of all the problems we are facing today, what do you consider is our biggest problem and how do you think we can solve this problem?





Learn their story
Invest time in them
Search for gaps in their beliefs
Throw light into the conversation
Expose the gaps
Navigate using the 3D's



I need what only Jesus can give

I need an outside source for help

I am a sinner

I cannot measure up

I am accountable

Building a Bridge Using the Five Planks

Possible transition questions:

- **Do you ever get the feeling that our Creator meant for us to experience life in a better way than we are experiencing now?**
- **Can I explain to you more clearly what Christians believe and how those beliefs provide the kind of hope that some are looking for?**



A wooden walkway with a metal railing leads through a forest with yellow autumn leaves. The walkway is made of weathered wooden planks and is flanked by a dark metal railing with a wooden handrail. The trees are in full autumn foliage, with bright yellow leaves. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the length of the walkway.

The Five Planks

“I am accountable”

1st Plank

**Our Goal:
Help non-
believers
surface the
truth that
we are
accountable to
our Creator in
some way.**



We are accountable to our parents as children!



We are accountable to our teachers as children




We are accountable to our boss!



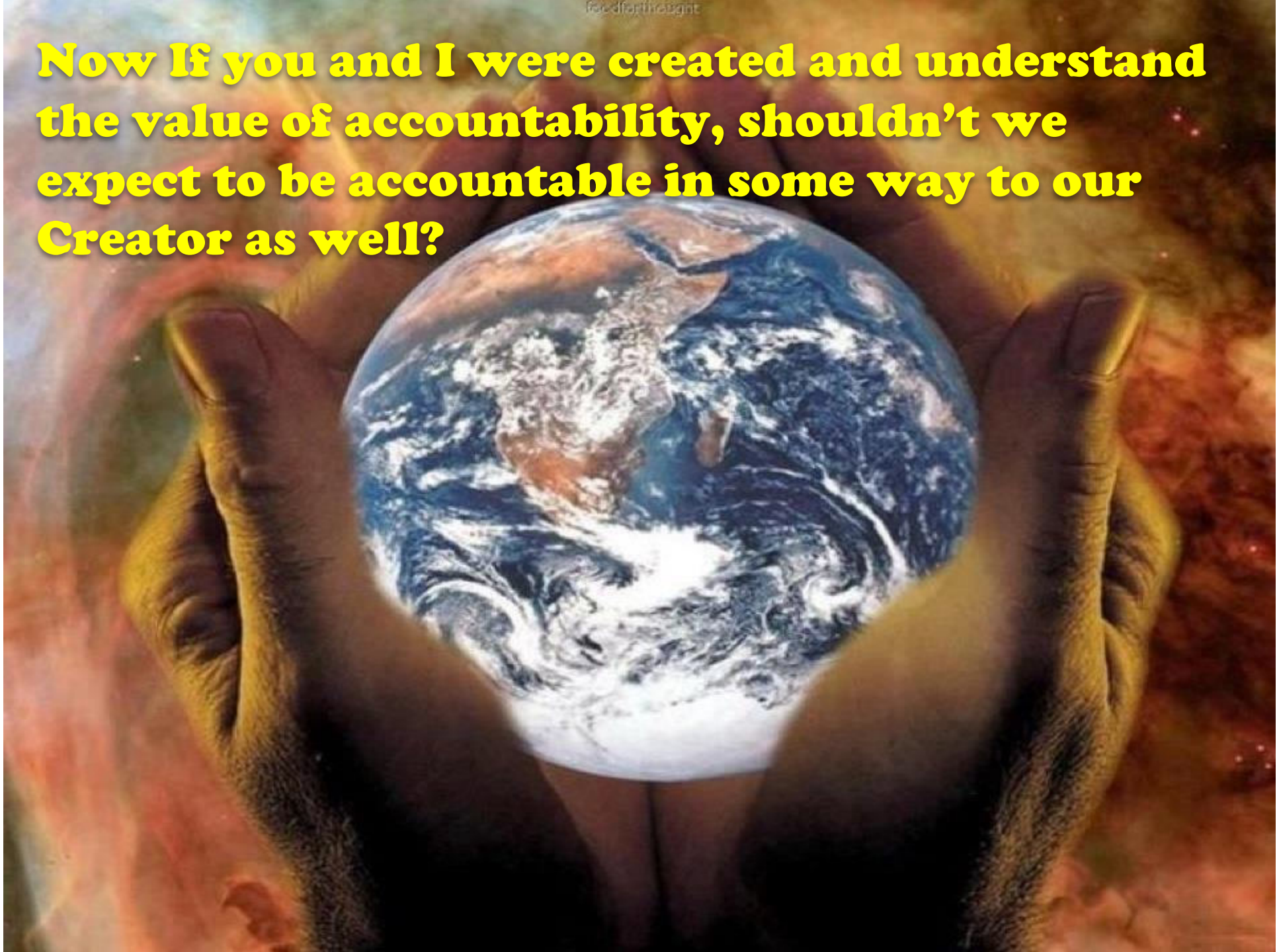
We are accountable to our government!





We hope there is some kind of accountability in the afterlife for the crimes of people like Adolf Hitler, Osama bin Laden, and ISIS.

Now If you and I were created and understand the value of accountability, shouldn't we expect to be accountable in some way to our Creator as well?



A wooden boardwalk with railings overlooking a dense forest. The boardwalk is made of light-colored wood and has a railing with vertical posts and horizontal rails. The forest is dense with green trees and foliage. The sky is overcast.

**“I cannot
measure up”
2nd Plank**

Our Goal:

You shall have no other gods before me

You shall not murder

**Help the non-believer surface
the truth that our problem is
not just that we don't measure
up to God's standards
according to the bible.**

(Is. 64:6; Matt. 5:48; Js. 2:10)

Honor your father and your mother

You shall not covet

**Our own
experience
teaches us also
that at times
we can't even
measure up
to our own
standards.**



PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- For example It bothers me that I am not a better _____ to my (children/brother/sister) or a better _____ to my (spouse/parents).

PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

- Now many of us feel this sense of alienation because of this separation from our Creator, but some of us may try to bring about greater reconciliation by doing good things to make up for our short comings.
- The problem is that no matter how much good we do...it is still not going to make a difference. *Let me explain what I mean by this by giving an illustration.*

PLANK TWO: I cannot measure up

Illustration.

Suppose you have done something to hurt your spouse, significant other, or good friend deeply. How can you reconcile with them? Can you do something very nice and sacrificial for their parents that will bring about a restored relationship? Obviously not.

- So why would we think that by doing good things for others that somehow that will help us in our relationship with our Creator?

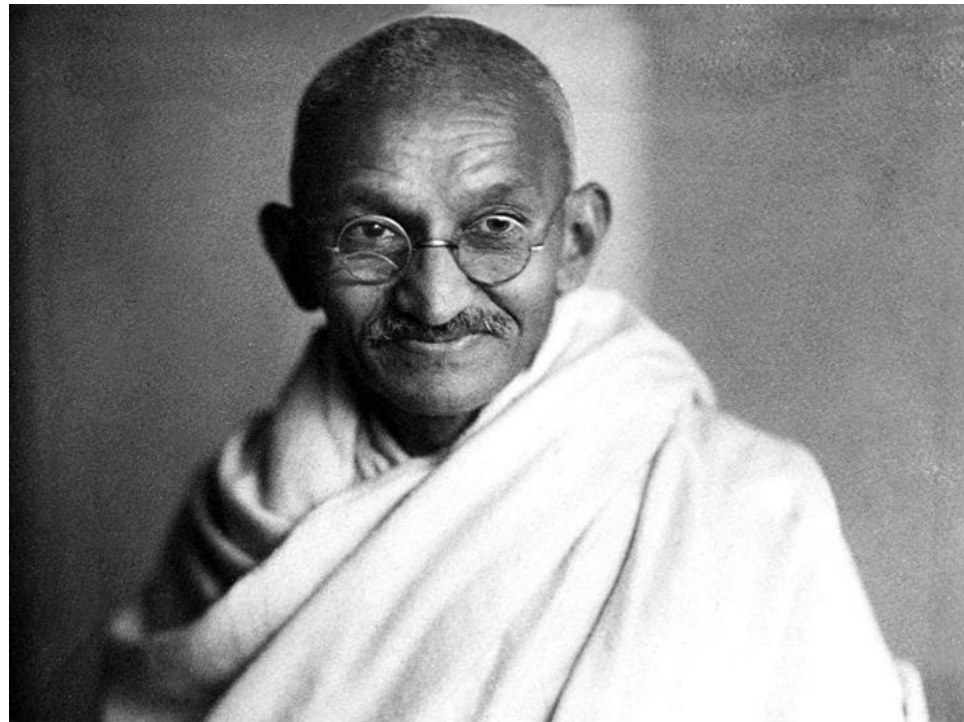
**Now if you and I have
a standard of what is
right and wrong and
we don't live up to it,
can you imagine that
God's standard might
be higher than our own?**

A photograph of a wooden bridge in a lush forest. The bridge has a curved wooden railing with decorative finials. The path leads through dense green foliage and tall trees. The text "I am a sinner" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font at the bottom of the image.

“I am a sinner”

3rd Plank

**We know that people like
Mother Teresa and
Gandhi did some
good things in their life.**

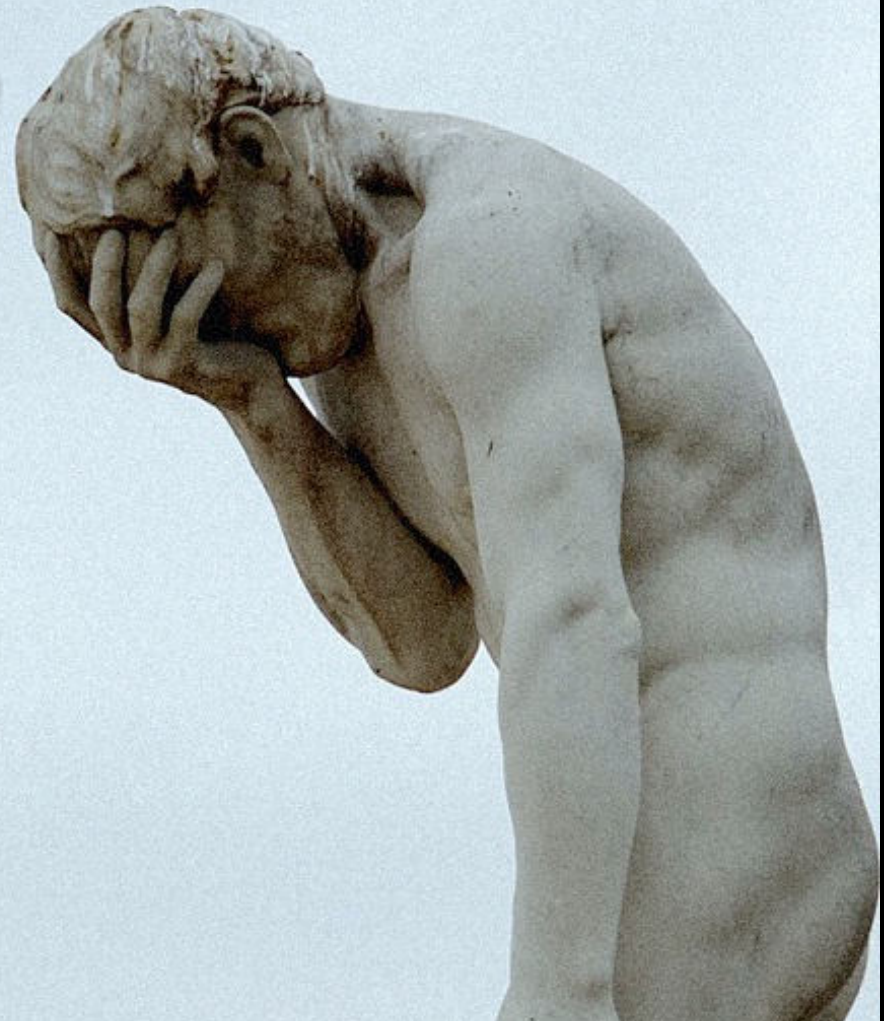


**But we also know others that
did some really evil things**



**“But I’ll be honest with
you...it’s not just the
evil in other people
that bothers me.
The evil in my own life
bothers me as well!
In fact, you don’t have
to look in the Bible
to see what God
says about me.
Just ask my wife!”**

Dr. David Geisler



PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- The Bible teaches that our rebellion against God has caused a separation between God and us.

(Rom. 6:23)

PLANK THREE: I am a sinner

- Now if our sins have to be judged, and we are not capable of changing our situation, what can we do?


Answer: We need to turn to an outside source.

(This then allows us to look for another way other than our own effort)

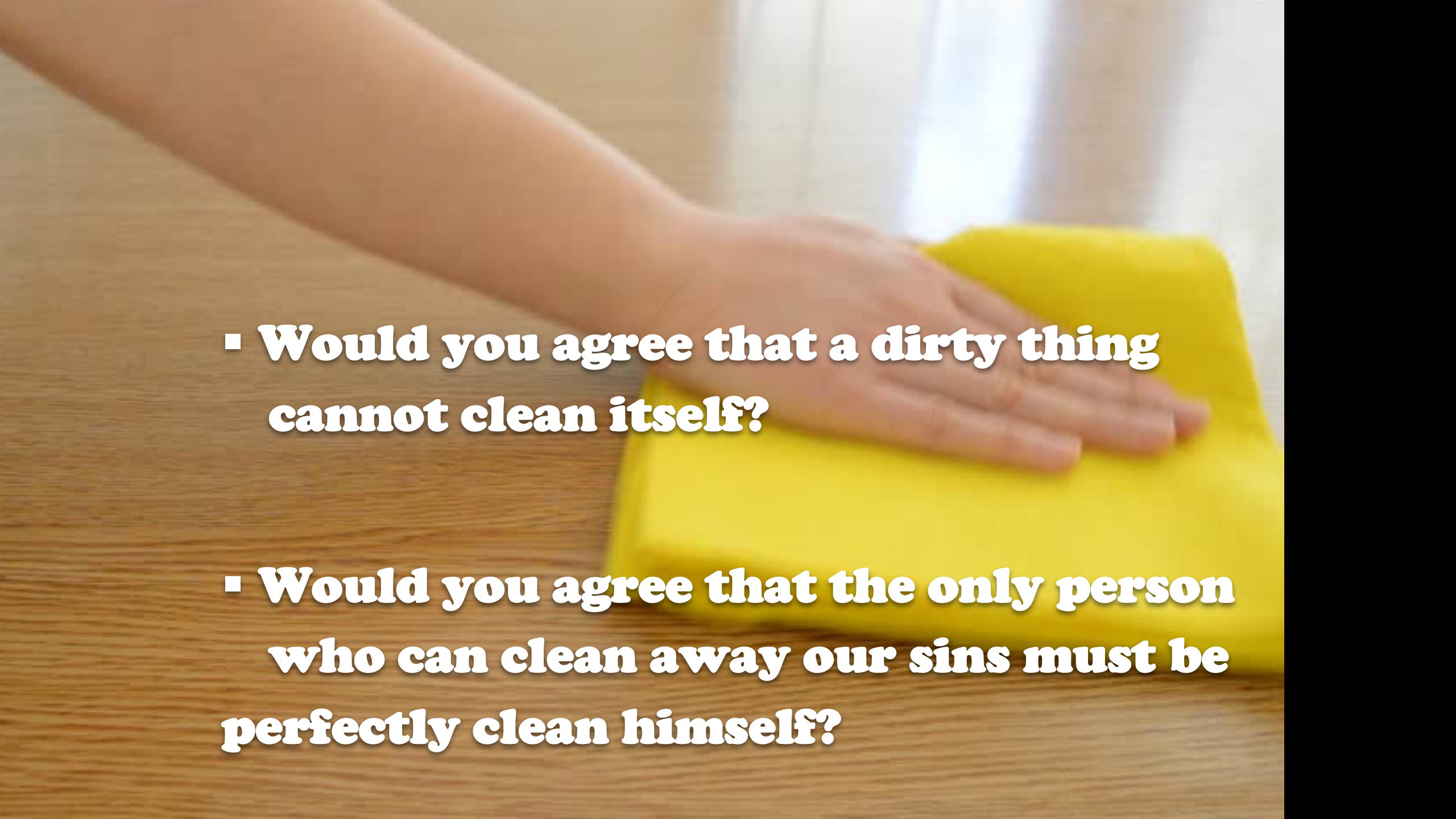
A long, straight wooden boardwalk with railings stretches into the distance, flanked by dense green trees. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and has a simple wooden railing on both sides. The trees are tall and thin, with green foliage. The lighting suggests a bright day, possibly late afternoon or early morning, with some light filtering through the trees.

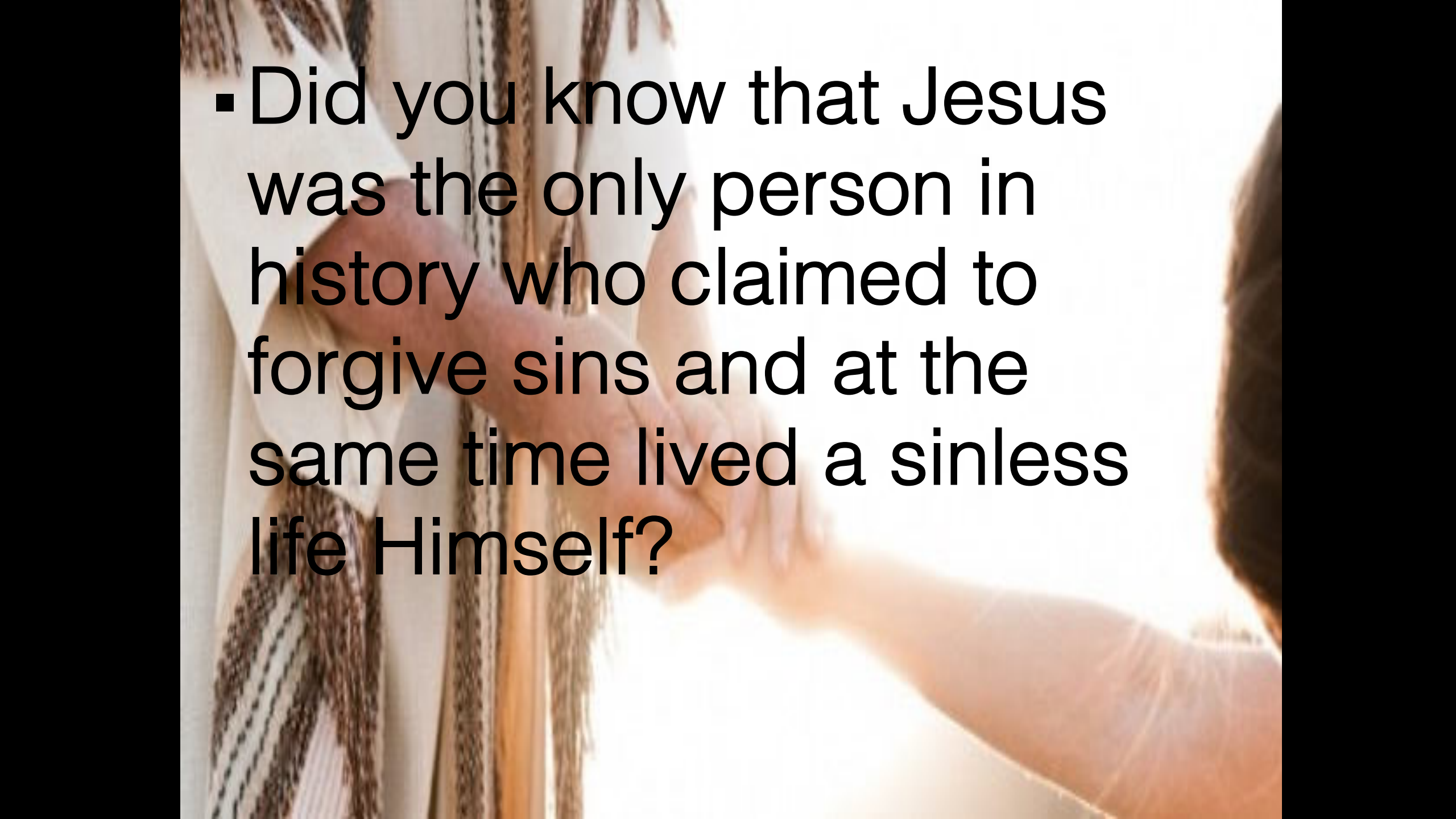
**“I need an outside
source for help”**

4th Plank

A close-up photograph of a person's hand wiping a light-colored wooden table surface with a bright yellow cloth. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, moving from right to left. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with white curtains. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**When you clean
a dirty table, do you use
a dirty or a clean cloth?**

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hand resting on a bright yellow rectangular cloth. The cloth is placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with white curtains. The lighting is soft and natural.
- **Would you agree that a dirty thing cannot clean itself?**
 - **Would you agree that the only person who can clean away our sins must be perfectly clean himself?**

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white robe with a brown sash, likely representing Jesus, holding hands with another person. The background is bright and out of focus.
- Did you know that Jesus was the only person in history who claimed to forgive sins and at the same time lived a sinless life Himself?



**“I need what only
Jesus Christ can
provide”
5th Plank**

Christ's Unique Life

- Not only was Jesus unique in living a sinless life, he also gave evidence that he had power over death. Do you know how he did this?

Answer: By rising from the dead!

Christ's Unique Life

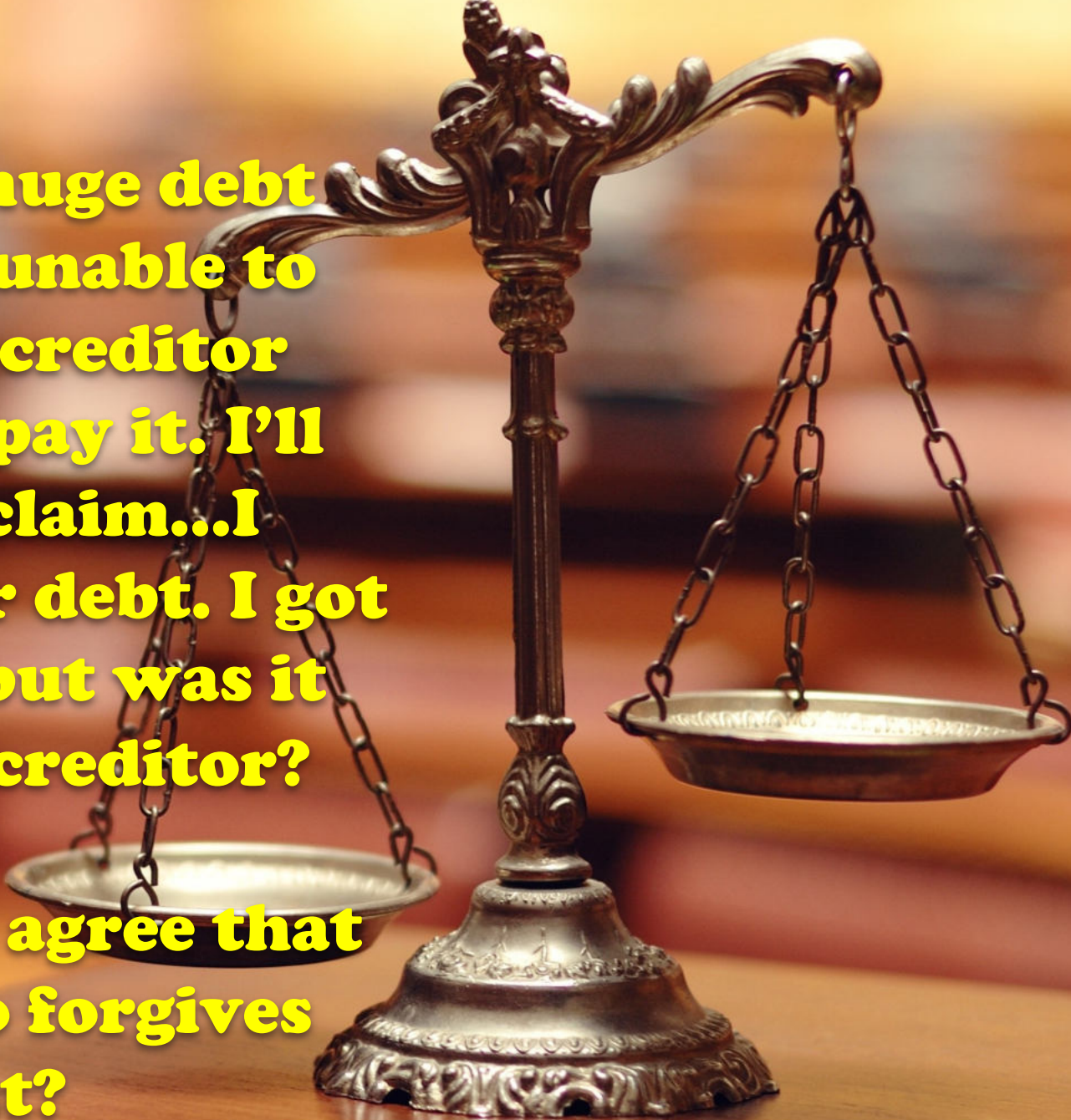
- Do you know any other person in history who died, and came back to life and told us what was on the other side?
- Do you know why it is so important for Christians that Jesus actually rose from the dead? (Rom. 8:11)

Christ's Unique Life

Answer:

Because that same power that raised Jesus from dead is available to me to live a transformed life!

Because of Jesus' power in my life, I can be a better _____ to my (children/brother/sister) and a better _____ to my spouse, (parents).

A pair of ornate brass scales of justice is positioned on the right side of the image. The scales have a decorative, scrolled top and two pans hanging from a central beam. The pans are empty. The scales are placed on a wooden surface. The background is a blurred wooden bookshelf filled with books.

▪ If I have a huge debt which I am unable to pay and my creditor says “don’t pay it. I’ll give up my claim...I forgive your debt. I got it for free, but was it free for my creditor?

▪ Would you agree that the one who forgives pays the cost?

- **So when God forgives who pays the cost?**
- **Did God pay the cost for us for the forgiveness of our sins?**
- ***How did God pay the cost?***
- **Can I suggest to you that Jesus paid the cost for the forgiveness of your sins.**
- **Invite them to take a step of faith and trust in Christ!**



A wooden suspension bridge with metal cables and railings spans across a river. The bridge is made of wooden planks and leads into a dense green forest. The water in the river is a clear, light blue-green color. The bridge is the central focus of the image, with the forest and river providing a natural backdrop.

“I am accountable”

1st Plank

“I cannot measure up”

2nd Plank

“I am a sinner”

3rd Plank

**“I need an outside
source for help”**

4th Plank

**“I need what only
Jesus can provide.”**

5th Plank

One on One Role Play



1. Have each person practice with another person giving these five points to a gospel presentation following the handout you were given. Use either the illustrations that instructor gave or come up with your own examples.
2. The person who plays the role of the non-believer can raise concerns at each point of the Five planks but try not to be too obnoxious.
3. After you get through this exercise talk about it and give some suggestions for how you would communicate this message even better next time.



Asking Thought Provoking Questions



One on One Role Play



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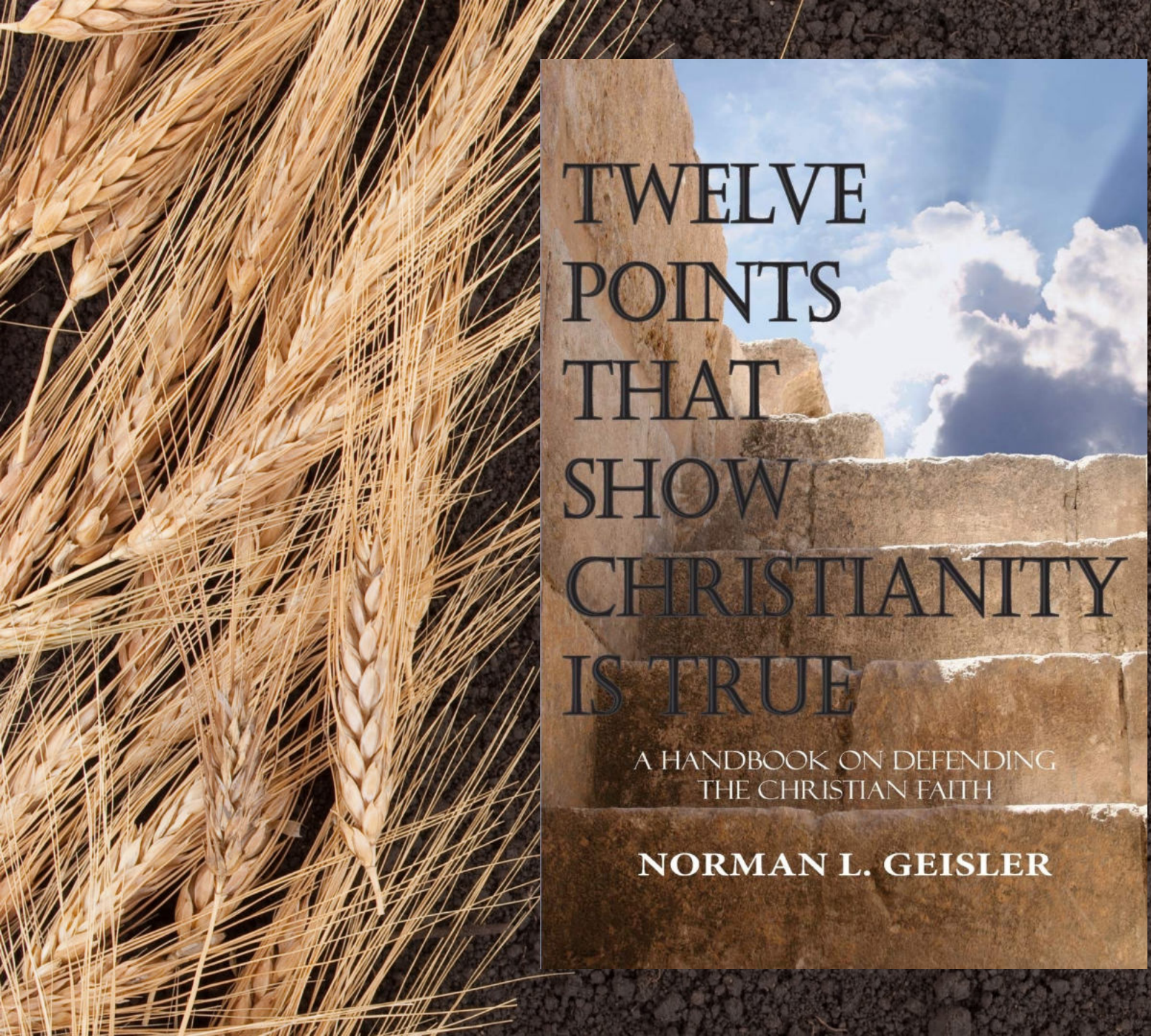
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A HANDBOOK ON DEFENDING
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NORMAN L. GEISLER



A
CERTAIN
KIND

Intentional Disciplemaking
That Redefines Success In Ministry

Edmund Chan
Foreword by Robert Coleman

TAKE AWAYS

What do I feel unqualified to do that God may be calling me to do?

What do I need to learn that will help me to be a better witness for Jesus?

In what ways did God work in Norm Geisler's life that I should remember?

In what ways did the American church's disengagement with culture in the 60's through the 90's impact American values?

How did that impact what's happening today?

What do Christians need to do to better reach people today?



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CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

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