

BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class
sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15
middle school yth room

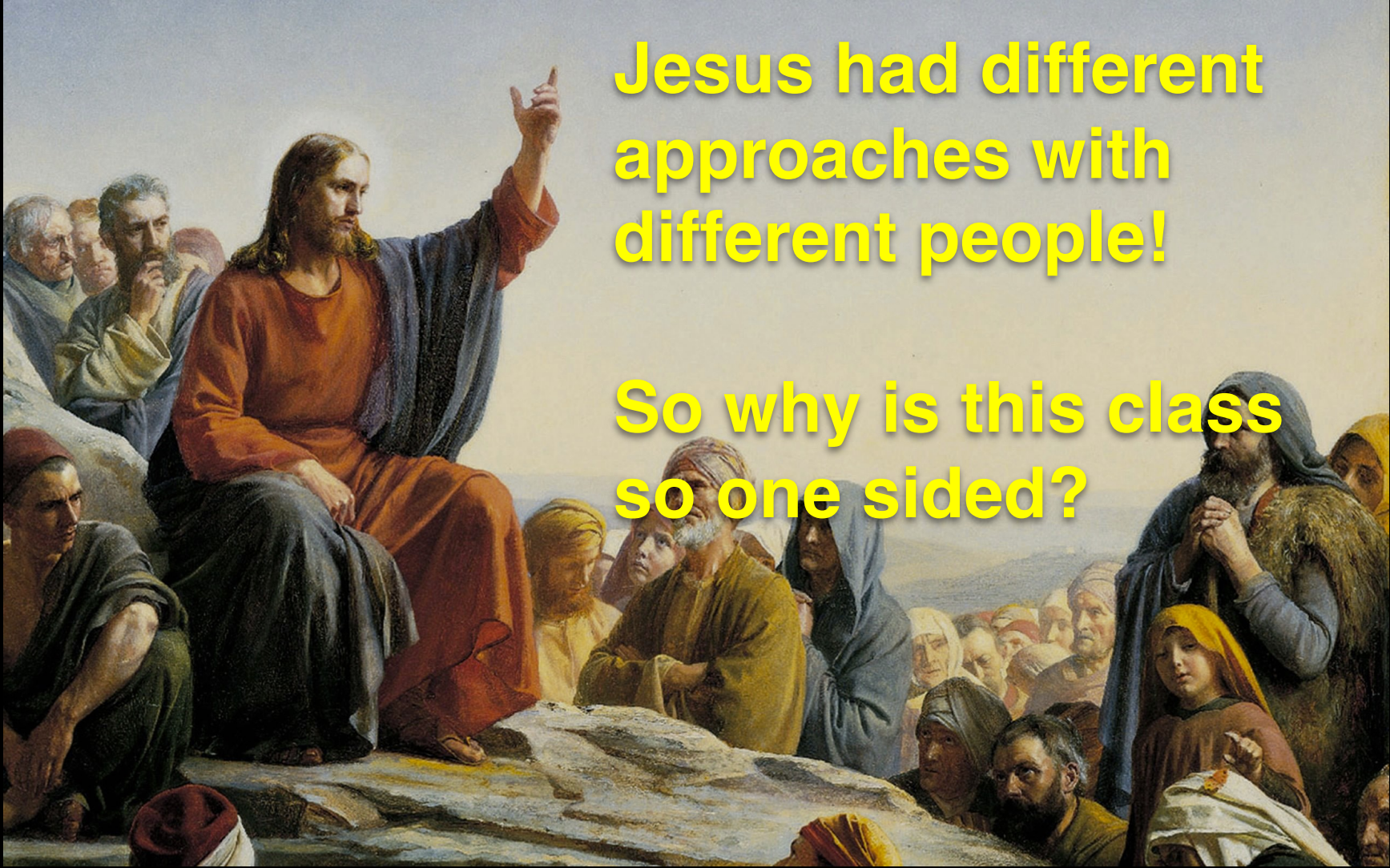


Conversations That Matter: Recapturing Our Culture for Christ

Dr. David Geisler







Jesus had different approaches with different people!

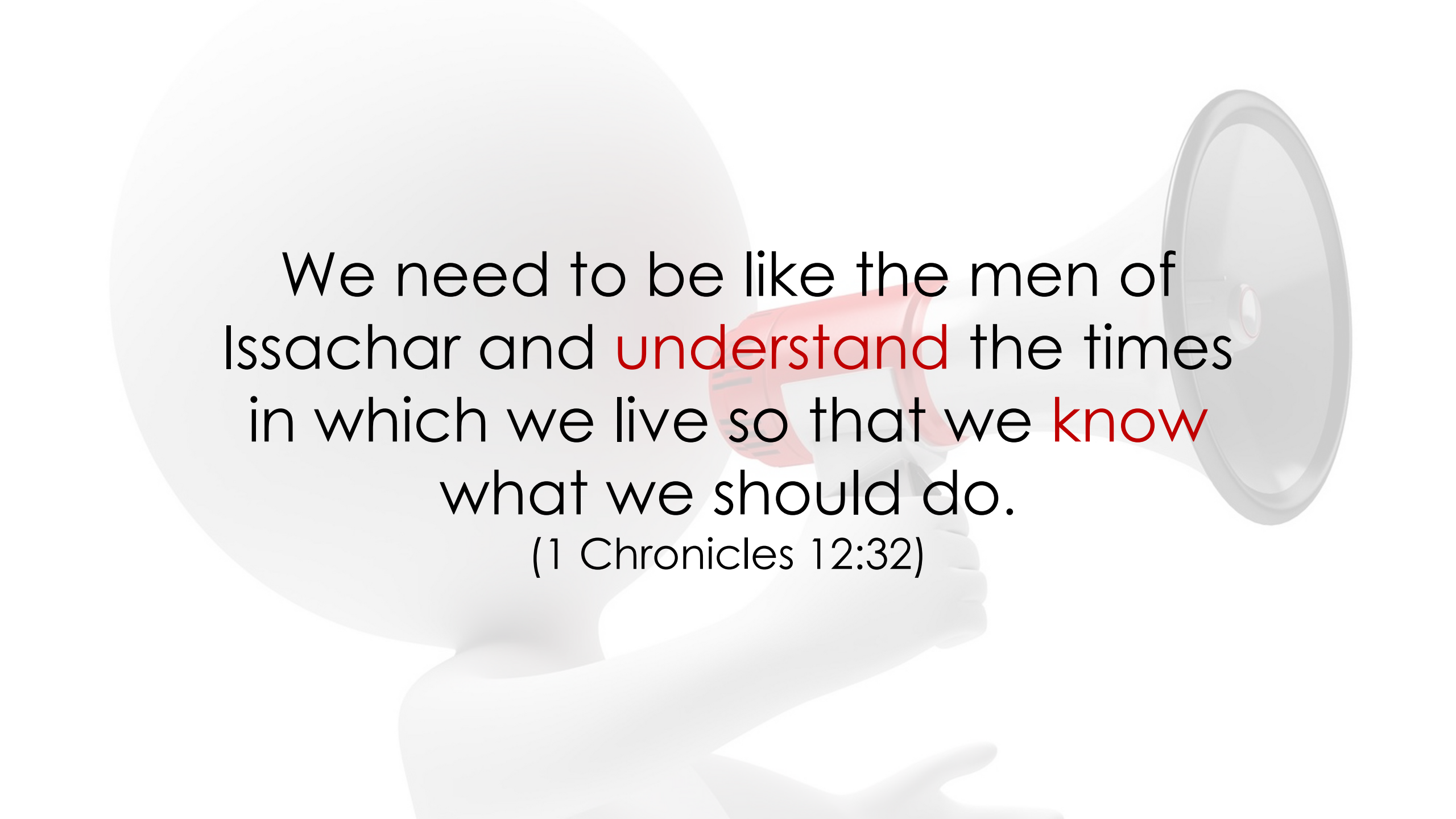
So why is this class so one sided?

**People seem to know
how to use a 2 x 4
approach to
Witnessing!**




Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious , seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Col. 4:5 ESV

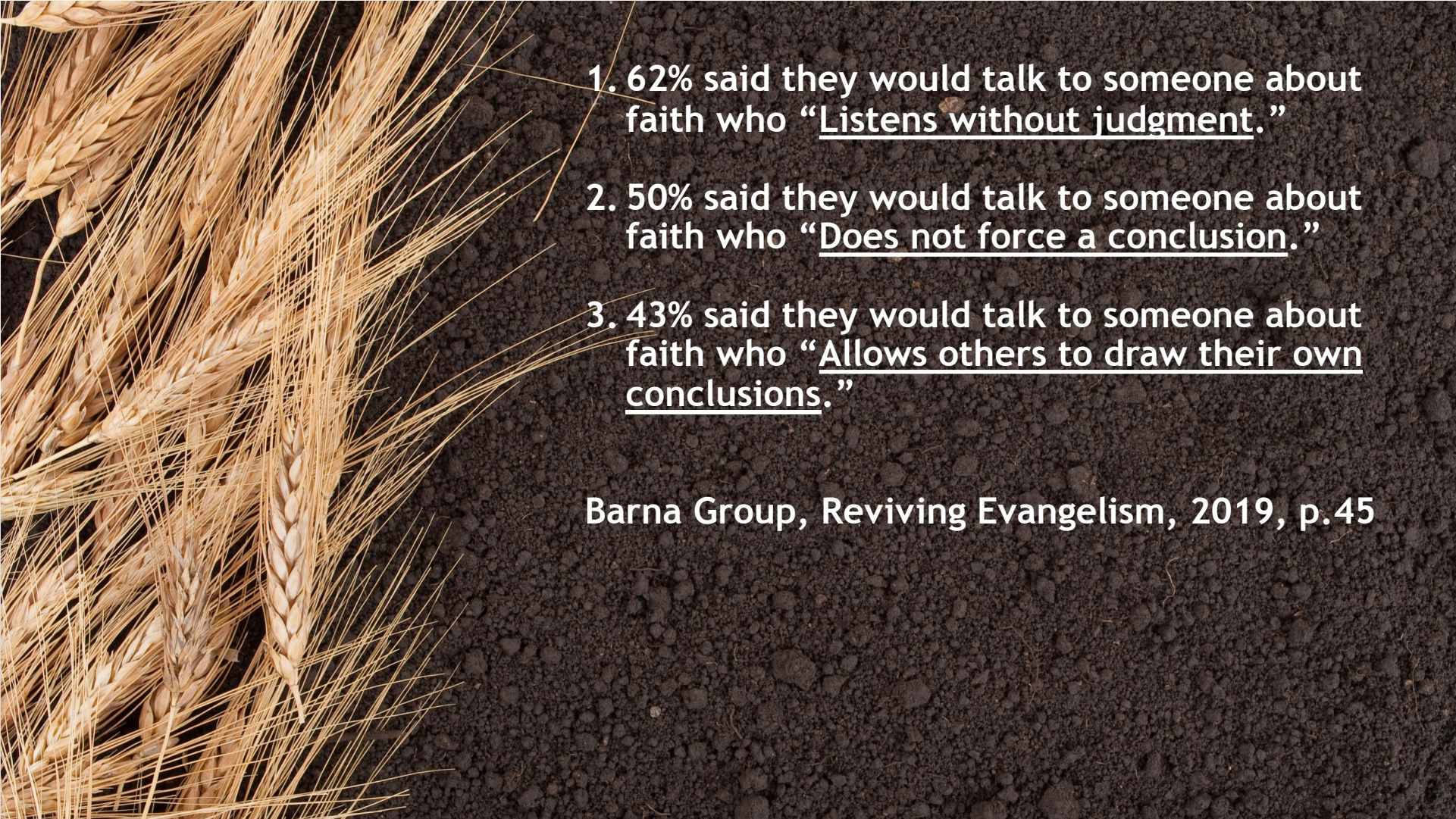


We need to be like the men of
Issachar and **understand** the times
in which we live so that we **know**
what we should do.

(1 Chronicles 12:32)

The image features a close-up of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, rich, and crumbly soil. The wheat is positioned on the left side of the frame. In the background, a faint, light-colored world map is visible, showing the outlines of continents. The overall composition is simple and evokes a sense of growth and harvest.

In 2019 the Barna Group asked 1,001 non-practicing Christians about the “qualities... they value in a person with whom they would talk about spiritual matters” and presented the following results:

- 
1. 62% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Listens without judgment.”
 2. 50% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Does not force a conclusion.”
 3. 43% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Allows others to draw their own conclusions.”

Barna Group, Reviving Evangelism, 2019, p.45

A close-up portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses, a white collared shirt, a blue and white striped tie, and a dark suit jacket. A bright yellow rectangular sticky note is stuck to his forehead, partially covering his eyes. The text on the sticky note is written in black, uppercase, sans-serif font.

KEEP IN MIND

**What should we
conclude from
this research?**



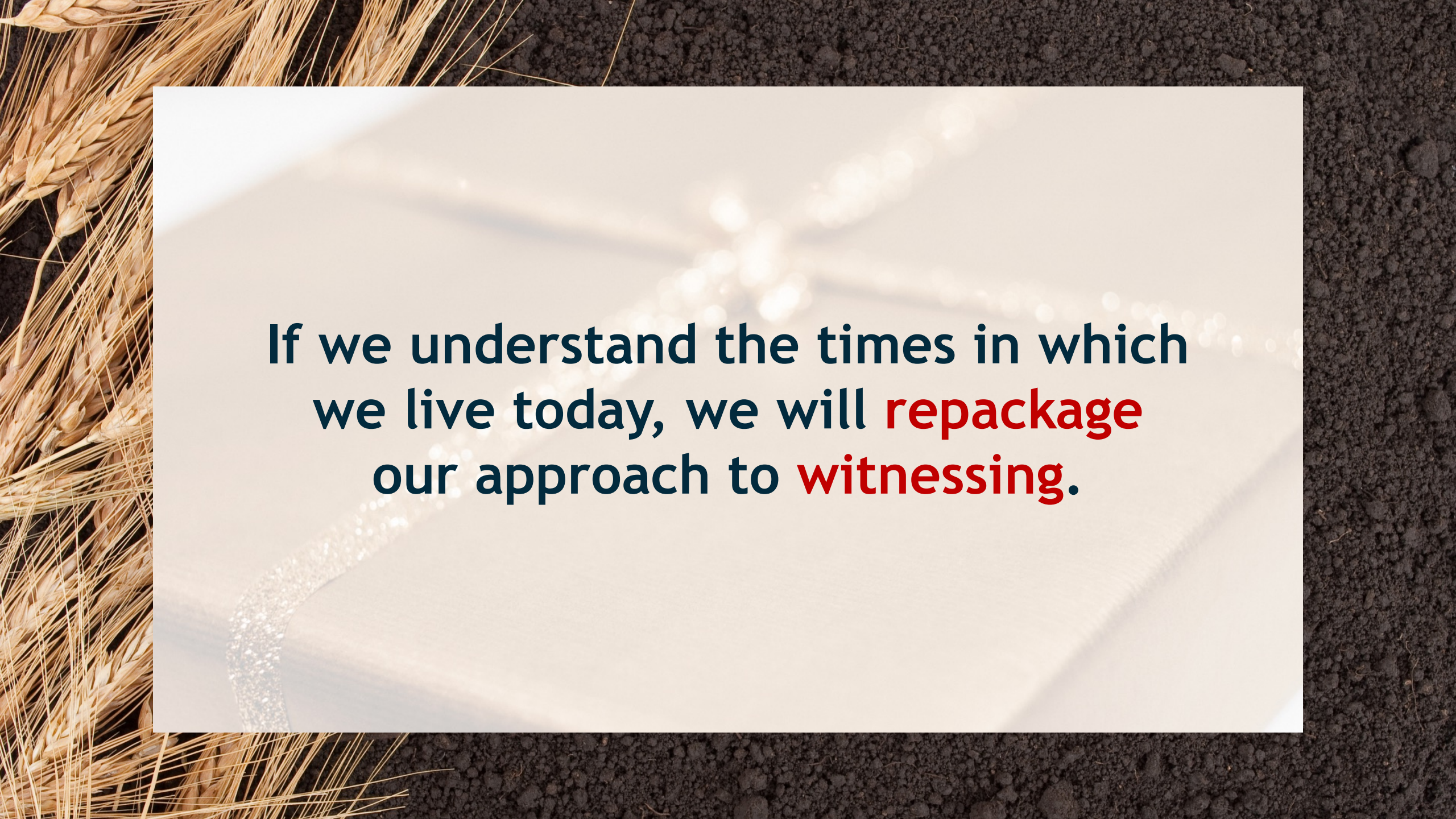
**NEW
PARADIGM
AHEAD**

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



WHAT DO WE NEED TO REMEMBER ABOUT THIS NEW APPROACH?

“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



If we understand the times in which we live today, we will **repackage** our approach to **witnessing**.



EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

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



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





EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- **will compel us to use an approach that is conversational!**



WHY SHOULD OUR APPROACH BE CONVERSATIONAL?

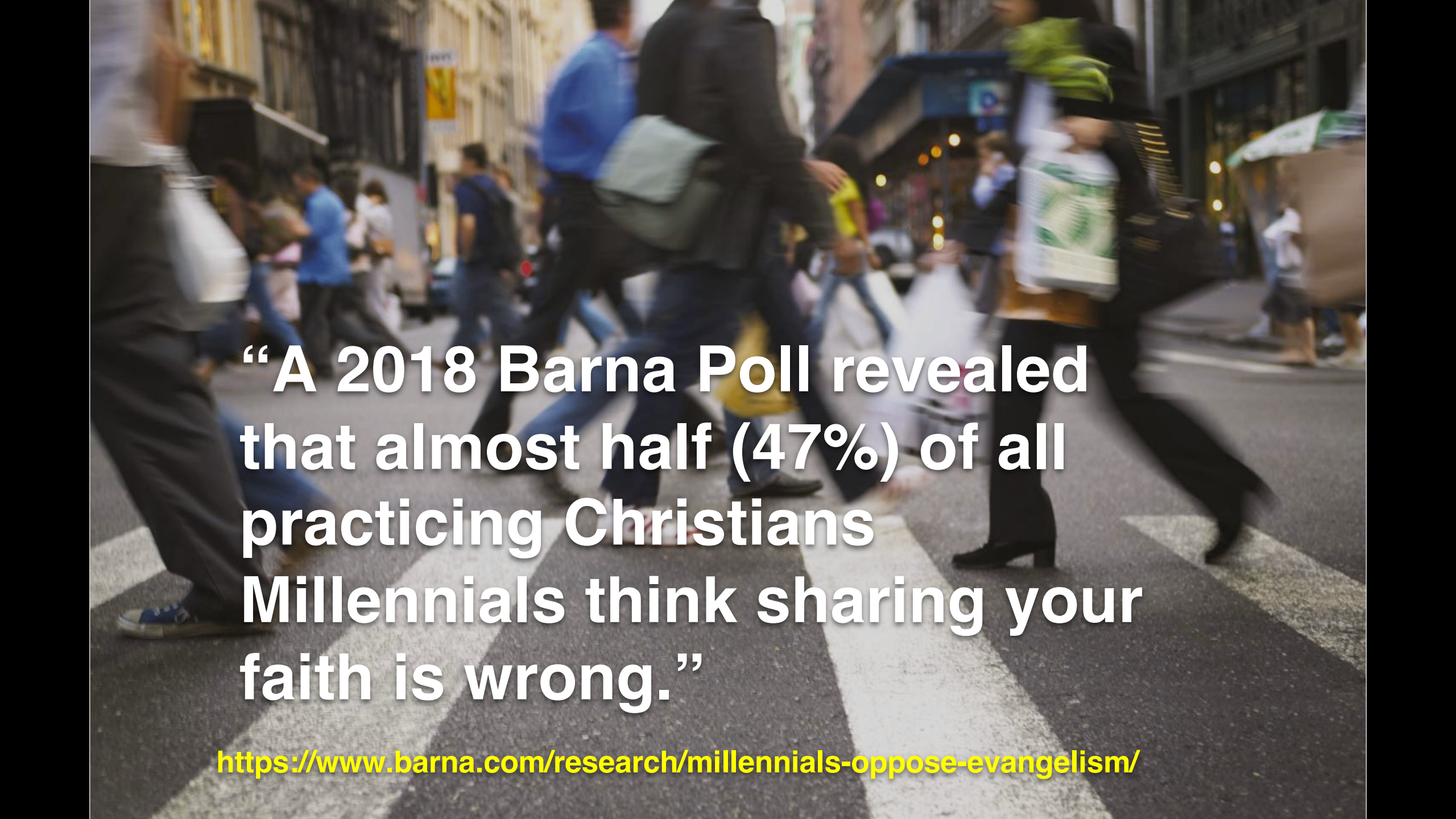
*“We live in a world in which people are **reluctant** to be told what is true. But they may be willing to see for themselves (as in a mirror) the **inadequacies** in what they believe by us asking them probing and thought-provoking questions.”*

Dr. David Geisler



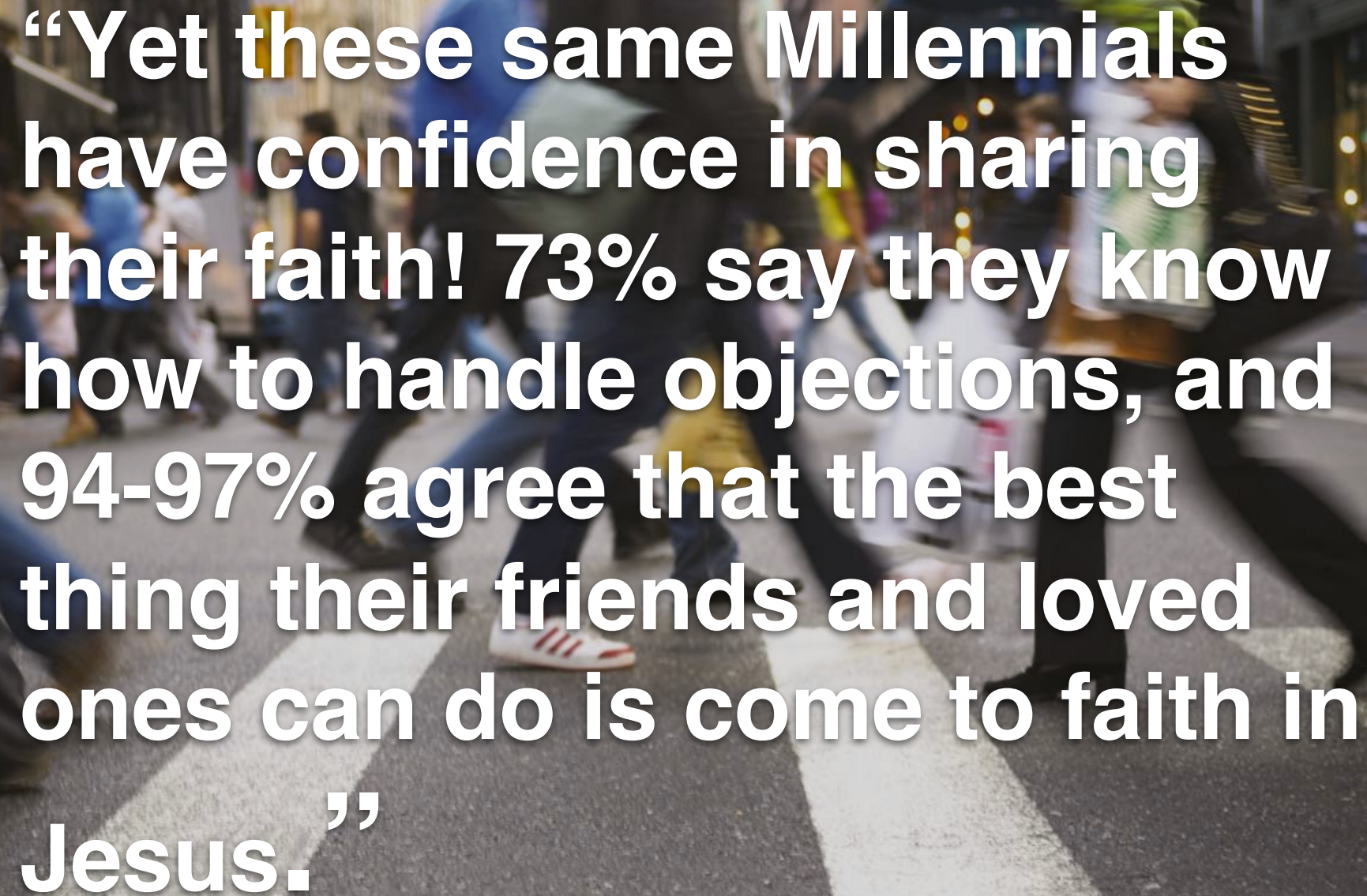
EFFECTIVE WITNESING TODAY...

- will compel us to use an apologetic model that uses “lite” apologetics!



“A 2018 Barna Poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christians Millennials think sharing your faith is wrong.”

<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



“Yet these same Millennials have confidence in sharing their faith! 73% say they know how to handle objections, and 94-97% agree that the best thing their friends and loved ones can do is come to faith in Jesus.”

<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>

The bottom line is that on the one hand Christian Millennials believe that they should and need to share Christ with friends...



...yet on the other hand, their culture has convinced many that it is wrong to do so!



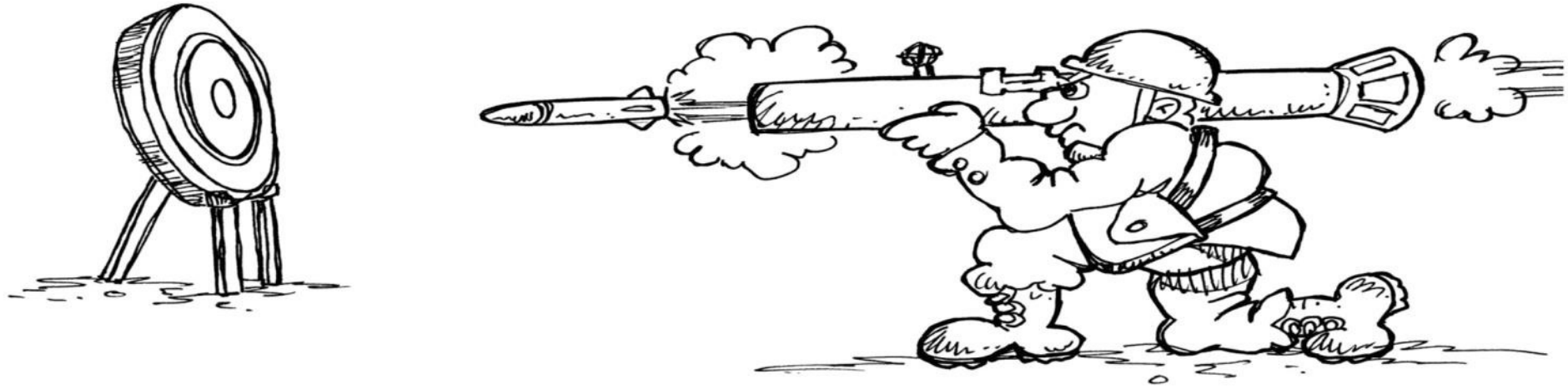
NGIM



DAVID
GEISLER

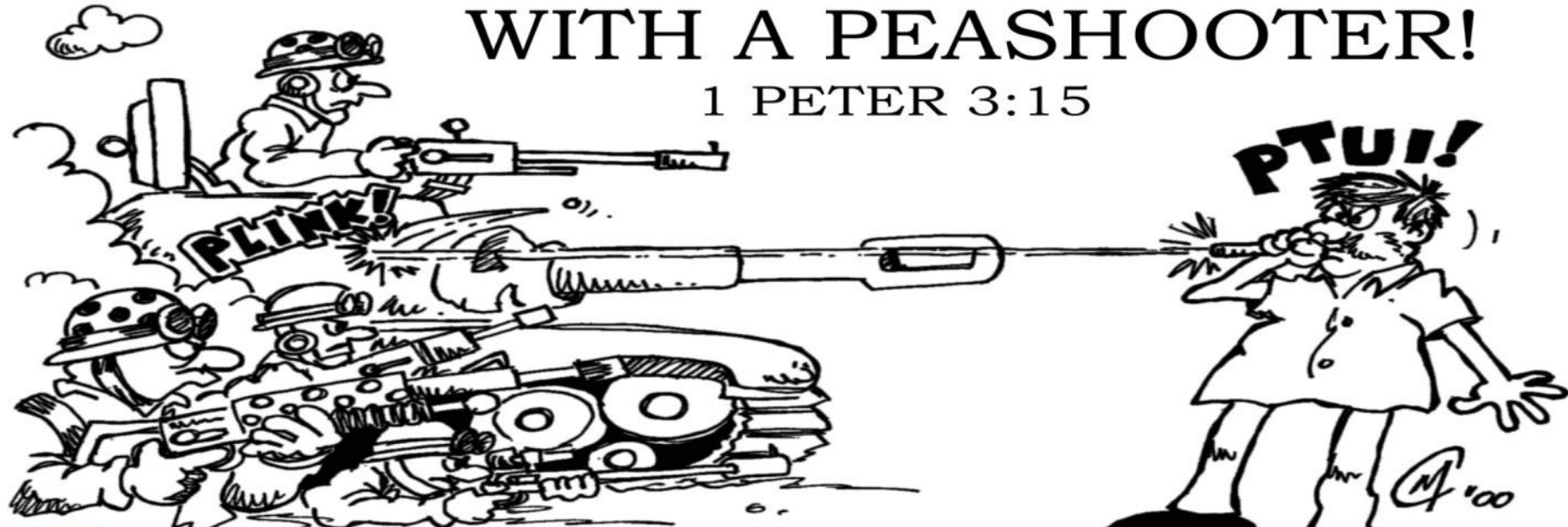
When we evangelize, we need
to know where people are at.

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!



NGIM

C O E X I S T

Assuming all religious leaders were equal,
wouldn't you sooner trust the one that had been
on the other side of death and came back?

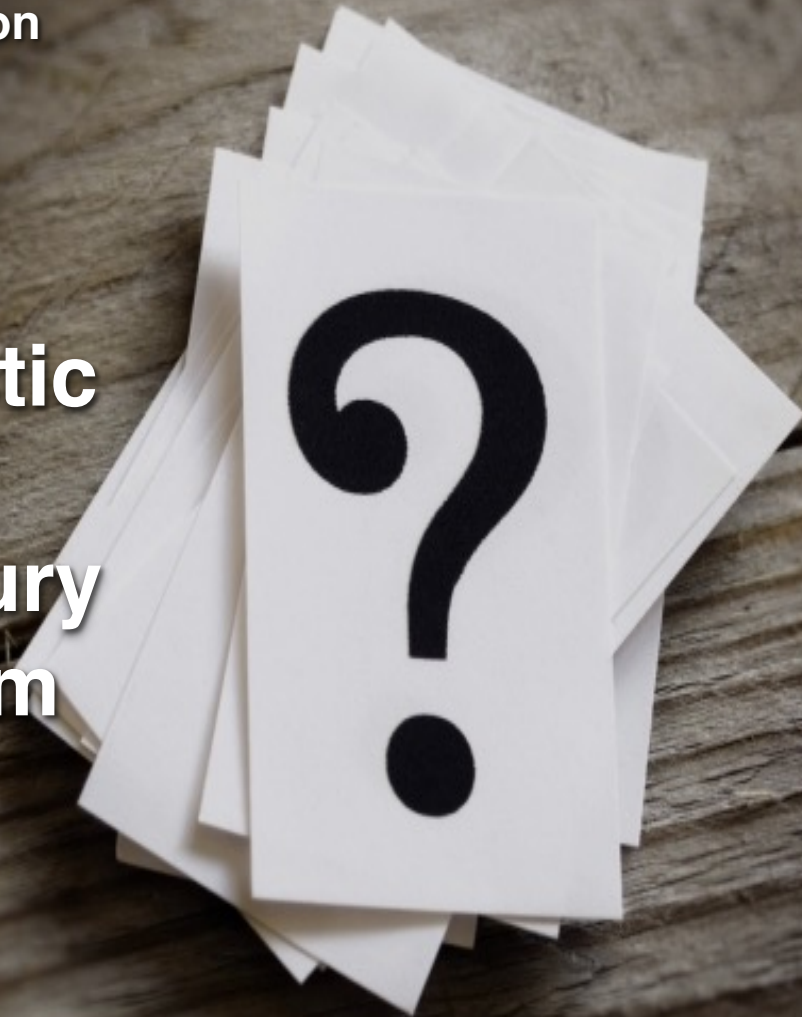
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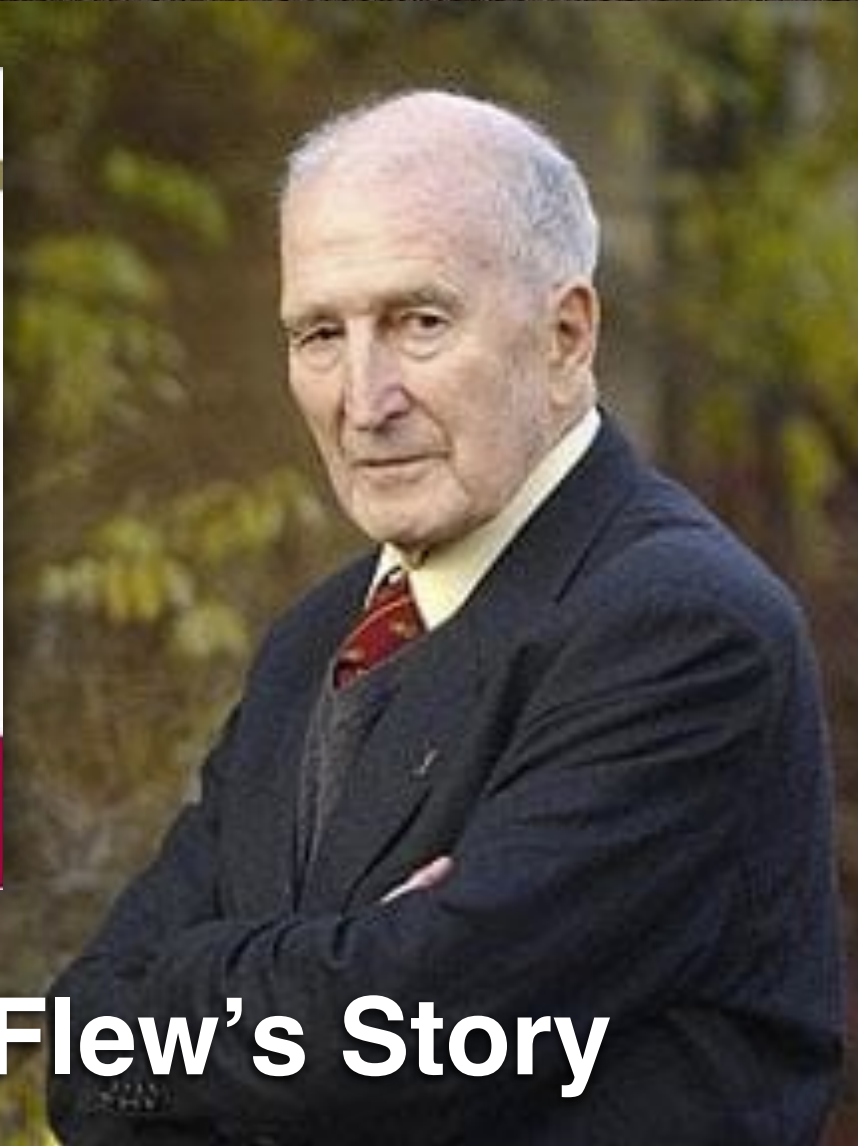
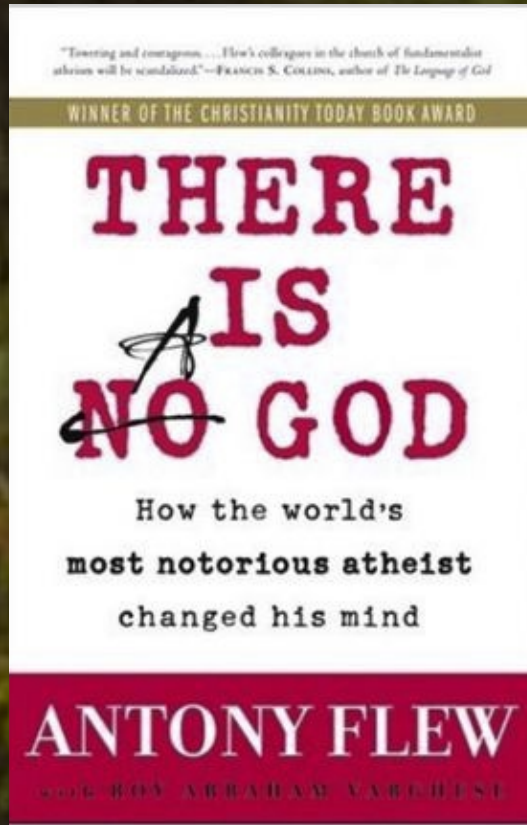


Example: Apologetic Lite Question

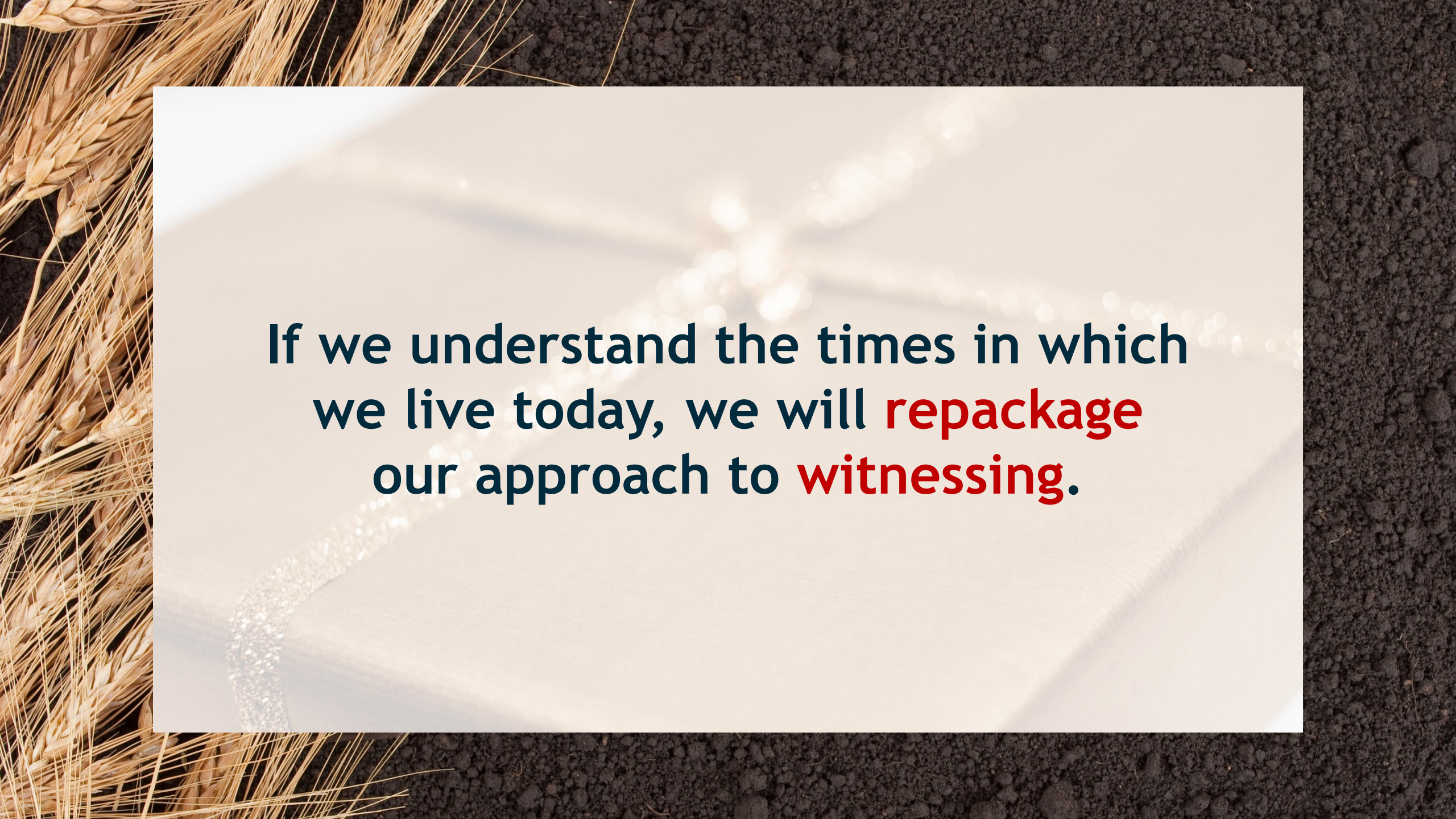
**Did you know
that one of
the greatest atheistic
philosophers of
the twentieth century
gave up his atheism
before he died?**

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





Antony Flew's Story



If we understand the times in which we live today, we will **repackage** our approach to **witnessing**.



Using A Conversational Evangelism Approach



Talking with Others

Learning the Mechanics of Doing Pre-Evangelism

It can seem as difficult
and mechanical as
learning how to drive a
clutch for the first time!



Explaining What is Different About This Approach

1. You don't need to know much apologetic information to engage others successfully.
2. It attempts to keep in balance both cognitive and non-cognitive elements to evangelism.
3. It provides a vehicle for doing pre-evangelism that is transferable and so more easily taught to others.
4. It provides a methodology for doing pre-evangelism with those that are either skeptical, indifference, or hostile to the claims of Christ.



Ingredients to This Model

1. Active Listening
2. Positive deconstructionism*
(tearing down)

* This concept was developed by **Nick Pollard**,
Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult, p. 44



Ingredients to this Model

Positive deconstructionism (Tearing down) Nick Pollard's definition

“The process of positive deconstructionism recognizes and affirms the elements of truth to which individuals already hold, but it also helps them discover for themselves the inadequacies of the underlying worldviews they have absorbed. The aim is to awaken a heart response that says, “I am not so sure that what I believe is right after all. I want to find out more about Jesus.”

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, p. 44



Ingredients to This Model

- +1. Active Listening
- +2. Positive deconstructionism* (Affirming the positive first then tearing down)
- +3. A questioning approach that allows others to surface the truth for themselves.
- +4. A method for removing the burden of proof from us to them. (The Boomerang Principle)
- +5. A method to determine the real barriers to the Gospel.
- +6. A strategy for finding common ground.
- +7. A strategy for building a bridge to the Gospel (both intellectual and heart bridges).
- +8. A basic knowledge of the Christian faith and what makes Jesus unique.

= The Conversational Pre-Evangelism Method

*Concept developed by **Nick Pollard**, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, p. 44



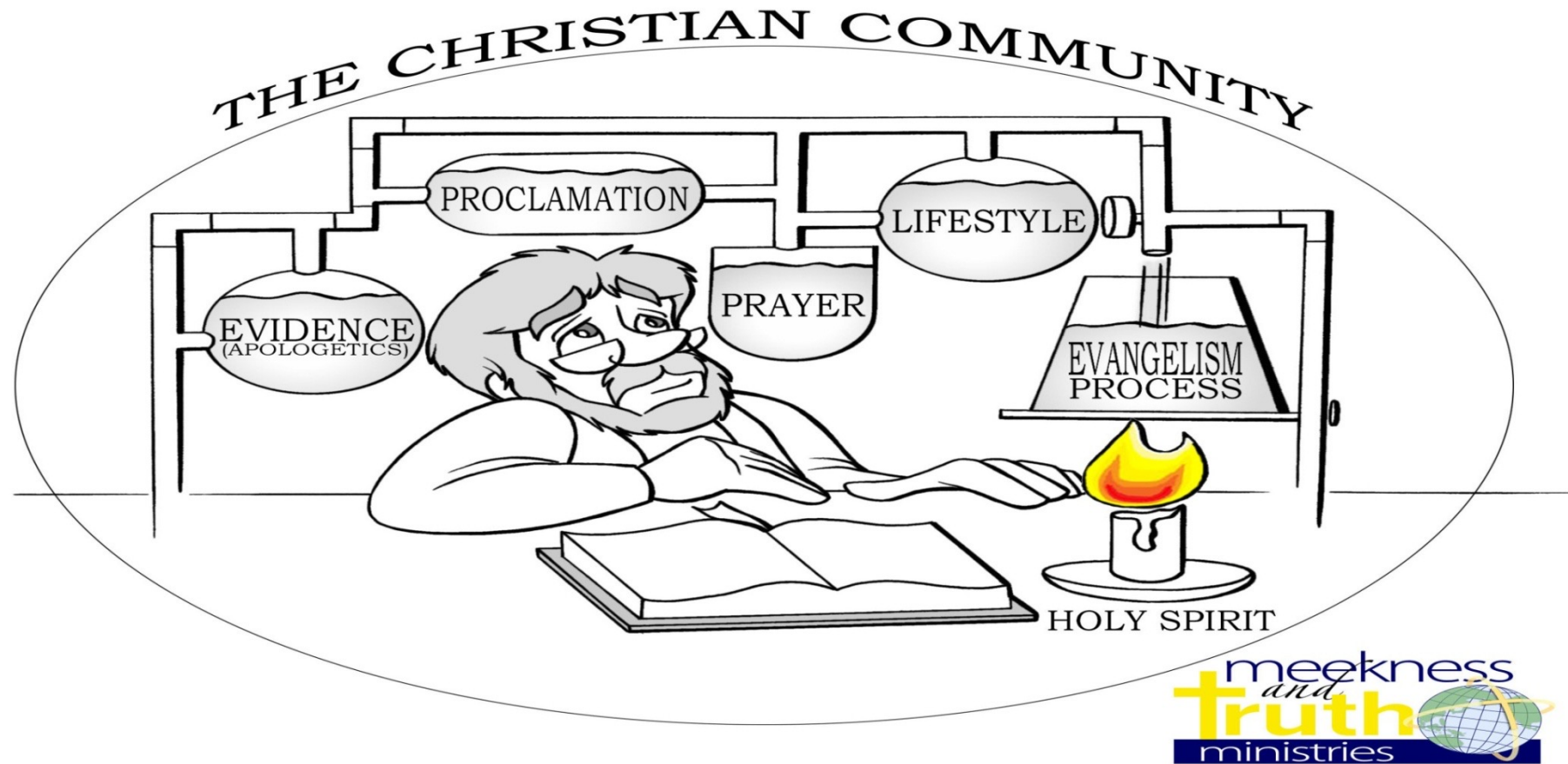
Not A Substitute

This approach is not a substitute for a caring sensitive approach of loving people in the context of a Christian Community.



The Vital Role of The Holy Spirit in Evangelism

A COMBINATIONAL APPROACH TO EVANGELISM



Conv



Conversational EVANGELISM

Remember We are Just the Instrument!

“God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27B
NIV



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

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

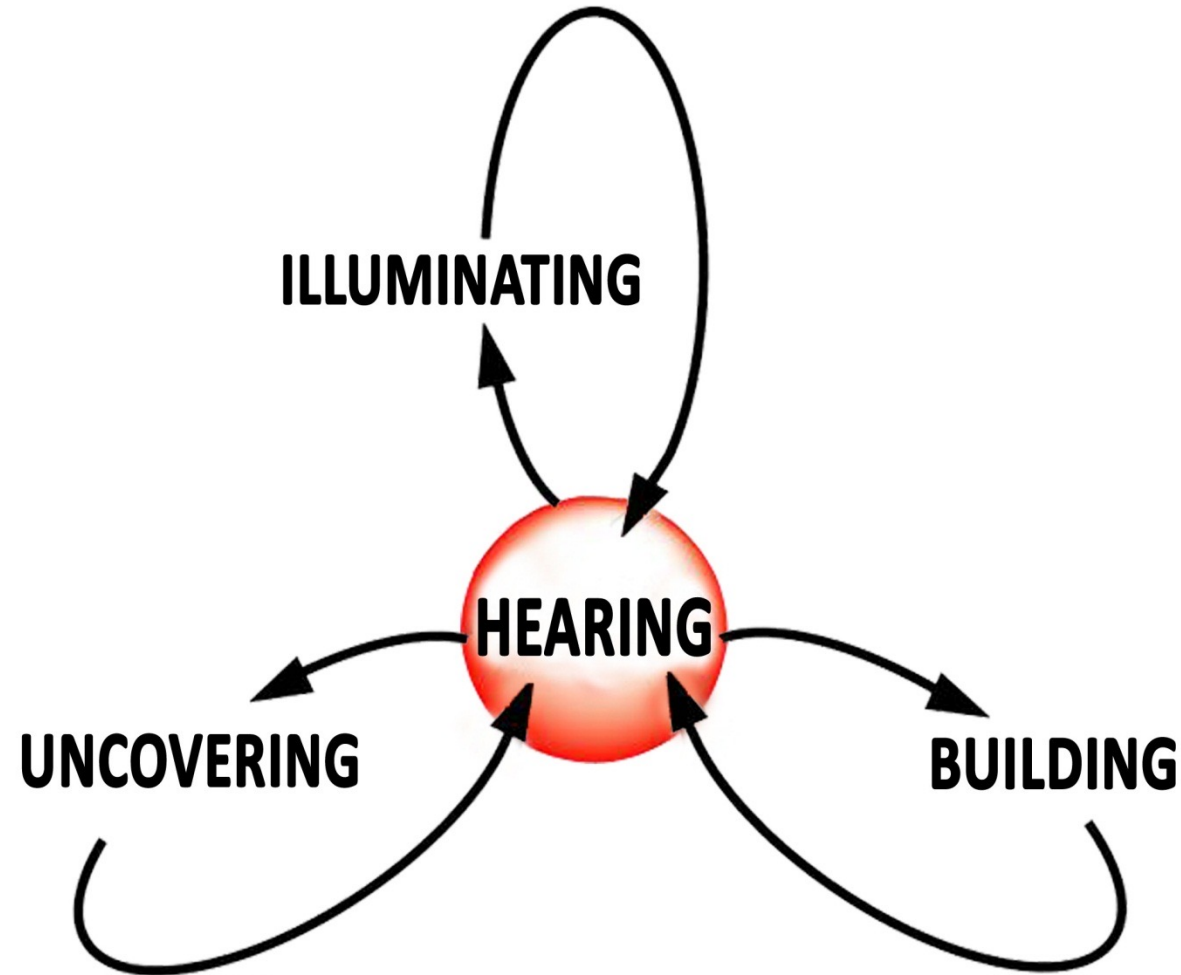
ACTS 14:1

To empower us to live godly lives.

PHILIPPIANS 1:14



4 Types of Conversations We Want to Have with Non-believers



L
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T
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N



LISTEN



The Art of Listening



Learn their Story.



Conversational EVANGELISM

STEPS TO UNCOVERING THEIR STORY

STEP 3

STEP 2

Ask questions about their religious experiences.

STEP 1

Ask questions about purpose and meaning.

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





Search for gaps in their beliefs.

What You Might Hear



Types of “sour notes” or inconsistencies you might hear:



Belief vs. Heart Longing (*Eccl. 3:11*)



Belief vs. Behavior (*Gal 2:14-16*)



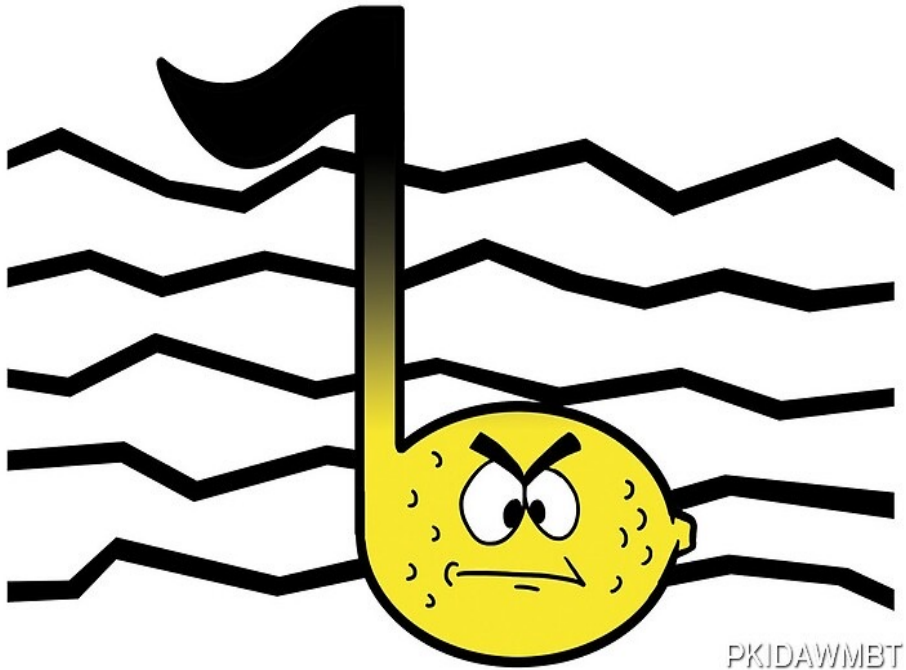
Belief vs. Belief (*Acts 17:22-30*)



Illogical Belief (*2 Cor. 1:18*)



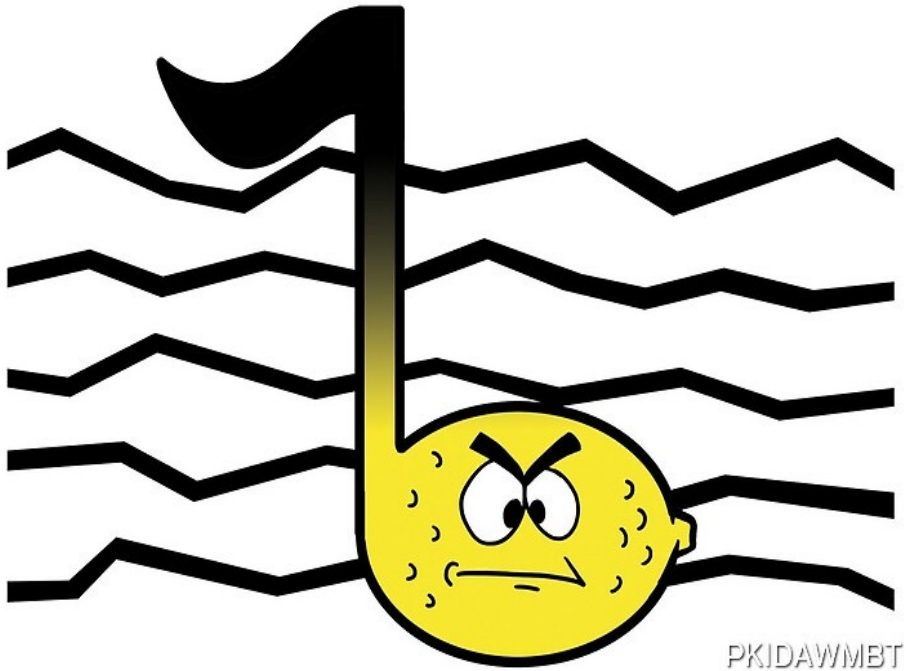
4 types of Sour Notes to be Listening For



1. Belief versus heart longing

There is a discrepancy or a contradiction between a person's worldview and what their heart truly wants.

Sour Note of Belief Vs. Heart Longing



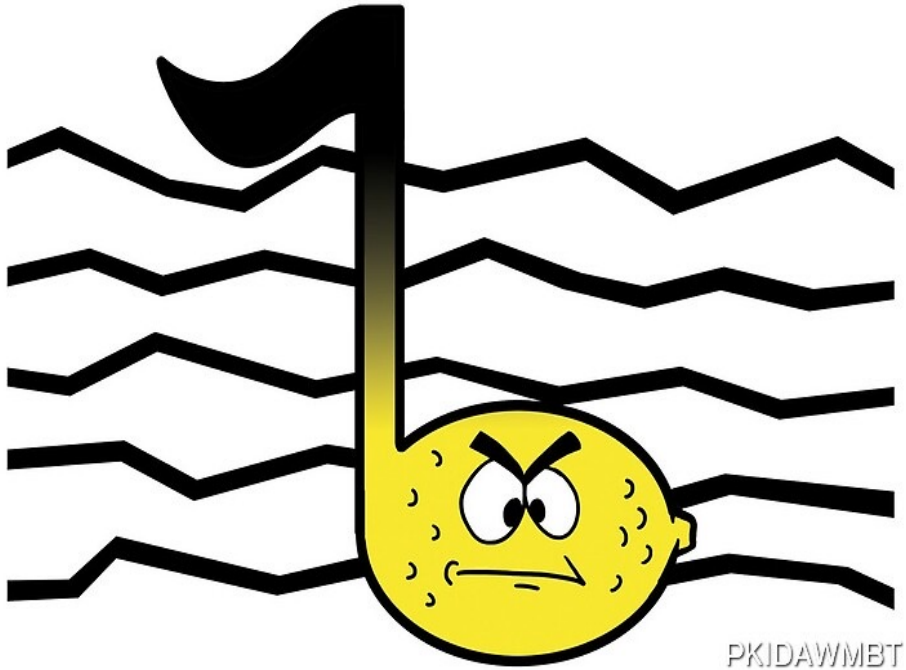
Examples

An atheist believes that God does not exist. Yet many long for a sense of meaning and purpose for their lives.

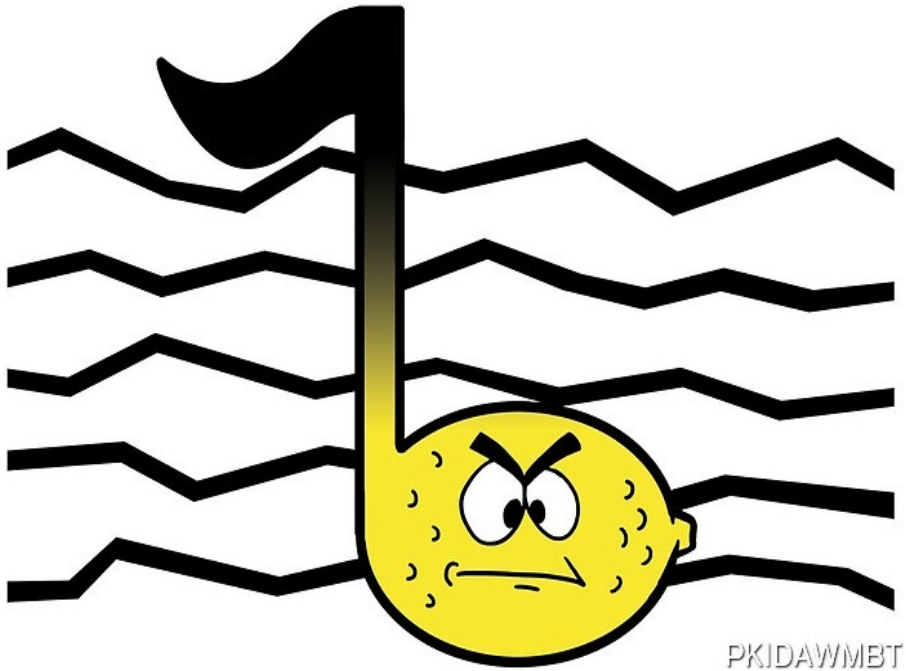
4 types of Sour Notes to be Listening For

2. **Belief** versus **Behavior**

There is a disjunction between what people say they believe and how they live.



Sour Note of Belief VS. Behavior



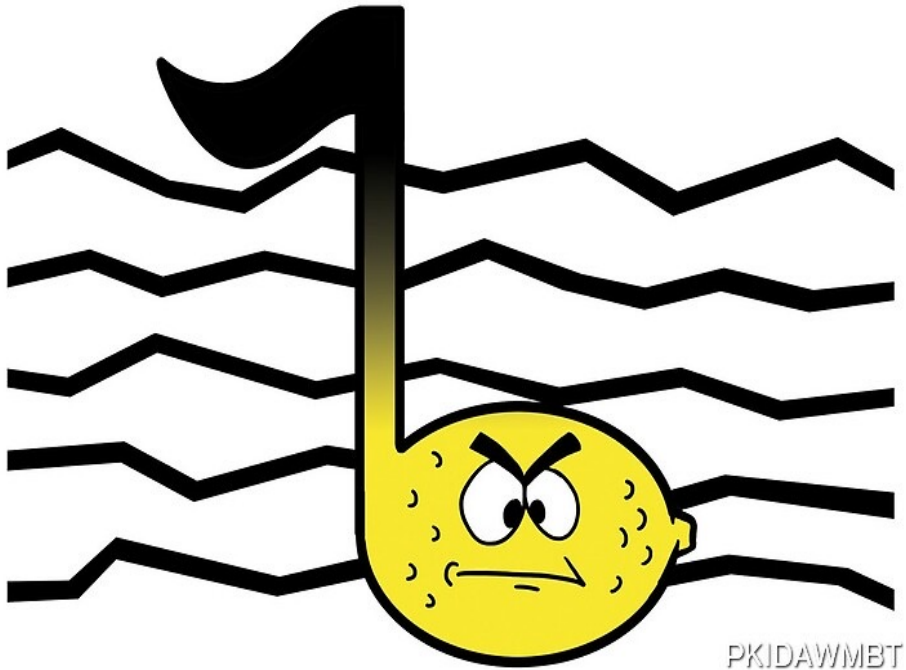
Example:

I believe we should all be tolerant of others and yet I cancel people who disagree with me.

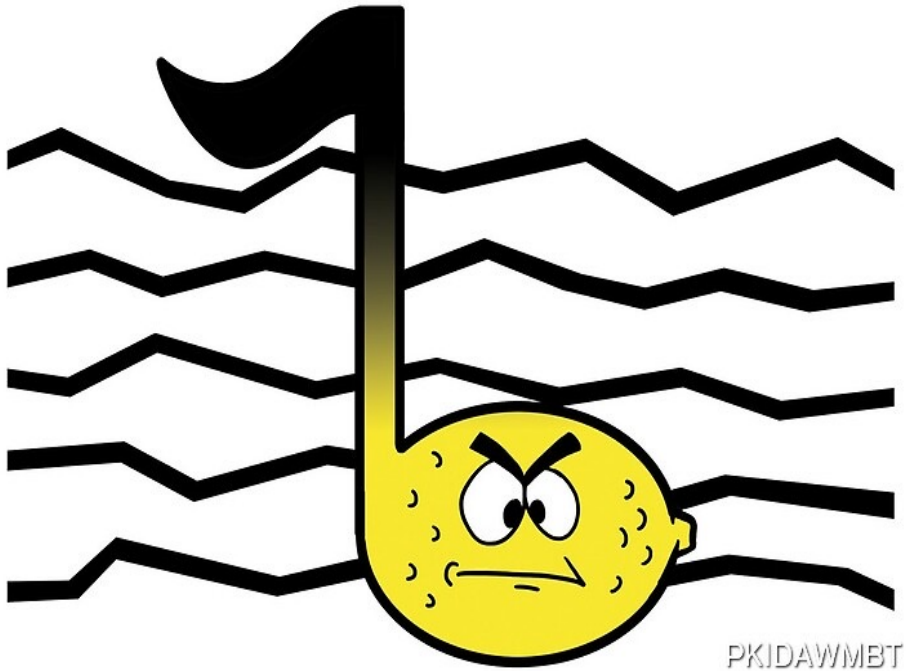
4 types of Sour Notes to be Listening For

3. **Belief** versus **Belief**

This occurs when someone holds two beliefs that contradict each other.



Sour Note of Belief VS. Belief



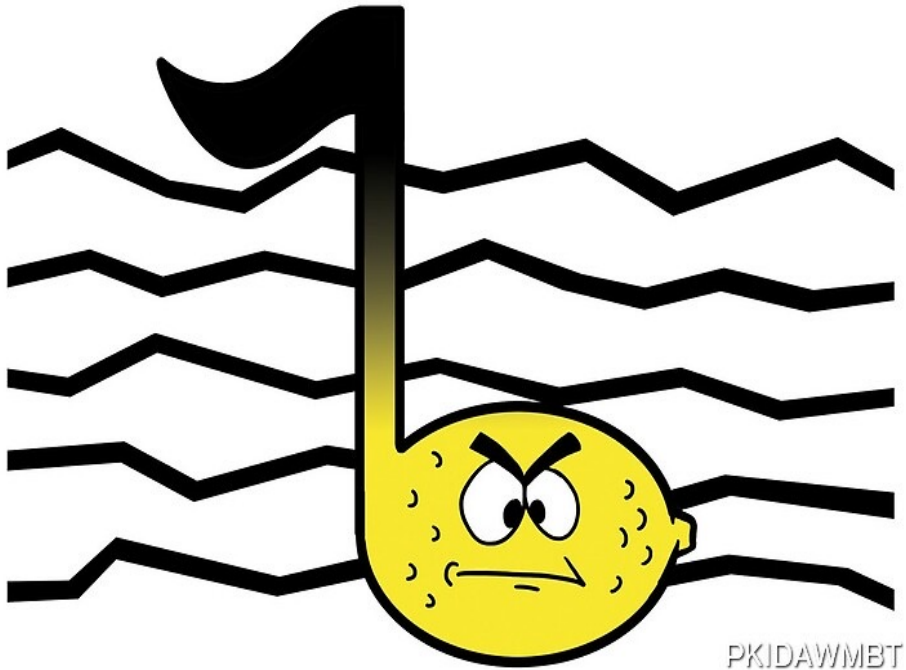
Example:

I believe there is ultimate meaning and purpose to my life, but I also believe I'm an accidental byproduct of nature.

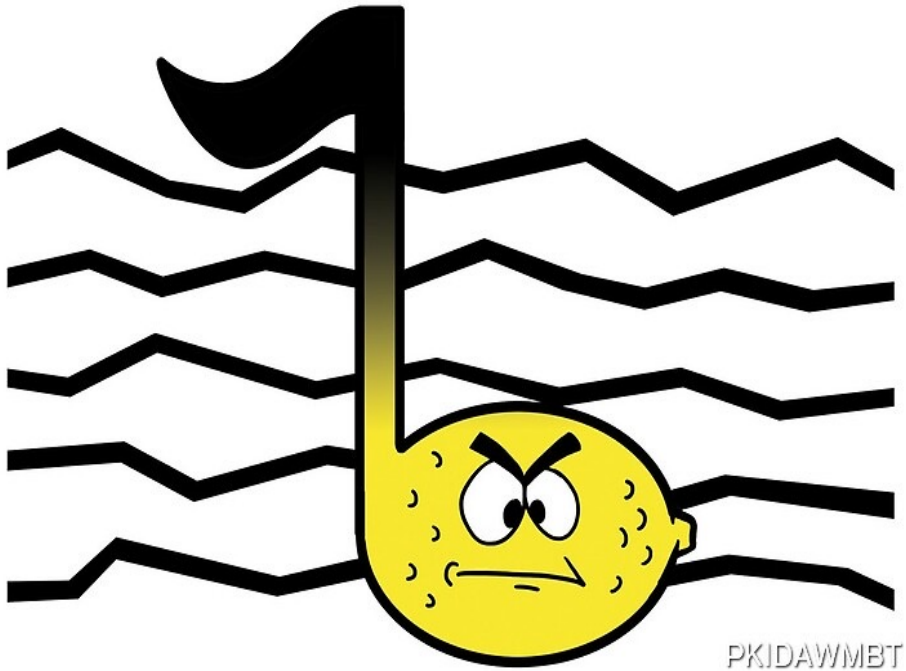
Sour Note of Belief VS. Belief

Example:

I believe that good is the standard that we measure evil by and, at the same time, that evil is the standard we measure good by.



4 types of Sour Notes to be Listening For



4. Illogical Belief (2 Cor. 1:18)

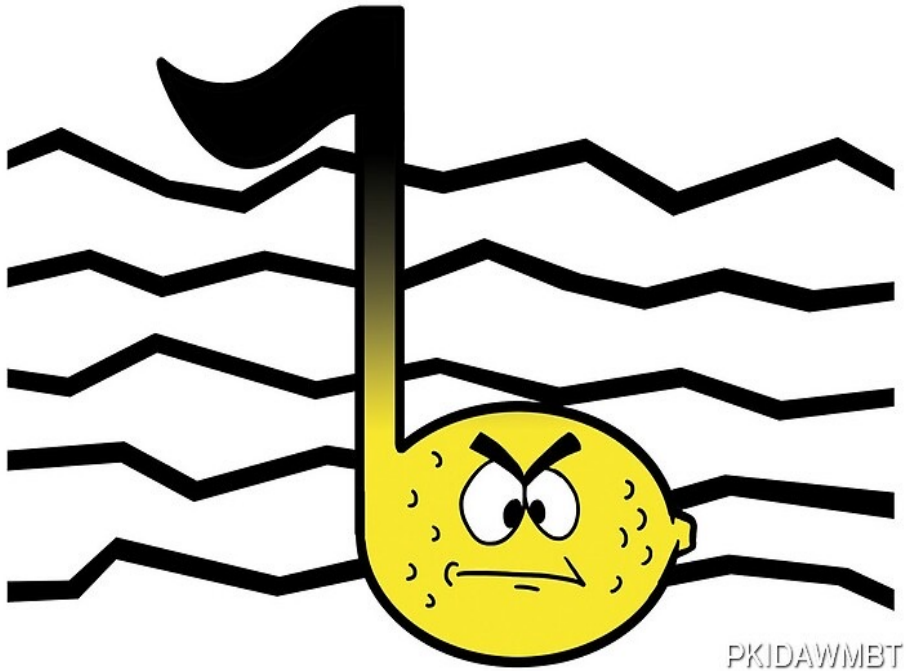
This is a discrepancy not within two beliefs but one.

This is a belief that contradicts itself.

Sour note of Illogical Belief

Example:

You should be skeptical
about everything.





T
hrow light into the conversation.



Clarify the Terminology

I was playing with Billy in the garage and he anointed my head with oil.



Questions that clarify beliefs

Ask them what do you mean by ...?

- All religions are basically the same
- Jesus died for us
- The Bible is corrupt
- I am an agnostic
- I am an Atheist





Expose gaps
(in their beliefs)





Helpful Phrases

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

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

Did you know...?

How is it possible...?

Would you agree...?

**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

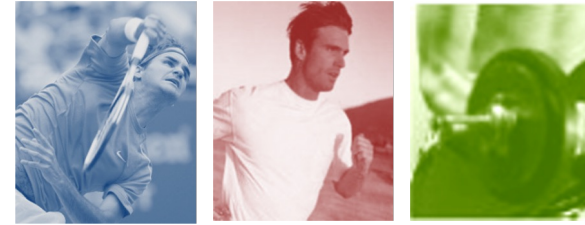
Minimizing Defensiveness

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with **meeekness** and **fear**; (1 Pet. 3:15 N.K.J.)



The Joy of Self-Discovery

CONVERSATION WITH GUY IN EXERCISE ROOM



What church do you go to?

*“I go to _____ catholic church ...
We believe in Mary!*

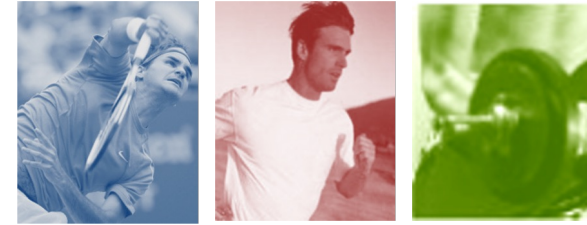
What do you mean by... we believe in Mary?

*We believe that Mary makes up what
Jesus' lacks!*



The Joy of Self-Discovery

CONVERSATION WITH GUY IN EXERCISE ROOM



Do you know what 1 Tim 2:5 says?

What do you think this verse teaches?

Certainly I can see how some Catholics could see Mary as being a helpful person who could pray for them just as some Baptist might consider it helpful if they got Billy Graham to pray for them.

“But can Mary do anything to help you atone for your sins in any way?”



How do I create a desire on their part to continue the conversation?

Doubt

Defensiveness

Desire



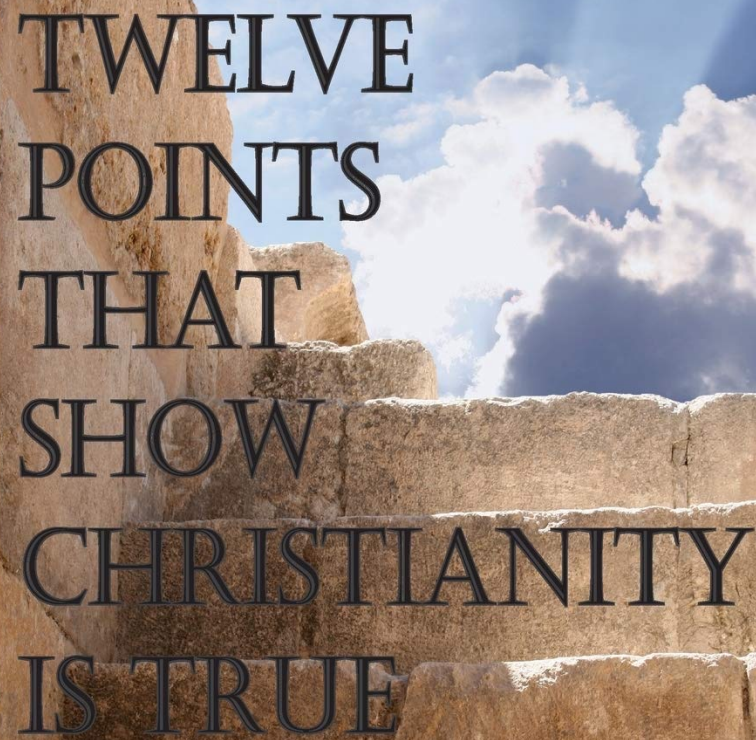
Questions that create a curiosity...



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?

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?





TWELVE
POINTS
THAT
SHOW
CHRISTIANITY
IS TRUE

A HANDBOOK ON DEFENDING
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

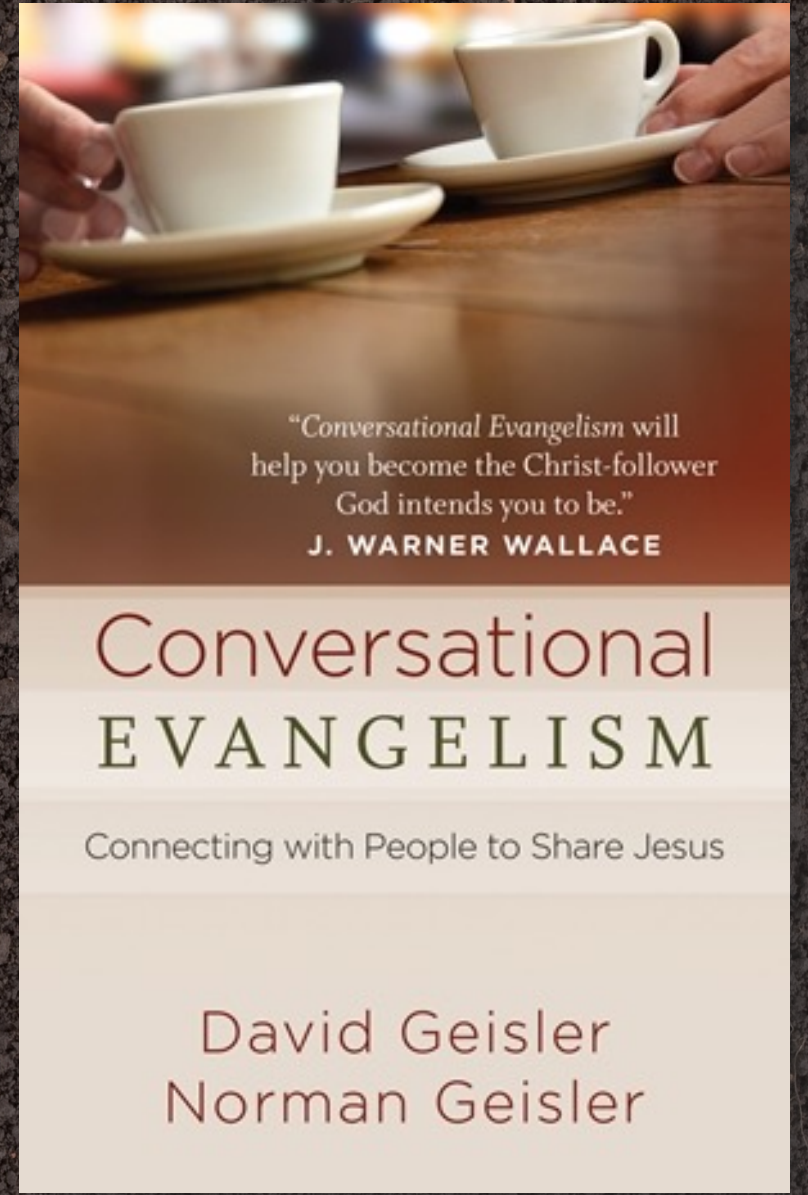
NORMAN L. GEISLER



A
CERTAIN
KIND

Intentional Disciplemaking
That Redefines Success In Ministry

Edmund Chan
Foreword by Robert Coleman



*"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

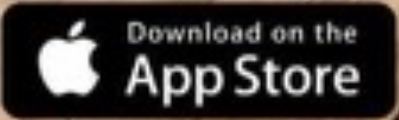
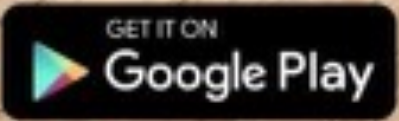
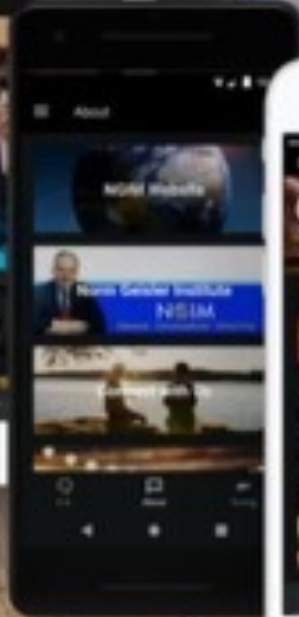
David Geisler
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**Norm Geisler
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Conversations That Matter: Recapturing Our Culture for Christ

Dr. David Geisler

