**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

**PROFESSOR:** John Hendee

**HOW TO USE THE MARRIAGE AND CHRISTIANITY PAGE OF THE IAAR**

In this session we want to show how to use the Marriage and Christianity page of the IAAR evangelistic too. This is a great page. It is like a Spiritual x-ray page. It will help us see where the person is in their commitment to Jesus.

This is not a high pressure technique time for us. The pressure comes from the Holy Spirit, not us. We are helping them see how to become a disciple and where they are in the process. This comes at the end of the third lesson. Prior to this time I have not asked the person if they believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if they have repented, confessed or been baptized into Jesus. Now is the appropriate time to find out.

This is not real complicated but you want to get familiar with it; spend some time with it. We have planted the seeds, shared the Good News in the first three lessons. Now we are going to find out where they are in their relationship with Jesus. Once we know that, we will know what to do or recommend for them to do next.

Don’t be afraid of this page. Become familiar with the five different possibilities. Don’t assume you KNOW how they will answer. You will be surprised at times.

Watch the training video number three and see how John goes through this page.

Don’t be afraid of doing this with those who are living together, are having marriage problems, are divorced, are gay, are single, are a widow or widower, etc. They all understand the covenant/marriage illustration whether they are practicing it or not. They get it. They won’t feel that you are attacking or criticizing them for their life style or situation by using this. And obviously this is not the time or place to address their situation. We aren’t trying to make a point about their current life style on this page. We are there to share Jesus, not address their life style. Remember: kind, gentle teaching.

After going over this page we want to close by asking them where they are in the steps or process. The five CASE examples below cover the five basic responses you will find. There aren’t 20 different possibilities. Your job is to simply help them see where they are and what would be the next steps for them to take in building their relationship with Jesus when they are ready to do so. You can’t PUSH people into that. We are like midwives helping someone in the spiritual birthing process. We show them, guide them, and encourage them. We can’t force the birth; we are there to help encourage them in the process.

 Look at the chart and then below you will read the outline of how to deal with each of the five situations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Case 1 | Case 2 | Case 3 | Case 4 | Case 5 |
| BELIEVE?  Leads to: | YES | YES | YES | YES | NO |
| GRATEFUL  LOVE?  Leads to: | YES | YES | YES | YES OR ? |  |
| REPENT?  Leads to: | YES | YES | YES | NO |  |
| CONFESS?  Leads to: | YES | YES | YES |  |  |
| BAPTIZED?  Leads to: | YES  We are brothers. We are in the same family. We are responsible to help each other in our walk with Christ. We would encourage you to learn to use the PT with those you know or meet. | YES, but  Sprinkled.  Tell me about your baptism, what was it like?  Ahhh, you were a baby. Did you see the order the Bible uses. Baptism comes last not first. | NO  When would you like to be baptized?  If they are ready arrange it. If not, give them a copy of Gene Rogers paper. Don't push or pressure; encourage. | Can you pin point the reason why you aren't ready to do that?  If identifiable,  respond or  research;  MORE THAN A CAPENTER. | Can you pin point  the reason why you don't?  If identifiable, respond or research;  MORE THAN A CARPENTERR. |
|  | How about next week at the same time for the last lesson? | How about next week at the same time for the last lesson? | How about next week at the same time for the last lesson? | How about next week at the same time for the last lesson? | How about next week at the same time for the last lesson? |

AFTER EXPLAINING/TEACHING ABOUT THE Marriage and Christianity page we go to the top right-hand column and follow this procedure with EVERYONE. We don’t assume we know their answers. We let them answer for themselves. It is possible that we will be doing this with a couple of people who will have different responses. I usually keep going with the one who is responding with “yes” and then come back to continue with the other.

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| CASE 1; QUESTIONS TO ASK;  ***“Let me ask you some questions to help see where you are in this process.***  ***Starting at the top box on the right hand column of the Marriage and Christianity Page.”***  1st Box “***Have you come to the place in your life where you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Savior?”***  IF they answer “***YES”,*** we go the next box below and the next question.  2nd Box “***Since believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior have you ever expressed your love to God by surrendering your life to Jesus or as we looked at, repenting?”***  If they answer “***YES***”, we go to the next box below and the next question.  3rd Box ***“Since surrendering you life to Jesus were you baptized into Jesus in Christian baptism?”***    I don’t ask if they have confessed Jesus because they just did it in the previous answers and so it is redundant.  If they answer ***“YES”,*** I then tell them that according to the New Testament that have done everything anyone was ever asked to do to be born again, to be saved and to be IN Jesus.  We are brothers in Christ. Let’s work together to carry out his mission.Then we pray and we plan on the time for the last lesson too. |
| CASE 2  ***“Let me ask you some questions to help see where you are in this process.***  ***Starting at the top box on the right hand column of the Marriage and Christianity Page.”***  1st Box “***Have you come to the place in your life where you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Savior?”***  IF they answer “***YES”***, we go the next box below and the next question.  2nd Box “***Since believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior have you ever expressed your love to God by surrendering your life to Jesus or as we looked at, repenting?”***  If they answer “***YES”***, we go to the next box below and the next question.  3rd Box “***Since surrendering you life to Jesus were you baptized into Jesus in Christian baptism?*** “  We don’t ask if they have confessed Jesus because they just did it in the previous answers and so it is redundant.  This case is when I know or discover that the person was “sprinkled” or had water “poured” on them as a baby. Here is what I normally do with them. I ask if they saw the significance in what we have already looked at in that Christian baptism follows one’s Believing and Repenting? If that is the case then starting with what some call baptism of infants puts things in the wrong order. A baby can’t believe. A baby can’t repent. That being the case, their being baptized didn’t do them personally any good. A parent, pastor or priest can’t make that decision for a person. Each must make it for themselves. I ask if that makes sense. If they say “***NO”*** I just encourage them to keep reading the New Testament and if they would like to have it, I leave them a copy of Gene Rogers’ paper on Christian Baptism.    At the conclusion of that conversation we pray and make plans for the last lesson, normally the next week. These people are believers and I start praying with them. |
| CASE 3: QUESTIONS TO ASK  ***“Let me ask you some questions to help see where you are in this process.***  ***Starting at the top box on the right hand column of the Marriage and Christianity Page;”***  1st Box “***Have you come to the place in your life where you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Savior?”***  IF they answer “***YES”***, we go the next box below and the next question.  2nd Box “***Since believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior have you ever expressed your love to God by surrendering your life to Jesus or as we looked at, repenting?”***  If they answer “***YES”,*** we go to the next box below and the next question.  3rd Box “***Since surrendering you life to Jesus were you baptized into Jesus in Christian baptism?***”  We don’t ask if they have confessed Jesus because they just did it in the previous answers and so it is redundant.  If they say “***No I haven’t been***” then I ask them, ***“When would you like to be?”*** I review what we looked at on the baptism page of the IAAR where it pointed out that according to the New Testament a believer can be baptized on any day, in any water by any other believer. We are there to help. Would they like to make plans for their baptism?  If they are ready we can plan on the time and place. I try to explain to them that it really just takes a few minutes and that they should take a change of clothes and towels, etc. Then we pray and we plan on the time for the last lesson.  If the person says “***NO”*** they haven’t been but they still have doubts or reservations about baptism I ask, ***“Can you identify what your questions or concerns are?”*** and I try to address them. I don’t push them on this. I don’t argue about it. I recommend that they read a copy of Gene Rogers’ paper on Christian Baptism which I always try to carry in my car for such situations. At the conclusion of that conversation we pray and make plans for the last lesson, normally the next week. |
| CASE 4: QUESTIONS TO ASK;  ***“Let me ask you some questions to help see where you are in this process.***  ***Starting at the top box on the right hand column of the Marriage and Christianity Page;”***  1st Box “***Have you come to the place in your life where you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Savior?”***  IF they answer “***YES”***, we go the next box below and the next question.  2nd Box “***Since believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior have you ever expressed your love to God by surrendering your life to Jesus or as we looked at, repenting?”***  If they answer “***NO”*** I normally ask them if they would like to do so right then. If they say “***YES”*** then I explain that I will pray a short prayer out loud and say AMEN when I’m done. Then they can say a silent prayer to God telling him that they believe in him and want to repent and surrender to him. It doesn’t matter if the prayer lasts 30 seconds or 5 minutes. Just tell him sincerely of your desire. When you are done, say AMEN out loud so I know you are done. If they chose to do that, when they say AMEN I congratulate them on that decision and tell them they will never regret it.  Then I ask them “***When would you want to be baptized***?” They still might need more time to think about that. Remember we will be back next week. Patience. If they are ready right then, you can make plans for it. They will often want to wait till after the fourth lesson. It is up to them.  If they say they AREN’T ready to surrender to Jesus I ask them, ***“Can you identify or pinpoint the reasons for that?”*** They often can’t. Sometimes they say something like ***“I have heard that the Bible has been changed a lot and we don’t really know what it says.”*** Or they may have some other issue. There are a lot of possibilities here. ust listen and give the best response you know. Don’t be afraid. Don’t get nervous. Listen. Show appreciation for their questions. You are there to help. You are like a spiritual midwife.  I often respond by saying ***“Well, that is a legitimate concern. If you are interested in finding the truth about that I would like to give you a book that has really good answers about that. It is Josh McDowell’s book More Than a Carpenter. Would you like a copy of that?”*** I explain a little about Josh’s background as an atheist and how he has found excellent information on a lot of important questions. Most people will read the book. It is a powerful book. You must read it first. I always keep a number of copies of it on hand and in my car so I can leave it with them that same night.You can buy them in six-packs of books at his website: josh.org  I try and keep it brief here. We close out our time and I say, ***“Very good, how about next \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the fourth lesson?”*** |
| CASE 5: QUESTIONS TO ASK;  ***“Let me ask you some questions to help see where you are in this process.***  ***Starting at the top box on the right hand column of the Marriage and Christianity Page;”***  1st Box “***Have you come to the place in your life where you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and your Savior?”***  If they say ***“No”,*** then I ask them if they can identify or pinpoint the reasons for that. They often can’t. Sometimes they say something like ***“I have heard that the Bible has been changed a lot and we don’t really know what it says.”*** They may be hindered by the same questions or doubts that the person not ready to repent is dealing with. Or they may have some other issue. Just listen and give the best response you know. Don’t be afraid. Don’t get nervous. Listen. Show appreciation for their questions. You are there to help. You are like a spiritual midwife.  Again in this case I often respond by saying ***“Well, that is a legitimate concern. If you are interested in finding the truth about that I would like to give you a book that has really good answers about that. It is Josh McDowell’s book More Than a Carpenter. Would you like a copy of that?”***  I explain a little about Josh’s background as an atheist and how he has found excellent information on a lot of important questions. Most honest seekers will read the book. It is a powerful book.Be sure you have read it first. I always keep a number of copies of it on hand and in my car so I can leave it with them that same night. You can buy them in six-packs of books at his website, josh.org  I try and keep it brief here. We close out our time and I say, ***“Very good, how about next \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the fourth lesson?”*** |