



# LET'S CHAT!

with Pastor D



SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

September 21, 2019

I watched a short documentary recently that featured the change of the eco system at Yellowstone National Park over the years. The commentator shared staggering facts, photos and videos from research about the effects of the extinction of wolves from the park.

Their population was wiped out from the hands of people who feared their takeover as their packs peaked. It was shocking! With the absence of one animal, everything else in the system began to die.

They noted that even the rivers became affected and started to dry up. Lands that were once lush and green became dry and dusty. Something needed to be done immediately to address this dire situation.

Park officials had to act fast and created a desperate plan of action. Fourteen wolves were introduced to the park as an experiment. It yielded immediate results. The change could be seen in the eco system within a few months, as the rivers started to function effectively. Animals that ecologists hadn't seen in years started to return. The dried up landscape started to turn green and grow. The commentator cited that the wolves brought balance to a system that was broken.

As I watched and listened intently to the documentary, I immediately began to make the connection and find possible lessons on the state of some of our churches. It also proposed a model that we can use to radically shift the growth and health of many of our places of worship. To be continued . . .

## KIDS CORNER

Search for the 12 Disciples.



ANDREW	JOHN	PHILIP
BARTHOLOMEW	JUDAS	SIMON
JAMES	MATTHEW	THADDAEUS
JAMES	PETER	THOMAS

Find items on left, in picture below.



flag



candle



heart



cheese



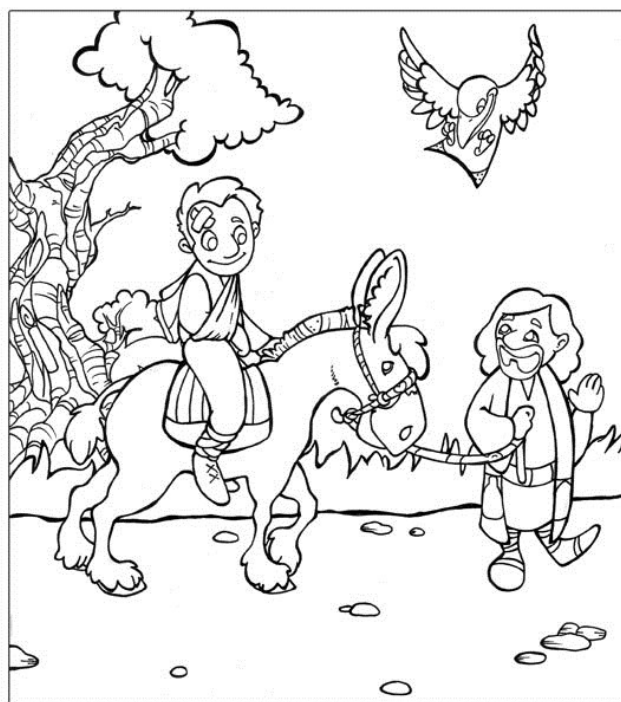
bottle



spoon



bird





Have you heard the expression, “Theology isn’t so much about *information* as it is *transformation*”? I admit, I’m the first one to quiet our dog when the door-bell rings and I see that it’s a couple of young Mormon students on mission. My dad used to welcome them in and have them stay for supper — but then, he was a pastor and very comfortable defending his biblical beliefs.

I know what I believe, and I’m confident in my faith — I’m just not sure I know how to communicate it or which bible verses to share that would effectively support it.

Billy Graham said, “You can’t open someone’s heart to the truth of the Gospel — but God can, by His Spirit.” The Apostle Paul wasn’t eloquent, but God used him because he depended on the Holy Spirit to guide him (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*). God does not call the equipped; He equips the called, as Christians we are all called to share what Christ has done. “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (*Matthew 28:19*).

Too many people are unwilling to share the Good News, because they think people are unwilling to hear it. The gospel is often called “a gift,” but it’s more than that. For us Christians, it is a responsibility. Each of us — no matter our age — should be doing everything to try to reach other people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here are 5 simple steps anyone can use to help those who’ve never met Christ, understand what it really means to have a relationship with Jesus.

1. **Start with your personal testimony.** People can debate a lot of things but there is one thing that is not debatable and that is your personal story. One of the most successful tools you have to reach people for the gospel is your own story.
2. **Avoid debates.** When speaking about your faith, stay single-minded focused on Jesus — not your religion. It is Jesus who changes lives. Focus on who Christ is, what He has done and how Jesus can put all the broken pieces of one’s life back together if he or she will trust in Him.
3. **Keep it simple and rely on God.** The gospel is simple. It’s about the life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Memorizing a few verses such as Romans 10:13, Romans 10:9 or John 1:12, is all you need for a reference point to communicate God’s promise that if an individual is willing to turn to Him, He will respond with forgiveness.
4. **Be transparent.** If there is anything that’s a bigger turnoff — it’s people that come across as disingenuous or unauthentic. Don’t shy away from your own struggles, seasons of doubt and uncertainties about God.
5. **Ask for God’s help.** Are you willing to inconvenience yourself and step out of your comfort zone to reach out to someone who is going through a tough time? Ask God to use you and give you the right words, at the right times. Ask for wisdom on who to talk to and how you should talk to them. Let God lead you and ask Him to fill you with His spirit.

You can’t make a person say “yes” to Jesus — that’s not your responsibility — but you can be a catalyst to help someone understand that his or her whole purpose in this life is to have a relationship with Christ. God wants to use you and me. God can use you and me. You may feel ill equipped, but if you’re willing, say, “Lord, here I am. Send me.”

*5 Simple Tips for Sharing Your Faith.* Lowder, Jay. [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com).  
*Sharing Your Faith 101.* Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. July 22, 2015. [www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org).  
Stowe, Jann.

## URGENT prayer

- Wendy Waters, recovery
- Marjorie Stowe, recovery
- Dwayne Crosby, recovery
- Russ Fay, health
- George Lake, health
- Don Cobbs, health
- Ruth Collier, health
- Rod Cartasegna, recovery
- Brewer family, grief (Sister Brewer’s stepdaughter, Angela)
- Chelsea, recovery (Sis Hall’s niece)

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