

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.



Greg West, Evangelist

"You don't have to memorize evangelical formulas or answers. You just have to be willing to ask."

Randy Newman

BOOK STUDY

"Questioning Evangelism"

BY RANDY NEWMAN

PLEASE ANSWER THE SURVEY BELOW OR EMAIL GREG WEST (GREG@LIFEINHISNAME.NET) TO SIGN UP AND INDICATE YOUR TIME PREFERENCE!

WEDNESDAYS 12:00-1:30PM OCT. 20-DEC. 8

THURSDAYS 8:00-9:30AM OR 7:00-8:30PM OCT. 21-DEC. 9

*ONLY 2 OF THE TIMES LISTED WILL BE SELECTED.

Rev. Greg West
Study Leader

Survey: www.lifeinhisname.net/bookstudy

Asbury Theological Seminary: A Community Called

BY ASHLEY KLINE

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Asbury Theological Seminary has a bold vision developed by Henry Clay Morrison in 1923: "The Whole Bible for the Whole World." The seminary aims to fulfill this vision by "preparing and sending forth a well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry." The fulfillment of this vision is evidenced as the seminary has students from over 60 denominations and 40 countries as well as 10,000 graduates serving in every time zone.

In addition to its M.Div program, geared towards aspiring pastors, Asbury Theological Seminary offers Master of Arts programs in Biblical Studies, Theological Studies and Counseling, A Doctor of Ministry program is also offered in addition to Ph.D programs in Biblical Studies and Intercultural

Studies. The institution currently has two regular campuses located in Kentucky and Florida as well as extension sites in Memphis, Tulsa, and Colorado Springs.

In my time as an M.A Biblical Studies student at Asbury, I've not only received an education that looks critically at the Bible, but also demonstrates how academia can further one's own walk with God. Additionally, the community that is fostered through the campus environment provides a great medium through which to discover how scholarship can strengthen our faith.

Anyone keeping up with our monthly newsletters has probably heard that Gabe and Faith Higgins have recently moved to Wilmore as Asbury students. Gabe was a senior when I was a freshman at Virginia Wesleyan and we both served as ministry leaders under Greg. I have enjoyed getting to make them feel at home here Wilmore and see them often. It is a pleasure and a joy to have them around!

Upcoming Ministry Events

Sun. Oct. 17:

Preaching at Blacksburg UMC

- In-person and online

Sun. Oct. 24:

Preaching at Great Bridge UMC

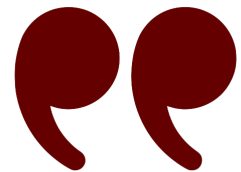
- In-person and online

Sun, Oct. 31-Nov. 21

Preaching at New Town UMC

- In-person and online

Scripture



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 PETER 3:15

Check out our YouTube channel!



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXg42v6rnFeB5ab4Rqca49g>

Conversations Towards Eternal Life

BY GREG WEST

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Before the conversation

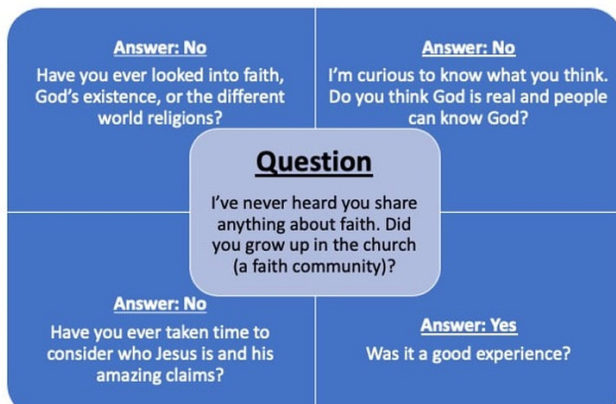
Before you share your faith with people, ask yourself, “Am I motivated by love?” Remember, you are going to be talking to someone made in God’s image and God loves them! Also, your sincerity in wanting to hear their thoughts is incredibly important. Nobody wants to be treated as a project. Dialogue, not monologue! As you listen to them, ask follow-up questions with a real desire to understand who they are and how they think. Finally, having a smile on your face as you ask will help immensely! My smile comes from a knowledge that the Holy Spirit is at work in ways I cannot see, both in and through me and in the person I’m sharing Christ with!

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Evangelism is our cooperation with God’s ongoing work in the lives of people who have yet to know the joy and wonder of salvation in Christ Jesus! It is not just the words we speak, but how the words we speak are a part of the ‘rivers of living water flowing forth from our inmost being’ (John 7:38).

GREG WEST

Questions to get the conversation going



* I often say something like this: “I don’t want to be pushy. It’s fascinating to me hearing what others think and talking about spiritual things.”

The Conversation

Have you noticed that new believers seem to have so much joy and passion for Christ? They are often eager to share their faith with friends, often though they are not equipped. What a great opportunity for us to come alongside them and equip them to share their faith. The best way is to do it together! Their existing relationships are all openings to share the Good News! One of these fervent young believers introduced me to a friend

who had questions. His big questions centered on the Bible’s view of slavery. It seemed to him that the Bible was in favor of slavery and he, as a black man, could not fully embrace the Bible or Christ because of this. We talked about how the people of Israel being led out of slavery in Egypt is one of the biggest stories of the Old Testament.

I acknowledged that the Bible seems to accept slavery as the norm in many places. However, there’s this little revolutionary letter in the New Testament: Philemon. If the Church had done its Bible study well, it would not have been complicit in slavery. Paul is writing to Philemon, who has a slave named Onesimus. Philemon sent Onesimus to help with Paul’s needs while Paul was imprisoned. During that time, Onesimus became a believer in Christ. Paul refers to him as “my son.” He then makes this powerful appeal for Philemon to set him free! “Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord” (Philemon 1:15-16).

This letter, along with many of Jesus’ teachings sow the seeds to end slavery. Through many conversations and a community of believers embracing him, this young man opened up to Christ and is a passionate follower today!

I recently spoke with someone who is considering the Christian faith. It became clear that he thought most of the people in the United States were Christian. I asked why he thought this was true. He said, “Well it’s just part of the culture and most people grew up in that American Christian culture.” I could see that he didn’t understand how someone becomes a Christian. I asked him and it was clear that he wasn’t quite sure. It came as a surprise to him when I said, “Many of the people who say they’re Christian may not actually be Christian.” This may sound judgmental, but then I explained that between the ages of 13 and 20 I would have told people that I was a Christian, though now I see that I clearly wasn’t.

Another time, I took a younger friend who was growing in his faith and a young lady who was a self-professing atheist to lunch. She was open to spiritual conversation and was fully engaged. After some small talk, I said to her, “I think you have more faith than I do.” She kind of laughed and replied, “No you don’t understand, I’m an atheist.” I said, “Yes, I know that; but you cannot prove there is no God, it’s just your belief. So, atheism is really a type of faith.” She was silent for about 20 seconds, thinking deeply. Then she looked at me and said, “You blew my mind!” We laughed together and then invited her to share why she doesn’t believe in God. We listened and asked other questions, getting to know and understand her. Then she was very open to hearing our stories and why we believe that God has sent His Son and how Jesus has changed us.

Continuing the conversation

If you’ve had a good conversation with someone about faith, ask if you can talk with them further about these things. You may even be so bold as to say something like, “One of the greatest things in my life is knowing and following Jesus. I would love for you to consider who he is and what he offers. I don’t want to be pushy, but it’s so good that I want to share. I’d love to continue our conversation if you’re up for it.”