How to Revive Evangelism:
7 Vital Shifts in How We Share our Faith

1. **<u>Hungry for more, not just hoping for many</u>**
   Out of an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus & experience of God

2. **<u>Conversation, not just proclamation</u>**
   Prioritizing dialogue, question-asking, and listening like Jesus did

3. **<u>Belonging, not just welcoming</u>**
   Creating spaces & cultivating relationships where people belong before they believe

4. **<u>Experience, not just explanation</u>**
   Embracing the supernatural & depending on the power of God

5. <u>Fruitful, not just factual</u>
   The character of our lives & impact of our faith in the community may speak louder than words

6. <u>We, not just me</u>
   Connecting people to more than just us (community & church family)

7. <u>Unity, not just uniformity</u>
   THE Church > our church; diverse believers uniting to love & serve

JESUS & THE 7 MILE JOURNEY

On the Road to Emmaus: ***Luke 24:13-35***

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

CONNECTED & AVAILABLE

CONNECTED -- *Jesus was always connected to the Father ("I only do what I see the Father doing" John 5:19)*

➵ Am I connected to the Father? Am I listening to His voice? Am I abiding in His love? Am I looking for what He's doing?

AVAILABLE -- *Jesus as He's walking, joins them; He's present, available enough to get into an unexpected conversation.*

➵ Am I *present* with the people I'm around? Do I make myself *available* -- to interruptions, inconveniences, and unexpected conversations?

CURIOUS & EQUIPPED

CURIOUS -- *Jesus asked questions; He listened before speaking; He gave them space to share what was on their minds, and how they were processing the current events (conversation, not just proclamation)*

→ How much of my evangelism is talking versus listening? Questions versus answers? Do I display genuine curiosity toward the thoughts & perspectives of those around me?

EQUIPPED -- 1. *Jesus is equipped to engage their questions (v. 27 - knows the scriptures / the story of God); 2. Jesus is equipped with the fruit of the Spirit (i.e. patience, love, self-control…); 3. Jesus is equipped to operate in the gifts of the Spirit (i.e. teaching, exhorting, miracles… etc.)*

→ How ready am I to articulate the story of God, and thoughtfully engage people's questions?
→ Does my character, my way of working, talking, and treating people, display the character of Christ?
→ What spiritual gift(s) has God given me for the sake of others? (And how does my personal engagement with the gifts of the Spirit compare & contrast with the overall thread of church history, and the implications of scripture?)

INVESTED & PRAYING

INVESTED -- *Jesus is invested for the journey: He walks with them the whole 7 miles. Jesus is invested in the relationship; at the end (v. 29), they want to continue spending time with Him, and He stays for dinner.*

→ Am I invested in genuine relationships with people who don't go to church or know Jesus fully?

PRAYING -- *At the end, something happens beyond human effort: their eyes are opened (v. 31).*

→ We don't save people; Jesus does. Am I actively praying for what only God can do in _____'s life?