



# Examining Evangelism – Part 2

# Why Study Evangelism?

1. Evangelism is an important mandate of the church.
2. Evangelism is not one of our (this group's) strengths.
3. We are often troubled by the way evangelism is done, leading us to avoid evangelism entirely.
4. We are concerned about causing offense to others.
5. We may feel unprepared to witness to others, or unworthy to do so.



# Last Week

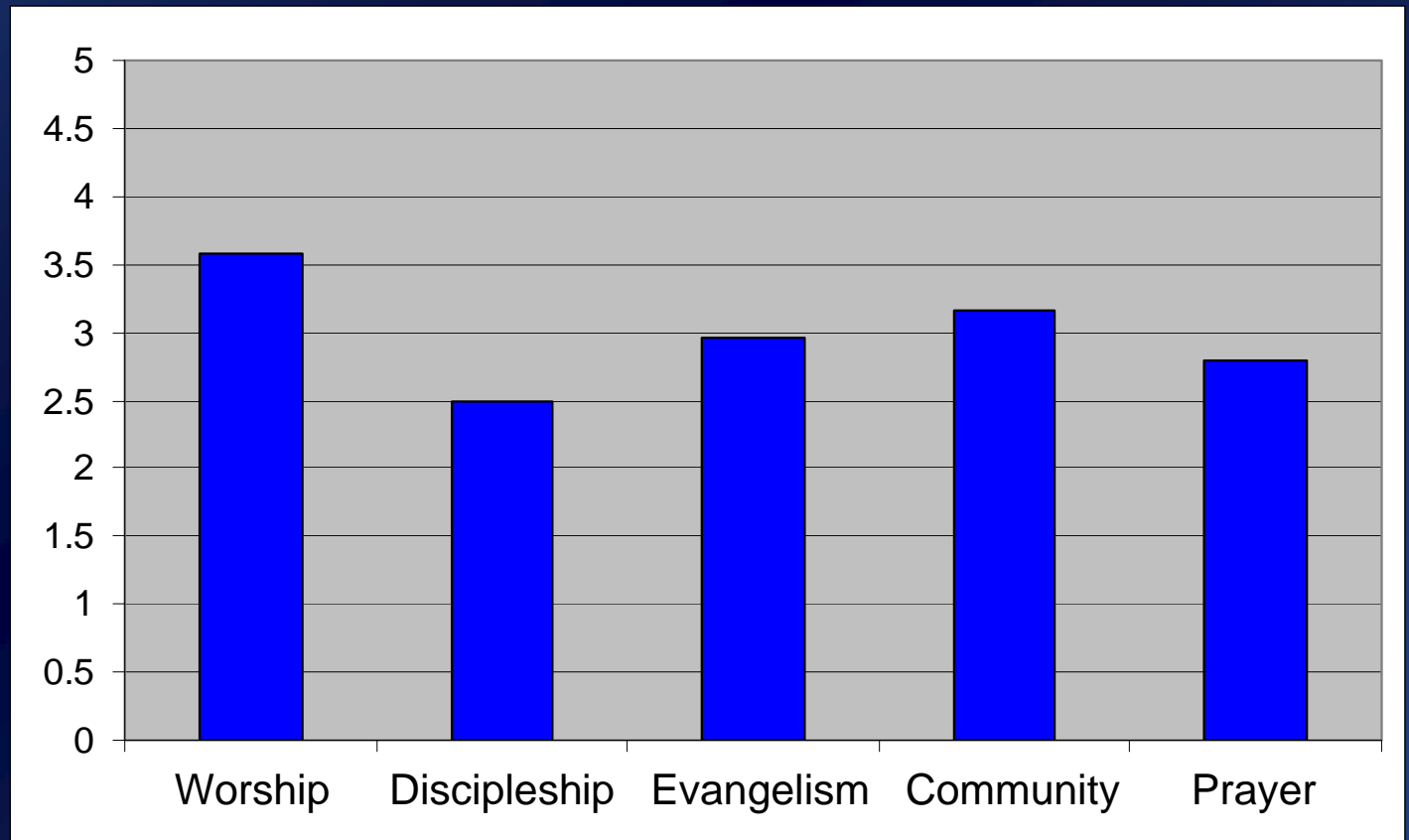


"But he (Davidson) is afraid of the gossips it contains!"



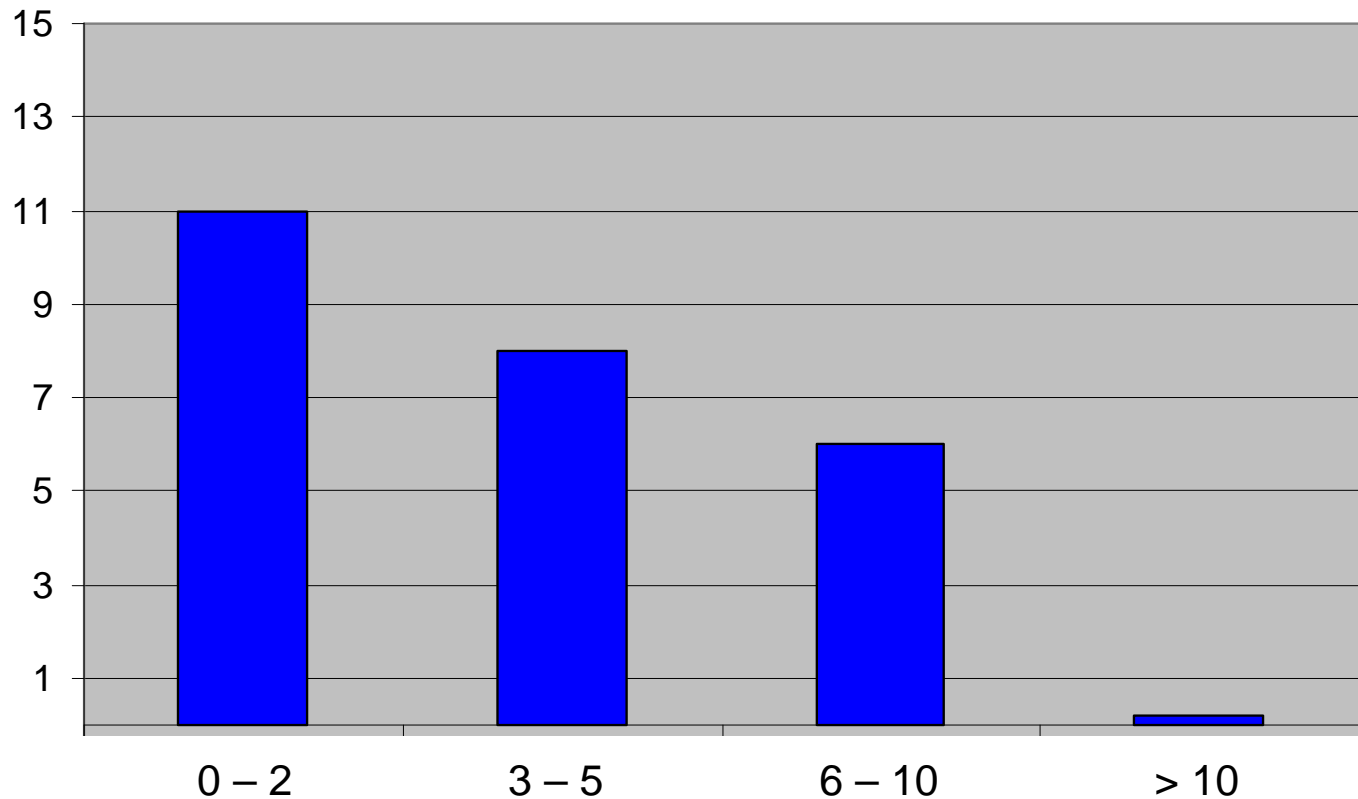
# Last Week

Rank the following in order of priority (1 – 5):



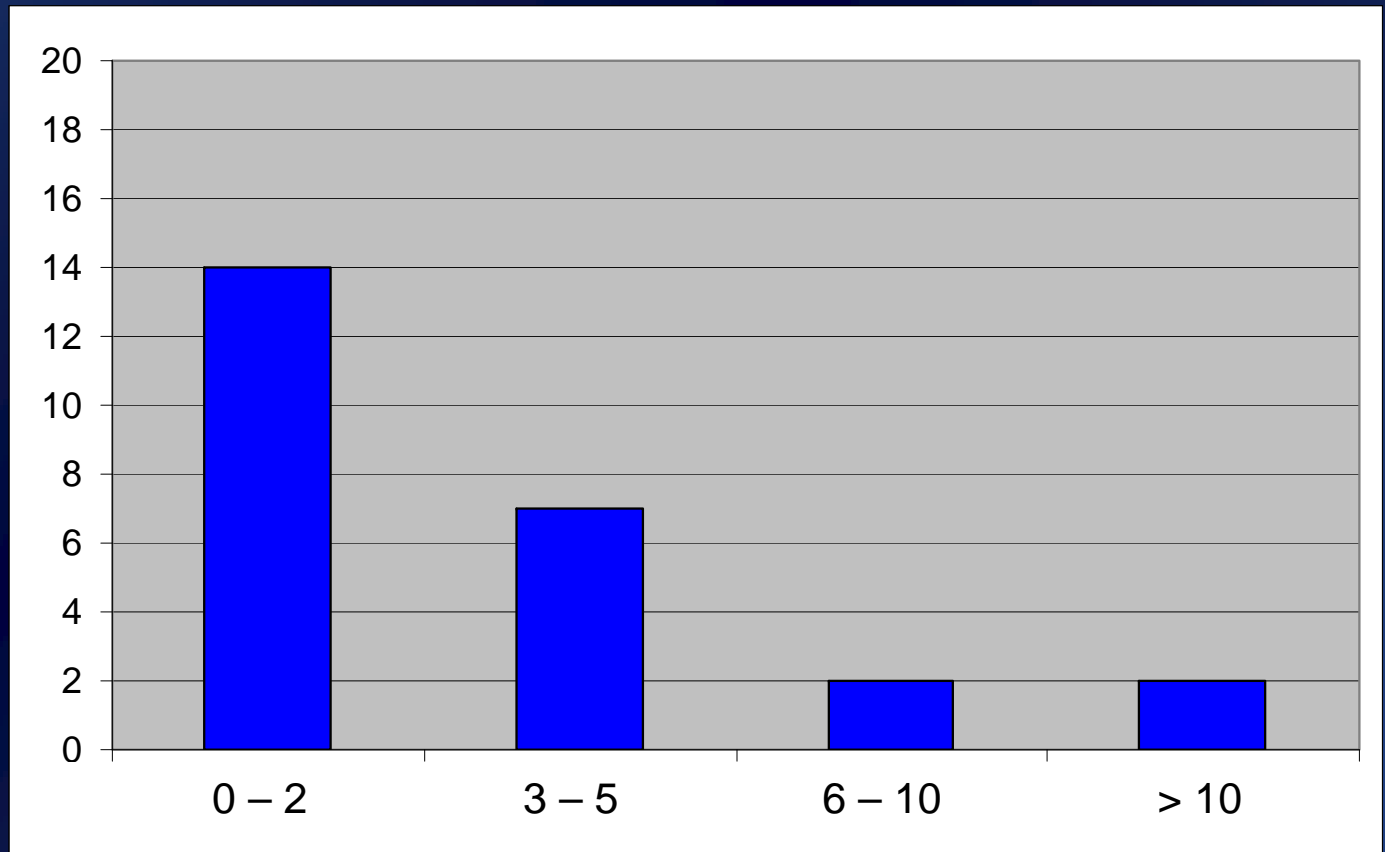
# Last Week

During the last six months, how many conversations have you had with someone who is not a Christian specifically about Christ?



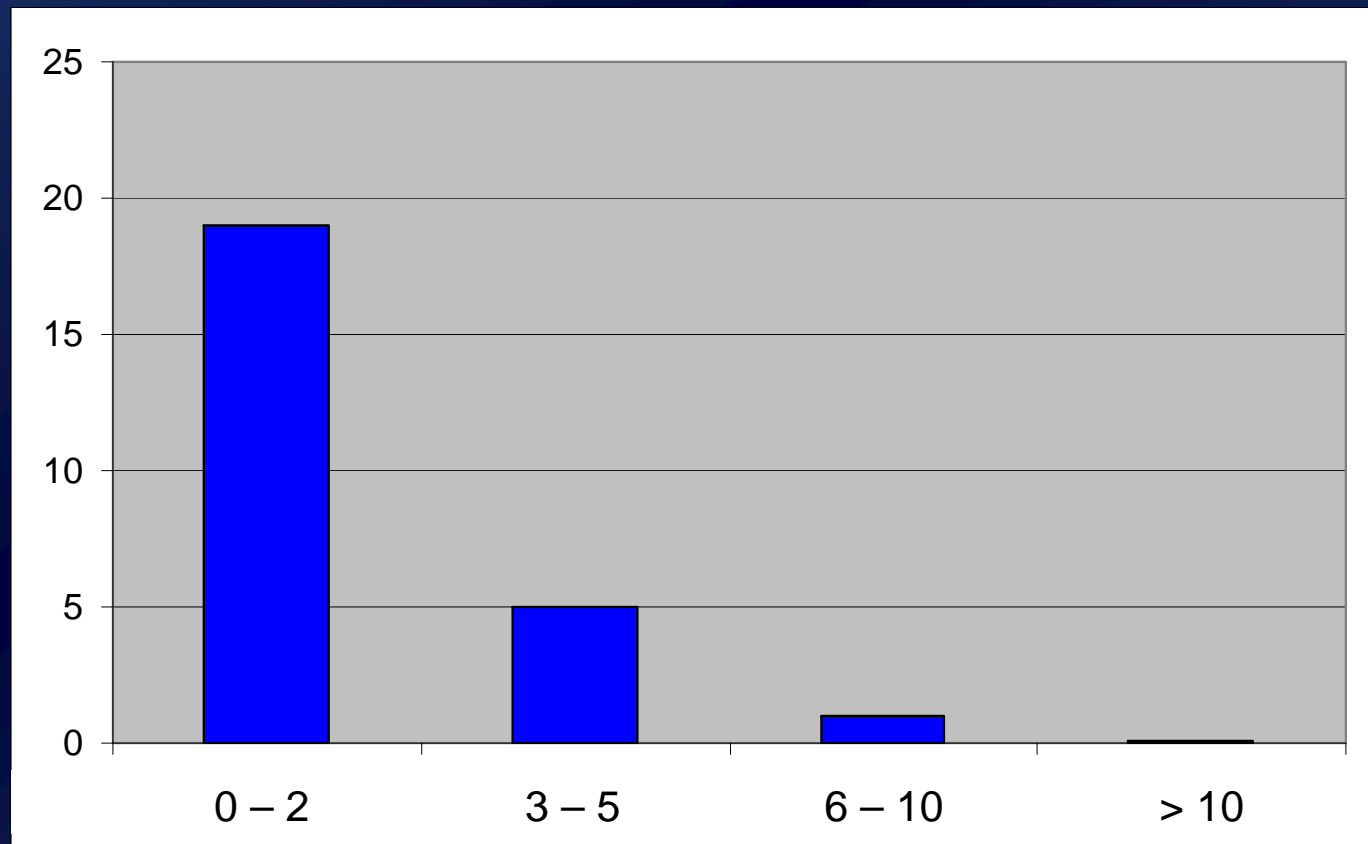
# Last Week

During the last two years, how many people outside of Christianity have you helped draw closer to Christ?



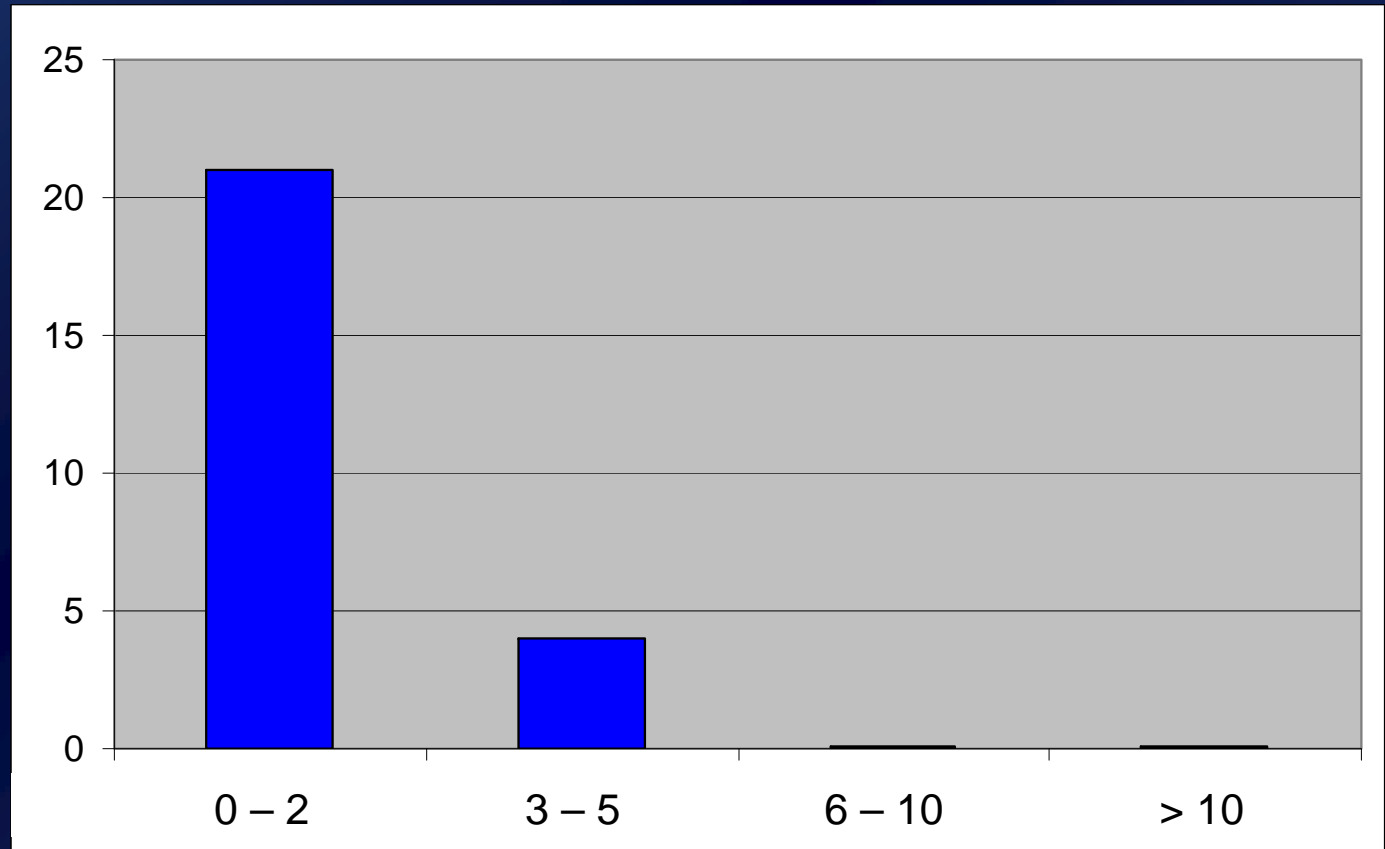
# Last Week

During the last two years, how many people outside of Christianity have you invited to read the Bible?



# Last Week

During the last two years, how many people outside of Christianity have you discipled?





# Observations & Assumptions

1. No one objected to the idea that evangelism is a mandate.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

- Matthew 28:18b-20



# Observations & Assumptions

1. No one objected to the idea that evangelism is a mandate.
2. Many of us had an issue with the way it was being done.
3. The evangelists we watched had certain base assumptions:
  - Salvation = getting into heaven
  - “God sent His son to hang upon a cross and shed His blood that you might have eternal life.”
  - Time is running out / death at any moment
  - Seems to be a connection between churches obsessed with the end times and churches focused on evangelism
  - Believing in Jesus is so easy. All you have to do is believe in Him. (“He’s a sweet little innocent lamb...”)



# Observations & Assumptions

## 4. We had our own assumptions:

- It would be more powerful to serve people breakfast than to preach at them.
- Telling a testimony conveys more information and is more effective.
- Everyone already knows about salvation and John 3:16.
- If we focus too much on the method of evangelism, we are taking matters into our own hands and not relying on the Holy Spirit.
- Evangelism is often condescending and offensive, lacking humility.
- Evangelism works best in the context of relationship.



# Observations & Assumptions

Some additional observations:

- We have strong objections to the ways in which evangelism is done – not on any Biblical basis – but on the basis of how we feel about it personally.
- We have used our objection to the various methods of evangelism to rationalize the fact that we are not involved in evangelism.
- Almost every one of us in this room is already a great evangelist. We can hardly hold in the good news, and we constantly share it with those around us.



# Defining Evangelism

“Evangelism” is a transliteration  
the Greek word “Euangelion” –  
originally meaning the delivery of “good news”

“Evangelist” is one who proclaims the “good news”

Our words “Gospel” is also derived from  
the [Old English] words meaning “good news”



# Observations & Assumptions

8. So why is it so hard for us to share the Good News?

Some possible reasons:

- We are not really that excited about meeting Christ and being in relationship with Him; or
- He really has not impacted our life in such a way that is compelling enough for us to want to tell others; or
- We really don't care about (love) others enough to invite into the midst of this exciting relationship we have with Christ; or
- We have misunderstood God's role in evangelism and confused our own role in the process.



# Observations & Assumptions

“For Christians to talk about the gospel is a sign of health; to talk about evangelism is a sign that something is wrong.”

- John Bowen, *Evangelism for “Normal” People*

“Having to stress the Great Commission, and having to urge people to witness, is not a sign of spiritual life, but a sign of spiritual decadence.”

- *David Watson*





# COMING UP

**Next Week:**                      **Morgan**                      **The Importance of Evangelism**

**Following Week:**              **Jeremy**                      **How Effective is Evangelism?  
What Evangelism Is Not**

**Followed By:**                      **John**                      **God's Role & Our Role  
in Evangelism**

**Ending With:**                      **John**                      **The Way, The Truth & The Life**





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