



SHOE STYLE

Every person should hear the best message of all time: Jesus lives. He loves people. He transforms lives. We do not want to keep the Good News to ourselves. We want to use every possible way to share this message.

Not everyone is good at preaching to a crowd on a street corner or offering prayer to strangers on the sidewalk. Similarly, not every person is good at a relational approach to evangelism. It is good that we are not all the same. The Bible shows at least seven different styles of evangelism. God made you exactly how He wanted you to be. He has given you special gifts, a unique personality and your own character. You can share the Gospel effectively without changing who you are; you just need to find your own style. Do not try to be something you are not. All you need to do is be the person that God created you to be!

Use this test to find out which evangelistic style suits you best, then share God's love in word and deed to others. In Ephesians 6:15, Paul says, «On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong.» We always need to be ready to share the best news of all time anywhere and to every person. But we often do not know exactly what kind of shoes we are wearing on our feet. And most of us do not only have one pair of shoes, right?

We have assigned a different type of shoe to each evangelistic style. It is important to find shoes that fit well; otherwise walking becomes difficult. It is also true that we need different types of shoes for different activities. Do not only stay in your most familiar pair of evangelistic shoes but allow yourself to be inspired and challenged by the new ideas from other kinds of shoes as well. Try on a new pair of shoes from time to time and practice a different evangelistic style. This will make you more confident in new outreach situations so that you enjoy sharing your faith and will see the fruit God brings.



1. SNEAKERS

THE TESTIMONY STYLE



«We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard.» Acts 4:20



EXAMPLE FROM THE BIBLE

In the Gospel of John, chapter 9, you can read the story of how Jesus healed a blind beggar, who was well-known in his town. The religious leaders interrogated the man's parents as well as the man himself on multiple occasions. His disarming and straightforward answer to their questions was very simple, «I only know one thing for sure: I was blind, and now I can see.» He was unwilling to argue with them about why he was healed. All he knew for sure was that his healing was real, and that was enough for him. In the Testimony Style, the goal is not to debate others or convince them through clever arguments. The point is to simply tell others what Jesus has done in your life.



CHARACTERISTICS

communicative, expressive, enthusiastic about God



HELPFUL HINTS

Do not simply tell your story, but challenge others to take a step of faith based on what they have heard.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

Share what you have experienced as part of a church service, a small group meeting or at a party. You can also tell a story in a regular conversation with an individual or when sharing with a few people. Put your story in writing or on video and share it on the MyStory.me platform or on social media.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Practice talking to people about what you have experienced, take a public speaking course, or attend a communications seminar to learn how to tell your stories in more exciting, interesting, and creative ways.



OUTREACH IDEAS

MyStory, THE FOUR online community, THE FOUR multimedia presentation, Wear THE FOUR clothing and accessoires

MY EXPERIENCE

I recently had an appointment with my hairdresser, whom I had been going to for years. We always talked about lots of different things while she cut my hair. I had always thought it would be nice to tell her about my faith, but the topic never came up. I prayed that God would lead me and provide an opportunity to share. Just then I noticed her tattoo, and I asked her what it meant. She explained that the tattoo reminded her of someone she loved who had died. It was her way of remembering them. And just like that, we were talking about «life and death». I asked her if she thought there was anything after death. She said she wasn't sure, but she hoped so. Then I explained that we Christians have a hope that lasts beyond death and that we don't believe that's the end. I told her about a God who loves us and wants to have a personal relationship with us. That relationship was broken by sin. And that's exactly the reason why Jesus came into the world and died on the cross – so that we can be reunited with our Heavenly Father in a relationship again. Through Jesus, we have access to God and can be with Him when we die. I told her how I experience God and what He has done in my life. The whole time while she did my hair, we talked about faith and God. When I was on my way out, I wanted to give her a tip – a Fr. 5 coin. As I gave it to her, I explained that this coin was special because of the inscription on the edge, «Dominus providebit». That is Latin for «God provides», and I have experienced that provision numerous times in my life. I also gave her a card with some information and the link to a Christian website. She smiled and thanked me as she took it.

Vivianne Baud
Pastor

2. SLIPPERS: THE INVITATION STYLE



«The master said to the servant, 'Go out to the high-ways and country roads. Tell the people there to come. I want my house to be full!」 Luke 14:23



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

You probably know the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well from John 4. During a short conversation with Jesus, she became convinced that He was the Son of God. In her excitement, she left the water jar at the well and ran back into the village to tell everyone, «A man told me everything I have ever done. Come see him. Maybe he is the Messiah!» Those people followed her invitation, and many of them came to faith. The Samaritan woman practiced the «Invitation Style». She did not give a talk or try to share the entire conversation she had with Jesus with her neighbors. All she did was invite others to come and see for themselves, to meet Jesus personally.



CHARACTERISTICS

gregarious, inviting, sociable, winning



HELPFUL HINTS

Do not always leave the talking to others.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

Give the speaker or pastor helpful tips for making their presentations or events more inviting. Attend an Alpha Course with someone (www.alpha.org), invite people to your church, to evangelistic events or to your own small group.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Prayerfully consider the people you want to invite to which events and when. Do not get discouraged, keep inviting.



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Printed Materials, Invite People, Pray, Start a Bible reading Plan, Join a small group, Bubble Soccer

MY EXPERIENCE

When the evangelistic musical «Life on Stage» was playing in our area, I know that it would be a great opportunity for my girlfriend to hear about Jesus! The true-life stories presented in the musical shared interesting parallels with her life, so I knew she would be touched by them. After the show, I knew someone would share the Gospel in a clear and loving way so that she would have the opportunity to make a faith decision for Jesus. I had already been praying for her for a while, and I had already told her about Jesus myself, but she never felt comfortable with taking a step of faith. When the dates for the musical were announced, I gave her a flyer and asked if she wanted to come with me to the show. I reserved good seats for us. During the show I could sense that her heart was touched by the characters in the musical whose lives were similar to hers. The song texts also struck a chord. I was sitting there next to her, and I was pretty nervous. After the show was over, someone gave a message with a call for anyone who wanted to take a step of faith to come forward and confirm that decision at the cross. I could hardly believe it when I saw my friend stand up and walk to the front to pray to give her life to Jesus! Ever since that day, her life has changed dramatically. She has gotten to know Jesus more and more, and her foundation of faith gets stronger each day! Recently, she told me that she used to be a serious shopaholic. It was so bad that her grandmother had often paid her bills to keep her out of significant debt. After she became a Christian, she prayed to Jesus to ask Him to help her stop that behaviour. Now she says that ever since that prayer, Jesus freed her from the need to shop compulsively. God is so good!

Madeleine Häsler

Catechism Instructor (Religious Education Teacher) & Housewife

3. LOAFERS: THE INTELLECTUAL STYLE



«The weapons we use are not human ones. Our weapons have power from God and can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments, and we tear down every proud idea that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We also capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.» 2 Corinthians 10:4-5



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

The Apostle Paul often engaged in artful debate to win people to the Christian faith. He was well-educated and highly intelligent. He was a deep thinker who loved to analyze ideas, present clear arguments, find proof for his theories and correct mistakes in thought. He knew that some people need to change their thinking before they can come to faith. In Athens, he spoke with the intellectual elite of the city cleverly using the «Altar to an Unknown God» as the illustration for his explanation of the True God (see Acts chapter 17). I can imagine how Peter entered the city and how he would have stood by that altar, calling out to all who would listen. But if he had berated them by saying that the «Unknown God» was rubbish, he would not have gotten very far with them. Instead, the people of Athens needed to hear Paul's Intellectual Style.



CHARACTERISTICS

Sound arguments, hungry for knowledge, logical, objective/focused on facts



HELPFUL HINTS

Be careful not to get pulled into contentious arguments with the people you want to reach.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

In group discussions, as a speaker at evangelistic events, engaging with skeptics, in Bible Study groups, in online videos



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Read lots of books, attend seminars, talk with other intellectuals.



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Surveys and Questionnaires
- Bible Discovery



MY EXPERIENCE

I became a Christian when I went to university. I studied psychology, and this meant I was confronted with lots of questions about life and religion, «There are so many different religions and forms of spirituality, but why is there even a God at all?», «Is the effectiveness of prayer just a placebo effect?», «Do you believe because you NEED to believe?», «If God is so loving, then why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?» People asked me these kinds of questions daily at university. I often just said, «I don't know.», and ended the conversation by telling my own story of faith and offering to pray for them. I could tell that people were touched by my offer, but they mostly refused, saying, «That's fine for you, I guess, but it's nothing for me.» I was so frustrated. I realized that I had to make a choice: I could either take their questions seriously and attempt to give them an honest answer, or I could just beg off. So, I started studying the Bible and reading apologetic books. Friends of mine organised conferences for students who were interested in spiritual topics. I led my first session at one of those conferences. The title of my talk was, «Jesus? A myth, a wise teacher, a liar, a lunatic or God?» At the end of the conference, people could fill in a card with their contact information in order to join a discussion group with Christian students or to study the Bible together. Dozens of people wanted to talk with us and join our groups. One time, there was even a Muslim woman who came up to me at the end of the conference and said, «If there's anybody in this room who needed to hear that message, then it's me! Now I understand that Jesus is God and nothing less.» A month later she was baptized and began sharing the Gospel with her own children and the other kids in her neighbourhood. I think it's important to take people's questions seriously. They are not meant to attack us, but instead show what people are really struggling with. It's not about who is right or wrong in an argument, but about helping people find Jesus. We need to be patient and joyful, giving them time to make their own decision for Jesus.

Raphaël Aubry
Psychologist

4. RUBBER BOOTS: THE SERVING STYLE

«In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.» Matthew 5:16



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

One of the most loveable people in the Bible appears in Acts 9 – a Christian woman called Tabea. She was well-known in her city for her good deeds including sewing clothes for poor people. She was not a street evangelist, and she probably never preached a sermon. But her acts of practical assistance were a clear sign pointing to the God, who can transform human hearts and fill them with love. These quiet acts of service are as valuable as all those street corner sermons or sidewalk conversations. Serve others with joy and tell anyone who asks why you do.



CHARACTERISTICS

calm, persistent, selfless, accommodating



HELPFUL HINTS

Be careful to not let words become a substitute for deeds and that deeds do not become substitutes for clear words. Jesus shared the love of God through both words and deeds.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

Offering practical help at home/in the garden/with the children, etc., gifts to the needy, practical help in everyday life.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Help where you see a need. Explain the spiritual motivation behind your service, but do not manipulate people. Set healthy boundaries; be careful not to let people to take advantage of your desire to help.



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Go shopping for someone or pay for someone else's groceries at the store
- Go on a missions trip
- Bake cookies or a cake for a neighbor

MY EXPERIENCE

When I was a businessman, I always looked for opportunities to serve Jesus through my company. One of my most important goals was that all my employees would come to faith in Jesus Christ. I worked to create a company culture that reflected my Christian values, so that people could trust what I said. I wanted my employees to know that I appreciated and loved them. I showed this by always paying fair wages. I also tried to include God's Word in our everyday activities so that people could experience God. For example, we offered an Alpha Course during business hours. We also hosted an annual Christmas Dinner, where all employees and their spouses heard the Christmas story. It was also important for us to pass on the financial blessing we received by sending annual humanitarian aid shipments into Eastern Europe using our company vehicles as well as generously supporting various Christian organisations financially and with our products. Many of our employees came to faith over the years, some even on their deathbed. However, there were also difficult times. Our Chief Financial Officer embezzled money from the company, going undiscovered for many years. By the time things came to light, the damage was so great that we had to sell the company at a huge loss. In an interview with a well-known tabloid, I said, «I would rather die poorer but know that my people will keep their jobs.» Later, I had the opportunity to meet with that employee, who was at risk for suicide, and help him find his way back to his Christian faith. I forgave him, and I helped him find a new job in another Christian-owned company. I also spoke on his behalf at the trial, asking the judge to be lenient. For me, being able to experience that kind of life-transformation through Jesus is amazing! Serving Jesus – and other people – is one of the most exciting things I've ever done.

Robert Rahm
Founder winery

5. SOCCER SHOES: THE DIRECT STYLE

«Tell everyone God’s message. Be ready at all times to do whatever is needed. Tell people what they need to do, tell them when they are doing wrong, and encourage them. Do this with great patience and careful teaching.» 2 Timothy 4:2



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

Peter was a confrontational evangelist. This is clear when you read his Pentecost message in Acts 2. His call to the crowd, «Listen to me!» was the beginning of his explanation of all the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus and how He was the promised Messiah. He finishes his sermon with the words, «...all the people of Israel should know this for certain: God has made Jesus to be Lord and Messiah. He is the man you nailed to the cross!» (Acts 2:36) He wanted them to know that their actions had done the opposite of what they intended! Peter grabbed the bull by the horns; his sermons were like a head-on attack. The strategy paid off in this case; 3,000 people believed in Jesus Christ as a result. Peter was just the right guy for this kind of preaching. He was a man of action. The Direct Style can help many people come to faith in a short time by sharing the Gospel with the masses.



CHARACTERISTICS

optimistic, bold, concrete, confident, courageous, direct.



HELPFUL HINTS

Ask God for wisdom to remain tactful and sensitive to others.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

As a speaker at an evangelistic event, street preaching, sharing a short message at a party of gathering, on an evangelistic missions trip.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Take the Evangelism Explosion Course (<https://evangelismexplosion.org/about-us/>) or go through THE FOUR training.



OUTREACH IDEAS

THE FOUR Cards, Go on an evangelistic missions trip, Outreach activities

MY EXPERIENCE:

I worked for a company with about 1,000 employees. I did not know a single other person there who was a Christian. There had also been times when my faith did not play a very significant role in my life. But one time I rented a simple mountain cabin (without electricity or running water) in a remote location with the intent of spending a few days there to reconnect with God. I told God that I wanted to be a light for Him at work. After that weekend, I was back at work programming my computer as usual, when my boss came into my office and tapped me on the shoulder. He was not a man of faith in any way, but he came to me with an interesting proposal, «Manuel, our company Christmas party is coming up, and this year, I want someone to share the Christmas message from the Bible. I'd like you to give that message. I know there are a lot of Muslim employees here, but we also need to hear what you believe. Don't be shy about sharing your faith.» I was totally surprised by his request, but I knew it was an answer to my prayer. I gladly accepted his challenge! I spent a lot of time preparing my message, and I wanted to be as clear as possible. I actually expected to be fired afterward. Then the time came for me to speak. My team and my bosses were all seated in the front row. I was by far the youngest person in the room. I started by telling the Christmas story, explaining that God loves people so much, but He knows that we can never be good enough to come to Him on our own. So, He decided to come to us. More than 2,000 years ago, God came to earth as a beautiful baby. «And my friends,» I continued, «He will return one day – not as a baby, but as a glorious Hero and King, powerful and riding on a horse. When people see Him then, this is what will happen: every person will fall to their knees before Him – everyone in heaven, on earth and all who have died already. Every one of these will praise God saying, «Jesus Christ is Lord!» Let us get a head start now, before it is too late. Take a step of faith toward Jesus today and make Him the King of your life!» Instead of ridiculing me or mobbing me, my colleagues gave me a standing ovation. My boss joined me at the podium and gave me a hug, saying, «Manuel, you are like a son to me. Please pray that your God will become my God.» That was a divine appointment for sure. I knew that He had made it possible and not anything I had done.

Manuel Leiser
Leader THE FOUR Switzerland

6. FLIP FLOPS: THE RELATIONAL STYLE



«To those who are weak, I became weak so that I could help save them. I have become all things to all people. I did this so that I could save people in any way possible.» 1 Corinthians 9:22



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

Luke chapter 5 tells the story of Matthew, the tax collector. After Jesus called him to be one of the disciples, Matthew organized a huge party. Not only did he invite Jesus and the other disciples, he also invited his own friends and other tax collectors. He used his personal network of friends and colleagues to bring people in contact with Jesus. It did not matter much to Jesus what kinds of people were at the party, He was there to heal the sick. Matthew did not have to talk to people he did not know; instead, he saw his own friends as the best place to begin sharing the Gospel!



CHARACTERISTICS

sociable, empathetic, sensitive, extroverted, people oriented.



HELPFUL HINTS

Be careful not to value friendships more than speaking God's truth.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

Among your neighbors, helping organize events (parties, sport events, dinners, etc.), leading a small group, helping run a faith course.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Spend time with people who do not know Jesus yet. Invest yourself in existing relationships. Talk about your faith.



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Bake cookies or a cake for a neighbor
- Use printed material (tracts, brochures, booklets)
- Do Bible Discovery with someone
- Wear THE FOUR clothing and accessories
- Outreach activities: bubble soccer, THE FOUR giant dice

MY EXPERIENCE:

It was a beautiful spring morning. Although I felt usually weak, uncertain and useless in my own faith, I continued to pray for opportunities to share my faith with specific people in my life. My greatest wish was to be a light for someone else. That morning, I left home as usual. Only a few hundred meters from my front door, I ran into an old acquaintance. We had known each other as kids because our parents were friends. But we lost touch over the years, and when I saw him, I wondered whether he would even recognize me or want to have anything to do with me now. I knew that he had gotten into trouble with the police in the past. Still, as I greeted him with a friendly smile there on the sidewalk, I hoped that he would remember me. That chance meeting turned into a great conversation that went far beyond normal small talk. After the usual, «How have you been?» and «What are you doing these days?», we started to talk about church, since I had told him that I helped with a youth group. Then he shared that he had recently been thinking a lot about his current circle of friends, and he was looking for new people to hang out with, people who would «do him good.»

As the conversation continued, we talked about our hobbies too, and we realised that we both loved wakeboarding. I told him that even though it's a passion of mine, I hardly ever have the chance to go since I don't know anyone who has a boat. I was amazed to hear that he owns a motorboat! Of course, we set a date to go wakeboarding as soon as possible. During this meeting and the ones that followed, we talked more and more about our lives and about faith. Our friendship grew closer and deeper. His hunger for God grew and he took concrete steps of faith toward God and away from his former way of life. He asked me how he could be freed from his drug addiction. He voluntarily handed in his illegal weapons to the police.

God put me in touch with this person; someone who shares my interests, someone who I feel comfortable talking to about my fears and weaknesses with. He was someone who I could share my faith with naturally. Over time, our friendship has grown strong, and he eventually made a faith decision for Jesus. He even got baptized out on the lake off the back of his own boat. Now he shares his faith with others, too. One of his friends who used to be very much against everything spiritual or religious, came to faith through this guy's story. And so, my friend, who had only been a baptized Believer for a few weeks, helped baptize one of his former drug buddies. That's just the beginning of the story! We can't wait to see what God does next.

Dominik Bosshard
Wine Merchant

7. SANDALS: THE PRAYER STYLE

«Heal the sick. Bring the dead back to life. Heal the people who have leprosy. And force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help others freely.» Matthew 10:8



EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE

In Acts 3 we read about the time Peter and John met a crippled beggar while they were on their way to the Temple to pray. The beggar called out to them asking for money. Peter turned to him and said, «I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you. By the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth—stand up and walk! » The man was immediately healed! He leapt to his feet, causing quite an uproar. The apostles used that opportunity to tell the crowd about Jesus, the One whose power had healed the man. In the same way, Jesus often combined healings with a proclamation of the Good News. Those miracles caused many to believe.



CHARACTERISTICS

Childlike faith, courageous, direct, bold, faithful.



HELPFUL HINTS

Make sure to not make yourself the center of attention. Miracles should always point people to God. Do not value a miracle more than the person taking a step of faith toward salvation. Never stop believing God for big things. Never give up.



HOW / WHEN TO USE THIS STYLE

Offer to pray for healing in everyday situations involving pain. Ask a skeptic, «What needs to happen for you to believe?», pray for healing in evangelistic outreaches on the street, offer prayers for healing during a church service.



DEVELOP YOUR STYLE

Participate in a healing seminar, watch videos of people being healed, pray for people you know. Practice with someone who have more experience and go out regularly to offer prayer to people on the street.



OUTREACH IDEAS

- Prayer Balloon s activity,
- Get involved with a prayer movement

MY EXPERIENCE

I walked up to four guys right there in the Party Zone on Mallorca and invited them to our Beach Church. We got into a deep discussion about God, but they all said they didn't believe. To them, it was all just a bunch of fairy tales. I asked them what it would take for them to believe that God is real and alive. «A miracle would be a good start!», they agreed. I had noticed that one of them had a cast on his leg and an additional brace for support. «Can I pray for your leg?» «Sure! It would be great to get healed.» So, I prayed quickly, «In the name of Jesus: pain, be gone and leg, be healed!» Immediately, he said, «Hey, my leg doesn't anymore. And I can feel my thigh again!» «Great! Should we test it somehow?» «The doctor told me not to put any weight on it yet. It's broken in multiple places! But I could try walking a few steps with my crutches.» In the end, he stood up straight on his leg. «Wow! I can't believe it. It doesn't hurt at all!» He was gobsmacked and wanted to take off the cast and the brace immediately. I tried to tell him to be careful, but he responded, «What for? I've been healed!» «But maybe it only feels like that right now, » I countered. But I couldn't stop him. He got rid of the brace and started jumping around on his healed leg. I was able to pray for the other guys too and we decided that their friend really needed to go to a doctor to make sure everything was completely healed. The next day, he sent me his Insta post with his «before» and «after» x-rays. The first picture clearly showed the break and the metal plates with screws that had been put in during the operation. In the second picture, all you could see was a perfect bone – no metal plates, no screws. God had healed a complex broken leg with a 5-second prayer. Wow!

Yvan Wäfler

«Reach Mallorca» Camp Participant