

## **Learn how to share the gospel in 30 different ways!**

By Peter Trautman

NavWeekly 8/26/19

I like to apply Psalm 33:3 to evangelism (and the rest of our work): “Sing to him a new song, play skillfully, and shout for joy” (NIV). Let’s reach out to the lost with winsomeness and creativity, excellence and skill, and great enthusiasm and joy!

1. **Daily Prayer Phone Reminders**—Set your phone to give you a daily reminder at 9:38 a.m. to “Pray for laborers” (Matthew 9:38) and at 2:10 p.m. to “Pray their knees bow on this side” (Philippians 2:10). It helps get us praying for these things a whole lot more, and God has been answering.
2. **Soularium Cards**—Inviting people to share with you their spiritual journey using a set of 60 image cards. This has been a *fantastic* tool that’s been very positively received by strangers or friends! Training videos at [www.cru.org](http://www.cru.org).
3. **The 21-Day Challenge**—Read the 21 chapters of John with a pre-believing friend over a 21-day period. Ask your friend to meet up once a week (can be more or less) for three weeks to discuss both your insights. The YouVersion Bible app also created a 21-Day Challenge John commentary that could provide extra context. Penn State Navigators Collegiate organized other campus groups and churches to distribute 30,000 copies of John through the Pocket Testament League in 2014 in State College! The beauty is you can do it anytime with one person, or on this large scale. Can be as simple as: “Have you heard about the 21-Day Challenge? Want to do it with me?” You could add this: “You have always been so respectful of my beliefs as a Christian and I so appreciate that! But I’m bummed none of my friends understand *why* I believe, what I love about it. Would you be willing to do this challenge with me?”
4. **Five Community Questions**—Based on the top felt need at NYU, these questions were created to engage NYU students in a conversation about community on campus and why we need it in the first place. Contact [nycnavsassist@gmail.com](mailto:nycnavsassist@gmail.com) for the questions.
5. **Share Your First Love**—Believers have an authentic story about their relationship to Jesus they are ready to tell; we should encourage them to integrate that in their first interaction with pre-believers about who Jesus is. What do you usually say when you share the gospel? Okay, now what one word summarizes what made you first fall in love with Jesus, the part of the gospel that most drew you to Him? (Belonging, freedom, grace, forgiveness, love, etc.) Now, are those two answers related? These questions from Navigator Laurence Koo help us realize that we typically do not share what we are most passionate about when we share the gospel, and our hearers miss the chance to learn what most grips us about Jesus. Learn to help others tell their testimony based on what first made them fall in love with Him.

6. **We'll Clean Your Bathroom for Free**—Flyers around campus, appointments made, services rendered, leading to questions about why anyone would want to do this and opportunities to tell them about the Jesus who served us. They won't forget that you did this.
7. **Prayer Chair**—On your next retreat, set up a chair at the front of the room and ask students to take off their masks in this safe space and share what we can pray for them in a “room of grace.” Watch as authentic and vulnerable community tears down walls and lets people see the Kingdom! Brokenness that is shared should be followed up well by staff. This has been transformative for us, allowing students to belong before they believe.
8. **Make Gospel Invitations at Your First Two Large Group Meetings**—InterVarsity has been surprised to find that it's been very effective to have all of their campuses do an invitation at the close of their *first two* large groups of the semester! They've found that students are the most open and have the highest felt need for spiritual help in their first weeks on campus, so they invite them to trust Christ in their fear, loneliness, and struggles. It proves the harvest is indeed plentiful! We at NYU Navs have found invitations at NavNite to be fruitful, at those first ones and here and there throughout the year (sometimes planned, sometimes following the Spirit, always done respectfully, but intentionally).
9. **Learn to Reach Those Feeling More Trapped in Shame and Anxiety Than Guilt.** *3D Gospel* by Jayson Georges is a short book with huge impact, explaining the three dimensions of the gospel in the Bible: not just the guilt-innocence gospel of substitutionary atonement that we are most familiar with in the United States, but the shame-honor and fear-power gospels that are just as biblical and seem to resonate so much with younger generations today. We need to learn the vocabulary of these other dimensions and discern which one (or what combination of the three) is most relevant to the needs of the person or population we are trying to reach. See more at [HonorShame.com](http://HonorShame.com).
10. **Break the “Fourth Wall” and Just Talk to the Person Next to You About the Very Act of Evangelism**—You'll be surprised the real walls that break down when you turn to a stranger or friend and say something like, “Can you help us learn how to best talk about our love for Jesus with others without being weird?” You'll most likely get some very practical help!
11. **Treasure Hunt!**—Go out in pairs or teams to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you to people or places in need of prayer, care, a prophetic word, or a gospel conversation, and then take action. Find the treasure the Holy Spirit has waiting for you!
12. **Money for the Kingdom**—Give envelopes to each student at your large group with various amounts of money in them (perhaps 50 cents up to \$20) and ask them to pray and use that money in the next week to do something to help others enter or receive the Kingdom, “and next week we'll come back and share stories of what God did!”

13. **Be the Source of the Party**—Show that Christians are *fun*, the *most* fun!
14. **Big Story**—A compelling, holistic gospel illustration: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCVcSiUUMhY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCVcSiUUMhY)
15. **Spiritual Interest Questionnaires Tabling**—“Guess the candies in the jar to enter to win two Broadway tickets or ten free pizza! And we’d love your thoughts on this brief questionnaire!” (Contact me for a copy). This is a great way to go broad, find spiritually interested people and focus your follow-up on them. You can walk also up to students and do 30-second (or one- or three-minute) questionnaires, asking the Spirit to lead you to the “people of peace”!
16. **Spiritual Mosaic Art Outreach**—Ask students to paint their spiritual journey to create a large mosaic. The university allowed us to display ours—see [vimeo.com/104871948](http://vimeo.com/104871948)—and it led to great and deep conversations.
17. **How Can We Help You?**—Have your students ask administrators and faculty—how can we help you with your goals and serve the campus?
18. **Alpha Course**—[Alphausa.org](http://Alphausa.org)—Great intro for seekers to the Christian faith through a relational, communal approach—it does take commitment to do well.
19. **Let’s Make Sure**—Have student leaders and staff share the Bridge with every member of your Bible studies—even the ones who you’re “sure” are Christians (. . . surprise!).
20. **Invite Non-believing Friends on Spring Break Service Trips or Service Days**—Many have a heart for justice already and will respond to a spiritual foundation for it, and the Spirit’s power to sustain it!
21. **Reel Spirituality**—A weekly Faith and Film Group gathered weekly at NYU, inviting non-believing friends to view and explore the spirituality in popular films and to talk about relevant faith questions in a non-threatening, vulnerable community.
22. **Spirituality and Acting Group**—“Group F” in Stella Adler Acting Studio was started by an NYU Navigators acting student trained in how to do an IBD—he took what they learned that week in studio and created spiritual discussions around that (“How does ‘surrendering to the character’ relate to sacrifices we make for others in life? That’s what I feel like Jesus was doing on the Cross . . .”).
23. **Free Slice of Pizza If You Ask a Question**—Have them ask a question they’ve always wondered about Jesus (at a table or just knock on dorm doors).
24. **Question Nights/Open Forums/Veritas Forums/Doubt Night**—Large group meetings for seekers and the friends who brought them!
25. **Co-sponsor Events With Unlikely Groups**—The LGBTQ campus organization, or Atheists and Freethinkers, or other groups that will cause real, intriguing conversations to take place that open eyes and hearts on both sides. Create some redemptive cognitive dissonance!

26. **Text for Bagels**—In NYC, students in dorms text a spiritual question and their location, and within a short time, they would get a free bagel hand-delivered by someone from the fellowship to try to answer their question!
27. **Build Joy**—One of Navigator Gary Bradley’s favorite evangelistic methods is a simple hug. He puts his arm around his friend, and says, “I just want you to know how much I appreciate you; I’m grateful you’re in my life; you’re really special to me.” He considers it “building joy into people’s lives,” and highly recommends the book *Rare Leadership* on the power of joy in evangelism and discipleship.
28. **Invite People Into Living a Better Story By Serving the Disadvantaged Together**—In *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, Donald Miller said to his friend with a wayward teenager, “It doesn’t sound like your daughter is living a very good story.” His friend then committed his family to building an orphanage in Honduras together, and everything changed. My 9-year-old son Noah just gave his \$25 to buy chickens for children in Africa after reading World Vision catalog. This stuff sticks!
29. **Set Number Prayer Goals**—Set goals for evangelism to pray for and work toward for the year. (Still reading?) The heart and *reality* behind the numbered prayer goals is that we just pray and share the gospel more when we have them! The impulse in us after we set them was: “How can we be the answer to this prayer? How could we help more people hear and respond to the gospel?” Having a goal like seeing 10 new believers this calendar year led us to praying and sharing the gospel a lot more. If we really care about something, we need to measure it. Are you really reaching the lost? Are you really producing lifelong disciplemakers? *Measure it if you care about it!* Then *do* something about it and become the answer to your prayers.
30. **Build It and They Will Come**—Start an intramural sports team yourself (or even the whole league, like Nav staff did at IUPUI!), or put on the play at the theater yourself, etc., to involve and reach people who are disconnected, or on a campus with very little community. People gather around projects. Start and lead the community and you will have great trust and opportunities to influence those who are on the team.

Remember Daws . . .

Emotion is no substitute for action.  
 Action is no substitute for production.  
 Production is no substitute for reproduction.

You can feel good about it (and write a good newsletter about it!) but you have to ask: *Is my evangelism ultimately and effectively leading to disciplemakers who will last a lifetime?*

*Would love to hear your ideas! Hit me up at [peter.trautmann@navigator.org](mailto:peter.trautmann@navigator.org). Help us expand this list!*