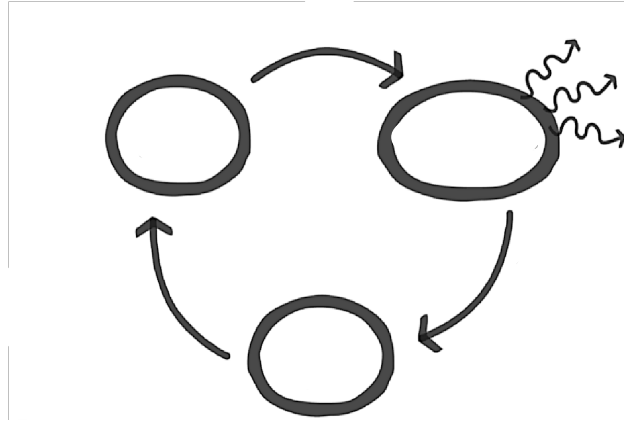


BUILDING SKILLS IN GOSPEL CONVERSATION

REVIEW:



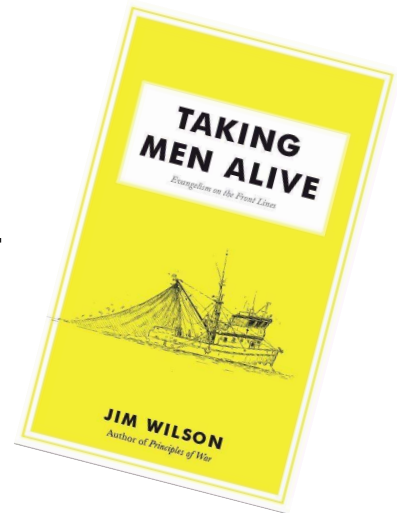
FANTASTIC RESOURCE:

Taking Men Alive by Jim Wilson (Canon Press, 2014)

IT'S IDEAL, BEFORE WE SHARE LIGHT, TO DO OUR BEST

TO “ _____ ”

Before we plant, we want to plow, if possible. Before we offer water, we want to give salt—again, if possible.



People who have their eyes closed don't open them when you shine light in their eyes! Instead, they scrunch them closed more tightly.

Colossians 4:3-6

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** ⁶ **Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,** so that you may know how to answer everyone.



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LISTEN FOR HEART DESIRES

Common, biblical reasons that people respond to the gospel include:

Heaven/**H**ell

Unfulfilled longings

Rest

Desperate Need

Love

Shame & **G**uilt



John 4:1-18

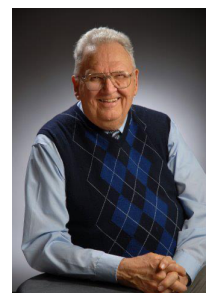
WHICH HEART DESIRES MIGHT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFY WITH MOST STRONGLY?

Someone who has been abused in their past. _____

A type-A, perfectionistic individual. _____

A person facing chronic or terminal illness. _____

“People try to hide their emotions when the gospel has gotten through to them. If you are alert and paying careful attention both to the Lord and to the person you are speaking to, you can see not only the emotion but also the attempts to cover it up. . . . Negative emotional responses are a good indication that people are ready. People do not feel happier and happier every day until they finally say, ‘Boy, I’m so happy I think I’ll become a Christian.’ It is the other way around. Do not





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believe what a person tells you about himself. Listen to what he says, but if you take his words at face value, you will be led astray.”¹ – *Jim Wilson, author of Taking Men Alive*

**AS BEST YOU CAN, FROM MEMORY,
RECREATE THE H-U-R-D-L-S
ACRONYM**

H _____

U _____

R _____

D _____

L _____

S _____

HANDLING QUESTIONS²

“You can also tell whether someone wants an answer by *how* he asks the question. Sometimes a question might be perfectly legitimate in itself, but the questioner’s manner indicates that he does not really want an answer.

“... look back to all the quarrels you have been in with non-Christians. Tabulate the questions that got you into those quarrels.

“Do not quarrel. At the same time, *do not* compromise. Paul says to *instruct* your opponents with *gentleness*. You are still doing

the instructing.

“Instead, avoid the question. In this culture, we tend to think that if someone asks a question, we are obligated to answer it. We are *not* obligated. How many questions did Jesus answer? Not many. He kept command of the conversation. He talked on *His* terms. He *was* asked questions, but He either avoided them, turned them around, or directed some other statement to the situation so that He was always talking on *His* conditions. We are told to do the same. ‘But they’ll think bad thoughts of us if we avoid the question. They’ll think we don’t know the answer.’ Well, that is alright. That is better than starting a quarrel.

“One way to avoid a foolish question is to ask the person if he really wants to know the answer. If he says, ‘No, I guess I didn’t really want to know,’ then you say, ‘Well, then why did you ask it?’

“Suppose he says, ‘Yes.’

“Then you say, ‘Do you believe I know the answer?’

“‘No.’

“‘Then why did you ask me?’

“Or he says, ‘Yes, I think you know the answer.’

“‘Are you prepared to receive it?’

“‘No, I’m not really sure I am.’

¹ Jim Wilson, *Taking Men Alive: Evangelism on the Front Lines* (Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 2014), 57-59.

² *Taking Men Alive*, 102-103.



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“Well, then I’m not prepared to answer it.’

“There are other ways to avoid the question. You can always say that you don’t know the answer. Or you can say, ‘I know the answer, but I’m not going to tell you.’ Do not say this belligerently; just say it positively, letting them know that you are sure of your position.”

PRACTICE:

1. You’re sharing the gospel, and you bring up the issue of sin. The person you’re talking to asks, “Do you believe God hates gay people?”

2. You’ve just invited someone to church, and they respond by saying, “Where does your church stand on the issue of transgenderism?”
How could you turn this question around to them?