

Gospel Appointments

Acts 10:42 “And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”

Gospel appointments are an easy and natural way to share the gospel. A gospel appointment is exactly what it sounds like: an appointment to share the gospel. The goal is to find a way to meet up with somebody so that you can hear their story, share your story, and share how God has changed your life.

How to Set Up a Gospel Appointment

If you are at a spiritually neutral setting like a campus event or a party...

1. **Start a conversation and guide the conversation toward spiritual things.** Use FIRE: Find common ground, Interests, Relationships, Experience with God.
2. **Take advantage of any opportunity to identify with Christ.** Say something like, “I’m involved with a group on campus called Challenge...” or “This weekend I hung out, went to church...” or “I just got back from a trip that helped my relationship with God.”
3. **Ask them a spiritual question.** Something like, “Did you grow up going to church or anything like that?” The idea is to listen for their spiritual background.
4. **Try and set up a meeting.** No matter how they answer, you can follow up with something like, “That’s interesting. Hey, I’ve been learning some pretty interesting things with a relationship with God. Maybe we could get together sometime over lunch or coffee and talk more about this?” Try to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.
5. **Go back to a casual conversation and just hang out with them.** For example, “So what are your plans for the weekend?”

If you are at a Challenge or church event...

1. **Start a conversation about any topic.**
2. **No need to transition, simply try to set up a meeting.** “Would you be down to get lunch or coffee sometime and I could tell you more about what Challenge is all about?”

Consider trying to set up a gospel appointment with *everyone you can* who comes to a Challenge event. The more people they connect with, the more likely they are to “stick”. The more gospel appointments you set up, the more people will come to Christ!

How to Do a Gospel Appointment

1. **Pray like crazy!** Set aside some time to pray for your friend. Text your friends and leaders and ask them to pray for you before and during your gospel appointment. Remember, it's our job to share, and **it's God's job to save**; we need the Holy Spirit to move in our gospel appointment for it to be powerful.
2. **Make sure to confirm the meeting time and location the same day through a phone call or text.** A great thing about gospel appointments is that they work with any gospel presentation. If you use the Bridge model, bring a pen, paper, and Bible. If you use a gospel booklet, don't forget it!
3. **Start by getting to know the person a bit more.** Catch up a little and get to know them better. The adage is true: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." After you've built some rapport, jump into talking about deeper things such as family and upbringing. Remember, they agreed to meet expecting to talk about spiritual things so don't skip that part!
4. **Use the three story method:**
 - a) **Their Story** - Ask them to share their story about their experience with spiritual things and really listen. You could ask, "So what's your background when it comes to spiritual things?"
 - b) **Your Story** - Share your story briefly. Try and do a one-minute version. It could be about how you became a Christian or how your faith came alive in college.
 - c) **God's Story** - Introduce the gospel presentation. Say, "I have this presentation I like to share with people that explains how to know God. Can we look at that real quick?" or "I know a short illustration that gives an awesome summary of the main point of the Bible. Can I share it with you?"
5. **Begin discussing the gospel presentation.** Make sure to sit close enough that both of you can comfortably see. Simply take them through it; you don't need to add a lot. Try not to get too sidetracked with side questions and comments. Many questions will probably be answered in the presentation.
6. **Make the invitation clear.** Ask them if they want to become a Christian. Give them time to think about it. Make sure they know the cost of becoming a Christian, that it means giving up their old way of life. Then ask, "Would you like to commit your life to Christ right now?" Be prepared for a few moments of silence while they think about it.
7. **If they don't receive Christ, don't pressure them, but keep investing in them.** It's not a failure if they don't receive Christ. It's still a win because you obeyed Jesus. It can take time and several instances of hearing the gospel for someone to believe it. Ask them if they would be interested in reading the Bible with you.

8. **If they say yes to Christ, show your excitement and lead them to pray.** Since there are no magic words, encourage them to make the prayer their own as an attitude of their heart. You can even begin the prayer yourself by thanking God for your time together and then asking them to pray.
9. **Celebrate and set up a follow up meeting.** Tell them this is the most important decision of their life! Make sure you have a time to meet again before you leave and invite them to come to Challenge and/or church this week. Encourage them to start reading the Gospel of John on their own. Thank and praise God for what he's doing!
10. **Don't let the simplicity of this method dissuade you from giving it an honest try.**

Don't look at gospel appointments as a one-time thing, but as a way to initiate a long-term relationship with the person. If you boldly and relationally share Jesus, God will be faithful to do his part.

Pray for an opportunity to set up a gospel appointment this week.