

Module Eight: Decision Making and Next Steps- Talk Outline



EVANGELISING
EASTERN ORTHODOXY

Misunderstandings

1 Salvation is only found within the authentic Church

2 Grace and works

3 Misunderstood words

Clearing the Obstacles

1 Summarise the Gospel Message

- 1 God made us and owns us
- 2 We have all rebelled against God
- 3 We deserve to be shut out from God's blessings forever
- 4 God sent Jesus to die to completely rescue us from judgement
- 5 God raised Jesus to guarantee our eternal life

6 Two Ways to Live:

Continuing in rejection of God OR
submitting to him as ruler

Which of these represents the way you want to live?

Which of these represents the way you live now?

Do you want to make the change right now?

2 The Purchase Proposition

3 "It's not true"

4 "I'm on my way"

5 "The Cost is too high"

Module Eight: Decision Making and Next Steps- Group Time

1 Exercise: Identifying Obstacles

In pairs, practice presenting your partner with a summary of the Gospel and identifying and discussing the obstacles between them and faith.

Person 1: Present a summary of the Gospel to the Orthodox friend (Person 2)

1 Begin with a question to them- can I summarise for you God's message to us in the Bible?

You could use your own outline or go through the one at twowaystolive.com or use the summary in the Talk Outline

2 Conclude by asking the questions:

Which of these ways represents the way you want to live?

Which of these represent the way you live now?

Do you want to make the change right now?

3 Identify the issue/s

We'll assume their answer is "No" or "I'm not sure", so ask the following question-
"What is stopping you from making a decision *now* to follow Jesus?"

4 Help them identify the issue/s and start a discussion about those with them.

Person 2: You are the Orthodox friend

Select an issue that is stopping you from deciding to follow Jesus from:

fear of rejection by family

wanting to continue particular sins

disbelief about judgement

desire to live "the third way" (neither living for myself or forgiven but "I'm on my way to God")

Think about and give the reasons why these are significant issues stopping you from following Jesus

Make sure to leave enough time to reverse the roles so that each of you has an opportunity as person 1 and person 2

2 Prayer

- Pray that God in his mercy will continue to work in the hearts of your Orthodox friends, convincing them of the truth of his Gospel, and their urgent need of repentance.
- Pray that they will seek to understand God more through his word and desire to meet with his people.
- Pray that they will recognise that living for yourself cannot compare to the abundant life offered by Christ. Pray that they will count the great blessing of family as something for which to praise God, rather than to replace him. Pray that God will provide more believers to be involved in their lives to encourage them in serving Christ.

Next Steps

There are some chapters in *Certainty for Life* that challenge our friends to consider following Jesus which you may wish to read and share with them

Chapter 11 "Turn Back" which discusses the nature of repentance

Chapter 12 "Come and Follow" - why following Jesus is easy, yet hard, and costly, but worthwhile

Chapter 15 "Welcome Home" which concludes the story of the Prodigal Son with the challenge to consider which son they are

Chapter 16 "At the Crossroads" emphasising the urgency of the decision and Chapter 17 "Next Steps" which is a topic I encourage you to also discuss with your friend.

No matter where they are in their decision-making process, urge them to continue reading the Bible with a Christian friend, and finding a Church where they can hear the Bible taught faithfully.