

# Evangelization without Awkwardness

Practical ways to witness Christ to others with clarity and charity—without becoming pushy, weird, or silent.

## Most Common Sources of Awkwardness

- We treat it like a pitch (trying to “close a deal”).
- We rush past relationship (speaking before listening).
- We fear rejection (so we overcompensate or avoid it entirely).
- We confuse boldness with intensity (volume isn’t courage).

## 1) What evangelization is (and isn’t)

Is	Isn’t
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Love people concretely, speak truth at the right time, and invite them closer to Jesus and the Church.</li> <li>*A long game: sowing, watering, and being ready to explain your hope.</li> <li>*Aim to move someone one step closer (curiosity, trust, prayer, Mass, a question).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Winning arguments.</li> <li>*Forcing conversations.</li> <li>*Treating people as projects or “targets.” *</li> <li>Only for extroverts.</li> <li>Telling someone, “You should...”</li> </ul>

## 2) The “3 Circles” where it actually happens:

- **Circle 1 – Relationships:** family, coworkers, neighbors, friends, other dads, barbers, gym buddies. Key move: consistency + presence; trust earns permission.
- **Circle 2 – Moments of meaning:** stress, grief, guilt, parenting, addiction, loneliness, purpose. Key move: listen for “open doors” rather than forcing a door. Ask “How are you holding up?” “Can I pray for you or the situation?”
- **Circle 3 – Invitations:** coffee, men’s group, parish event, confession, Mass, adoration, service. Key move: simple, low-pressure invites that respect freedom. Ask “Want to join me?”

## 3) How to talk about faith naturally

Use “I” language	Keep it Short (30-60 seconds)	Permission + next step
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Prayer helped when I was anxious.</li> <li>b) Mass keeps me grounded.</li> <li>c) Confession reset me.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Before:</u> I was stressed, angry, lost.</p> <p><u>Turning Point:</u> I prayed/went to confession, returned to Mass.</p> <p><u>After:</u> Not perfect, but I have peace/direction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Mind if I share what helped me?”</li> <li>• “Open to a faith perspective?”</li> <li>• “Coffee this week?” “Come Sunday —no pressure.”</li> <li>• “I’ll go to confession with you.”</li> </ul>

## 4) Handling common situations (short responses)

- **“I’m not religious.”** → “What gives you meaning when life gets heavy?” / “If you ever want to explore it, I’m here.”
- **“The Church is full of hypocrites.”** → “You’re not wrong—me included. That’s why I need it.” / “What turned you off most?”
- **“I’ve been hurt by the Church.”** → “I’m sorry. That shouldn’t happen.” / “If you want, I’ll just listen—no agenda.”
- **If it turns argumentative (or ‘anti-science’):** “What specifically makes you say that?” then offer one resource or a follow-up. “I care more about you than winning this.” Ask “Can I send you video on this topic?”

## 5) Evangelization as a Catholic Disciple: Distinct Strengths

- **Integrity:** make faith plausible. **Reliability:** show up consistently. **Courage + gentleness:** truth without contempt. **Sacramental confidence:** invite people to grace (Mass, confession, adoration).
- **Bottom line:** Love well, listen for open doors, share briefly, and invite one next step. **Remember:** You are not the Saviour. *Only Jesus saves.* You simply witness your faith and be a friend.