**EE Practicum – Session # 1**

**Evangelism Explosion Refresher**

1. **Introduction**
* Hi, my name is Darrell Farney. I am from Chicago, IL and I am honored to teach the first session of this 10-week on line Evangelism Explosion Practicum.
* As a pastor, I have been involved in all three levels of training in a local church setting for over 35 years. For the past 11 years I have served as a full-time missionary staff member with Evangelism Explosion helping introduce the EE tools and training materials to churches all across the Central Region of the United States.
* I am currently serving as the Prayer Coordinator for the ministries and staff of Evangelism Explosion in the United States of America.
* The majority of you involved in this EE practicum will have participated in all three levels of Evangelism Explosion Training. As a **trainee** you were taught the Biblical principles of sharing the gospel during your first semester of training. As an EE **trainer** you became involved in training two other believers the Biblical principles and practices of EE training and modeled them for your trainees. As a **clinic teacher** you underwent advanced EE training that qualified you to lead training seminars for pastors and lay people anywhere in the world.
* Dr. D. James Kennedy began Evangelism Explosion training at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 1962 as a way to bring about spiritual multiplication not only in his own church but also in churches all across America and ultimately in churches all over the world.
* In just over 50 years, Evangelism Explosion Training has been planted in local churches in all of the nations of the world. Hundreds of thousands of pastors and lay people have been trained in EE and multiplied millions have been introduced to Jesus Christ using a reproducible plan for sharing the good news of the gospel.

**B. The Four Phases** of an effective Evangelism Explosion Ministry:

1. **Friendship** – Effective evangelism requires friendly relationships. EE always seeks first and foremost to establish friendships, be it in a brief onetime encounter or building a deep friendship over an extended period of time.
2. **Evangelism** – EE training equips Christ followers to lead naturally and inoffensively in the sharing of the Gospel with personal acquaintances and friends. EE equips believers in sharing the content of the Gospel while developing the skills and capabilities to communicate it lovingly and effectively in all kinds of settings.
3. **Discipleship** – EE believes that effective evangelism best takes place within the context of three levels of discipleship which include:
4. **New Believers** – In His great commission, Christ did not

instruct His disciples to go and make converts but to “go and make disciples.” Spiritually, functionally mature Christians should take the responsibility for discipling their spiritual children into mature believers. A spiritual babe matures into a responsible, reproducing disciple and is assimilated as a functioning member of a local church.

1. **Laypeople in the Church –** Bringing people to Christ is only the beginning. Every congregation has a high percentage of people who merely attend services. But when attenders enter into prayer-partner relationships with EE participants or EE trainers and trainees they tend to grow and begin wanting to become spiritual reproducers. The discipling that takes place through the prayer partner ministry provides a means for developing stronger disciples throughout the church.
2. **Trainer –** When Jesus enlisted His first disciples He said, “Follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men.” His first discipleship-training course was in evangelism and that course included on-the-job training. In Evangelism Explosion’s on-the-job training, experienced pastors and lay evangelists take less experienced people “**with them”** as they share the Gospel. In a short period of time trainees are gradually included in explaining the Gospel until the novice is finally able to lead the entire conversation. On-the-job training makes more and better evangelists and disciples which then leads to the fourth phase of an effective Evangelism Explosion ministry which is:
3. **Healthy Growth** – Evangelism Explosion was born in the church and has always been a church-based ministry. Lay evangelists are raised up in the church, equipped at the church, sent out from the church, share without apology about the church, fold new believers into the church and continue to nurture those believers in the church. The church that properly applies EE’s equipping ministry will therefore experience three kinds of healthy growth.
4. **Spiritual Growth** – one reason Christians involved in E.E. grow spiritually is that by witnessing and discipling others they are clearly obeying their Lord’s command to do so and we are told in Acts 5:32 that the Holy Spirit fills those who obey Him. In Acts 1:8 Jesus stated that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will receive power and be witnesses for Christ in ever expanding concentric circles of concern that begins in a person’s Jerusalem, then to surrounding Judea’s and ultimately to the entire world. Another reason Christians who are involved in E.E. experience spiritual growth is that in learning to share the gospel they are rooted and grounded in what is known in theological circles as “soteriology” – the doctrine of salvation. When lay leaders in a local church experience first hand the immeasurable joy of leading others to Christ they begin sharing the Good News as a way of life with their FRANS: **F**riends, **R**elatives, **A**ssociates and **N**eighbors. Believers experience a whole new purpose and meaning in their lives and the love of Christ begins spilling over in to relationships all around them. Jesus said, **“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.”** (John 13:34,35). As we affirm and express in living reality our oneness in Christ, the world will know that God has sent Him.
5. **Numerical Growth** – In the first century the number of Christ followers literally exploded from 12 to 70 to 500 to 3,000 to 5,000 and then to such great numbers that they could not longer be counted. The number of churches also multiplied and spread beyond Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and on to the ends of the earth. By 1996, Evangelism Explosion had been planted in all of the nations of the world. In the next 50 years, multiplication took place in the worldwide church, like never before. Currently, EE has a host of new tools that are being used in churches throughout the entire world. For instance, **Hope for Kids** in its first three years has children all across the world hearing the Gospel and responding to the Gospel by the millions. Also, in the first three years of the **Global Development Project (GDP),** approximately 19,000 churches started implementing the EE ministry. This has happened because more than 450 new implementation field workers have been raised up to help pastors and churches.
6. **Organizational Growth** – Evangelism Explosion is raising up infrastructures to support expanded equipping and training initiatives on every continent and among people groups of every kind in all parts of the world. God is on the move with the EE ministry and we are privileged to play a significant part in the final harvest. The Apostle John alluded to this final harvest in Revelation 14:15,16 when he said, **“Put in your sickle and reap for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe. Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth and the earth was harvested!”** There are currently 30 nations who have reached the level of multiplying nations. Those 30 nations began a multiplying relationship that met for the first Congress of Nations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2010. Each of those nations were commissioned to bring 30 additional multiplying nations to Capetown, South Africa for the second triennial Congress of the Nations in October of this year, 2013. It is incredible to see how the Lord is blessing EE in this expanding demonstration of oneness across denominational and cultural lines to help full His Great Commission in the coming years. I believe, God has blessed Evangelism Explosion in part because it was founded four, important, Biblical principles.
7. **Four Biblical Principles of Evangelism Explosion**
8. **Every Christian is to be a Witness**
* In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to His disciples, **“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”** Then in Acts 1:8 the Apostle Luke records, **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**
* The thrust of Christ’s teaching is summed up in His Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19, 20 which says, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I commanded you and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.”**
* The first and most obvious principle is that the Church is a body under orders by Christ to share the Gospel with the whole world. Satan’s greatest victory over the years of Church history has been to somehow convince believers that only professional clergy are authorized to evangelize the world.
* However, in Acts 8:1 Luke records that “**they were all scattered abroad…except the apostles.**  Luke then records in Acts 8:4, **“they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.”**  The word translated “preaching the word” is the Greek word “euangelidzo” which means “evangelizing.” That is everyone except the apostles went everywhere evangelizing! Now we all know the apostles did their part but the point Luke, the inspired writer is emphasizing here is that everyone besides the apostles also went and evangelized.
* In the New Testament it is very evident that evangelism was a constant overflow of individual and corporate activity. Every Christian assumed the responsibility and the privilege of sharing the Gospel in the natural context of every day life. Christ shared with the woman at the well in John 4; Andrew shared with his brother Peter in John 1; Philip shared with Nathanael in John 1; Peter shared at the temple gate in Acts 3 and Paul shared with the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:22-34.
* In Evangelism Explosion we seek to equip laypeople to share the good news of the Gospel as a way of life to people with whom they have developed trusting relationships. We train them to articulate their faith effectively so that when the opportunity presents itself they are ready to share the Gospel with anyone!
1. **Pastor’s Are to Equip their People – Ephesians 4:12**
* In the fourth chapter of Ephesians we read that Christ has given pastors and teachers to the church **“for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”**
* A basic criterion for determining the success of a pastorate would then be, “how many believers have I equipped to do the work of the ministry.”
* I believe pastors have been deceived by the subtlety of Satan concerning the basic purpose of their ministry. Over 99 percent of the church is made up of laypeople and if they are AWOL (absent without official leave) there is little doubt that the battle will be lost. For centuries lay people have been robbed of significant ministry in the church because they have never been equipped to serve using their God given gifts.
* The clarion call of Christ is for believers to become equippers and trainers of others in this inspiring, life changing, world-transforming endeavor called “His Church.” If and when that occurs what Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18 that He would build His church and **“the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”**
* I truly believe the Church is the hope of the world and that when the Church gets it right laypeople and lost people win; when the Church gets it wrong laypeople and lost people lose.
* Dr. Kennedy felt that laypeople were the most strategic and also the most unused key to the evangelization of the world. The ministry he began 51 years ago continues to grow strong and is now equipping 4th, 5th and 6th graders, young people, Gen Xers, adults, seniors, inmates and deaf people of every race, culture, tribe and nationality to share the Gospel and equip their peers to do the same worldwide.
* What a thrill it is to be a part of this great ministry and I am encouraged by those of you taking this course to enhance your skills to take expand your skills in taking the EE ministry in your sphere of influence, to a whole new level of effectiveness.
1. **On-the-Job Training**

a. In Mark 3:14 we read how “Jesus appointed twelve so that they would be **with Him**.”

One of greatest examples Jesus left for us, is that He made sure His disciples observed Him serving others in the routine of His daily life so they could do the same in the daily routine of their lives.

b. Jesus modeled the importance of on-the-job training with His disciples constantly

 and we see examples of it as we read through the gospels. Jesus modeled

 on-the-job training in countless ways during the three years of His earthly ministry.

 c. This is what distinguishes Evangelism Explosion from other methods of evangelism

 training. We actually take people out and show them how to share the gospel.

1. **Spiritual Multiplication** – The Apostle Paul said it best in II Timothy 2:2 when he

wrote: **“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”** In this brief slice of Scripture you can see four generations of disciples.

Now let me briefly go over the EE Leadership development plan that I believe needs to

be constructed in a local church ministry in order for it to be effective over an extended period of time. Build your EE ministry to last through at least four levels of training.

An on-going local church training involves:

* A **Trainee** Level – an individual who is learning how share his or her faith through a weekly on-the-job training experience.
* An **Associate Trainer** Level – an individual who has gone through at least one cycle of EE training but is not quite ready to lead an EE team
* An EE **Trainer** – an individual who has gone through at least one cycle of EE training and is adequately prepared to lead an EE team
* A **Teacher / Trainer** – an individual who has attended and has completed the EE trainer certification process
* A **Clinic Teacher** – an individual who is a seasoned teacher / trainer and who has been certified to lead Evangelism Explosion Training anywhere in the world.

**Closing Comments:**

* I am not a theologian but I believe Evangelism Explosion explains theological concepts in a way that lay people can wrap their hearts around. Over the forty plus years of using this wonderful tool I have realized how many believers came to understand the precious nature of their salvation and were able to explain deep truths in everyday language.
* **Grace –** the study of soteriology could be simply explained as **G**od’s **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist’s

 **E**xpense. I didn’t get what I deserved but freely received what I didn’t deserve!

* **Man** – the study of man is the science of **Anthropology** and simply states that Man is a

sinner (Romans 3:23) and that he cannot save himself (Romans 6:23).

* **God** – the study of God is the discipline known as **Theology** and simply stated that

God is **love** (I John 4:8) and that He doesn’t want to punish sin but God is also **just** and His character demands a perfect sacrifice as payment (I Cor. 15:3,4).

* **Christ** – the study of Christ is known as **Christology** which teaches His Deity, that He

 was and is God (John 1:1) but that He was also fully man (John 1:14) and that

 He died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sin (John 19:30; “tetelestai”)

 and then He arose from the dead (Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:3-5) and is

 preparing a place for us in heaven and we can receive this gift of eternal life :

* **Faith** – **what it is not:** it’s not a head knowledge or a temporary kind of faith but it is,

 **what it is:** it is trusting Jesus Christ ALONE for eternal life!

* When believers fully understand the significance of the substitutionary atonement they then realize just how wonderful it is to be born again and certain that they will spend eternity with Christ in Heaven! (Romans 8:1 – **“therefore is there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!”**  We are no longer bound by sin but are finally FREE! Those believers get very excited to share this Good News with their **F**riends, **R**elatives, **A**ssociates, **N**eighbors and even **S**trangers they meet in the natural course of their daily lives.

**Two Books to Reference:**

1. Reread **Evangelism Explosion** by Dr. D. James Kennedy, chapter 2, on “Witnessing as a Way of Life”, pp. 18-30.
2. Read **Why I Believe** by Dr. D. James Kennedy, Introduction, chapters 1 & 2 on “Why I Believe the Bible” and “The Stones Cry Out”, pp. 13-36.