



EVANGELISM IN YOUR **CHAPTER HOUSE**

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Greeks are arguably one of the most influential groups on campus and a strategic group to target for multiplication. The exclusive culture that many people see as an obstacle is actually somewhat of an advantage. There is already an established relationship and closeness with the members of your chapter. This is more of a reason to share the gospel and witness to your fellow members. The mission of making disciples and making God's name known remains the same; however, the evangelistic method you use may look different or be a different pace than what you may be used to.

When it comes to individual evangelism, it tends to come in two styles: passive and active. Passive evangelism is sitting back and waiting for opportunities to come up. Generally passive thoughts such as "If someone asks me about my faith, then I'll share," or "If someone is hurting, then I will share my testimony," fuel this ideology. At some point in our walk with God we all have battled this hesitant approach to proclaiming Christ. The likelihood of someone asking you to share the gospel is slim. In reality, the members in your chapter are hurting mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many of them are headed toward a Christless eternity. We don't have time to wait, so we must be active in our evangelism! Active evangelism means not only asking God for opportunities, but making them as well, taking the initiative to pursue people and have a burden for those who do not know Christ.

I want to share with you four examples of active evangelism for reaching the members in your chapter. These are geared for your unique setting as an active or pledge in your fraternity or sorority, and are designed to reach into your community to share the gospel!

Hosting Value Studies

Every Greek chapter has some sort of value statement that they base their organization around and make a vow to live by. Some may include integrity, brotherhood, charity, honor, justice, and commitment. Interestingly enough, most Greek organizations are actually founded on Christian values and may include Bible verses in their weekly meetings. A value study is a low-pressure Bible study based on your chapter's values. They are a great way to invite your brothers and sisters to unravel what the Bible has to say about your chapter's values. They are simple to set up and they easily transition into a more personal follow-up to get deeper with the gospel!

Greeks are busy students. You want to make your value study as attractive as possible because the average Greek juggles classes, work, chapter meetings, and a social life.

Here are some ways you can make your study more appealing:

- Invite everyone in the chapter and be inclusive in how you communicate your value study. Say something like, “anyone is welcome regardless of personal beliefs.”
- Provide free food and snacks.
- Do not dominate the discussion. Make sure everyone has the chance to talk. You are the facilitator.
- Make the discussion no longer than 30 minutes
- Start on time and end on time. People like consistency and a set schedule.

Value studies provide a wide net to reach anyone who is interested in spiritual things. The first time I announced my value study, I was nervous about certain individuals reacting harshly, but they were interested and actually came! There is quite a bit of momentum with sharing the gospel after the studies. Brendan and Tanner, two of our student leaders who joined a fraternity, started a series of value studies with their brothers. They were strategic with how they reached their brothers and got to share with their brother Gabe. He prayed to receive Christ, and has been helping them plan the value studies! In one sorority, Brandy had been attending the value study Sarah and Sophia led. Sophia followed up with Brandy and shared the gospel with her using the Gospel Appointment sheet and she prayed to receive Christ. Shortly after, Brandy was baptized and Sophia continued to disciple her. Brandy began living a totally new life and no longer wanted to be influenced by the party lifestyle—other women in the sorority began to see her transformation! With a little bit of planning and going through God’s word, you can start a value study within your own chapter!

Relational Evangelism

Other members in your chapter house may not be interested in coming to your value study. Don’t get too bummed about this. You can still interact with them in a way that’s relational and missional. In order to reach others, you must capitalize on the opportunities you have with the other members. You will need to sacrifice your comfort and brush up on time management.

A great example of this is Sophia who began investing in Anna ever since they first met. Sophia invited Anna to our ministry events, but Anna declined many times. This did not stop Sophia from continuing to pray and spend time with Anna. Sophia offered to help her move, drive to the grocery store, and give her rides to places she needed to go. Though Anna was immersed in the party life and work, Sophia and her still managed to spend time with one another. One day, Anna felt lonely, confused, and depressed. She reached out to Sophia for guidance and help. Anna expressed that she wanted to take her next step with God but did not know exactly what that next step was. Sophia shared the Gospel with her using a Gospel Appointment sheet and Anna responded to accepting Christ as Lord with a resounding “yes!” Later that evening she texted Sophia saying “Best day of my life!” Anna has been faithfully walking with the Lord and

Sophia continues to pour her life into her. Anna says she is grateful for Sophia's persistence and initiative in sharing with her.

A great way to demonstrate you care and love the members in your house is to be intentional and relational with them. Spend time with them in low pressure environments and share your life with them. This is going to require you to go the extra mile and will take sacrifice, but your investment will open trusting relationships with those around you.

Reaching out to Pledges

Whether the active members like it or not, the pledges are the future of the chapter. These young men and women are fresh and full of ambition to contribute and shine. Much like freshmen, these are the most vulnerable people associated with the organization. They are looked down on, ridiculed, and in most cases treated poorly by members. If this sounds like the culture at your chapter, be different. Befriend the pledges and be prepared to share your testimony with them.

As an important aspect prior to their initiation, pledges may need "signatures" for the current members to sign off on in order to proceed. Tasks may vary from person to person, but usually it is a sit down conversation where the pledge and active get to know each other. What if you made the pledge's job easier by taking initiative with scheduling one-on-one appointments with all of them? This is a perfect opportunity to share your testimony, initiate spiritual conversation, and share the gospel! I got to do this with Eric. When he approached me for a signature, I got to sit down with him and share the gospel, and he accepted Christ! I began discipling him and he was involved with our college ministry for some time. He even helped me get traction going with the value studies. Even if your organization doesn't do this, you should not pass up this golden opportunity to witness and befriend everyone in the pledge class.

Live in the Chapter House

I lived in the chapter house for a year. There are pros and cons with living in the house and I would be glad to personally connect with you to talk about your specific situation. I lived with ten other brothers, and it was an eye-opening experience. Campus was two blocks away, events occurred nearly every weekend, and the house was the organization's central headquarters. Actives and pledges were constantly popping in and out, making it ideal for getting to know everyone! It also made hosting the value study easy because I lived there. Plus, I had a blast living at the house! I have a lot of fond memories launching footballs over the house, gaming with my brothers, and of course pulling fun pranks on each other.

Living in the chapter house will be an effective and strategic approach in both sharing the gospel and your life as well. Paul says it best in 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

Embrace a servant's heart while at the chapter house. There will always be something that needs to be done. For example, my fraternity had "pledge projects" at our house, and I would go and help the pledges with them. It set an example for them as active members, and increased my exposure to the pledge class.

Be creative and utilize your time wisely while living at the chapter house. At one point, I became an amateur barber! All I had were clippers, scissors, and a barber's cloth, but I never charged anyone for it. This was my way of being a service to my brothers. It was a valuable use of my time because I used it to start spiritual conversations with my brothers!

The amount of opportunities you can have while living in the chapter house is unreal. I would highly consider talking to the housing manager and your discipler about the possibility of living at the house. Living at the chapter house is a recipe for both living relationally and living strategically among the lost.

Conclusion

Your house is just waiting to be evangelized. There are souls in your chapter like Brandy, Gabe and Anna that are just a conversation away from accepting the Lord. Your house is a ripe harvest, will you live passively or are you going to live proactively and obediently to the Lord with your outreach? I pray that you choose the latter, and that God will use you mightily on your campus and in your Greek system to make Christ known!

Reflection Questions

1. What has your approach been in advancing the gospel to your brothers or sisters? What do you need to change to be more active in your evangelism?
2. Which of the four examples of evangelism could you begin planning and how?
3. What are the values of your organization, and what does the Bible have to say about them? Write down any Bible verses that come to mind.