

Email series - “What God Offers”

1. What God Offers - Welcome

Hi,

Welcome! I’m so glad you signed up. I think you will find this series inspiring and easy.

I also expect it will add more joy in your relationship with God as you see God work through your life in exciting ways.

Jesus told us that out of his compassion he came “to seek and to save those who are lost.”

And I love this verse in Romans 4:5 that tells us that God “justifies the ungodly.” He offers new life to people like us--who were once lost, blind, without God and without hope in this world. (Eph 2:12)

Here’s something I wrote to nonbelievers:

When I think of the value of knowing God it is this: that we can understand life, we can proceed with clarity, we can avoid pitfalls, we can be led by God, know truth, be given strength/hope/peace, and enjoy the most important relationship, the one who will be faithful to us and constantly love us.

God, who created us, provides this as nothing else could. To go through this life with success and confidence, we must be connected to him, relying on him. Until we come to know him, we will always be searching, always be testing other possibilities, and find them lacking. But when we respond to God’s offer to be in relationship with him, we are satisfied, complete. We now are equipped to live this life with a plan and with Someone who can lead us in it.

Now you might be relieved to know, we’re not going to memorize that. I’m simply sharing with you what motivates me.

We’ll look at ways we can help people know God for who he is and do it in a way that fit today’s culture. Easy. Simple.

Once you’re equipped, you’ll see God arrange conversations. You’ll see God bring people your way.

Our Internet culture allows us to have normal conversations and engage with people in a way that’s familiar to them.

At any time in a conversation, we can take thirty seconds and point them to something online that will help them further. That means no books, no pamphlets, no tracts, no props, no surveys that we carry with us.

Instead, we just love people and connect with people in everyday conversations.

Through this email series, you'll be equipped to help them in a significant way...and without requiring anything from them.

They'll feel helped, cared for, resourced. Not controlled. And many will say "thank you very much."

I'll be referring to an evangelistic website, EveryStudent.com, which will be very useful to you. This site is in multiple languages and sees about 2,500 people *each day* ask Jesus into their life.

(Just so you know, new believers are immediately encouraged to go to StartingwithGod.com, which has a full growth path for them, lasting years, if they'd like.)

However, this series is about how to have easy, natural conversations with nonbelievers.

We'll cover how to start conversations. How to discover and share your life message that God has built into your life. And I'll share with you, word-for-word, conversations I've had with nonbelievers. (That's how I like to learn - just show me.)

You'll see that sharing your faith doesn't have to be awkward.

Perhaps surprising to you, I'm an introvert. At a party, I'm hoping I can anchor with one person. I'm not comfortable with small talk. And chatting with 8 different people in an evening feels exhausting.

Yet, God has gifted me with nonbelievers. I hope to pass along helpful tips.

You'll discover simple, stress-free ways to bring Jesus into conversations with grace and authenticity. No pushy tactics, no uncomfortable moments. Just you, being you, but with a little extra confidence. Many will thank you for talking with them.

For now, you might take a look EveryStudent.com. See what you think.

Next email, I'll show you an example of how this works.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

2. What God Offers - Example: Astrology Woman

Hi,

Here's a true story. I'm on an international flight, seated next to a young woman.

During the flight she pulled out an enormous, hardbound book of Horoscopes. (Who carries a book that big on an international trip?)

Two minutes before she brought out this book, I had just finished telling God that I was tired, and if it was ok with him, I'd rather not talk to anyone. But that I was willing if he really wanted me to.

Before I could even decide whether to start a conversation with her, she took the book, put it in my lap, and asked:

Astrology Woman: "Which sign are you?"

Me: "Well, I'm a cancer." (I was raised to know this.) She immediately flipped to the cancer page, and we started reading down the page together as it described this kind of person.

Me: "Ok, yes this is true of me, and this, and this. Oh gee, not this one at all. We got through the whole page, and I said:

Me: You know, here's the thing about this. Some of these fits and some don't. But when it comes to my life, I want something I can fully count on, all the time.

God knows me completely because he created me. He knows everything that's true about me. And even better, he offers to guide me in life. He offers to guide anyone who will begin a relationship with him.

He gives insights and his wisdom for some major areas of our lives. And he's fully reliable. Here's a website that explains how you can have a relationship with God like that." I handed her a small business card with the site's name on it.

Astrology Woman: "Thanks very much. I really appreciate that. I'll take a look at it."

Notice that in that conversation:

- I sincerely shared with her something I believed to be true of God.
- I pointed her to a site created for nonbelievers.
- What I said took about 30 seconds.

I'll be sharing more dialogue examples with you, so you can see how easy it is to have short conversations that can deeply impact a person's life.

Your sincerity, your life's message will stick with them. It can create in them a desire to perhaps know God like you do.

And you can give them a resource that has messages about God, answers to questions they might have, and encouragement to begin a relationship with God...with an opportunity to do so.

You can certainly have a longer conversation and share the entire gospel with the person if God leads you to do so. And I'll show you how to do that also.

Not everyone is going to dump an astrology book in your lap. Let me give you a couple of other examples. Next email...conversations with an atheist and an agnostic.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

3. What God Offers - Examples: Atheist/Agnostic

Hi,

I'm standing in a hotel lobby.

The woman next to me asks, "Are you with our convention?"

I replied, "No. I'm connected with a website that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like how do you know God exists?"

She replied, "I'm an atheist, but I'm searching."

I said, "You will love this website. It will give you reasons to believe in God and show you how you can begin a relationship with him today. May I give you a card to the site?"

As I handed her a card to EveryStudent.com, she teared up and said, "Thank you so much."

Note: You can say the same thing to people: "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

You can get EveryStudent.com cards [here](#) or [print](#) your own.

Second example...

I was on a college campus for some meetings. At noon I was standing in a very long fast-food line in the university's student union.

I happened to look up from my phone at the exact same time a student next to me looked up from his phone. So he politely started talking with me. I asked about his major. It was computer science.

We talked about web servers and other technical topics. Then I told him about EveryStudent.com. "I'm connected to a site..."

Daniel said, "I'm agnostic, but my fiancé is a Christian."

I asked him, "If you saw sufficient evidence for God, would you want to know God?"

He said, "Yes!"

I pulled up EveryStudent.com on my phone. I scrolled down the home page to an orange, square icon of a hiker and clicked on it. (You can find it too.)

It's called the Spiritual Adventure Pack, a 7-part email series written to atheists and agnostics. I handed my phone to Daniel and invited him to type in his email address to sign up for the series...which he gladly did.

What struck me most about our conversation is that three times during our short conversation, Daniel grabbed my hand to shake it and thanked me for talking to him.

One more example...

Two weeks ago, I was on a flight. The woman next to me asked what I did. I told her, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

She said, "I'm afraid of dying. I don't know what's on the other side and I don't know which religion to pick."

You're probably thinking I'm making these up! That was exactly what she said.

I'm absolutely convinced, when you're equipped to help someone, God will simply bring people your way.

I hope you're catching how normal this is!

Next email...it's probably time to introduce myself and explain what God has engineered.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

4. What God Offers - What God Has Done

Hi,

Everything I'm sharing with you hinges on one factor: God arranging opportunities. This is a walk of faith, more than a plan to execute. And that's what makes it fun.

You're not going into this without God. You are responding to what God orchestrates. It's that simple.

Even EveryStudent.com was something that I believe God brought about.

It started with my own search for God. I had been an atheist for a number of years. Then I met an impressive Christian whose life I admired. I couldn't understand how someone that smart could believe in God.

Nearly every day for a year and a half, I challenged her with my questions. She patiently researched answers for me, until I could escape God no longer.

My prayer was, "Ok, you win. I ask you to come into my life. You can do with it whatever you want." (It seemed an appropriate response, given God exists.)

If interested, my fuller story of what tipped me over the edge out of atheism is [here](#).

God led me to a Christian organization named Cru and gave me a desire to use media to reach as many people as possible.

In 1999, a webmaster and I started building an evangelistic website, called [EveryStudent.com](#), initially for university students. Now the same site is also offered under another name, [EveryPerson.com](#).

When starting the site, I knew nothing about creating a website and Psalms 40:1-3 was my constant reference. (Still is today!)

Needing God's guidance: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry." (verse 1)

At decision points: "He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure." (verse 2)

What I felt called to believe: "Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord." (verse 3)

Today, EveryStudent.com is in many languages. Over 50 million searching people came to the site just during last year, and about a million people last year began a relationship with God through it.

That's over 2,500 people *every day* receiving Christ into their lives. Only God.

Next email: why EveryStudent.com is valuable to you...and to nonbelievers that you talk to.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

5. What God Offers - How EveryStudent.com is Unique

Hi,

On EveryStudent.com we try to help people see who God is and what it might be like to know him. We give nonbelievers persuasive reasons to begin a relationship with God and show them how they can.

One of the reasons believers avoid conversations with nonbelievers is that they fear, "What if they ask me a question that I can't answer?"

Questions like:

How do you explain all the suffering in the world?
I've prayed. God doesn't answer MY prayers.
How do you *know* God exists?
Why does it have to be Jesus, and not Buddha or Allah?
I'm gay. I guess that means I'm going to hell. Right?

I would like you to consider EveryStudent.com your safety net. You no longer need to feel like you're backed into a corner or unable to help the person.

It delivers well-researched, respectful answers in a persuasive way, encouraging a person to start a relationship with God (without being pushy about it).

Let me highlight a few other aspects of the site:

- 1. Every article or video is worded to the nonbeliever.** It's not like an apologetic site written to Christians, and then you have to figure out how to say it to a nonbeliever. Everything is already worded to nonbelievers, for them.
- 2. Each article also includes a lot of Scripture** so God can speak for himself. And yet, it avoids sounding religious.
- 3. EveryStudent.com has no ads.** It sells nothing. It doesn't ask for donations. We want them to hear what God is offering them without interrupting the message (the video or article) with ads.

Many nonbelievers think that Christians are in it just for the money. We want to remove that barrier to them hearing the gospel.

4. It's only about God. The site doesn't mention a church or organization.

5. We highly respect a person's privacy. We never chase a person around the Internet with ads or emails. They can visit the site once and never hear from us again.

6. If a person signs up for an email series, they are sent only that. We offer two email series on the site (free, of course)...one for atheists and a study through the Gospel of John. Anyone who enters their email address to receive a series, receives only that series. Nothing else.

7. EveryStudent.com is available in more than 45 languages so we can help nearly anyone God brings our way, in their own language.

Each of these sites (Spanish, Arabic, Turkish, French, Portuguese, etc.) can be found by scrolling down the home page of EveryStudent.com to a word cloud. It will take you to a listing of the languages and their URL.

You can simply say, "I'm connected to a great site that takes on the hard questions of life and God. Here, let me give you a card to it." (Cards are available [here](#).)

It can be that simple.

Next email: How to discover your life message to share with nonbelievers.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

6. What God Offers - Your Life Message

Hi,

I asked John if he had ever shared the gospel with our friend, Mike. His reply:

"Oh, yeah, like I'm a shining example of a Christian."

His sarcasm caught me off guard.

What do you think? Do we need to be the "perfect" Christian in order to tell someone else about Jesus?

I thought of the Pharisees. They WERE the morally shining example. They followed God's commands fully. At the temple every Sabbath.

Even made up some of their own rules, just to be extra, squeaky clean.

Yet, Jesus called them "blind guides." He said when the Pharisees made a convert, they made them "twice the child of hell" as themselves (twice as evil - Matthew 23:15).

Then I thought of the woman at the well (in John 4). She was almost the polar opposite. She was married five times and currently living with a sixth guy.

Though her lifestyle hadn't changed at all yet, she led her entire town to believe in Jesus.

What's the difference?

She knew who Jesus was. The Pharisees didn't.

She didn't know a lot about Jesus, but she knew enough. She knew who he was. And she told others because she wanted them to know him also.

You can say something about God also. I've become convinced when you're equipped, God will simply bring people your way.

I love Philemon v6 in the rsv:

"and I pray that the sharing of your faith
may promote the knowledge
of all the good that is ours in Christ."

That's our job. Let people know all the good that is ours in Christ.

It's time to discover your personal life message. I believe God has built into each believer's life experiences where God revealed something significant about himself.

Here is a five-minute video to help you see how to briefly share your life's message with others. [Easy Conversations about God](#).

I prepared this message for university students, however it's applicable anywhere.

After watching this, here's an additional action point:

In your time with God, ask God to show you three things that you have come to know to be true about God. It might have been through an event in your life or Scripture where God really showed up and you learned something very significant about God.

See if you can list three things that you know to be true about God.

1. This is true of God....
2. This is also true of God...
3. And this...

Next email, I'll show you how to bring this into conversations.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

7. What God Offers - Example: Bank Teller

Hi,

I was at a bank, closing a checking account. I sat for over 30 minutes across the desk from the bank associate. He was on the phone, on hold with the corporate office to find out how to best close the account.

Without malice, I matter-of-factly said to him, “You know it shouldn’t be this hard to close an account. It shouldn’t take this long.”

As soon as those words left my mouth, I realized there might be a bigger reason behind the delay. So I asked him, “Are you allowed to pull up a website on your business computer?” I had him enter EveryStudent.com.

Then I told him, “This is a site to help answer people’s questions about life and God, like how do you know God exists.”

I shared a little of my testimony, emphasizing my search through philosophy, while an atheist.

I don’t always mention my study of philosophy, but God obviously led me to do so.

He said to me, “It’s funny you would be talking to me about this, because my dad and I just had a long conversation about various philosophers.”

I said, “Philosophers ask all the right questions about life. But they don’t have satisfying answers. Only God provides those. This site will show you some of God’s answers to those big questions.”

I also gave him a business card to the site, so he’d have it.

I want you to catch this. My message to him was: God has answers for life that philosophy doesn’t have. Here’s a site to see what God says about life.

That took about 4 or 5 minutes. He appreciated it. And I respected his time while at work.

Here’s another reason why offering someone the site works so well.

We live in an Internet culture. When we need something, we often pull out our phones, go to Amazon, Google, Uber, a news site, etc.

It’s fast. Easy. Private. We’re in control. It’s available at the moment of our need.

Could we make it that easy for people to find God?

Could we simply give them a place to look on their mobile device and resource their search?

If you know the person, you can ask them about it later. “Did you go to that site I mentioned? What did you think?”

If you’re traveling, or shopping, or in an Uber and you’re not likely to ever see that person again, you might still deeply impact their life. And you have the joy of being an ambassador for Jesus.

With the bank teller, I also knew that there is an article on the site titled, [The Value of Philosophy](#). It was fun to point that out to him.

We have a great search box on the site, so you don’t have to know everything that’s there.

However it might come in handy to spend some time on the site.

In the next email I’m going to show you an easy way to check the site for a specific question or topic.

And I’ll show you some of the most useful articles/videos.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

8. What God Offers - Qs Addressed on EveryStudent.com

Hi,

I'm so proud of you for going through this email series. Thank you for taking the time to read my emails and to give thought to this. I so appreciate your heart.

I mentioned that it would be great for you to spend some time on EveryPerson.com. See what's there. See what articles/videos you really like, that you think might be most helpful.

For example, you might be in a conversation with a Muslim. It might be great to know that we have an article that addresses the top [6 questions that Muslims have about Jesus](#). You can simply text them a link to that article. (Just copy the page URL and paste it into your text message.)

We have a very clear menu on the site. If you click on the headings, each menu page will show you what's there.

We try to be very accurate about what the article or video is about. (No click bait.) Instead, clear, honest descriptions so a person can find what they want.

We also have a great search box on the site that's better than Google! Type in: Muslim, or atheist, or relationships, or racism, etc. and it will list those specific articles or videos for you.

Let me point out a few of the articles that might be most useful to you:

[How to Know God Personally](#) - the gospel
[Is There a God?](#) - 6 reasons God exists
[What's It Like to Know God?](#) - a description & testimonies
[Beyond Blind Faith](#) - why Jesus is God

[Peace of Mind in an Unstable World](#) - why God is our rock
[Where is God in the Midst of Tragedy?](#) - what God offers us
[Is God Good?](#) - 2-min video addresses suffering

[Sex & the Search for Intimacy](#) - love defined by God
[LGBTQ and God's Love](#) - how to know God's love
[Is There Hope for a Lasting Marriage?](#) - yes, here's why

And here's a few more topics covered on the site:

[Solution to racism](#)
[Heroin addiction](#) / [binge drinking](#)
[Purpose in life](#)

[How to find faith](#)

[Does God answer prayer?](#)

[Qs Muslims ask about Jesus](#)

[What to Do with Loneliness](#)

There are many more, but these might be most helpful to know about.

Next email: Does this replace inviting someone to church or to a Bible study? No! I'll discuss this next.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

9. What God Offers - Nothing Required of Them

Hi,

In the years as an atheist, I saw the quality of my Christian friend's life. And though she never thought I would ever believe in God (I put up a good wall), privately, I wished God was real.

I agreed to go to church with her once. I noticed how loving and warm the people were. Again I thought...wish it were true. It had an impact, but it didn't answer my questions about the legitimacy of God's existence.

So yes, it's still good to invite people to church or a Bible study.

Yet, how many people do we typically ask? How many come?

Often it requires months in building your relationship with them enough to ask this of them.

It requires the person to put it in their schedule. Take time to drive to it. Show up in a high-risk setting with strangers. And engage with something foreign to them...songs, chapter/verse, prayer, etc.

A lot of people are simply not willing. I know people who to merely walk into a church would be for them the equivalent of walking down the aisle to receive Christ. It's simply too big a step.

Yet secretly they might be searching for God or for answers in their life right now, and you might not know. My friend had no idea I was actually open. I didn't want her to know.

Sometimes I would walk away from a conversation with her and think, "She believes everything she just said. I'm not sure I believe anything I said. I just wanted to win the argument." Authenticity goes a long way.

After debating my Christian friend for 1.5 years, she finally gave me a book, *Know Why You Believe*, by Paul Little.

I saw the kinds of questions it addressed and became hopeful. Equally important, away from my friend my defenses finally could come down. I could be honest. I didn't have to defend atheism or focus on rebuttals in conversations.

Alone with this book I could genuinely consider the evidence for God. And that's when God reached me.

Similarly, EveryStudent.com offers people a safe place for them to explore their questions about life and God.

Alone with their phone or laptop defenses can come down. They can be honest. For many, it's the perfect environment for God to speak to them.

Every day, 2,500 people ask Jesus into their lives while on the site.

Certainly, invite people to church or a Bible study. Perhaps even sooner you can offer them EveryStudent.com. When they see that it sounds normal, not preachy or condemning, they might be more open. They might be more willing to join you at church.

It might also open conversations between you.

Let me give you another helpful tip that you can use with friends, relatives, or someone you just meet.

Next email, I'll share with you how to explain your relationship with God in 15 seconds.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

10. What God Offers - Your Relationship with God in 15 Seconds

Hi,

Social media has moved us to sound bites. Say it fast. Be brief.

I've been part of other's training where they show you how to prepare a 3-minute testimony of how you came to faith in Jesus.

They suggest you talk about how your life was before Christ, what moved you to believe in Jesus, and then how he changed your life.

That works well perhaps if you're up at a microphone in front of a crowd.

But if you're in conversation with someone, sitting next to them in the bleachers of a soccer game? Well, three minutes is flat out rude.

As I mentioned in that [video](#) I recommended to you earlier in this series, I think people are open to a listening to a few sentences about why God is meaningful to you.

I'd like to encourage you to see if you can tell someone your life story in about four sentences. It really is possible. And it comes in handy.

A gentleman on a flight asked me about my work. You know what I told him, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God." (same thing you could say)

He asked me, "Huh. How did you get into that?" Here's what I told him:

"I was an atheist, then became friends with a Christian whose life I really admired. I questioned her for over a year. She provided evidence for God that became so weighty, I asked God into my life, and he changed my life in significant ways."

That took me about 15 seconds to say.

So here's a challenge for you! What could you say in about four sentences? Either how you came to know God or what it has meant to you to know him.

To get you thinking, here are possibilities....

"I struggled for a long time to find a sense of purpose in my life. Nothing seemed to fill that in a lasting way. Then I learned how I could know God, who created me, and my life took on way more meaning."

"I used to think that God was out there somewhere, but I never knew if he heard my prayers, or cared. He seemed silent. A friend told me how I could know God in a personal way, and now I see him answer me on a regular basis."

"It's easy to get weighed down by the sadness in life...horrible things you see on the news, for example. I find that when I go to the Bible, God shows me his perspective. He seems to always lift the sadness and give me energy to help others. God says he will be our refuge and strength and I see him do that."

Ask God to give you a message that you're ready to share with others. Maybe a verse of Scripture that you especially like. 15 seconds. Jesus says we are salt, to help people be thirsty for him. And light to others, so they might know the light of the world!

Sometimes God will lead you to lead someone to Christ right then.

Next email: How to share the gospel and help someone ask Jesus into their life.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

11. What God Offers - Example: Sharing the Gospel

Hi,

The goal of this series is to help you feel comfortable having short, comfortable conversations with people about God, on a regular basis. You'll see God bring people your way, and now you're equipped to help them, even if you only have a few minutes with them.

Does this mean we don't ever share the gospel with someone and help them receive Jesus right then? Of course not.

It depends on how God leads you and the conversation. We need to stay sensitive to the person we're talking to and sensitive to the Holy Spirit at the same time.

Allow me to share another true story.

I was on a flight, sitting next to a gentleman I'll call Jack. I encouraged him to ask for ice for his sore knee. And we just started talking.

Before we pulled back from the gate, he asked what I do. I said, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

He immediately replied, "We need to talk!"

He told me the name of their family-owned business and I recognized it right away. This is a *very* successful guy. I knew he must travel a lot. But I was pretty amazed to hear he's been to 110 countries. He's only about 40 years old, so that's a LOT of travel in a short career.

Probably somewhat tied to that, Jack also went through a very rough divorce about a year ago and is still struggling with life.

On top of that, he said he's been alcohol and cocaine addicted since he was 17 years old.

Four months ago, Jack went to a hardware store and bought a rope to hang himself. After buying the rope, he instead checked into a rehab facility.

He's clean now. But he's still not ok. He has no peace, joy, no sense of belonging.

We talked for quite a while. Mostly, I was asking questions and listening (and trying to talk softly, for everyone's sake on the flight). We covered a lot of subjects.

Eventually, it seemed right to tell Jack how he could have a relationship with God...the one who created him, who loves him. I told Jack that none of us were meant to go through this life without God.

I handed him my phone. I showed him [this article](#), and asked him to read it.

He read it very slowly, very carefully. He spent a long time on it.

When Jack was done reading, I asked him, "Did you ask Jesus into your life, as it talked about?"

He said, "No."

I asked him, "What are your hesitations?"

He said, "I don't think I have time in my life right now to commit to God. I don't think I would be able to spend the time and focus on it that it deserves."

I said, "This is not about committing to religious efforts. This is about having a relationship with God. This is God offering you a relationship with himself, freely. Jesus is simply standing at the door of your life, knocking. What does he ask of you? Open the door! He wants a relationship with you."

He looked stunned. Then he said, "Wow. I've never heard of the possibility of having a relationship with God." We talked about that some more, what that means.

Then I asked him, "Is there any reason now that you wouldn't want to ask Jesus into your life right now?" He said no. I handed my phone back to him and he prayed the prayer written there.

About four times he said to me, "You have no idea how important this conversation is right now in my life."

I knew there was [an article](#) written by someone who had a heroin addiction. I pulled it up and handed my phone to Jack.

He read that one too and said, "Wow. Just change the names and a few details in this article--that's me. That's what my life has been like." We talked about some of the points in it...how the Word of God and the Holy Spirit work together to change a person's life over time.

I handed him my phone so he could type in his name and email address, to sign up for an email series that would help him grow in his new relationship with God, the [Spiritual Starter Kit](#). It's available on another site we built, [StartingwithGod.com](#).

I also was able to recommend a church to him near his home and put him in contact with a friend of mine who attends it.

God knew I had all this for him. God brought Jack my way.

Next email: What you could do for those who avoid religion and don't want to talk about God.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

12. What God Offers - If They Don't Want to Hear

Hi,

As we think of bringing the gospel to others, it is good to keep this in mind:

nonbelievers might not feel comfortable talking about God.

I think we should respect that.

I have a friend who has had enough religion for a lifetime. She grew up attending a Catholic school, while her parents were raising her in the Bahai faith and attending weekly meetings for that. Then she attended a high school where the student body was primarily Muslim.

You can imagine how she avoided any conversations about religion.

We're good friends. One day I said to her, "I'm conflicted about something. I don't want to be pushy about God, but at the same time, I don't want to be negligent either. Could I show you *one* place on the site if you ever become curious?"

She gave me permission. I pulled out my phone and scrolled down the home page to the [Spiritual Adventure Pack](#) (the square icon with the backpacker). I said, "This little hiker with the backpack is a 7-part email series that explains why I think faith in God is valid. How's that?"

She said, "Polite and succinct. Mission accomplished."

This particular email series has led many atheists to Christ. Allow me to share just a few comments from people expressing its impact. I want you to **see** that what God does in a person's life is real.

All of these were merely sent to me. I didn't ask for any of them:

"I have decided to follow the living God. Thanking you seems to be little when you are doing so much in my life." -Kelvin

"With your assistance, I am well on my way. It's nice to have something to believe in." -Ron

"Thank you so much. I have hope. I'm asking Jesus to take my life and do what he wants." -Tammy

"Thank you for the Spiritual Adventure Pack. To say it has transformed my life would be an understatement. I grew up in a passionately atheist family. When I realized from your series that faith is a choice and not something simply handed to you on a plate, and when all your counterarguments run out, I realized that I had to let God

into my life and I couldn't keep on living with philosophic skepticism instead of purpose, regardless of how my family would judge me. Thank you." ~George

"Thanks for help me find God and myself." ~Bob

"I was fortunate that your website was among the first I found when I began searching (both online and spiritually!) I can't thank you enough for the advice, guidance and mentoring they have provided.

Like you I am the kind of person who questions everything, and I have a deep need to understand. I have found that by reading the information you provided I have been able to find answers to many of my questions.

You have led me from complete denial of God's existence to not just believing in Him but knowing that He is there. The evidence you give to demonstrate His presence and power, and the life, death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ, was sufficient to convince this 33-year-old, life-long atheist; not an easy challenge!" ~ Caroline

Caroline went on to say how she's grown through the email series for new believers on StartingwithGod.com:

"I have also followed your advice regarding how to read His Word and have been getting answers from Him ever since! I already feel a very strong connection with my faith and that my relationship with Him is solid through His Grace. This is in large part due to your tutelage, although admittedly God did most of the work for me!

Thank you again for all you have done for me and, I imagine, millions like me around the world who are querying their beliefs or seeking Him but are unsure how to go about it.

I wish you every happiness, you have given me so much."

I share these with you so that you can see how real this is. Each individual is someone whom God drew to the site and someone he spoke to through it. I have received many hundreds like this.

Nothing on the site would have any impact if God was not involved. This is all a spiritual endeavor.

Imagine the number of people you encourage to visit the site who might thank you for helping them find Jesus.

Next email: Another true-life story - the computer guy

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

13. What God Offers - Example: Born Again Pagan

Hi,

One aspect of Jesus that is so tender is the way Jesus noticed people.

He paid attention to people who couldn't even see him. People who couldn't get up to move toward him. People who couldn't hide their leprosy.

Jesus noticed and welcomed all people.

So many people in our culture are lonely. Just a few minutes to notice people, to acknowledge them, can convey love and worth to them. One more example...

I was standing outside a Walmart, and a man drove up with a bumper sticker on his car that read, "Born Again Pagan."

When he got out of his car and walked toward me, I smiled at him and said, *"Excuse me. I've just got to ask you about your bumper sticker - born again pagan."*

He said, *"Oh yeah. Greatest thing. My brother got me into it."*

I said, *"I don't know a lot about it, but isn't it the worship of the sun, the wind, water, etc.?"*

He said, *"Yeah, yeah that's it. Changed my life!"*

I said, *"Well, I used to be an atheist, and I studied various existential philosophers looking for a philosophy that would always work. Then I became friends with someone who told me that I could know the God of the universe by asking Jesus into my life. And when I asked him into my life, my search ended."*

He said, *"That's me. I'm searching."*

And that's what I find all the time. Until people find Jesus, they are still searching.

People might not let on. They might even have a bumper sticker that says, "born again pagan."

But if they don't know Jesus yet, then they're still searching for truth, for some way for this life to make sense. They're searching for confidence, peace, for love that they can count on. To know someone who will never leave them or give up on them.

And only Jesus meets our needs like that.

I said to him, *“Maybe no one has ever shared with you how you could know God in a personal way. May I give you a card to a site that will show you how you can start a relationship with him today?”*

He was extremely grateful.

Allow me to highlight a few things:

1. I noticed him. I paid attention to something I saw.
2. I wasn't challenging his religion. I was seeking to help him, and he sensed that.
3. I didn't blame him for not knowing about God. I suggested that maybe no one had ever told him. It was their fault for not telling him, not his fault for not knowing. *“Maybe no one has ever shared with you how you could know God in a personal way.”*
4. I shared with him something from my life, that when I found Jesus, my search ended. And I said it quickly.
5. I gave him hope that he could have that kind of relationship with God and offered him a website that could guide him to that.

Almost always people thank me for talking to them. I want you to have the same experience. Next email: let me give you my best tips.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

14. What God Offers - My Best Tips Talking to People

Hi,

We're nearing the end of this series. Thank you for staying with me!

In this email, I'm giving you my best guidance. It's especially helpful with people you've just met.

Maybe someone in a store, or while traveling, or while sitting in the bleachers of a sporting event, or at a party. In other words, in the course of normal, daily conversations.

Here's what I do:

1. I usually am not trying to insert "God" into the conversation.

I'm not looking for a small crack in the door that I can rush through and hijack the conversation to now be about spiritual things. In other words, I'm not trying to force the person into talking about God. I try not to be rude.

2. I seek to love and enjoy the other person.

Sometimes I need to silently pray, "God, give me your love for this person."

3. I show interest in them, ask them questions about themselves. And listen, curious to know more.

The person feels valued and respected by me (I hope). Eventually, simply out of politeness, the person will ask me a question about myself.

4. When they ask me, I tell them, "I'm connected with a website that seeks to answer the really hard questions about life and God...like why is life so hard and how do you know that God exists?"

[You can say, "I'm in the ____ business or field. But I'm also connected to a website that takes on the big questions of life and God, like why is life so hard and how do you know God exists."]

After I say that, I say nothing else. Many people pick up on that and the conversation continues about God or the site.

But if they don't respond, I change the subject. I might ask them a question about their work or something else.

This lets them know that I'm ok not cornering them in a spiritual conversation.

In fact, even if the conversation goes deep on spiritual things, I will sometimes switch it back to a secular topic, then ask a spiritual question of them later.

I want to be sensitive to them and let them know they're not a target for me to convert. They are a person that I care about.

5. At the end of our conversation, as we are parting ways, I'll say, "Here, let me give you a card to the website that I mentioned. It will let you explore questions about God on your own." Then I hand them a card to EveryStudent.com.

6. If they show interest in discussing the website or God, we might talk about questions they have about God. I might share with them how I came to faith, or what I've seen God do in my life. I might encourage them to read a particular article on EveryStudent.com or sign up for The Spiritual Adventure Pack (for skeptics or atheists) or the Gospel of John series.

I might mention StartingwithGod.com if I find out they are a believer.

My goal is to be available to God and kind to the other person. It is up to God's leading where the conversation goes. I know that I can always offer them a card to the site. That takes the pressure off of me.

I can be a normal person, respectful of them and their time/attention.

In the majority of my conversations with nonbelievers, they almost always initiate the conversation. I might have a trusting face, I don't know. I might "look" like a safe person.

But I truly believe it's a conversation God arranges because I'm equipped to assist them. Just be warm, friendly. God will take it from there.

Next and last email in this series: How to help a believer

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com

15. What God Offers - How to Help a Believer

Hi,

This is the last email in this series. I hope you've caught by now that God arranges conversations.

Carry some [cards](#) with you, and he will simply bring people your way. You can print your own cards if desired. [Here's the file](#) to send to your printer.

Here's another true story:

I was on another international trip. My flight arrived late for a connecting flight. Another woman was on the same itinerary. I had better shoes for running, so I ran ahead to hold the flight for her.

At the gate, that flight was also late. So when she arrived, we had a little time to chat.

She asked if I was traveling for work or pleasure. You know what I told her, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God." I added, "It's from a Christian perspective." (I usually don't say that.)

She immediately said, "WAIT!"

She reached into her briefcase and pulled out a huge Bible. She said, "I'm a recovering alcoholic. I just became a Christian and I bought this Bible, but I have no idea what to do with it."

I knew immediately how to help her. [StartingwithGod.com](#) is a site created for new believers. The home page is worded right to them:

"Congratulations on your decision to ask Jesus Christ into your life. What now?

If this were a religion, you could expect someone to give you all sorts of Rules. Rituals. Requirements. And maybe a lot of stuff to buy!

But when you asked Jesus into your life, you did **not** join a religion. Instead, you began a *relationship*. With God.

And that's pretty amazing. You might be wondering how do you get to know God better? Ask for the [Spiritual Starter Kit](#)."

This is what I showed her. We boarded the flight two minutes later. But I knew God would help her grow and I was thrilled that I could make it so easy for her.

I would encourage you to sign up for the same series, so you can see what it's like.

Anyone that you lead to Christ, you can help grow this way.

One time, I led a friend to receive Jesus while we talked in Starbucks. I didn't live around there, so I asked her if she knew anyone who was a Christian like this.

She did. So I encouraged her to meet for lunch with her friend the next day, and then both of them sign up for this series together. That's exactly what happened.

And she told me how very helpful it was to her.

If you meet a believer who is struggling in their faith, or discouraged over sin, or trying to live up to all of God's commands...encourage that believer to sign up for [Skip the Stress](#) series.

These are free and they will only receive what they sign up for...nothing else.

I hope this series has been helpful! You can rest in God's ability to steer the conversation to his purposes.

If you would like to continue to hear from me, and hear other ways to see God work in your life to help others, please check out this invitation to [The Findables](#). (It's free, of course.)

May God lead you to help many!

Marilyn Adamson

director of [EveryPerson.com/EveryStudent.com](#)