



# **Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable**

*Sam Chan , D.A. Carson (Foreword)*

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Most Christians already know that they should be telling their friends about Jesus. But they have been poorly equipped with methods that are no longer effective in today's post-Christian world. As a result, many people become frustrated, blame themselves, and simply give up. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* is a textbook on evangelism that is ideal for the church or the classroom to equip Christians with the principles and skills they need to tell the unbelievable news about Jesus to friends in a skeptical world.

Many of the older principles and methods of evangelism in the twentieth century no longer work effectively today. In a post-Christian, post-churched, post-reached world we need new methods to communicate the timeless message of the gospel in culturally relevant ways. Dr. Chan combines the theological and biblical insights of classic evangelistic training with the latest insights from missiology on contextualization, cultural hermeneutics, and storytelling. Every chapter is illustrated with real-world examples drawn from over fifteen years of evangelistic ministry. These are methods that really work - with university students, urban workers, and high school students - getting past the defensive posture that people have toward Christianity so they can seriously consider the claims of Jesus Christ.

Field-tested and filled with unique, fresh, and creative insights, this book will equip you to share the gospel in today's world and help as many people as possible hear the good news about Jesus.

## Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable Details

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# **From Reader Review Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable for online ebook**

## **Brad Strelau says**

Enjoyed this book! Great reflection on the importance of inviting people into the story of the Gospel as a better story than any other. Good for personal evangelism and pulpit preaching!

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## **Andy Bond says**

### **Superb book**

Excellent book on evangelism and has quite a few things to say on preaching too!

It's not a simple book and there is clearly a good mind at work. He seeks to make things accessible, but there is a lot of research both academic and practical that have gone into this.

He uses a lot of Tim Keller's stuff, but also provides concrete examples of how to put it into action.

It is one I will need to re-read many sections of to work through suggestions carefully.

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## **Stephen Tan says**

Great book not just on evangelism but on cultural analysis, contextualisation, storytelling, preaching and apologetics. Lots of practical how-to's as well. Possibly the best evangelism handbook out there right now. Great for pastors and ministry workers but also accessible enough for those without formal training.

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## **Nathan M Campbell says**

This is the textbook (literally) on evangelism that the church just needs in our cultural moment — not just pastors, or evangelists, but all Christians who want to be part of the church's work of evangelism in our post-Christian context.

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## **KK says**

I read this book in one sitting.

It is testimony to Chan's writing style that he has been able to make what is essentially an "all you need to know" book so readable on a Sunday afternoon. What makes this book so helpful is the number of angles that Chan approaches the topic. Starting with the biblical and theological essentials on what defines evangelism, Chan is also adept at helping us look at evangelism with an historical, social, missional, contemporary and personal framework.

His skill of reading widely and summarising well means that these different angles are supported by references from John Chapman, Tim Keller and Graeme Cole as well as insights from cross cultural missionaries, observations by secular observers of our culture and stories from his real life.

I found the chapter on the differences between evangelising in the "modern" and "post modern" eras very helpful. It helped me personally think of new ways to engage my angry post modern friends.

There are helpful chapters about how to deliver public talks to a secular crowd, but also how to engage in conversations in quieter one to one settings. I think this makes it a book that encourages believers of all personalities to think how we can speak the great news about Christ. It's a reference book I will return to and highly recommend it to be on the shelf of all believers who love a good read.

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### **Christine Dillon says**

4.5 stars

This book is gold. It is possible to read it straight through but its strength is that it is a book to go back into and dip in to the relevant section. For example, if someone asks you to speak at a wedding or special events - chapters eight and nine would make your task far easier and give you an understanding of what you're trying to achieve and why.

Many of the topics in this book, I've learned about through experience (making mistakes and trial and error). How I would have loved to have read this book years ago. Chan's strength is his ability to analyse and explain why our talking is failing to actually communicate.

Chapter 4 on 'Evangelism to Postmoderns' - a favourite chapter. So clear with many 'aha' moments.

Full of illustrations. Full of stories.

This book is for anyone trying to communicate the best news in the universe to those who don't think so!

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### **Taylor says**

Sam Chan's book, *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*, is a thoughtful and practical guide to evangelism within the context of this postmodern world. He first details prevalent cultural assumptions and worldviews before moving on to discuss the concept of the Gospel and the definition of evangelism. At both the start and the finish of this work, he also discusses ontology and epistemology, describing the factors that play into a person's belief or doubt.

Throughout the course of the book, Chan presents many models and theories of evangelism that have been developed by other individuals or organizations. He also describes his own philosophy and practice of evangelism, wishing primarily to create a helpful resource rather than dictate a certain method. While he talks a bit about one-on-one street evangelism, his primary focus is on relational evangelism and Gospel-focused sermons. He sees a great deal of value in building foundational trust and common ground, inviting

people into Gospel community, listening to their story, all while sharing our own testimony and the Gospel narrative.

Chan shows how to craft a Gospel presentation appropriate for any particular situation or cultural context. He stresses the importance of contextualizing while presenting the Gospel, saying that one must be aware of the Biblical context, his own context, and his audience's context. In many instances, he gives step by step guidance on how to use one framework to guide evangelism within several difference contexts. Crafting the Gospel to be received by a specific audience requires creativity and storytelling skill. Chan lays out many strategies for identifying a culture's intrinsic redemptive analogies and existential cry, and using these facets of general revelation to share the special revelation of Christ.

While it is not strictly an academic text, the use of specific theological terms, philosophies, theologians, and historical events may make it a more challenging read for those who are not already familiar with this field of study. Many footnotes fill the bottom of these pages, including citations, explanatory notes, and mentions of those people who particularly influenced or inspired Chan with ideas and concepts for this work. He is supported by a large volume of quotations from other prominent theologians and scholars, as well as Scriptural references and examples. Each chapter's conclusion features a helpful recap of that section and includes resources for further reading. An appendix provides an overview of a key evangelism method.

Full to the brim with wisdom, strategies, charts and graphs, and examples, this book does not merely advise believers to storytell, it beautifully exemplifies teaching through storytelling on every page.

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### **Simon says**

Fine - some good moments. Probably best for a evangelism class at a seminary or bible college.

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### **Heather says**

Chan helpfully analyses our postmodern culture and how this impacts evangelism today. The book's content is practical, achievable and insightful for any Christian seeking to gain confidence in sharing their faith. Chan critiques past evangelistic methods and tools and encourages evangelism to be a lifestyle change. Highly recommended for individuals and church communities.

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