

SEMINAR WORKBOOK

Good Soil

Evangelism & Discipleship Training



GOODSOIL



Published by
Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship

ISBN: 978-1-951672-24-9

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Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship
Third Edition

Association of Baptists for World Evangelism
P.O. Box 8585
Harrisburg, PA 17105 USA

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the
New King James Version* (NKJV*) of the Bible
(Thomas Nelson, Inc.). Bold words
are treated this way for emphasis.

Printed in the United States of America.

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Good Soil

Evangelism & Discipleship Training



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MATTHEW 13

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell **by the wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them.

⁵ Some fell on **stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

⁷ And some fell **among thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

⁸ **But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**

⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

But what is “good soil” evangelism & discipleship?

We are going to let Jesus define “good soil” for us, but first it is important to know that Jesus probably spoke this parable many times in various places. And when He spoke, Jesus used the Hebrew or the Aramaic language. So it’s no wonder that the Holy Spirit led Matthew, Mark, and Luke to use three different Greek words to give three distinct but interrelated nuances of the full meaning of what Jesus meant by “good soil.”

INTRODUCTION – DEFINING GOOD SOIL

Beginning with Matthew's Account

LUKE 8:15

3

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, **keep it*** and bear fruit with patience.

*Greek *katecho* = κατέχω (kat-ekh'-o)

The word literally means to hold something down; in a positive sense it means to hold it tightly so as to protect it from being taken away.

MARK 4:20

2

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, **accept it***, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

*Greek *paradechomai* = παραδέχομαι (par-ad-ekh'-o-mi)

The word *dechomai* (receive) is intensified by the prefix *para* (near or by one's side), thus it conveys the idea of embracing.

MATTHEW 13:23

1

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and **understands it***, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

*Greek *sunieimi* = συνίημι (soon-ee'-ay-mee)

The word literally means to send or bring together, thus in this case to mentally put things together so as to comprehend or make sense of it.

Match the following passages to the numbered statements

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2

1 CORINTHIANS 15:2

HEBREWS 10:23

3a. Our human role is to “hold fast” but the encouraging thing to know is that God’s role is to remain faithful to the promises He has given us.

3b. Those who are truly saved will hold firmly to God’s Word.

3c. It’s a praiseworthy thing for believers to hold on to the teachings that have been passed on to them by the person who disciplined them.

ACTS 15:4

1 TIMOTHY 5:19

HEBREWS 12:6

2a. This word carries the idea of welcoming something or someone into one’s presence—a warm and friendly reception.

2b. This word is also used to describe the act of adoption, when a father lovingly acknowledges a child as his own.

2c. This word is also used to describe the action of accepting something as being true and valid.

MATTHEW 13:19

LUKE 24:44-45

ACTS 28:26

ACTS 28:27


1a. Sometimes people hear and see but do not understand.

1b. Sometimes people with a lot of Bible knowledge do not understand it (“put it all together” so as to make clear sense).

1c. Sometimes lack of understanding is a “calloused or dull or hard heart” problem.

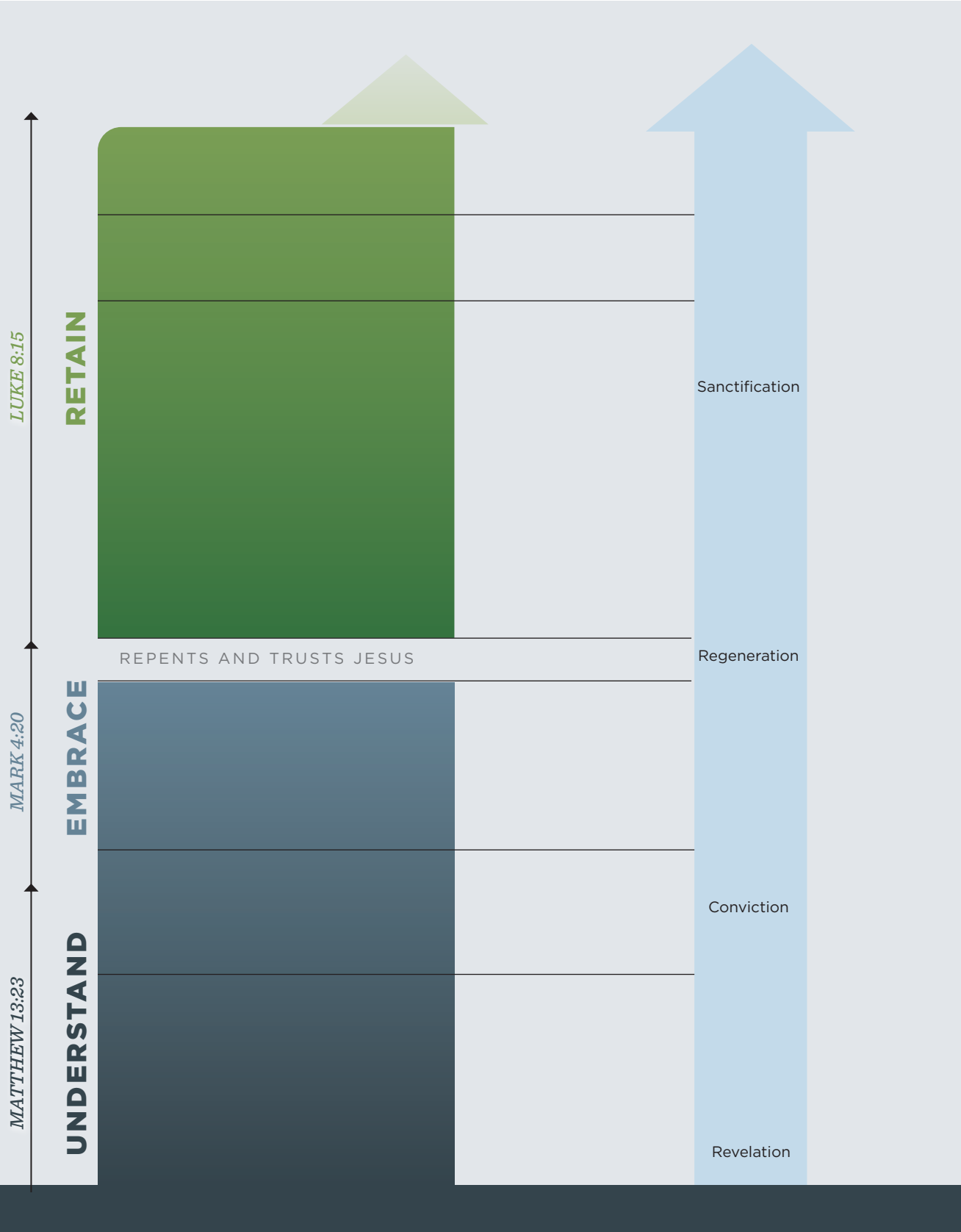
1d. People who hear but don’t understand are spiritually vulnerable.

REGENERATION (new birth) occurs instantaneously at a **single point in time**, but *there is* a *sense* in which **conversion** is a **gradual process** that leads up to regeneration.

 **Discuss:** In what sense is conversion a gradual process leading to regeneration?

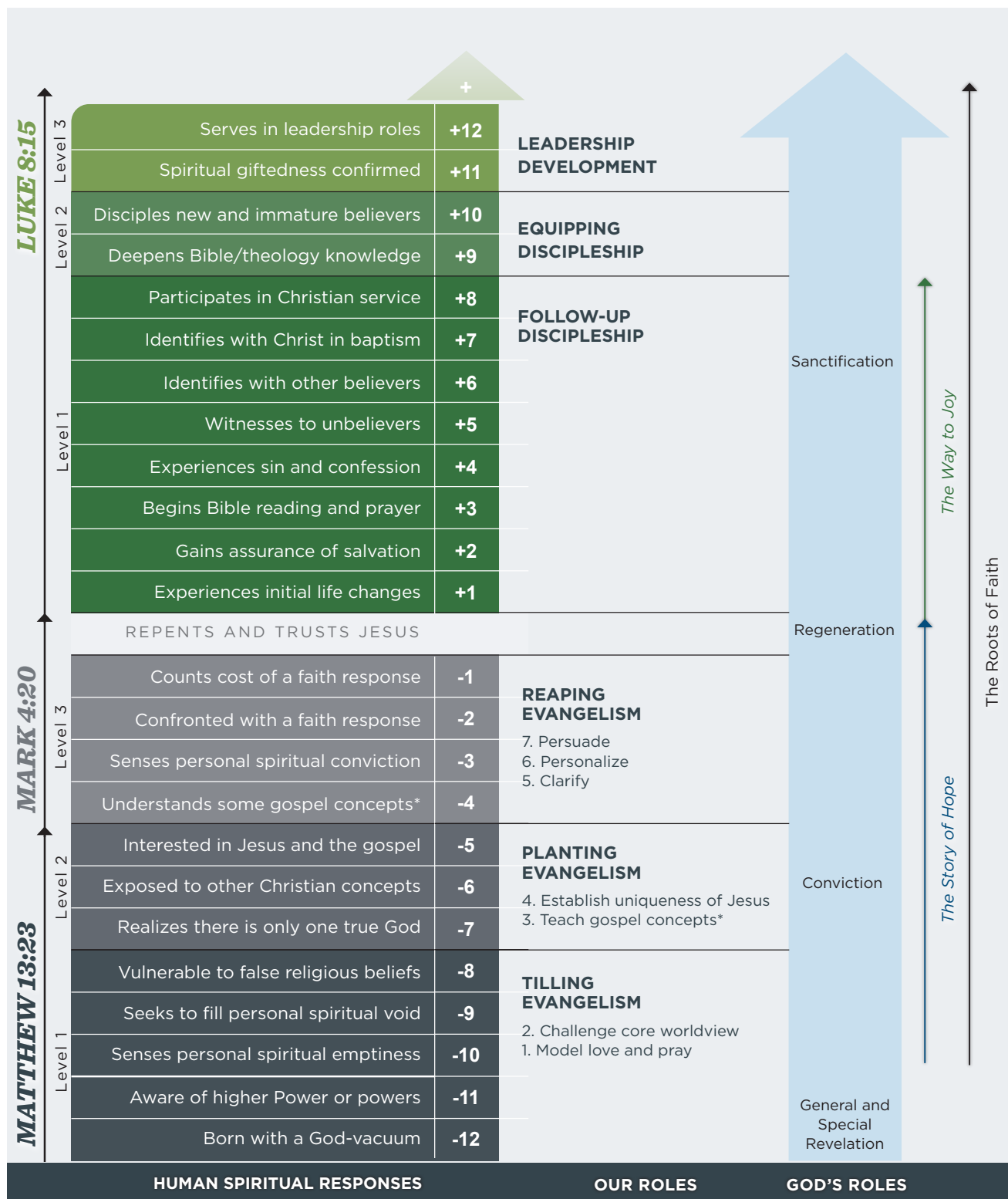
INTRODUCTION – THE GOOD SOIL E&D SCALE

The Simplified Scale



INTRODUCTION – THE GOOD SOIL E&D SCALE

The Vertical Dimension



*Basic gospel concepts =

God, man, sin, death (as divine judgment), Christ, cross (including resurrection), faith, and life (spiritual, eternal).

INTRODUCTION — THE GOOD SOIL E&D SCALE

Understanding & Applying the Good Soil Scale

IN YOUR SMALL GROUP, STUDY THE GOOD SOIL E&D SCALE.



Discuss: If you were explaining this scale to other believers, what are **eight** concepts that you would want to be sure that they did not miss? **List them below.** Then, put check marks beside the two concepts on your list that you think are most important. Be prepared to share and explain these two concepts.

☐ (Example) E&D is a divine-human partnership.

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Think of the Good Soil E&D Scale in relationship to the experiences of: (1) your own spiritual journey (2) someone you have led to Christ and disciplined, or (3) someone with whom you are currently working.

Share: Explain your Good Soil Scale story with others in your small group.

INTRODUCTION – THE GOOD SOIL E&D SCALE

The Horizontal Dimension: Understanding -Receptivity Matrix

RECEPTIVITY

MARK 4:20 (HEART AND WILL)

closed												open	
-12	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1		
												Counts cost of a faith response	-1
												Confronted with a faith response	-2
												Senses personal spiritual conviction	-3
												Understands some gospel concepts	-4
												Interested in Jesus and the gospel	-5
												Exposed to other Christian concepts	-6
												Realizes there is only one true God	-7
												Vulnerable to false religious beliefs	-8
												Seeks to fill personal spiritual void	-9
												Senses personal spiritual emptiness	-10
												Aware of higher Power or powers	-11
												Born with a God-vacuum	-12

↑

MATTHEW 13:23 (HEAD)

UNDERSTANDING

REPENTS AND TRUSTS JESUS

Adapted from the Gray Matrix by Frank Gray of Far East Broadcasting Company

Think of one person that you know who is most likely not a true believer—not saved.

Place an **X** in the **Understanding-Receptivity Matrix** above to indicate where you think this person is in his/her:

1. **Understanding** of the gospel and
2. **Receptivity** toward embracing the gospel.



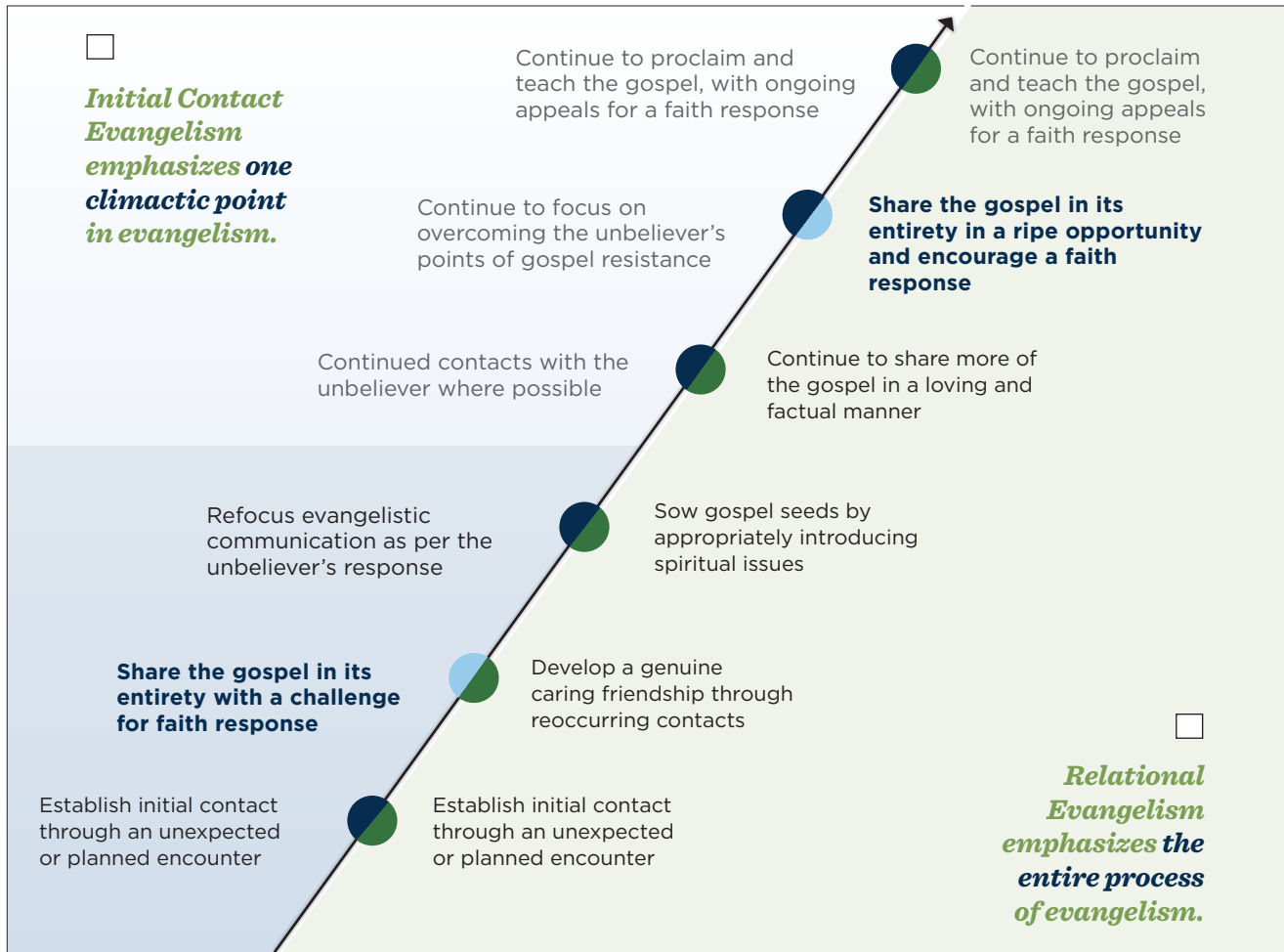
Be prepared to discuss this question: In addition to the work of God's Spirit, what do you think this person needs most in his/her "conversion process" in order for him/her to trust Jesus Christ and be born into God's family?

INTRODUCTION —INITIAL CONTACT EVANGELISM & RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

Evangelism: Is It a Process or a Single Point-in-Time Event?

If the conversion of unbelievers can be viewed as a gradual process that leads to the instantaneous point of regeneration, in what sense is evangelism both a process and a point-in-time event?

- In what sense is evangelism a **process**?
- In what sense can evangelism be thought of as a **single point-in-time event**?



Study the Initial Contact Evangelism and Relational Evangelism Visual

- Be prepared to explain Initial Contact Evangelism.
- Place a check mark in the box (above “Initial Contact”) when you understand this concept clearly.
- Be prepared to explain Relational Evangelism.
- Place a check mark in the box (above “Relational Evangelism”) when you understand this concept clearly.

INTRODUCTION —INITIAL CONTACT EVANGELISM & RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

Evangelism: Is It a Process or a Single Point-in-Time Event?



Consider:

1. When is initial contact evangelism most appropriate?
2. What are some dangers associated with this approach?
3. When is relational evangelism most appropriate?
4. What are some dangers associated with this approach?

How should the **Good Soil Vertical-Horizontal Matrix** (pg.9) help you decide whether the most appropriate method of evangelism to use with a specific unbeliever is **Initial Contact Evangelism** or **Relational Evangelism**?