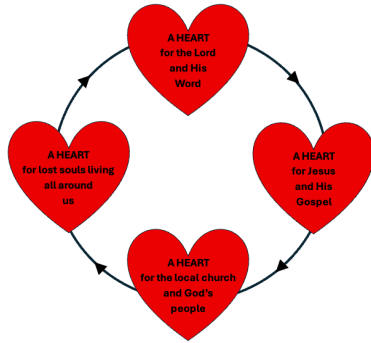




A Four-Fold H.E.A.R.T. Church Evangelism Strategy



A H.E.A.R.T. for the Lord and His Word

A H.E.A.R.T. for the Jesus and His Gospel

A H.E.A.R.T. for the local church and God's people

A H.E.A.R.T. for the lost souls living all around us

“Walking in the Light”—H.E.A.R.T. Gospel Tract Tom Johnston (May 4, 2026)

H.E.A.R.T.

What does it mean to walk in the light?



A new Gospel presentation based on one passage of Scripture, 1 John 1:5-2:2:

The Apostle John explained “walking in the Light” in this way in the Book of First John:

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. ^{2:1} My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

1 John 1:5-2:2 (NKJV).



H.E.A.R.T. Gospel Presentation

The five points of H.E.A.R.T. are these:

H—Holiness. God is light. He is totally holy. There is no darkness—or sin and evil—in Him.

E—Evildoing. All of humanity live with a deeply imbedded or sinful condition. John calls it “walking in darkness.” What is sin? Sin is disobeying the righteous law of God. Evildoing describes our sinful behaviors.

A—Atonement. Although we were born “walking in darkness,” God made a way for us to “walk in the light.” This new way was instituted by the blood of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for our sins. God promised that the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all sin—past sin, present sin, and future sin.

R—Repentance. Our sin is removed under one specific condition: “if we confess our sins.” If we meet this condition of God, cleansing is promised to us. The word repentance expresses this condition laid out by John. What is repentance? It is turning away from our own efforts to cover up for our sin and turning fully and only to the blood of Jesus for forgiveness of sins.

T—Transformation. God will transform you. After you repent of your sin in prayer, God promises to help you to “walk in the light.” He will help you avoid sin. Jesus instantly becomes your Advocate before the Father. The blood of Jesus applies cleansing to your heart.

What are the benefits of using 1 John 1:5-2:2 to share the Gospel?

The focus of a gospel presentation shifts from leafing through the Bible to find individual verses for the A.B.C.s, the Roman Road, or any other gospel presentation to digging into one passage of Scripture.

The 1 John passage brings unusual clarity on defining sin, including affirming the Federal Headship of Adam, as well as his Natural Headship!

The gospel presentation concentrates on Jesus, His blood, and His propitiation for our sins.

The focus of a gospel presentation shifts from uniquely man’s sin problem to God’s holiness, Christ’s sufficiency, and walking in purity.

The H.E.A.R.T. gospel presentation will not only benefit those who hear the gospel using this presentation, but it will greatly benefit those Christians who learn and memorize this gospel presentation. The H.E.A.R.T. becomes a discipleship tool for them as they encounter sin all throughout their lives on earth. For this reason, it is ideal for youth group study, as well as for individual one-on-one mentoring and discipleship.

The H.E.A.R.T. can also be included in a local church strategy of intentional evangelism.



Envisioning a H.E.A.R.T. Local Church Strategy for Intentional Evangelism

Visualizing Seasons of Harvest

These ideas are designed to help local churches brainstorm ideas for seasons of evangelism in their annual church calendar. It is important for church leaders to avoid overloading or burning out church members—while remaining intentional in leading their congregations in gospel proclamation. For this reason, it is recommended that local church elders pare down these possibilities to choose workable ideas that fit with their own ministry context.

Considering the four seasons of evangelism in a church's annual calendar

Spring is for Planting the Gospel—February through May:

Seasonal Considerations: Revival or special evangelism event preparation

March: prayer emphasis

April: training in the H.E.A.R.T. gospel presentation and in best practices for personal evangelism

May: canvas neighborhoods and publicize the revival or special event.

Summer is for Harvest— June-July-August:

Seasonal Considerations: host the revival and/or implement the special event

June-July-August: host the revival and/or implement the special event

Alternative Ideas: organize a once-a month outreach, on the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month.

VBS: keep the month of VBS open from conflicting with other evangelism, so that you do not overload your people

Fall is for New Member Assimilation—September through November:

Seasonal Considerations: Designating fall months for new member assimilation

September for new member recruitment (resulting from summer outreaches)

October and November for new member classes.

Winter is for Holiday Events and Discipleship Training:

November: Host a Thanksgiving outreach event

December: Consider planning a Christmas or New Year outreach event

January-February: host a M-F evening Bible Conference for a week on a special topic.

For HEART Evangelism materials or to host a HEART training event please contact Dr. Tom Johnston at: 4thomasjohnston@gmail.com.