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OUTREACH IDEAS

TRIED & TESTED

Get hold of an academic diary and aim to host an outreach event on or around a particular day: Pancake day, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day...

Top tip: Check out the trending page for specific ideas for each day at the right time of year!

Host a fun event with games and get someone from the CU to share how and why they are a follower of Jesus. Use the 'How To Share Your Story' resource to help you prepare. Alternatively, invite a guest speaker in to talk a bit about the day you're celebrating and to link it in with something of the great news about Jesus.



What you need

Food and drink that relates to the day you're celebrating: Pancakes for Pancake Day; Guinness Cake (you can't take the drink in!) for St Patrick's Day; Chocolate for Valentine's Day...

Games: Some crazy fun games or performances

Story: Someone willing to share their story!

Music Player/mini speakers

Permission for food, room, event etc.



Room Set up

Relaxed: *Give the room a relaxed café feel. Put the chairs and tables back afterwards!*

Chilled Music: *playing as people arrive – it helps with the atmosphere.*

Food: *As people arrive, give them some food.*

Welcome: *Get a couple of CU members to hang around by the door to welcome people.*

Table: *Have a table near the exit with free gospels and tracts for people to take away.*



Tips for the MC

Host: *Decide beforehand who's going to MC/Host the event.*

Start: *Once it's time to start, welcome people; let them know it's a CU event; that there will be a short talk on the catchy title you've chosen; followed by a time to ask questions.*

Introduce the speaker: *After the talk, thank the speaker and announce that there will be a couple of minutes to chat to each other, before a time to fire their questions to the speaker.*

End *After the Q & A: thank people for coming, let them know about the free gospels/tracts and invite them to any future events or to CU!*

Grill a Christian



This is an all-time classic. Invite a couple of local Christian pastors/vicars/youth workers into college, who you know are good at answering questions about Christianity respectfully and truthfully.

One or two CU members join them on a panel to provide the student voice.

You advertise the event around college & let people know they can ask absolutely any question they like about Christianity.

Top tip: Email us to see if you can have some freebie books and Gospels for this event!

What you need

- Panel of people to be grilled
- Permission for outside speakers to come in
- Sweets/nibbles
- Gospels/tracts
- Hat or box with pieces of paper to write questions on
- Music player/mini speakers

The panel

People: *Aim for 3 or 4 people (at least two church workers and one or two students)*

Story: *Ask one of the panel in advance to prepare (for 2mins max.) why they follow Jesus*

Brief: *Ask the panel to try and keep their answers below 1 minute as possible*

One: *As much as possible, it's usually best to have one person answer each question*

Disagreements on the panel: *There will always be differences over a few less important issues. So ask each person to read through Festive's what we believe so everyone is united around these core beliefs of Christians all over the world. It'll help at the Grill!*

Tips for the MC

A Good MC is: *fair, a good timekeeper, and able to handle a discussion if it gets a bit heated.*

Host: *Decide beforehand who's going to introduce and chair the Grill*

Start: *When it's time, welcome people and explain what Grill-a-Christian is all about*

Hands: *Let people know that they need to raise their hands if they want to ask a question*

Introduce: *Ask each member of the panel to briefly introduce who they are*

Story: *Ask the nominated panel member to share why he/she follows Jesus*

Questions: *Then open it up for questions. If no one asks a question, then read one out from the box/hat. If people start to raise their hands don't worry about the ones in the hat.*

Share the questions around the panel as much as possible

Dominate: *Try not to let anyone dominate with questions*

End: *Keep an eye on the time; thank people for coming; mention the free gospels etc. to take away*

Hot Potatoes



What you need

Catchy Title: *Based on an objection to the Christian faith: Are Christians arrogant? Doesn't Science disprove God? Isn't Jesus a myth? Does God hate sex? Can you trust the Bible?*

Speaker: *Get someone who'll answer the question in a biblical, engaging way and who's happy to be put on the spot to take questions. Ask at least 1 or 2 months in advance!*

Jacket Potatoes: *See if you can get permission for people in your church to bring in Jacket Potatoes (in foil to keep them hot) for your event. If not, have some free snacks.*

Great venue!

Music Player/mini-speakers



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Start: *Once it's time to start, welcome people; let them know it's a CU event; that there will be a short talk on the catchy title you've chosen; followed by a time to ask questions*

Introduce the speaker: *After the talk, thank the speaker and announce that there will be a couple of minutes to chat to each other, before a time to fire their questions to the speaker.*

End: *After the Q & A, thank people for coming, let them know about the free gospels/tracts and invite them to any future events or to CU!*

Christianity Awareness Week



What you need

5 Catchy titles *based on objections to the Christian faith; Are Christians arrogant? Doesn't science disprove God? Isn't Jesus a myth? Does God hate sex? Can you trust the Bible?*

Guest speakers *who'll answer the questions in a biblical, engaging way and who are happy to be put on the spot to take questions. Ask at least 1 or 2 months in advance (maybe more if you can!) Contact Festive if you need help getting a speaker.*

Snacks: *Have some free snacks/sweets. (Can you get permission to have some homemade cakes from someone at Church?)*

Written permission for the week to go ahead

Great Venue

Music Player/mini speakers

Bonus-ball toppings: *a stall for the week; Questionnaires, Flyers, posters, Christian literature to give away (contact info@festive.org.uk)*



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50 REACH IDEAS

Seasonal Sizzlers

Christmas and Easter are probably the best opportunities we have all year to share the love of Jesus with people – and people seem the most open at these times too!

There are LOADS of creative ways to share the Gospel at Christmas and Easter time, here's just a taste of what some students have done where they are:

- A giant Easter Egg hunt
- A 'Resurrection: Fiction or Fact' event...
- Wrapped up Mark's Gospels and given them out with candy canes around College
- Run a Carol Service with guest speaker
- A hot cross bun stall with questionnaires



For loads more creative ideas around Christmas and Easter time, check out the archive and trending pages of our website for our specific 'Christmas' and 'Easter' resources!

Questionnaires are a great way to find out what other students believe and to share your beliefs. It's nerve-racking at first, but once you pop you just can't stop! There are loads of different questionnaires you can use for different times of the year. They can take from 2mins upwards



What you need

Relevant questionnaire (with lots of copies) eg. Valentine's Day in Feb...

Clipboards and pens

People from the CU, up for questionnairing (if that's a word!?)

Freebies for people to take away (e.g. Gospels, relevant books, edible goodies)

Tips on questionnairing

People: Get as many people from the CU as possible. Go around the college in pairs.

Invite students to take part in the questionnaire in a friendly way. Explain you're from the CU and are wanting to find out what people in the college think about ... (insert title here).

Lead: It's best for you to take students through the questions and write down their answers.

Discuss some of people's answers: that's interesting, what makes you think that? If people would rather not discuss, that's fine, continue through the questions.

Don't mock the answers if you think they are odd. Treat all people with gentleness and respect. If you're not sure what someone means, ask them to explain a bit more.

What to do before the questionnaires

Pray: Give it all to God. Ask Him to use you all, make it happen and bring people along! It's all about Him and for Him, so praying is a great start.

Permission: Make sure you ask for permission to do questionnaires and explain that you will collate the results and publish the findings on college noticeboards and/or the CU Facebook page.

CU Meeting: Explain the idea to the CU; know the questionnaire – go through it; decide on a day to launch them; and think about answers to any difficult questions that might crop up.

Event: Plan to put on a related hot potato that you can invite people to.

What to do after the questionnaires

Allow the person to finish chatting when they want!

Gospel/Flyer: offer them a Gospel to read and a flyer for an event.

Give Away: a themed freebie eg. Love Hearts for Valentine's Day

Thank them for their time and for taking part in the questionnaire!

Meet up with the rest of the CU. It's a great idea to pray for those you've spoken to.

Collate: As soon as possible, collate the results for each measurable question: ie 75% of the college think that Jesus is the Son of God; 25% think that Jesus is a myth.

Publish: Put the results up on college noticeboards – wherever you have permission. Don't stop there. Try other questionnaires at other times of the year.

Questionnaires

TOP TIP →

Get hold of a copy of Roger Carswell's brilliant book:

www.10ofthose.com/products/6648/Grill-a-Christina/ or get a free copy from Festive



Get permission to run a stall in a prominent place in the college: reception, canteen, etc. You get some cakes, sweets, gospels, tracts and a giant piece of paper. You write out in large letters a question that you want students to answer such as:

If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

What is sacred to you?

What is the purpose of the Bible?

What do you think God is like?

You then invite students and staff to write out their questions or answers (depending on what you're asking!) on post-its and to stick them on to the paper. Chat with them about what they've written. You can run "Bring on the Wall" stalls at loads of different times of the year.

What you need

Giant piece of paper, *one that people can see from a distance (if using a wall – double thickness of card might work better so you don't leave marks!)*

A question

Post its

Pens

Blu tack

Stall Cakes and sweets

Gospels/tracts

Great Venue



What to do before

Stall: Ask permission to run a stall for a few days of a week, in reception (or somewhere popular with students). Ask if you can put a giant piece of paper on the wall with a question that you'd love students and staff to answer.

Giant piece of paper: write out the question in large letters and blu tack it to the wall.

CU: Rota different CU members onto the stall to cover the college day/week. Aim for at least 2 people on the stall at any one time. Pray, pray, pray for one another!

What to do during the week

Invite people to write their questions or answers on post-its and place them on the banner.

Chat with people about their questions or answers... What an opportunity to chat about Jesus! If you're not sure how to answer someone, tell them that you will try to find out.

Give-aways: Have some Gospels, tracts, sweets and cakes on the stall and give them away.

Invitations: have some flyers on the stall for an event you'd love people to come along to in college that answers the questions you're asking in a relevant way.

Answers: If you end up doing the "If you could ask God one question, what would it be?", then each night after running the stall you could try to write a short, biblical response to the questions and put them up on the wall the following day.

Pray your socks off for the people you spoke to!

Bring on the wall

Acoustic set with cocktail bar



What you need

Transparent plastic cups (*otherwise you won't see the sunrise!*). Aim for fairly large cups
Cocktail Shakers x 2
Bendy straws and umbrellas
Cocktail cherries and lemon slices
Nibbles/sweets
Drinks (alcohol free): *orange juice, apple juice, cranberry & raspberry juice, grapefruit juice, lemon juice (from plastic lemon!), lemonade and ice!*
Syrups: grenadine, cherry, green cocktail
Cloths or kitchen rolls in case of spills
Drinks Menu poster, *with the various cocktails named and explained*
Gospels/tracts
Music player/mini speakers
Great venue
Musician – pretty crucial really!



Room set-up

Relaxed: *Give the room a relaxed café feel. Put the chairs and tables back afterwards!*
Chilled Music: *playing as people arrive – it helps with the atmosphere!*
Food: *As people arrive, give them some food!*
Table: *Have a table near the exit with free gospels and tracts for people to take away*
Welcome: *Get a couple of CU members to hang around by the door to welcome people*
Bar: *Grab a table and use it as a bar. Put up your Drinks Menu.*
Barmen/maids: *Get a least 2 people to do this! Get some outside help (with permission).*



Music and talk

Musician: *Get a really good singer/songwriter to come and do a set of songs on guitar, who is willing to share something about Jesus (maybe their testimony) during the songs.*

PA: *Check whether they need PA (if the event is in a classroom, they'll probably be fine).*

Tips for the MC

Host: *Decide beforehand who is going to MC/host the event.*

Start: *Once it's time to start, welcome people; let them know it's a CU event; that there will be a short talk on the catchy title you've chosen; followed by a time to ask questions*

Introduce the musician *and handover to him/her*

End: *After the Q & A, thank people for coming, let them know about the free gospels/tracts and invite them to any future events or to CU!*

Get the CU together and chat about the talents and gifts God's given you. Are there people in your CU who are musical, or who are great at dancing, or keep-me-ups, or just have some very wacky talents? Why not put on an event where you invite your mates along to watch these gifts displayed in all their glory and have someone share their testimony?

What about drama? Drama in particular was used loads in the Bible – just read prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel. They'd use weird things like belts, pots (even faeces – urch!) as they acted things out. Then they'd explain what God meant.

You can be as creative as you like – but always remember that your aim is to present Jesus through the incredible gift of art! Could you put on a cringe-free, gospel-centred drama or dance? Could you book a performing Artist to come into your college?

Check out the following two gospel centred dramas

The Mark Experiment

www.themarkdrama.com/ here's what they say ... You:

"present every incident of Mark's Gospel vividly and powerfully to a group of invited guests, with a team of 15 actors from your church or Christian Union. It is an amazing experience for Christians, reminding them of the work of Jesus, and it's also great for anyone investigating the Christian faith."

Most CUs in colleges aren't as big as 15 people, so how about asking a local church or a uni CU to come along and help? Maybe someone in your CU is studying Drama and would be happy to head this up?

Lifehouse Everything Sketch:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyheJ480LYA – this is so powerful! After performing this, get someone to explain what's gone wrong in the world and how God is going to put it right.

Two examples of cutting edge Performing Artists committed to sharing the gospel through their Art are

Street Lamp Theatre

Street Lamp Theatre are based in Manchester and would love to perform at your college (if you're in the North West of England – sorry all Southerners!). Here's what one critic has written:

'the energy with which it was presented by the actresses meant that long time Christians, new Christians, and not yet Christian friends all kept with it and were all alike buzzing afterwards with different things that they got from it.'

For more info, visit: www.streetlamptheatre.blogspot.co.uk/

Rael James

Rael James is a gifted Performance Poet based in Liverpool. His poems are highly engaging and relate to young people in a powerful way. He has worked in Schools, Colleges and Universities around the country. To view his material, or to see if Rael is available to perform in your college.

Visit www.raeljamespoetry.co.uk

Inquirers Course

Inquirers' Courses are a fantastic way of helping your friends to discover who Jesus is and what an impact He could have in their lives. It doesn't matter how big or small your CU is, there are loads of courses you could use. Invite friends to come along to a course during a free period, where they can think through the claims of Christianity and ask their questions.

Changing Lanes

A brilliantly interactive seven-session evangelistic course based around the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:13-14 "...broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it ...narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it". It's the kind of thing you could run through with a couple of interested mates. Grab a laptop or tablet, sit down in the canteen for 30 minutes. There's also a 40 minute session you can do as a whole CU if you have time!

Visit: www.changinglanes.org.uk

Soul

A seven part DVD series focusing on Mark's gospel, from Christianity Explored. Soul is written for a generation unfamiliar with the Christian message. It is structured in Line with the main Christianity Explored.

www.ceministries.org/soul

Youth Alpha

A more informal version of the ten session Alpha course using the same teaching content but adapted in a way to better engage with teenagers

www.youthalpha.org