

Leading GIGs in GFM -

90 Minute call - 10/31 @ 1PM eastern time

1:00 5-10 min to get everyone online

1:10 5 min - intro describe outline and pray for time together

1:15 30 min - me to share what has worked

1:45 30 min - Q&A

2:15 15 min - pray for evangelism

What has worked for us in seeing student led GIG's start on campus has been offering a GIG workshop which was really a form of an Evangelism training.

Really important to begin the process with training for the students who want to be part of GIGs.

Motivate - Why?

- Whiteboard - What is so good about the Good News?

Taking time in front of the white board to invite student responses – this has been a bright spot for students as they shared how the Good News has been good in their own lives!

Locate - Who are friends who I could invite to a GIG?

- Locate friends in a circle and vertical line (left are non-believers, right are believers - inside circle is close friends, outside circle is acquaintances)
- Am I friends with non-Christians? How might I have to rearrange my life to incorporate others? Simple ways: 3rd space, be more public at lunch, or when reading email.

Asking - who are you close to, where are folks spiritually? Helping folks to realize who's in their lives, do I have any non-Christian friends? Are there ways that I could make more space for these friendships and relationships?

Threshold active response sheet has some great resources for building relationships!

How? - Thresholds!!

- Review thresholds (look at resource)
- More than having answers students need to learn to be good listeners.
- After trust is established, how do you live curiously?
- Inviting your friend to a GIG

Walking through the Thresholds has helped MIT students dramatically increase their comfort in relationship and help folks figure out next steps in their friendships....

Thresholds helps us to assess what our friends need and how we might be able to reach out to them and love them where they're at!

Evangelism Website - has lots of ideas for GIGs, Thresholds and games (Christianeze Taboo)

Go through a GIG together. We went through the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. In this story, you can encourage the students that God is already at work before you arrive.

Taking students through a GIG before they have the opportunity to lead – beauty of Acts passage is that it reminds us of God's work going before us!

Often – GIGs will have very simple questions to be checking in with folks and helping them to see Jesus more clearly.

MIT has also used Tim Keller's Reason for God as a tool for a GIG – reading by topics that were interesting for the folks in the GIG.

Also teach students “the Big Story” or a version of it - If they are going to invite to a GIG, then you want to be sure they understand how to share the Gospel story in a simple and clear fashion.

MIT has used James' Big Story tool!

GFM GIG story from long ago...

- Former IV Grad student at Harvard (now pastor at PSC) shared a story of how his small group prayed for friends and then invited them to a GIG. Whoever had a friend decide to come to the GIG hosted and participated while the rest of the small group prepared dinner and then prayed in another nearby apartment in the same dorm.

Challenged students to try this...

- 2 MIT small groups decided to follow this same idea. After our GIG workshop, they introduced 2+ prayer to their small groups who prayed for friends for 3 weeks straight. At the end, they found that they had a few people who they could invite to come to a GIG. That first night, the GIG leaders hosted a night of dinner and discussion about faith for their friends. Those not inviting friends prepared a dinner for the group and then went off to another apartment to pray for the discussion group. Out of that night, 2 GIGs began - these GIG's continued for about 3 years and have seen multiple students come to faith in each group (at least one person per year).

This past year I gathered these now senior PhD students and invited them to work with me to design their own GIG training evening. We followed a very similar pattern. I worked with the students for 3 weeks in November and then they led the event in January. About 40 students came. At the end, we divided students up in groups based on which threshold they were engaged in conversation with their friends and then we each facilitated a conversation in that group about next steps. We thought that everyone would be in the group for threshold 1, but we found that there were about 15 students who were engaged in conversations between thresholds 3-5, and some were already leading GIGs. We then followed up and encouraged each of these students to either start or continue in these GIGs.

Other venues:

- Small MBA program (Babson) - we run as a dinner and conversation around a gospel. So we are always inviting friends to join in the conversation.
- All small campuses run as GIGs (gospels)
- BC Law school now running as a GIG
- Brandeis - science and faith book group - open to students who are Christian and seeking.

Melodie's GIG story from UM Grad Chapter

God brought a woman to the chapter who was seeking hard and asking a lot of spiritual questions! We met one on one over the course of a year –

1. Process – taking a lot of time – this student was involved with multiple groups
2. Patience – needing to give lots of space to ask questions
3. Trust – of the student in the process and others who are partners!
4. Courage – at the end, I needed to step up and press her to decide
 - a. If you could ask just one more question, what would it be?
 - b. What's keeping you from making a decision today?

With International Students – I've also used *Passport to the Bible*