

# TWO WORLDS

## TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



### MY REVIEW

Arsenio Hall \_\_\_\_\_  
The Simpsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Red Hot Chili Peppers \_\_\_\_\_  
Basic Instinct \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Enemy \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_



### REVIEWS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### YOUR INPUT

In light of these two worlds, what are some possible obstacles to real and meaningful conversation?

Which of these obstacles are related to evangelism?

### DEFINITION

**BRIDGE:** A structure spanning and providing passage over an obstacle.

(American Heritage Dictionary)



What's at stake if these obstacles are not bridged?



### FOR ME:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### FOR THEM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### FOR THE RECORD

Largest Bridge - Main span of the Humber Estuary Bridge, Great Britain: 4,626 ft.

Highest Bridge - Royal Gorge over Arkansas River in Colorado: 1,053 feet above the water.

London Bridge - First built over the Thames River in 1209. Torn down and replaced 1826-1831. Replaced with third bridge in 1968. The second bridge is now in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

### YOUR EXPERIENCE

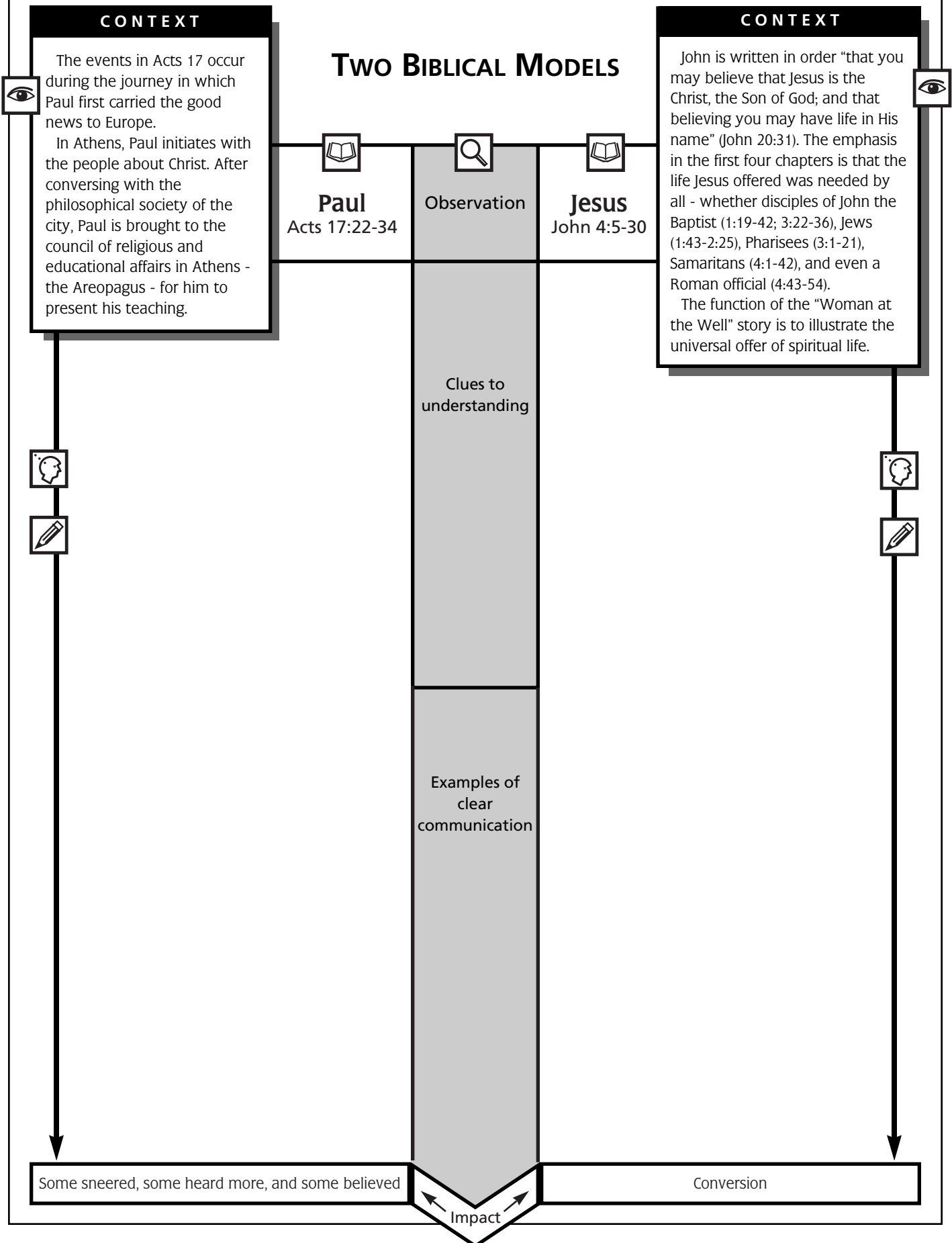


Describe a time when you experienced one of these obstacles . . .



How did you feel?

How can you build effective bridges to share the gospel relevantly?



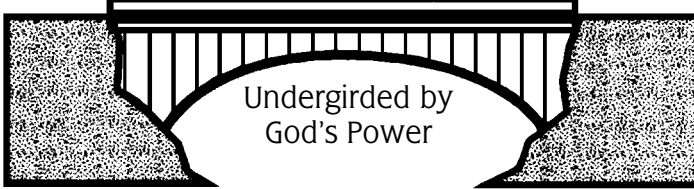


## PRINCIPLE

Effective Bridge Building Combines  
Understanding Others &  
Clear Communication

God's  
View

World's  
View



Undergirded by  
God's Power

## THOUGHTS



How does Jesus, the Son of God becoming a man, demonstrate God's effective bridge building to us?

What would bridge building look like today?



### Chuck Colson and Tom

Some months ago, a well-known media figure invited me to dinner. "Come talk to me about God," he said. Soon my friend (we'll call him Tom) was sitting across from me in a posh New York restaurant.

I had no clue to the tough intellectual battle that was brewing.

"I don't believe in God," Tom told me straight out. "But I'd like to hear what you have to say." He was trying to maintain his newsman's cultivated air of cynicism, but his eyes were eager. He was obviously searching.

I started telling my testimony, but Tom cut me off. "I know your story," he said. "obviously Jesus worked for you." And he told of a friend who was into New Age spirituality.

"Crystals, channeling—it worked for her," Tom beamed. "Just like your Jesus."

No, no, I tried to explain. Jesus is a historical person who actually lived and died. But Tom shrugged it off; his friend's guru is a real person, too.

So I switched gears. Tom had suffered health problems; surely he had wondered about death and the afterlife. But again he cut in. "Heaven is a

myth invented in primitive times," he declared. "Today we know humans are just another species of animal. When they die, that's the end."

I switched to Scripture, but Tom held up his hand. "I've studied the Bible," he said; "wonderful collection of ancient fables."

I offered arguments for the Bible's historical validity, but Tom still wasn't buying. "Some parts might be historical," he acknowledged, "but no intelligent person today can believe in miracles."

By now I had been working (that's the only word for it) nearly an hour without finding a chink in Tom's armor. As I fumbled with my fork, an idea popped to mind. "Have you seen Woody Allen's movie *Crimes and Misdemeanors*?"

Yes, he had. It's about a doctor who hires a killer to murder his mistress. Afterward he is haunted by guilt. His Jewish father had taught him that God sees all, and will surely bring justice.

But the doctor's crime is never discovered. Eventually he quells conscience by deciding that in the "real world" there is no justice; that life is nothing but a Darwinian struggle where

the ruthless come out on top.

"When we do wrong, is that the only choice?" I asked Tom. "Either live tormented by guilt—or kill our conscience and live like beasts?"

For the first time, Tom was thoughtful, picking at his food. I went on to Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, where the central character, Pierre, wrestles with his conscience, crying out, "Why is it that I know what is right, but do what is wrong?"

That led to C. S. Lewis's argument for natural law. And then to Romans, which teaches that try as we might, we cannot run from the voice of conscience. Though he said he wasn't ready to make a decision, Tom listened intently as I told of Christ's atoning work to take away our guilt.

I don't know what will happen to Tom; clearly the Hound of Heaven is after him. But I do know that without Woody Allen and Tolstoy and Lewis, I would never have found common ground with him to discuss spiritual matters.

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What were Chuck's different attempts to build a bridge?

### ATTEMPTED BRIDGES

### RESULTS / WHY




How can I become relevant  
and an effective bridge builder?

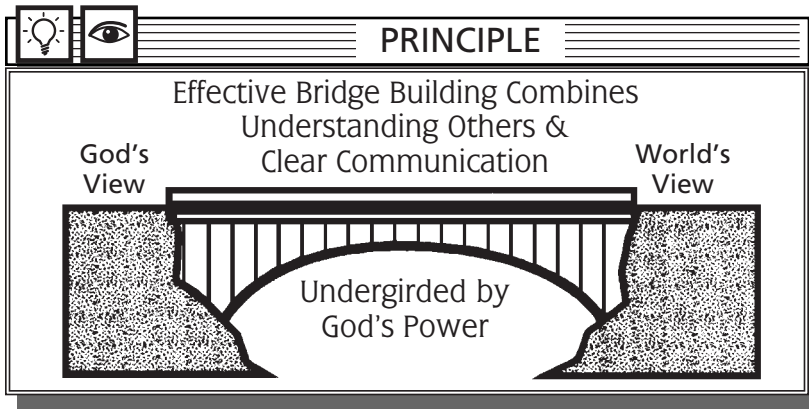
### YOUR INPUT



What was it about Chuck Colson that made him relevant?



### RELEVANT BY:







What can I learn from . . .

**JESUS' MODEL . . . with an individual**

	Understanding Others	Clear Communication
		
		

**PAUL'S MODEL . . . with a group**

	Understanding Others	Clear Communication
		
		

**THE POWER OF GOD**

Remember that the true power in evangelism is God at work in and through us. Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16

**LIFE APPLICATION**

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