

Sharing Jesus in Your Everyday Life Learning to Love Others as He Did

Start Thinking...

1. What is the very first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the words "evangelism" or "outreach"? (Check all that apply.)

- a. Street evangelism
 b. Talking to or praying for strangers
 c. A famous evangelist
 d. Caring friendship
 e. Listening to others
 f. Prayer
 g. Other: _____

2. When you think of your own life, who was most influential in your decision to follow Jesus?

- a. Friend
 b. Relative
 c. Co-worker or classmate
 d. Pastor or youth worker
 e. Stranger
 f. Other: _____

3. Which of the following words best describe how you were influenced to follow Christ?

- a. Accepted
 b. Put down
 c. Cared for
 d. Manipulated
 e. Listened to
 f. Other: _____

4. How many times did you hear the good news of Christ before you said "yes" to him? _____

5. How long did the process take? _____

6. How many people were involved in the process? _____

When you have completed your answers, share them quickly with someone near you. (If you have time, also discuss this question: Why to you think many followers of Jesus feel inadequate or fearful when they think about sharing the good news of Christ with others?)

Rethinking Outreach...

Most Effective Outreach Means...	Typical Misconception	Reality
Relating to	Strangers	Friends, Relatives, & Co-Workers
Involves	One Person	Many People
Happens	In a Moment	Is a Process

Choosing to Love Those Nearest You

You are positioned to influence and share Jesus' love with a very unique group of people. Take a moment now to write down the names of people that you know who need God in each of these areas of your life.

Friends (and/or Enemies)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Co-Workers/Classmates

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Relatives

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Neighbors (Or others somehow "near" you)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

If you don't have many (or any) people in your circles of influence that don't know Jesus, you can borrow friends from others. Who do you know who has LOTS of friends or relatives that need Christ? Write that person's name here, then ask them if you can join them in praying for and loving their loved ones.

Work Together

Jesus said: "One person plants and someone else harvests." This means that the process of bringing someone to Jesus takes time and requires the teamwork and involvement of different people." (John 4:37, NLT) One thing that greatly accelerates people's journey to Christ is seeing and experiencing Christian community and friendships. There is something about the genuine love that we share that speaks powerful to unbelievers about who God really is. (1 John 4:12)

Circle one or two names in your lists above. Who are one or two fellow Christ-followers who you could introduce to those people or share some fun activity with?

Be Patient and Persistent

When we share what God has done in our lives or invite a friend to a church or small group event and they don't respond, it's easy to assume that they are not open to God. We somehow expect them to respond immediately and when they don't we might assume that they are closed to God or that maybe that that we did something wrong. But remember how long it took you to respond. Others were patient and persistent with you and it paid off! Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9: "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." (NLT)

Take time right now to pray with someone for those on your list. Ask God to give you his compassion and persistence to share the fullness of Christ's love, grace and truth with them.