

Sharing Jesus in Your Everyday Life

Learning to Bless Others as He Did

Start Thinking...

Think about the key people who influenced you to commit your life to Jesus. What did those people do that were so influential in your life?

Share your answers with one other person, then together read Colossians 4:6 and 1 Peter 3:15. What are some of the specific principles and instructions that these verses give us for being effective witnesses?

BLESSing Others with Jesus' Love

Be Yourself

All around you God is at work. Some of the people you meet every day are **very** open to spiritual things. Careful research by Thom Rainer revealed that 11% of the U.S. population are open to the good news of Christ and seeking answers and that only 5% of people are hostile to the Christian message.

To find these people, we must be ourselves and "live out loud spiritually," meaning that we should talk about God naturally in our every day conversation with unbelievers just as we do with our fellow believers. When we do these people will come forward with their needs and questions.

Listen

When we think about sharing Christ, often the first image that comes to our mind is talking, but many people report that what drew them to Christ was actually a caring listener. James tells us: "Be quick to listen" and "slow to speak." (James 1:19) Similarly, Proverbs 18:13 reads: "Answering before listening is both stupid and rude." (MSG) Listening is the foundation of powerful communication. It shows people that we care and helps us know where they are in their spiritual journey so that we can be most helpful to them.

Who do you know that is going through a rough time right now? Have you taken time to listen to them and find out how they are really doing?

Questions are also helpful in discovering people needs and understandings (and misunderstandings) of spiritual things. Here are some questions you might ask to care and learn where people are:

Opening Questions

- Are you very interested in spiritual things?
- Where are you in your spiritual journey?
- When have you prayed in your life? Did God answer your prayer?

Probing Questions

- When, if ever, have you felt God's closeness in your life?
- Have you ever personally trusted Christ or are you still on the way? How far along the way are you?
- If God could do one miracle in your life, what would you ask him to do?

Decision Questions

- Would you like to give your life to Christ now?
- What is hindering you from personally trusting Christ?

Encourage

Almost every person we meet is in need of encouragement. While Satan is the accuser who focuses on and points out the faults in others, as followers of Jesus we should focus on people's strengths and potential. (Philippians 2:14; James 2:9-10)

Write the name of someone who you don't like or have trouble getting along with below. Beside it write one thing you can genuinely appreciate about that person. Tell them that, or offer them some other form of encouragement this week.

Serve

Who is a person that God is putting on your heart as you do this lesson? What is one need that they are facing right now? What is one way that you can help or serve them?

Share

Paul's testimony in Acts 26:9-23 follows a helpful pattern that can also guide us in sharing our testimony. It is sometimes called the BEST pattern.

Sharing Your BEST Story

Jot key phrases under each of these sections. Then practice telling you story in two minutes with someone sitting near you.

Before (What were key factors in your life before Christ? Build common ground and avoid disgusting details.)

Events Leading Up to Your Decision (What circumstances led up to your receiving Christ? Emphasize one key problem and how it impacted you.)

Salvation (Telling people how you received Christ gives them a pattern they might follow.)

Today (How did God change your life? How did he solve problems you mentioned earlier? Share your excitement for something he is doing in your life right now.)