

# HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH FRIENDS

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The word “evangelism” comes from the Greek word *euangelion*, meaning “good news” or “gospel”. All Christians are called to share the good news of Christianity to others. The only reason God has not wrapped up this imperfect world is because God wants to allow more time for more people to come to know him (2 Peter 3:9) ... and the agency God uses to bring others to faith is us, his church. Welcome to your life's mission.

## THE BIBLICAL MANDATE TO GO AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTIANITY TO OTHERS

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15)*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

## HOW TO LEAD PEOPLE TO FAITH

- 1) Establish a friendship and earn the right to speak into your non-Christian friend's life. Listen to your friend's concerns and needs, and respond wisely in ways that are biblical, appropriate and helpful to your friend's circumstances.
- 2) Become very familiar with the Christian gospel, which in essence, is this:
  - Point 1) God caused the universe to exist in order to share his love with us. Creation therefore points to the strong possibility of God's existence (Romans 1:20).
  - Point 2) However, he gave us the free will to accept or refuse his love and lordship.
  - Point 3) The rejection of God in favour of self is called sin. This sin separates us from a holy God (Isaiah 59:2).
  - Point 4) The Bible tells us all of us have sinned and are cut off from God (Romans 3:23). None of us can live lives good enough to earn our right to restored relationship with a perfectly holy God. All of us therefore are under God's judgement (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27).
  - Point 5) The good news is the God came to us as Jesus to take the blame for our sins on the cross so that all who accept Christ's sacrifice and lordship can have a restored relationship with God right now (1 Peter 3:18). It's now your choice (John 5:24).Remember that whilst you must be ready to teach the gospel, be careful not to “Bible bash” with an insensitive routine. Teach truth, but do it in a way that is appropriate for each situation.
- 3) Ask whatever is appropriate to help your friend make a commitment to Christ, e.g:
  - “It sounds to me that you are ready to become a Christian.” *Is that what you want?*
  - “Is there any reason why you can't become a Christian right now?”

- 4) If they say yes, ask them to let God know by praying out loud that they want to be a Christian and that they acknowledge all that Jesus has done for them in dying on the cross to take the blame for their sins. It is often appropriate to allow a time of quiet in which they ask the Holy Spirit to highlight anything particular they should repent of that would otherwise continue to burden them. Then invite them to ask God for forgiveness.

If it expresses the things they want to say, ask them to repeat this prayer after you:

**Heavenly Father,  
thank you for your love for me.  
Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me  
and pay the price for my sins.  
I turn from them now  
and ask you to forgive me  
for living life without you in the past.  
I accept you as my Lord  
and ask that you fill me  
with the empowering presence of your Spirit  
so that I can follow Jesus faithfully  
and fulfil your purpose for my life, Amen.**

- 5) Assure them of God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9) and congratulate them on their new faith. Give them a copy of a daily Bible reading guide and ask them to develop a daily prayer and Bible reading habit and to get along to a good church. Encourage them to work through doubts and questions honestly. There will be days of doubts so they are to rely on the **fact** of God's love for them, not their feelings (which can vary according to their mood).
- 6) Let their local church know when someone becomes a Christian so they can follow them up.

### **YOUR TESTIMONY**

You will have your own story of how you came to be a Christian. Being ready to tell other people this story is one of the most powerful ways of introducing people to the good news of Christianity. Practice sharing your testimony briefly using the three headings:

1. before I was a Christian
2. how I became a Christian
3. why I am still a Christian

### **WHERE DO YOU GO TO FIND PEOPLE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH?**

All of us are called to share our faith in our daily life amongst those we meet in our family, in our work-places and amongst our friends and acquaintances. Offering hospitality or doing acts of service (e.g. mowing someone's lawn) is a great way to contact people. Don't rush into sharing the gospel at your first introduction. Establish an authentic friendship first and respond to the needs and circumstances of your friend. Do this in the coffee shop, over the work bench, at the bus stop, over the bar-B-Q, in the car, over a meal, i.e. whenever you have the opportunity.

### **BE READY**

Be ready, be natural, be authentic and be Christlike. Finally, be sure that your lifestyle will stand up to the scrutiny of others who will be looking to see if your faith has substance and affects (in a positive way) the way you live.