

## Sharing Your Faith

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

- 2 Timothy 2:2  
 Hebrews 4:12-13  
 James 1:5

**Purpose: To encourage you to share your faith with others and disciple them in Christ**

Read 2 Timothy 2:2 --"And the things you have heard **me** say in the presence of **many witnesses** entrust to **reliable men** who will also be qualified to teach **others**."

I. Who are the important people in your life who need Christ?

A. Identify your extended family. Consider the names of your six closest friends, relatives, or associates who are not biblically in Christ. These people could become the focus of your disciple-making efforts. Write their names in the boxes below:

|    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Question: Using the principle of 2 Corinthians 9:6, how much should we share our faith? How will our faith be impacted when we share it with others?

B. Share your faith

1. Church life
2. Small groups
3. One with one discipling

C. Focus your efforts. List the names in the order according to who you feel is most receptive to the gospel at this time. We must be wise in the use of our time. See Colossians 4:5.

Question: How could focusing your efforts in sharing your faith help you be a more effective disciple of Christ?

## (Sharing Your Faith, continued)

D. Pray regularly and specifically for each extended family member.

E. Visualize the progress of the Kingdom of God if you are able to involve those you disciple in the task of discipling others!

REMEMBER: 2 Timothy 2:2

### II. Steps to sharing your faith with others

*To make disciples we must **effectively** communicate the gospel and not simply teach it. Communication is where two people both send and receive messages and give feedback to each other about the message. The purpose for asking the non-Christian questions about the material you have covered is to test their level of comprehension, to stimulate their thinking, and ultimately to bring them to a decision based on their knowledge of the Word of God.*

Question: Other than non-Christians, who else should we seek to share our faith with in this way?

**Remember**, a decision to follow Christ is built on many smaller decisions along the way. We must not underestimate the positive and negative effect we can have on the person we are studying with, simply by our attitudes and dispositions toward them, and our response to their questions.

Question: What kind of attitude should we work to maintain as we share our faith? (Philippians 2:2-5)

Here are several keys that will help us to ask questions and communicate as Christ would. We are teaching people --not lessons.

A. We must love them from the heart and ask them questions. We must not make statements to prove them wrong, but to help them see Christ. Think about how Jesus responded to the rich young man. (Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)

Why is it so important to *ask* instead of *tell* when it comes to teaching?

B. Hebrews 4:12-13 and Ephesians 4:15

In the same way that the Word is a sword and not a chainsaw, our questions and statements must be spoken with sensitivity, wisdom, and tact. We cannot soften, pad, or cloud God's Word, and yet, we could unnecessarily damage our disciples due to our insensitivity.

C. Mark 12:13-17

After a passage is read from the scriptures, ask what the Word of God is saying to them. Ask, "What does this mean to you?" If they are off base rephrase it by saying, "What does the passage say?" and point to the passage. It is always better to have them convict themselves and see the point clearly than for you to interpret the passage for them. This way they cannot say, "That is just your interpretation." Does this mean we should not correct a wrong understanding of a text? Why? Remember to choose the best moment to do this.

## (Sharing Your Faith, continued)

D. James 1:5-8 and 1 Corinthians 2:13-16

We must continually pray for wisdom and insight from God and not rely on our human knowledge or insight. Every person is different. Do not simply respond with pat answers or solutions. We need to think like Christ, and the only way that will happen is for God to give us wisdom through His Spirit. Do not assume people understand just because we teach. Ask the questions so they can apply the lessons to themselves. This will tell you how well you have taught and how well they have listened.

E. 2 Timothy 2:14-16, 22-26

Do not argue!! This is of no value and only ruins those who listen.

In conclusion, when we share our faith with whomever it may be, why is it important to remember that we are not just teaching lessons but also people?



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