

Passing The Baton-Sharing My Faith

Matt. 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

1. Identify your mission field. (It may be closer than you think!)

Have you ever heard the expression, "Bloom where you're planted"? That's what God wants us to do with the Gospel—make the most of our circumstances and reflect His love to everyone around us. You don't have to be a pastor or missionary to tell people about Jesus, either; just think of all the people around you in need of hope.

Psalms 96:3 tells us to "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" Keep your eyes open for people you can talk to and ways you can connect the conversation with Christ. Catch up with a family member by phone or text message. Use social media to encourage a friend. Let a coworker know you are praying for him or her. Take dinner to a neighbor in need. Ask a cashier how their day is going and really listen. Be intentional about forming relationships with people around you.

One more tip, and this is a biggie: Don't underestimate the power of prayer. As Billy Graham once said, "Prayer is crucial in evangelism: ... No matter how logical our arguments or how fervent our appeals, our words will accomplish nothing unless God's Spirit prepares the way."

2. Focus on the Gospel.

The Gospel has power to transform lives. If you're short on time and want to explain the Good News in a nutshell, share John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

There are also things you can do to *show* your faith over time:

- Live a consistent, Christ-centered life.
- Be a friend and a good listener.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to share the Gospel (Acts 1:8). Pray He will give you opportunities to share your faith.
- Avoid arrogance and preachiness.

Remember, we're all sinners in need of a Savior. Try to see people as God sees them—as treasured creations made in His image and loved unconditionally. When we see others that way, we will want to follow God's command to share the hope of the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

How exactly do you share the Gospel, step by step? What do you say and how do you approach it?

Tell them about God's plan—peace and life. God loves you and wants you to experience the peace and life He offers. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). He has a plan for you.

2. Share our problem—separation from God. Being at peace with God is not automatic. By nature, we are all separated from Him. The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God is holy, but we are human and don’t measure up to His perfect standard. We are sinful, and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

3. Talk about God’s remedy—the cross. God’s love bridges the gap of separation between you and Him. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for your sins. The Bible says, “He Himself bore our sins’ in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by His wounds you have been healed’” (1 Peter 2:24).

4. Our response—receive Christ. You cross the bridge into God’s family when you accept Christ’s free gift of salvation. The Bible says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

3. Share true stories of God's power. Your Testimony

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

No matter how “ordinary” yours may seem, we’ve all got a story to tell and you never know what it can mean to someone until you share it. Jesus often talked in parables so people could better grasp God’s plans, instructions and power. In the same way, you can use personal experiences and stories to relate to others and tell them about Christ.

Keep in mind, though, that most people will only give you a few minutes to get your point across. So you don’t ramble on and on, try writing down your story—focusing on a few key points. Ask God to give you guidance as you write (James 1:5-6). These questions may also help you narrow your testimony down to three minutes or so:

- What was life like before you accepted Christ?
- How did you receive Christ? What did you hear? How did you respond? Why did you choose to put your trust in Christ? Try to mention a Bible verse or two, but be careful not to overwhelm your listener.
- How has life changed since accepting Christ? It’s OK if you stumbled or struggled in the past. The important thing is to be honest and relatable here.

Do your best to write the way you speak and practice your story until it’s natural. Above all, remember that it’s God’s business to turn a person’s heart towards Christ. Though we are to be obedient in sharing our faith, our persuasion alone is not enough. As 1 Corinthians 3:6 says, some plant, some water, but it is God who makes the seed grow.

