

Confidently Sharing Jesus with Friends

Relationships

Important Contexts for Sharing Our Faith

Examples:

John 1:40-51

Mark 2:13-17

Mark 5:1-19

John 4:1-42

Acts 10:24-44

Relationships are important contexts for sharing Jesus.

There are several important things to remember as we seek to get to know people and build relationships with them.

Accept people in Christian love.

Give a definition of Christian love. (1John 4:7-21)

How can the practice of Christian love lead to sharing Jesus with someone?
(1Corinthians 9:19-23)

Be interested in people who need Jesus.

“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.” (Dale Carnegie)

Volunteer for community projects/organizations/groups.

Make connection with people who have similar interests with you.

If the only people you know are active Christians, what can you do to get to know people who need Jesus?

Help people in their everyday needs.

Our actions testify to the power of God's love working in our lives. A kind word, a helpful deed, an unexpected gift are ways that we can let our faith show and generate curiosity about "what makes us tick."

Be alert to "times of transition" in the lives of people you know. These are spans of time in which a person's or family's normal, everyday life is disrupted by some event that puts them into an unfamiliar, and therefore often frightening, situation.

What are some examples of such times of transition?

Why might people be somewhat more willing to listen to the message of the Bible at such times?
(John 11:17-27)

Commit yourself to the Lord in prayer.

Ask him to help you be more confident about sharing your faith. Pray for the knowledge you need for speaking about Jesus as the world's Savior. Pray that Christ give you a deep concern for the souls of all people, but especially for the ones that you know personally. Ask God for the privilege of being used by him to reach out with the gospel to those people who need Jesus. Then get ready for the Lord to answer your prayer. This is a dangerous prayer! He will use you to share faith about his Son.

Building friendships

- When you meet someone, take the initiative to introduce yourself. Smile!
- Small talk is important because communication fuels friendships. Use small talk to learn names, where people live, family relationships, occupations, and interests.
- Listen attentively – give your full attention; look people in the eye.
- Be available especially when your friends "need to talk."
- Be genuine – accept yourself as you are and be yourself to others. Allow your friends to get to know the real you.
- Be generous with compliments. Build others up in love.
- Spend time with your friends, sharing ordinary times of life together. We grow closer with people when we do things together regularly.

Think of a particular friend. Make a list of things you can do together to grow your friendship.

Growing friendships requires attention and time. But the effort is worth it. As Christians we have a concern for friends in an eternal sense. In our love for them we have the expectation of sharing the good news of Jesus.

Identify People You Know Who Need Jesus: FRAN form