



# 10 BEST PRACTICES FOR SHARING YOUR FAITH



WORKSHEET

# Adapted from Tim Keller's address to the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism

## 1. Let people around you know you're a Christian (in a natural, unforced way).

This is sometimes called "raising the flag." Simply letting others know that you're a Jesus-follower often leads to future opportunities to share your faith, whether in word or deed or both.

For example, when a co-worker asks you what you did on the weekend, you might say:

*Well, on Saturday, my family and I went to see the Canada Day fireworks in Markham. And then, on Sunday, we had a great time at church.*

And just leave it at that. Unless your co-worker asks you a follow-up question, like, "Oh, which church do you go to?" In which case, just let the conversation unfold from there.

Or, let's say it's election season, and you find yourself chatting with your next-door neighbour about politics. You might say:

*You know, as a Christian, one thing I need to remember to do more often is pray for our government leaders. I mean, they need all the help they can get, right? Their jobs can't be easy.*

## 2. Ask friends about their faith—and just listen.

This can go a long way toward helping you understand where your non-Christian friends, neighbours, and colleagues are coming from, spiritually speaking. For example, you could ask:

*Are you religious?*

*Do you practice spirituality of any kind?*

*What are your views on faith and religion?*

When you ask such questions, don't be surprised if they eventually ask you about your own faith!

## 3. Listen to your friends' problems and offer to pray for (or even with) them.

You'd be surprised at how open and genuinely appreciative people are when you offer to pray for them. If a friend is telling you about a struggle he or she is going through, listen well, empathize, and say something like:

*Well, know that I'll be praying for you as you go through that, and I'm always here if you ever need to talk.*

Then of course you'll want to make sure to follow through by actually praying for them later.

Or, if the setting allows, you may even want to offer to pray right then and there. Again, you'd be amazed at how open many non-Christian people are to this kind of thing. So after you've listened to your friend share about his or her problem, you can ask:

*Would you mind if I just said a little prayer for you right now?*

There's a good chance they'll say, "Okay, sure, thanks." And then you can offer a short prayer.

## 4. Share your problems with others – testify to how your faith helps you.

If people know you're a Christian, they'll be inclined to trust you more if you let them know that you have challenges and struggles just like everyone else.

But you can add how Jesus helps you in the midst of your problems. For example:

*You know, it's been so hard supporting my elderly mom since her dementia got worse. I find the only thing that's getting me through this is my faith in Jesus and the fact that my friends from my small group at church are praying for me.*

And just leave it at that unless you're asked to say more about it.

## 5. Give them a book to read.

If someone you've been interacting with is showing signs of curiosity about Jesus, you can always give them a book to read. Here are a few recommendations:

**Based on a True Story** (James Choung). A 30-page booklet that outlines the gospel message in a clear and biblical way.

**The Case for Christ** (Lee Strobel). A journalist investigates the evidence for Jesus.

**Letters from a Skeptic** (Greg Boyd). A son wrestles with his father's tough questions about Christianity.

Plus, you can always ask a pastor for other book recommendations.

## 6. Share your story of how you came to faith in Jesus.

It doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it's usually best to keep your faith story fairly focused and concise.

Here's a simple outline you can follow in crafting your story. Simply talk through your answers to the following three questions:

*How would you describe your life before you encountered Jesus?*

*How did you come to know and follow Jesus?*

*What changes have you experienced since becoming a follower of Jesus?*

Be selective about what you share. You don't want to tell your whole life story. But when it's focused, your faith story can be a powerfully effective and convincing tool when it comes to sharing your faith with others.

## 7. Answer any objections and questions as best as you can.

Generally, it's good to affirm questions and objections when they arise:

*Wow, that's a great question.*

*I know that many others have the same objections, so you're definitely not alone in that.*

In responding to questions and objections, just do the best you can, always remembering that it's okay to say:

*You know, I've never thought about that before. Can I look into that and get back to you?*

Don't be shy if you need to ask one of the pastors for a book recommendation or coaching to help you respond to people's questions and objections about Jesus and the Christian faith.

## 8. Invite them to a church event.

Cornerstone offers tons of opportunities along these lines. Depending on the person, you can invite them to:

*Open Table Thursday for dinner*

*Sports & Rec Programs*

*Community events like the Ice Cream Social*

*Crafting/Hobby Gatherings*

*Worship Service (in-person or online)*

*Classes and Seminars*

And when you invite people to church, they meet your church friends and the power of networking kicks in!

## 9. Offer to read the Bible or study a Christian book with them.

For those ready for such a step, Cornerstone is offering an excellent new resource called **The Beginning: First Steps for New Disciples**. We've found it to be super-helpful. Ask Pastor Jeremy if interested.

## 10. Use The Big Story App.

One of the most helpful and biblically faithful gospel presentations we've found is called **The Big Story**. If you familiarize yourself with it, it's a wonderfully useful tool. The app includes all the illustrations and talking points. <http://www.jameschoung.net/resources/big-story/>



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