

EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

Helping people
encounter Jesus



How can we help people encounter Jesus? Perhaps you have heard the word evangelism. To 'evangelise' means to share the gospel. It is not about conversion as that is the job of the Holy Spirit. We simply need to obey, speak, act and be who Jesus calls us to be.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28: 19-20

Jesus calls us to disciple others so they may encounter him and his grace and presence. We are sent out with God's blessing, knowing that he will be with us always.

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



Evangelism is the verbal sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Craig Nessian

Have you ever had someone ask why you believe in God? Have you ever thought about what your answer would be?

It can be a daunting task sharing something so personal, especially in a world where being a Christian and sharing your faith is not always accepted, or we are not sure how people will react.

No matter who or where we are, we can build relationships with people that God can work through, so that all may know him and what he has done for us through his son Jesus.

The Holy Spirit will help us with the words to say and what to do, so others will see Jesus in us.

Think about how you first encountered Jesus. Think about who shared the gospel with you and helped you along your journey of faith. How did they do this?

How important is your faith to you now because those people took the time to tell you about Jesus' love and forgiveness?

How important was the time they took to spend with you? It is important for us to make time with people when we are sharing our faith with them so we can help them on their journey of encountering Jesus.



Our personalities can help determine how we will best be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

- a. For some people a wonderful or amazing thing happened to them (like a mountain top experience or healing) that changed their life dramatically and they have to share their faith story with as many people as they can.
- b. Some are gifted evangelists who are compelled to share the Gospel.
- c. Others are able to invest their time in meeting with people and sharing in conversation. This is such a gift to have the time to listen to someone's story and help them find their place in God's story. Never underestimate the power of listening.
- d. Some are good at learning and then passing on their knowledge. They are able to teach others and help them understand what they believe in.
- e. There are people who are able to respectfully debate topics because of their knowledge and their respect for people's opinions. This can help people discern the truth. In this unbelieving world that looks for proof, these people are invaluable.
- f. Others will invite people to hear the Word of God. They will pray for the Spirit to work through the Word to create faith.



Evangelism... promotes and establishes personal contact, personal relationships with others wherever the people of God may be.
David W. Anderson

The Spirit is always at work in us when we are building relationships with people and talking about our faith. The Spirit is the only one who brings people to faith. All we need to be is the vessel to help them hear the Word of God and encounter Jesus.

You may have heard the sayings to 'be the hands and feet of God' or 'walk the walk and talk the talk'. These can be daunting because people hear what we say and then see how we live our lives.

We are all sinful and make mistakes and we can only share our faith through Christ who gives us the strength to do so. For this reason, it is so important to create relationships with people through conversation, sharing stories and sharing life and faith together. Listen to their stories and hear their joys and struggles. Find ways to establish and maintain the relationship with them. Pray with them. This is how we can help people encounter Jesus. Then let the Holy Spirit do the rest of the work in bringing them into a relationship with Jesus.



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