

To-Do in 2025: Share Your Faith

Key Scriptures:

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 17:20-21, 23b ²⁰ "I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony, ²¹ that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. . . . ²³ that the world will know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 ⁵ Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are coworkers belonging to God; you are God's field, you are God's building.

Matthew 5:14-16 ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes

Key Point: No one is born a Christian. Every Christian was converted through faith in Christ. The gospel is so important that we must all be ready to share it (literally life & death, Heaven or Hell) But Evangelization works best as a team sport, with the help of a health church.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the scariest thing you ever signed up to do? (ie. roller coaster, bungee jumping, getting married,) What was the result? Were you glad you did it?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- What do you like and dislike about evangelism (sharing your faith)? If you have felt uncomfortable when sharing your faith, what do you think causes those feelings?
- If most people come to faith in Christ through relationships rather than church programs or media, how should that shape our approach to evangelism?
- The sermon mentioned that a healthy church is the greatest means for evangelism the world has ever known. How do John 13:34-35 and John 17:20-23 contribute to that claim?
- How does unity in a church serve as a witness to the world about who Jesus Christ is?
- In what ways can we leverage belonging to the church in our evangelizing? How can we support one another in sharing our faith.
- **Group Exercise:** Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the goal to persuade. Therefore every Christian needs to know how to explain the gospel and be confident in the gospel (Romans 1:16). Go around the room and take turns explaining the gospel. Each person should try to say it a little differently than the person before them. Use this time to encourage one another, ask questions, and help each other remember the different elements in the gospel. (for help, see 1 Cor 15:1-4, Eph 2:8-10, Rom 4:5, John 3:16)

Is there a way you could use your experience from this exercise in sharing the gospel with others you know?

Start doing: Plan to share the gospel with someone this week. Before you do, you will want to pray that God works in the event. You also may want to involve a friend and either talk through it with ahead of time. Who are you praying for regularly, that they would trust Christ?

Prayer Requests. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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