

Share Your Story Ideas & Resources

Here are some ways you can share your story with people who don't know God:

- Ask for permission and don't be pushy. "Would you mind if I tell you a little about a way God has changed my life?"
- Be clear and use common language. Try to avoid "church" language. Words like, "born again," "Savior," "redemption," "grace," "accepting Jesus," etc., are beautiful and meaningful to Christians, but have little or no meaning to people outside the church.
- Keep it short. Share more as it becomes appropriate. Keep it to two minutes or less. If you want to write it out, 100 words is a good length.
- Be humble and focus on what God did. "Look at what God did in my life!"
- Use a before-and-after pattern. How did God change you?
- Focus on Jesus as the source of change
- Tell your story with joy and passion
- Tell a story from your life that connects with their life

RECOMMENDED READING

Reimagining Evangelism – Rick Richardson

Sometimes talking about Jesus with your friends can feel like trying to close a deal on a sales call, pushing something on people they may not really want. But what if you thought of it more like inviting them on a spiritual journey? Imagine being free to be yourself and free for the Spirit to work in you. Imagine that it doesn't depend on you alone but that you can be an important part of a witnessing community. Imagine telling people stories instead of trying to download content. Here is your invitation to reimagine what evangelism could be for you.

I Once Was Lost – Don Everts & Doug Schaupp

How do people come to Jesus in today's postmodern culture? Not by a mechanical, linear process of cookie cutter conversions. Nor by a nebulous spiritual wandering that never culminates in decision or commitment. Over the last decade, Don Everts and Doug Schaupp have listened to the stories of two thousand postmodern people who have come to follow Jesus. While their stories are diverse and varied, certain common themes emerge. Postmodern evangelism is a mysterious and organic process that nevertheless goes through discernible phases, as people cross thresholds from distrust to trust, from complacency to curiosity, and from meandering to seeking. Everts and Schaupp describe the factors that influence how people shift in their perspectives and become open to the gospel. They provide practical tools to help people enter the kingdom, as well as guidelines for how new believers can live out their Christian faith.

The True Story – James Choung

No "Christianity seems like just another screwed-up religion" Anna said. "Seriously, what has Christianity done for us—or for the world, for that matter? They're just a bunch of hypocrites, that's what

I think! Are they good for anything?" "I don't know, Anna," Caleb said. "I just don't know." Caleb has been a Christian for a long time. But he realizes that he can't bring himself to share his faith with anyone because it doesn't sound like good news anymore. Christianity's truth claims can come across as hollow. Arrogant, and intolerant. Christians have a bad track record of hating and condemning those they disagree with. Worst of all, it feels like Christianity is just about "saving souls," giving people an escape ticket to heaven while the world falls apart. Is it only about Jesus forgiving our sins? There must be more to it than that. In this engaging narrative, James Choung, national director of evangelism for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, draws on intergenerational theory and his decades of work in student ministry to identify what's important to young people about the gospel. Boomers ask if it's true, Gen-Xers ask if it's real, and millennials ask if it's good. Get past the old clichés and simplistic formulas. And discover a new way of understanding and presenting the Christian faith that really matters in a broken world.

Growing Your Faith By Giving It Away – R. York Moore

Justice requires a deep perseverance that we can't muster on our own. The world's needs are staggering and even the most passion-driven reactions, strategies, and good intentions can falter. But we serve a God who never falters, who sees the needs, hears the cries, and gives strength—through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit—to his people.

Offering a comprehensive biblical theology of justice drawn from the whole story of Scripture, this book invites us to know more intimately the God who loves justice and calls us to give our lives to seek the flourishing of others. The authors explore stories of injustice around the globe today and spur Christians to root their passion for justice in the persevering hope of Christ. They also offer practices that can further form us into people who join God's work of setting things right in the world.