

Listening Ideas & Resources

Here are some ways you can practice deep listening with people who don't know God:

- Ask great questions that go beyond the weather and sports
- Listen with your whole body; eyes, posture, tone, etc.
- Pay attention to places of pain and loss in someone's story
- Don't try and fix; just listen
- Seek to understand before seeking to be understood
- Pay attention to what's not being said
- Seek to find common ground with someone's story to model compassion and understanding

RECOMMENDED READING

The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations – Mary Shallar & John Crilly

Love God, love people. Could evangelism really be that simple? Often it doesn't seem so. It can feel scary, awkward, and uncomfortable as we try to navigate loaded questions and different perspectives. Even the most faithful of believers sometimes get stumped. But what if we as Christians simply spent time with people who are far from God and provided a safe place to talk about spiritual matters? What if we listened to them and discovered what was really important to them? After all, it's what Jesus did. And it's what you can do too.

Questioning Evangelism – Randy Newman

A much-needed look at sharing Christ with unbelievers, not based on guerrilla hard-sell tactics but on engaging questions and caring interaction. Filled with humor and stories, this book provides a challenging yet encouraging look at evangelism in our world today. Newman suggests that asking questions and starting meaningful conversations is a far better method for sharing faith than prepared lectures or statements. He also offers advice on what people need to hear in response to the world around them.