

Sharing Your Christian Faith

Sharing the Good News



All Christians communicate their faith to others. Some show it mainly by their lives; others share it mainly through words. Some share a powerful message, while others communicate a weak message. But God has only one message: the message of love and forgiveness for everyone who will receive it. He invites us to know Him as a **Person**, and through faith experience His love and care.

Because Christians respond differently in allowing God to control their lives, the messages they share with others are not always the same. A Christian can be compared to a window: the cleaner the window, the clearer the view seen through it. The more we allow the power of Jesus to clean our lives, the more clearly others can see the Good News through us.

When we become children of God, our lives begin to show God's message of love to others. However, we ourselves **cannot** convince others that God is able to meet their needs. We are only God's **tools**.

2 Corinthians 5:20a states:

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

God is really the one who draws people to Himself, through Christ. In **1 Corinthians 3:6** Paul says:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

So in sharing the Good News, we are actually in **partnership** with **God**!

A. Why Share?

Sisters-in-law, Macy and Katelyn have a very close relationship. They used to share how unhappy and meaningless their lives were. One morning in a church service, Macy and her husband committed their lives to Jesus. The next time Macy and Katelyn talked about their lives, Macy had **good news** to share

High School - Lesson 1

about the deep happiness she had found through becoming a **new person** through Jesus! As a result of Macy's experience and witness, Katelyn and her husband committed their lives to Jesus three weeks later!

1. Faith Makes a Difference

Macy shared her faith because it had made a difference in her life. When we confess our sins and receive Christ's forgiveness, our faith in Him gives us new strength. God frees us to love people that we could never love on our own. Our relationship with God and other Christians gives us new resources to face difficulties as well.

Sometimes the change Christ makes in a person's life is sudden and obvious. Jordan, an enthusiastic young man, was miraculously freed from his addiction to cigarettes after becoming a Christian. However, God doesn't always miraculously remove destructive desires from His children. Often He allows us to change and mature more slowly and with more difficulty. During these times He offers us help through encouragement from other Christians, through knowledge of His Word, through prayer, and through relying on the Holy Spirit. God is **always** with us and His help is always available. As Christians we turn **every aspect** of our lives over to Jesus, asking for direction in our relationships, our speech, our work, in the use of our money, etc.

2. Because We Love

Once we know the wonder of God's love, it is natural for us to want others to experience it also. Love and concern for others is a by-product of our relationship with God. **Galatians 5:22** states;

But the fruit of the Spirit is love...

John 15:13 describes this love:

**"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
Christ's self-sacrificing love for others has been given to us to share.**

3. We Have Life's Answers

Ben, a Christian volunteer, worked in a small village teaching people to read. One day a university student asked him why he was working for two years with no pay. Ben told him it was because of his love for Christ and others, and then proceeded to share his faith with the student. The student responded, "Why aren't you sharing this good news with **everyone**? You hold the answers to all our questions about the meaning of life." Through Christ, Christians have the **answers** to life's questions. But people need to **hear** the message in love before they will accept it. In order to share the message well, we must be as convinced as the Apostle Paul was as He wrote in **Romans 1:16**:

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God
for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

As we grow in faith and realize how **awesome** the Good News really is, we become more ready to share!

4. God Wants Us to Share

We share our faith in order to be obedient to God. **1 Peter 3:15:**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

The more we share, the stronger our faith becomes. As we learn to obey God, He gives us the **power** to share. And He provides divine appointments for us to share with people to whom He wants to show His message of love.

B. What is the Good News?

God's message for all people is "good news" in every way. It is real because **God** is real, and He meets us at **every point** of our need.

1. Freedom

When we meet God and give our lives to Him, we become **free**. Because Jesus completely forgives us, we no longer need to carry our past mistakes and sins when we confess them. The Lord says,

...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. - Isaiah 1:18

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us - Psalms 103:12

This freedom requires us to give ourselves completely to Christ. He accepts us and makes us **perfect** in His sight. Paul explains it:

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. - Romans 6:20-22

2. Love

The Good News is that we are loved by God and are adopted into a new family with many brothers and sisters. We **belong**! In **Matthew 12:50**, Jesus said:

"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

We enter a **whole new world** of relationships with friends who care when we hurt and respond with love and prayer. They also rejoice with us in our happy times.

God, through His people, meets our basic human need for friendship. God Himself is a friend we can lean on when we need someone, for He understands us when no one else does. **Psalms 91** speaks of God's protection and love for His children. Before Jesus left the earth, He promised His followers a Helper to take His place: the Holy Spirit, "to be with you forever." (He is also called the Counselor and the Spirit of Truth.)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. - John 14:16-17

3. Life

Some people accept Christ because of His promise of eternal life in heaven. **John 3:16** states:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 10:28, Romans 6:23 and **1 John 5:13** are other scriptures that promise eternal life for the believer.

4. Purpose

Eternal life with Jesus and the escape from hell is wonderful, but it is for now also, and begins when we receive Christ. Jesus said in **John 10:10**

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Without God, life is meaningless. **Psalms 103:15-17** expresses it well.

**As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,**

When we belong to Christ, **everything** has meaning; for God created us for Himself. **Psalms 139:13-18** describes God's intimate planning of our lives.

So this is the **Good News** we share, because it has changed **us**! It is good news of freedom from guilt. It's a message of God's love and care for His children. It is also a message of eternal life and of living with purpose. We share this good news in **love**; **God's** kind of love!

Lesson Questions

1. Complete: A Christian is God's _____ to reach others.
2. Complete: "Not that we are sufficient in _____ ... but our sufficiency is from _____." **2 Corinthians 3:5**

3. Match each human desire with the way God fulfills it.

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| ___ Longing for freedom from sin | a. God gives us a new family |
| ___ Hunger for loving relationships | b. God gives meaning to our experiences |
| ___ Hope for life after death | c. God forgives |
| ___ Need for purpose in life | d. God offers us a home forever in Heaven |

4. True or False:

- ___ a. Our relationship with God helps us love others.
- ___ b. If we know God's love, we share that love.
- ___ c. Love for others happens because we are good.

5. When you are telling how becoming a Christian has changed your life, what changes will you describe? _____

How can you respond to the Great Commission (Mark 16:15) where you live today?
