

Sharing the God Story – Building connection with outsiders

Getting Real about our Lord

Session #5



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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
NIV

During these weeks together we have been exploring what it looks like to walk with Jesus in the ordinary day, and to see people through his eyes. We are resolving to respond when he prompts us to talk to someone, and he is helping us love people we might otherwise ignore.

This leads us to our **Practice #5** **Getting Real about our Lord**

Our actions of love are to point people to Jesus, but as we accept the challenge to 'share our faith' most of us feel some concern about how to proceed.

Perhaps we feel inadequate when it comes to explaining the theology of the gospel, or we struggle to show how Jesus, living in the first century, has any impact on modern life.

Thankfully it's not all about us!

Let's remember that the Lord of the Harvest is already at work in the heart of the person we encounter and has probably set up the connection. He promises to 'give us the words we need' and to fill our hearts with compassion for the person. This deep compassion for a person can lead us to act more boldly.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus declares '*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*'

Our most authentic 'witness' is to simply share about Jesus as we know him.

- When I know him as Saviour, I can reassure someone that Jesus has paid the price.
- As I have received grace, I can be merciful to others.
- When I experience Jesus as the one who proclaims good news for the poor (Luke 4:18) - I can encourage someone who feels unworthy of God's attention.
- As my confidence grows that God is a Father who answers prayer - I can offer to pray with someone.

Coming to faith is a process

It can be helpful to remember that people don't usually respond to the gospel in a single conversation. Each person is somewhere on their journey to faith and may need to interact with a series of believers. Our immediate goal is to use each opportunity to help them move a step closer to Jesus. (by word and deed)

In our final session we will share ways the Lord has led us to move the conversation towards these deeper truths.