

Preach It: 7 Tips for Sharing Your Faith Effectively

One of the greatest joys in the Christian walk is leading someone to Jesus. Yet for many, sharing the gospel remains one of the scariest things we'll ever do. The statistics tell us that less than half of all Christians have ever shared their faith, let alone helped someone come to know Christ.

But sharing Jesus isn't reserved for pastors or "professional Christians" - it's something every believer can do. The first sermon ever preached, delivered by Peter in Acts 2, gives us a powerful blueprint for effective evangelism.

Why Is Sharing Our Faith So Intimidating?

Many Christians feel inadequate when it comes to evangelism. We worry about not having the right words, facing rejection, or being unable to answer difficult questions. But remember - you're here today because someone once shared their faith with you. The gospel continues through ordinary people willing to step out in faith.

Let's look at seven practical tips from Peter's sermon that can help us share our faith more effectively.

Tip #1: Look for Inroads and Open Doors

Peter's opportunity came when people witnessed the Holy Spirit's outpouring and asked, "What could this mean?" (Acts 2:12). He used their curiosity as an opening.

Similarly, we can use everyday conversations and current events as natural bridges to spiritual discussions:

- "What do you think about what's happening in the world?"
- "Where are you finding hope in all this chaos?"
- "Can I share what's helped me through difficult times?"

Jesus modeled this approach perfectly. He used natural water to introduce the Samaritan woman to living water (John 4). Philip simply asked the Ethiopian what he was reading (Acts 8). These natural connections help determine if someone's heart is ready for deeper conversation.

Remember, you're not trying to win an argument - you're hoping to save a soul.

Tip #2: Turn the Conversation to the Things of God

After establishing a connection, Peter boldly stood up and redirected the conversation toward spiritual truth: "These are not drunk as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day" (Acts 2:14-15).

When sharing your faith, don't be afraid to speak up. God promises in Psalm 81:10, "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." You don't need to have all the answers - God will give you the words as you step out in faith.

Tip #3: Keep It Biblical

Peter immediately grounded his explanation in Scripture, quoting from the prophet Joel (Acts 2:16-21). He stayed focused on the Bible and applied it to their current situation.

People often try to sidetrack spiritual conversations with peripheral questions. Like the woman at the well who changed the subject when Jesus addressed her sin (John 4), people may deflect when the gospel makes them uncomfortable. Gently redirect the conversation back to Jesus and the core message of salvation.

Tip #4: Know the Gospel Message and Give It Simply

Peter clearly presented Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (Acts 2:22-24). He didn't use complicated theological terms but kept his message straightforward.

Practice sharing the gospel in a couple of minutes. Put the "cookies on the bottom shelf" where anyone can reach them. Paul summarized it in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day."

Here's a simple version: "The God who made you loves you. Sin has separated you from Him. You can't get to heaven on your own, so God sent His Son to die for your sins. Salvation comes not by your works but by believing in what Jesus did on the cross."

Tip #5: Remember the Resurrection Is the Proof of the Truth

Peter emphasized Jesus' resurrection as the central evidence of His claims (Acts 2:24-32). Without the resurrection, we'd just be following a good man who did good things. With it, we have proof that Jesus is God.

The cross tells us the price has been paid; the resurrection is our receipt. As 1 Corinthians 15:17 states, "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."

Many skeptics, like former atheist Lee Strobel, have investigated the resurrection and found the evidence compelling enough to change their lives. The historical reality of the resurrection gives our faith a solid foundation.

Tip #6: Tell Them How to Be Saved and What They'll Gain in Christ

When the crowd asked, "What shall we do?" Peter gave clear instructions: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:37-38).

When sharing your faith, clearly explain:

- How to be saved (repentance and faith)
- What happens when you're saved (forgiveness, becoming God's child, eternal life)
- The benefits in this life (peace, joy, purpose, hope)

You're not selling a product; you're pointing to a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Tip #7: Be Willing to Disciple and Help Them Grow

Peter didn't stop at conversion. Acts 2:40 tells us, "With many other words he testified and exhorted them." He continued teaching them how to walk with God and resist returning to sin.

Evangelism isn't just about decisions; it's about discipleship. Jesus commanded us to "make disciples," not just converts. Be prepared to invest in new believers, helping them grow strong in their faith.

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to pray a simple but powerful prayer: "Lord, would you open a door for me to share you with somebody?"

God isn't willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. When you ask Him to use you, He'll gladly answer that prayer. Then:

1. Start with natural conversation about life
2. Ask God to fill your mouth with the right words
3. Share how Jesus has changed your life
4. Leave them with a question: "What do you think about that?"

Not every conversation will lead to salvation, but every seed planted matters. And when someone does respond, you'll experience the incredible joy of knowing God used you to change a life forever.

Ask yourself:

- What fears have kept me from sharing my faith?
- Who has God placed in my life that needs to hear about Jesus?
- How can I practice explaining the gospel simply and clearly?
- Am I willing to step out of my comfort zone to be used by God?

Remember, sharing Jesus isn't about your eloquence or biblical knowledge—it's about your willingness to be available and obedient. God will do the rest.