

# Ways to Share Your Faith and Love Your Neighbor

Are you nervous about sharing your faith with others?

Do you need some ideas to get you started?

Check out some practical ways below to intentionally share your faith in your everyday life.

## Practical Ways of Showing Jesus's Love

1. **Pray first** – Ask the Lord to grant you "divine appointments", special opportunities for you to intercede for others. Acknowledge your reliance on the Holy Spirit and ask him to guide your conversations and to open doors for you to share Jesus's love and the hope of the gospel.
2. **Go on a prayer walk** – Fresh air and sunshine are good for the soul and so is praying for one another. As you walk by each house, say a prayer of blessing and protection. Pray by name (if you know it) and for specific needs your neighbors may have. If you don't know your neighbors, just pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal himself to them. God often uses prayer to soften our hearts and prepare us to share our faith.
3. **Check on your neighbors** – Especially the elderly, single parent families, or others who might be lonely or in need.
  - Provide your phone number for them to call if they need anything.
  - Reach out to them once a week to encourage them and remind them they aren't alone.
  - Drop off a meal or groceries.
  - Remember that building a relationship can open the door for conversations about faith.
4. **Connect** – Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who you need to call today, or whose door you need to knock on. Use any extra time you have to intentionally connect with friends and family members you haven't spoken to in a while.

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Remember, God has placed you in their lives for a purpose. Get creative – use an online platform like Zoom, Facetime, etc. so you can see each other's faces!

5. **Share an invite** – You will never know if someone will come with you to church or listen to a sermon online unless you ask! Check out all our campuses, service times and online worship gatherings to see the available opportunities to invite someone to engage in a worship service.

- Challenge yourself to invite one new person each week to engage in the weekly devo or worship gathering.
- Don't nonchalantly invite them but be specific with a date, place and time.

6. **Be intentional throughout the day to day** –

- Ask people that you interact with at work, the grocery store or in other areas of your daily life how you can pray for them. Simply offering to pray for someone can open the door to share your faith and provide hope and encouragement when it's needed most. Whether it's in the grocery store, on the phone or online, pray with them right then and there!
- Leave a note of prayer on someone's windshield or on a receipt at a local business.
- Take time to look people in the eye and listen to them. You often don't know what someone is walking through in their life.
- Talk about the hope you have in Jesus often, make it a part of your regular conversation.

7. **Serve** – Visit the CoE22 Local Outreach Facebook Page or [coe22.com/localoutreach](http://coe22.com/localoutreach) for serve opportunities.

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8. **Share your Ideas** – While we don't do our good deeds for the approval of others but instead for God's glory, it is helpful to humbly share your experiences to encourage others and give them ideas of their own!

## **TIPS for Sharing your Faith**

1. **Ask questions** – Jesus was known for asking good questions! Asking questions and then really listening can open the door to relationship building and opportunities to share your faith. Be prepared to respond by answering these questions yourself and pointing to the hope you have in Jesus.

- What season of life are you in?
- What are you worried about?
- What emotions are you feeling on a regular basis?
- What do you do when you start to feel stressed or worried?
- How can I pray for you?

2. **Be bold** – You have the power of the Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead in you! You have no idea how God will use you so trust him. Be gentle with your words and empathize with the person you are talking to.

3. **Share your story** – A '15-second testimony' is a great way to share part of your story and invite the other person to do the same. Simply share the four key parts below in ways that are personal and unique to your story:

Part 1 - Your life before Christ, emphasize how you felt and what you believed.

Part 2 - Your decision to surrender to Jesus.

Part 3 - Your life in Christ now, emphasize what you believe and who you trust.

Part 4 - A question to open the door for the other person to share

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## Examples

There was a time in my life I felt lonely and believed that my life didn't have a purpose, but then I placed my trust in Jesus and now I know that God is with me and my life does have a purpose. Can you tell me some of your story?

There was a time in my life when I was always worried and afraid because things around me were changing and nothing seemed stable but then, I made a choice to trust in Jesus and now, I feel a peace I had never experienced before, even when things around me are still uncertain. Are you ever worried or afraid? Where do you turn in those times?