

Sharing the Good News of the Christian Faith with Others

What to do with this newsletter:

- Put it in your church newsletter.
- Hand it out with the church bulletin.
- Use it on a retreat.
- Use it for session meetings or regular study meetings.
- Use it in an Outreach Committee.

How do You share your faith?

Step 1: Fill in the questionnaire

For each of the statements below, rate yourself according to this scale:

- 3 I love doing this/I definitely would do this
2 I'm okay with doing this/I often do this
1 I don't like doing this, but I do it sometimes
0 I never do this

- ___ 1. At a party, I tend to socialize with people who talk directly and openly about a topic.
- ___ 2. I like to watch documentaries or TV shows that help me understand issues in society.
- ___ 3. I tell stories about my own life.
- ___ 4. I have lots of friends, and I stay in touch with them.
- ___ 5. When I am planning a social event for myself and/or my family, I think of someone outside the family who I might invite.
- ___ 6. I notice needs in other's lives that others overlook.



- _____ 7. If I disagree with someone at a party or meeting, I am comfortable telling him/her so.
- _____ 8. When I am making a decision, I think through the steps in a logical order.
- _____ 9. When someone is telling me a story, I find myself thinking, "I know exactly what you mean!"
- _____ 10. I make friends easily.
- _____ 11. When I am leading a group and know the answer to a question, I hold back and let someone else answer.
- _____ 12. Given the choice of serving coffee or reading scripture in church, I would serve coffee.
- _____ 13. If a friend were doing something with which I don't agree, I would say so.
- _____ 14. If I see someone who is heading down 'the wrong path', I point out steps that could turn things around in a different way.
- _____ 15. When I tell people about my Christian faith, they have been interested in hearing it.
- _____ 16. Given the choice between a Christian self-help group or a study of a theological book, I would pick the Christian self-help study.
- _____ 17. If there was an amazing program at my church, I would invite a neighbour.
- _____ 18. I'm not comfortable talking about my faith, but I would help neighbours shovel their driveway.
- _____ 19. If a family member is doing something I consider wrong or harmful, I tell them so, even if it hurts his/her feelings.
- _____ 20. There is nothing I love more than a good discussion.
- _____ 21. I'm comfortable with sharing mistakes I've make and telling how I resolved them.
- _____ 22. If I don't know someone well, I wouldn't share something about my Christian faith until we got to know each other better.

- _____ 23. If people seem open to learning more about Christianity, I watch for concerts or church events to which I can invite them.
- _____ 24. People know that I am a Christian because of my loving attitudes and actions.
- _____ 25. I like when meetings get straight to the point, and we get things done promptly.
- _____ 26. At church, it bothers me when people don't think logically.
- _____ 27. In a social setting, people like to hear stories of my life.
- _____ 28. I love long chats with friends over a cup of coffee or tea.
- _____ 29. I watch out for books or movies that might appeal to someone I know, and I make sure to tell about them.
- _____ 30. Given the choice of helping a senior citizen get to church or leading the adult Bible study, I would help my senior friend get to worship.
- _____ 31. I have been told that I could be more sensitive and tactful with people.
- _____ 32. When people offer an opinion, I try to understand their reasons for thinking this way.
- _____ 33. There are things about my faith that are so amazing that I just want to tell about them.
- _____ 34. People tell me that I am a caring sort of person.
- _____ 35. It would make my day if my neighbour agreed to come to church with me.
- _____ 36. I am a do-er. I like practical, hands-on activities.

Step 2: Using the questionnaire scores, fill in this chart

To-the-point Person	Thinking Person	Storytelling Person	Conversation Person	Hospitality Person	Caring - for - others Person
#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12
#13	#14	#15	#16	#17	#18
#19	#20	#21	#22	#23	#24
#25	#26	#27	#28	#29	#30
#31	#32	#33	#34	#35	#36

TOTALS

Step 3: Ask: What does this tell us about sharing our faith with others?

If you are using this in a group, ask some or all of the following questions.

- Do we have a variety of people from all six groups? Are we “weighted” toward one or two? What does this mean to our church?
- What are the gifts that each of the six types of Christians brings to outreach? Brainstorm on a chart that may look something like this:

How the to-the-point person might share faith	How the thinking person might share faith	How the storytelling person might share faith	How the conversation person might share faith	How the hospitality person might share faith	How the caring-for-others person might share faith

Step 4: Decide if you would like to follow up on this exercise.

Consider the following options:

- Offer training sessions in sharing faith based on the six different ways people ranked themselves.
- Offer a Bible study on sharing faith based on the different rankings. For example:
 - To-the-point person: Peter in Acts 2
 - Thinking person: Paul in Acts 17
 - Storytelling person: Blind man in John 9
 - Conversation person: Matthew in Luke 5:2-32
 - Hospitality person: Woman at the well in John 4:1-42
 - Caring-for-others person: Dorcas in Acts 9:36-43
- Offer spiritual direction or spirituality resources based on the six different types.
- In groups of three, do role plays about sharing faith. (The third person can be an observer.) Provide a scenario like this:

Your next door neighbour is not a religious person, and you don't know him well. You heard yesterday that his father had died, and you want to do or say something comforting. You go over to his house. What happens next?
- Create an outreach plan for your congregation based on what you learned in this questionnaire exercise.