

# Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

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If you are a Christian someone shared the good news of Jesus Christ with you. Aren't you glad? Now God calls you (and all other Christians) to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.



## God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with people in our generation.

We are responsible for reaching our generation for Christ (as has every other generation before us). This is our time! And don't those around us need to hear this message and come into a relationship with God?

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20.*

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. Mark 16:15-20.*

*What are we to do?*

*What support will we get?*

*What can we expect to happen?*

The disciples went out shared the good news of Jesus with their generation. *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47.* Down through history the good news has been shared and countless people won for Christ. God has continued to work in His world bringing people into a saving relationship with Himself. This has happened for you! Now it is your time to share the good news with others.

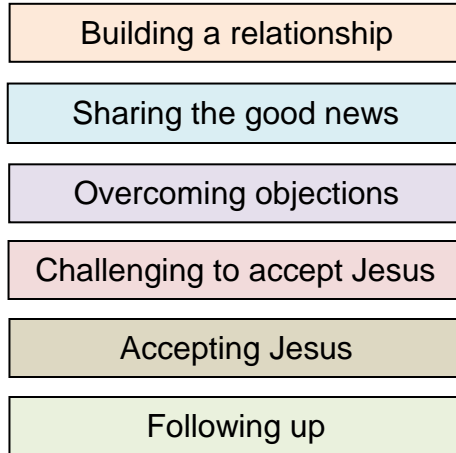


*Why do you want to share the good news of Jesus with others?*

*How good are you at sharing the good news of Jesus? Why?*

*How motivated are you to share the good news of Jesus (and fulfill the Great Commission)? Why?*

In this workshop we will explore the following aspects of sharing the good news of Jesus:



Please remember that all of this takes place in a context that includes:

- **God’s eternal purposes.** He chooses, calls and saves in His time. Ephesians 1:4-14.
- **Free will.** Everyone has a free will and can choose to follow the Lord or reject Him. Joshua 24:15.
- **The work of the Holy Spirit.** Without the Holy Spirit we can’t do much at all. Acts 1:8.
- **Prayer.** Pray at all times and ask for others to pray for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- **Love.** Love opens hearts. Make sure that love underpins all you do. 1 John 3:16.
- **Example.** Your words will be meaningless unless reinforced by Christ-like actions. Ephesians 2:10.
- **The Word of God.** God’s Word is powerful and can speak directly into peoples’ lives. Hebrews 4:12.
- **Sowing and reaping.** Sowing of a seed is needed for reaping the harvest! 1 Corinthians 3:6.
- **God’s sovereignty.** God is in control. He is Lord, so do what He tells you at all times. Philippians 2:13.

## Building a relationship

Effective evangelism almost always takes place through relationships. People will only let you “in” if they know you, trust you, and sense that you care for them as a person. If there is any sense that you are going to “Bible bash” them they will back off.

*What can you do to build a relationship with someone of trust, respect and love?*

When you have established a relationship with them you ‘earn the right’ to speak into their lives, including sharing the good news of Jesus.

### What will make someone listen to the good news of Jesus?

In the past people may have been motivated by:

- The authority of the Bible. “The Bible says...”.
- Fear of hell. “If you don’t accept Christ you will spend eternity in hell”.
- A future in heaven. “If you want to go to heaven you must accept Jesus as your Saviour”.
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*What stops people today from listening to the good news of Jesus?*

*What motivates people today to listen to the good news of Jesus?*

*What qualities in you will make people open to listening when you share the good news of Jesus?*

**Key  
verse**

*For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?*

2 Corinthians 2:15,16.



*What should you do if you have built a relationship and they still don't want to talk about Jesus? Should you tell them anyway (because they desperately need to know Him). or what?*

**Asking questions to make people think.**

Deep down everyone is deeply concerned about the 'issues of life'.

*Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? Am I special? Am I loved? How do others see me? Am I safe? How can I provide for myself and my family? How can I be healthy? How long will I live? What's going to happen to me in the future? Is there really a heaven and a hell?*

These are all "God questions"! God loves us and is intricately involved in how we work out the answers to these questions (whether we believe in Him or not!). When you are building a relationship with someone you gradually earn the right to share with them at the deeply personal level where these questions are addressed. This often happens at critical times in life when we are forced to confront deeper realities. e.g. during sickness, after a tragedy, in a crisis.

You can then ask questions that will make them think through the issues of life, and include a relationship with God in their responses. This can then give you the opportunity to introduce Jesus as part of your life, who could also be part of theirs.

- e.g.
- Do you feel loved?*
  - Do you believe that there is a God?*
  - Do you sense and feel that there is a spiritual dimension to life?*
  - What do you think about Jesus?*
  - What is the purpose for your life?*

**Practice asking "thinking about God" questions as you share about the issues of life. Make sure your questions are introduced naturally and in a non-threatening and non-judgmental way.**

## Sharing testimonies

*Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:8.*

When you share a testimony you describe something that Jesus has done in your life. You simply say “this is what Jesus did” and how wonderful it was.

Effective testimonies are:

- Interesting and relevant
- Shared naturally, honestly, and with passion
- Focused on Jesus and what He has done in your life
- Non-confrontational
- Non-preachy
- Brief and to the point.

(Testimonies are NOT big long descriptions of how bad you were, followed by ‘then I accepted Jesus and everything has been wonderful ever since’!!!)

### Share a testimony with someone.

When you share a testimony it doesn’t have to be followed by preaching the gospel, or by a challenge to accept Christ. When you are building a relationship with someone your testimonies will show them that Jesus is real in your life and (hopefully) that your relationship with Him is important for you, and a wonderful part of your life.

This helps you earn the right to share the good news with them.

## Sharing the good news

The word for “good news” is *euangelion* (*eu* good, *angelon* message) and it is translated as the word **gospel**. When we share the gospel what do we say? What is the good news about Jesus?

### The good news is about love.

The good news is that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from sin, bring us into His family and give us eternal life. In Christ God has shown us perfect love! When your heart is filled with love for God you can’t help but share it with others: in words and in actions.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.*

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1*

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 John 3:16.*



*What motivated you to accept Christ?*

*How do you know that Jesus loves you?*

*Why do you love Jesus? How do you show your love for Jesus?*

**Tell someone about your love for Jesus.**

### **The good news is that people can have a relationship with God.**

When we accept Christ we become a child of God and can begin to have a relationship with Him. This relationship is wonderful, and it lasts for eternity!

We can have a relationship with God because our sin is forgiven and we are righteous in Christ.

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12.*

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11,12.*

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:16,17.*

*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21.*

Relationship with God is not a religious thing. It's a love thing! You love Him and He loves you. You enjoy being with Him; you share life together; you develop in your relationship as you spend time together, and wonderfully..... you gradually change to be more like Him! Not only that, your relationship lasts forever!

*We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19.*

*I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Philippians 3:7.*

**Tell someone what your relationship with God is like.**

Now let's try to describe the good news of Jesus using words that people who haven't heard it will understand. (ie. try to drop the jargon!).



**Practice sharing the good news of Jesus with each other. Try to use words that anyone will be able to understand.**

*Feedback:*

## Overcoming objections

When you are sharing the good news of Jesus there will always be objections.

There are few benefits if the objections lead to a debate or argument, so how can you overcome objections, and get back to the central issue – having a wonderful relationship with Jesus?

- If the objection is a sidetrack, excuse, attack or trite question (*If God made the world, who made God? God is just an illusion; there's no proof He exists. Why does God cause so much suffering in the world?* etc.) then it is best to quickly re-focus back to Jesus.

*e.g. Do you really want to know the answer to that question? It's answered fully in websites like [allaboutgod.com](http://allaboutgod.com) or in books like "Evidence that demands a verdict" by Josh McDowell. You can check it out there. Ultimately, it's all about Jesus.....*

When you know Jesus, questions like these ones become far less relevant because you become so aware of how much He loves you, and how so much of what is going on in the world grieves Him. Jesus' love is so real. He proved that by dying on the Cross for you.....

- If the objection is part of their real search for God then it is worth exploring together.

**Here are some objections. Practice dealing with them quickly, and then getting back to Jesus.**

*The Bible is full of contradictions.*

*I don't believe in hell. It's just a scare tactic to get people to believe in God.*

*Christians are such hypocrites. They are so judgmental and yet they are doing just that same things that they condemn others for.*

*Feedback:*



## Challenging to accept Jesus

At some stage you will have to give them the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

This is a decision that has eternal implications so they need to be clear about what is involved and what it means.

They should be clear that in accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord:

- They are turning their life over to Him so He is in control.
- They are choosing to turn from sin, and live in righteousness.
- They will become a Christian. They will be a child of God, and part of His Church.
- The Holy Spirit will indwell them and help them in all aspects of life. He will begin a process of making them more and more like Jesus.
- They have eternal life. They are beginning a wonderful relationship with God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, that will last all through their lives on earth, and for eternity in heaven.

**Practice challenging someone to accept Jesus.**

## Accepting Jesus

When someone indicates that they are willing to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord it is a major step in God's purpose for their lives. God has led them to this point, and will continue to be with them forever.

In Romans 8 Paul shows how God has planned their salvation all the way! See Romans 8:28-30.

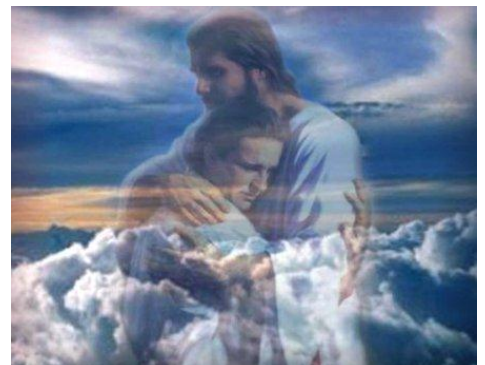
They have been *called according to His purpose*:

- He **foreknew** them. God knew what they would choose when given the opportunity to accept Jesus.
- He **predestined** them to be conformed to the image of Jesus. This happened before the creation of the world. Ephesians 1:4.
- He **called** them to Himself. This happened as the Holy Spirit worked in their lives (and as you shared the good news with them!).
- When they put their faith in Jesus they will be **justified**. This means that God will forgive their sin and declare them to be righteous in His sight (based on the work of Jesus on the Cross).
- They will then be **glorified**. This means that they will be able to have a personal relationship with God and His glory will shine into their lives.

What a privilege to lead someone to the Lord and be part of this wonderful salvation that God is working out in their lives!

There is no set 'formula' for how to lead someone to the Lord so they accept Jesus.

Typically it involves explaining what is involved in accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour (as above) and then giving them the opportunity to pray and ask God for His salvation.



**Here are some approaches for leading people to the Lord:**

- Explain what is involved then send them away to accept Jesus on their own. Ask them to come back to you and explain what they did, and what happened.
- Use a tract like “The steps to peace with God”. It has the following steps:
  - Step 1. God’s purpose: peace and life. Romans 5:1, John 3:16, John 10:10.
  - Step 2. Our problem: separation. Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23.
  - Step 3. God’s remedy: the Cross. 1 Timothy 2:5. 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8.
  - Step 4. Our response: receive Christ. Revelation 3:20, John 1:12, Romans 10:9.
- Set up a chain of highlighted verses in your Bible. Use this chain to go from verse to verse as you explain how to accept Jesus. Here is an example of a chain you could use:

○ Page	God loves you	John 3:16.
○ Page	God wants to give you eternal life	1 John 5:11,12
○ Page	Sin keeps you from God	Romans 6:23
○ Page	Jesus died to take the penalty for this sin	Romans 5:8
○ Page	Confess your sin and God will forgive	1 John 1:9
○ Page	Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour	John 1:12
○ Page	You will be saved	Romans 10:9

- Have an altar call (in group situations) allowing people the opportunity to respond (e.g. by raising hands or coming forward, and then praying a ‘sinner’s prayer’. Make sure that there is no coercion or manipulation in this so whatever decisions are made are genuine and with free will.

*How did you make your decision to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord?*

*If you had your time over again would you change this? If so, how?*

*Why is it important not to pressure people into making a decision for the Lord?*

**Practice “leading each other to the Lord”.**

*Feedback:*





## Following up

Accepting Jesus is just the start of a life-long relationship with God. When someone is newly born again they are just a 'baby Christian' and need support, encouragement and help so they can grow to maturity in Christ.

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*  
2 Peter 3:18.

The Holy Spirit will begin to work in their lives to bring this about, but you can help!

Becoming a Christian is a major cultural change involving many aspects. These include:

- Having a love relationship with Jesus through prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, worship, obedience, faith, love, joy, hope, peace ..... *We love Him because He first loved us.* 1 John 4:19.
- Becoming like Jesus through repentance, forgiveness, healing, deliverance, freedom, discipleship,..... *We are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory.* 2 Corinthians 3:18.
- Taking their place in the Body of Christ through fellowship, church, servant-hood, giving, sharing, body ministry ..... *You are the body of Christ and each one of you has a part in it.* 1 Corinthians 12:27.
- Finding God's will for their life through guidance, being led by the Holy Spirit, understanding God's Word, obedience, having Jesus as Lord ..... *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.* Jeremiah 29:11
- Fulfilling God's purpose for their life through being filled with the Holy Spirit, sharing the good news of Jesus, ministry, honouring God in everything ..... *Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.* Matthew 25:21.

These all need to be learned, experienced and tested till relationship with Jesus becomes a delight, and the norm for life. They don't all happen quickly, or even easily, so your friendship, support, love, encouragement and help in following up of new Christians is vital.

*What is the goal of follow up?*

*How did you grow in your relationship with the Lord, after you were saved?*

*What are the major cultural barriers that a new Christian will have to overcome if they are to get established in their relationship with Jesus?*

*How can you help them overcome these barriers?*

*How would a brand new Christian feel if they attended your church with all of its established cultural practices?*



**Describe how you could follow up new Christians that you have led to the Lord. Make sure the focus is on how they can develop in their relationship with Jesus. Afterwards share your ideas with the whole group.**

## Sharing the good news as part of a team

All Christians are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around us. We do this through *witnessing* and *personal evangelism*. In addition to this we can all be involved in sharing the good news as part of an evangelistic team.

Typically evangelistic teams have a particular focus which fits with the gifting and passion of the team members.

Here are some possible evangelistic teams:

- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Website/blog/facebook
- Street
- Beach
- House to house
- Short term overseas or local mission (often with a particular focus like building or child-care)
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- Church service
- Practical helps
- Food bank
- Exercise
- Childcare
- Rest home
- Coffee bar
- Community service
- Literature
- Media (newspaper, video, YouTube etc.)
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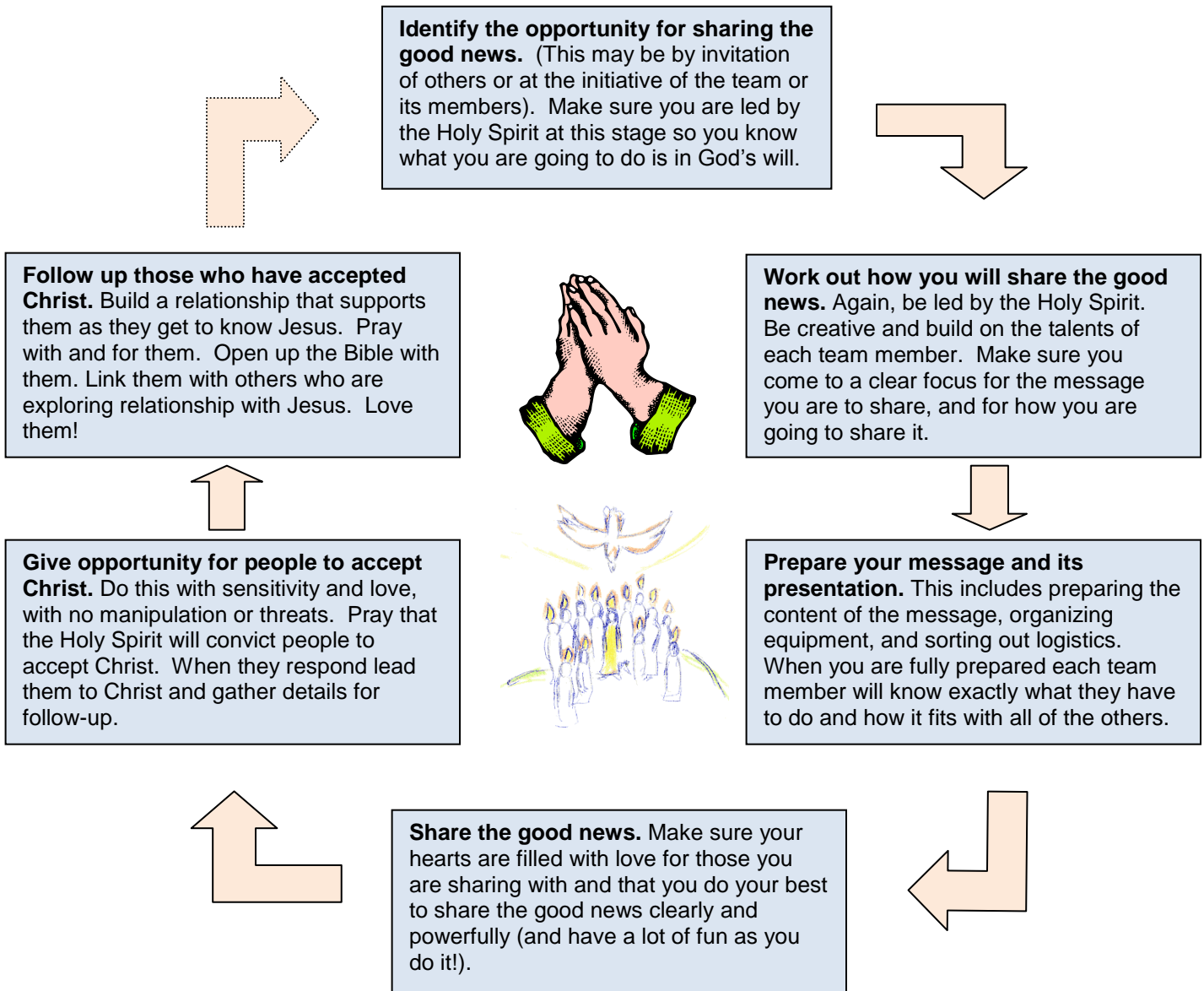
When you are sharing the good news as part of a team all of aspects we have discussed still apply:

**Building a relationship - sharing the good news - overcoming objections - challenging to accept Jesus – accepting Jesus – follow up.**

There are some other areas that need to be considered:

- What is the team's focus?
- Who will be in the team and who will lead the team?
- How will the team identify and use the passions, giftings and strengths of each member?
- What will each team member do?
- How will the team get opportunities to share?
- How and when will the team meet to prepare/practice/pray?
- How will the team communicate so that everyone knows what is happening?
- How will the team communicate so everyone knows what is happening?
- How will the team handle conflicts?
- How will individuals and the team manage other priorities and commitments?
- What can be reasonable expected of each team member?
- How will the team support each other and maintain its enthusiasm?
- How will the team celebrate/acknowledge its achievements?
- How will the team know when it's time is over?

Typically a team outreach will go through the following stages:



*What are your interests, passions and giftings?*

*What sort of outreach team could you contribute to?*

**Prepare a short presentation of the good news, relevant for your team's giftings.**

## Prayer support.

We desperately need God's help in all of our evangelistic efforts – whether through personal evangelism, or team evangelism! We are totally dependent on Him, and that's why we need prayer support.



*Pray for us, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. Colossians 4:3.*

- Prayer for guidance on who we share with, and on what, how, when and where we share the good news.
- Prayer for the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and work powerfully in the situation.
- Prayer for the people we are sharing with, especially that they would be open to the gospel, accept Jesus, and know God's blessing in their lives.
- Prayer for others in the team (if we are sharing as a team)
- Prayer for those who accept Jesus - that they will be strong in their faith, and have a wonderful relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for humility, clarity, love and a servant heart.
- Pray that God's will would be done in the peoples' lives and that all the glory would go to Him.
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## Pray for each other!

### Christians are called to share the good news of Jesus

*So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord ..... But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8-10*

*Why do so many Christians find it hard to share the gospel?*

Evangelism isn't an exclusive job for 'evangelists'. The great commission is for all Christians to *Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.* Matthew 28:

Evangelism is an honor, a joy, and a pleasure! How can we remain silent about God's love? Because we know His love, we want everybody to know it too. It's all about love! The same love that Jesus expressed for us on the Cross is the same love that flows through you and me when we share the Gospel with others.

We can't change the hearts of people. God promises to do that: *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* Ezekiel 36:26

What we can do is share what God has done for us, and what He can do for them. We're not called to argue or debate anyone into heaven. (That doesn't work!). We're merely called to share!

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

As in a courtroom, we're called to be a witness for the Gospel, not the lawyer, judge or jury..... Leave that up to God!

*But 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.*  
Acts 1:8



All around us people are hurting. The world is searching for answers and people are not finding them! Nothing on this earth can fill the void that only God can satisfy.

The answer is Jesus! Jesus is the key to everything! Life is found in Him.

Nobody needs to face their future alone or with uncertainty. Jesus is *the way, the truth and the life!* John 14:6

Life, love, peace, purpose, meaning, trials, fears, uncertainty, joy, hope, death.....  
Everything is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. That's how people can 'live happily ever after'!

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.* John 15:12-14

**Evangelism is our greatest responsibility, our biggest challenge, our highest calling; our supreme demonstration of love.**

## *Certificate of Authorisation*



To whom it may concern:

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is hereby authorized to witness for Me and share the good news of My salvation, in all the world.

*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.* Matthew 28:20

Signed: *Jesus Christ*

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*Supreme Authority in Heaven and on earth*