

# Sharing Our Faith

Think about some of the people in your life that you have seen share their faith.

Maybe it was a person at work sharing with someone how Christ had changed their life.

Maybe it was a neighbor sharing how Jesus had helped him get through a tough time.

Maybe it was a friend sharing with you about the goodness of God.

Maybe it was someone sharing about God's unending mercy and grace.

I want you to get a good mental image of that person in your mind. Ok, in one or two words I would like you to describe that person. It can be a physical description or a description of their demeanor.

Meek  
Small  
Deaf  
Gentle  
Loud  
Tall  
Kind  
Loving  
Bald  
Soft Spoken  
Timid  
Quite

The purpose of this lesson is to have an honest conversation about sharing our faith. We will review examples of people sharing their faith in scripture. I will share some of my own examples of sharing my faith. And we will look at the people in our lives that we have seen share their faith.

It is not the intent of this lesson to convince you to share your faith. If you have no desire to share what Christ has done for you then this lesson will not be of much value. However, if you do have the desire to share your faith with others then I think this may be very helpful.

## Bearing Spiritual Fruit

The Bible refers to the process of sharing our faith with others as bearing fruit. The key to bearing spiritual fruit is found in John 15.

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**John 15:4-5&16 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”**

Think about the example that Jesus was using in John 15. Everyone knows that fruit grows on branches; branches grow on the main vine. Jesus is the vine and what He offers to the world He offers through branches.

I was thinking about this story a couple of months ago after visiting my Dad in south Texas. Dad is an avid gardener and has several fruit trees on his property. He has lemon trees, orange trees, and even a couple of grapefruit trees.

The last time I went to see him we took a tour of all of his fruit trees. The trees are only a few years old but they are mature enough to produce fruit. Dad knows how much I like lemons so we always go to see the lemon trees first. This year the lemon trees were really loaded and I arrived just in time for the harvest.

Coming back from dad's house I began to think about this bearing fruit scripture and the simple truth that Christ was trying to get us all to understand, fruit doesn't just grow in midair. Fruit grows on branches that have a healthy relationship to the vine.

**“He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing”**

Notice the emphasis that Jesus puts on the relationship between the vine, the branches and the fruit. Jesus said very clearly -He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit. And then Jesus clarified, -for without Me you can do nothing.

Jesus didn't say without Me -it's going to be difficult.

Jesus didn't say -Without Me you can't do everything.

Jesus didn't say -Without Me you might do alright for a little while.

What did Jesus say?

**-Without Me you can do nothing?**

The reality is making disciples and bearing spiritual fruit is a spiritual process.

None of us have the ability to call people out of the darkness, Jesus does.

We don't have the ability to heal the sick, Jesus does.

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We don't have the ability to forgive sins, Jesus does.

I know what you're thinking! .that's too simple! .it's got to be harder than that right?? Well, it's really not. Think about this, most of the men Jesus disciplined were uneducated fishermen, they weren't great speakers and they definitely weren't Bible scholars. What were they then? They were Christ followers that learned how to share their faith by abiding in Christ.

Sharing our faith doesn't mean we have to memorize certain techniques! It doesn't require that we have a certain personality. It doesn't require a degree from Bible College.

Sharing our faith simply means this . That you share with others what Christ has done for you.

Think about the story of the Samaritan woman that offered Jesus a drink of water.

**John 4:1-30** "Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria.

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "**Give Me a drink.**" For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**"

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "**Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"

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The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” Jesus said to her, “**Go, call your husband, and come here.**” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “**You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.**”

The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “**Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

Jesus said to her, “**I who speak to you am He.**”

And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

So let’s break this down. Did the Samaritan woman share her faith? Yes she did. Did the people she shared her faith with respond? Yes, they did.

Is there any indication that she was a great public speaker? Is there any indication that she memorized a witnessing outline or used some special technique?

I know you think I’m being silly but I’m trying to prove a point. Some people try to turn the process of sharing their faith into a special series of steps that must be strictly followed . . . or it won’t work? Really?

The fact is the woman at the well did use a special technique – she used the Samaritan Woman at The Well Technique

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People have been sharing their faith for thousands of years who have never followed an outline or used a technique. Just like the Samaritan woman, they simply told others what Christ has done for them. Wow, what a novel thought.

## Trust the Lord

For years I also struggled with sharing my faith. I remember several times sitting in church and the pastor would preach on the need for us to share our faith. He would talk about the harvest being plentiful but the workers being few but I still wasn't able to trust that the Lord could use someone like me to reach people.

That all changed one day in 1995 when we returned home to find a small piece of paper rolled up and attached to the front door. It was a common practice for businesses in the area to leave the door hanger type notices advertising their products and I usually didn't even read them.

However, as I took this paper off the door I noticed that it was a hand written note. I opened the note and it read something like this:

*"Hi, my name is David. I am 14 years old and attend the local church across from the elementary school. I am deaf and not able to speak, but I can write. I would like to tell you about Jesus my Lord and Savior. John 3:16 tells us that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but will have eternal life."*

*If you don't have a relationship with Christ I would encourage you to take that step today."*

The note went on to explain how to take that step and included an invitation to come and visit his church the following Sunday.

For years I had the desire to share my faith with others but all I had ever done was make excuses. I worked a lot we had small children I wasn't really good at memorizing Scripture the list goes on and on.

All of that changed in less than 60 seconds when a young man from our community that couldn't hear and couldn't speak taught me one of the most important lessons I ever learned about sharing your faith.

He taught me that anyone can share their faith.

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Occasionally in addition to sharing what Christ has done we also may get the chance to share how a person can put their faith and trust in the Lord.

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There are lots of scriptures that explain how a person can put their faith and trust in the Lord. This is not a complete list but these are some of the scriptures that I have used in the past to explain the process.

**Romans 10:9, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."**

**Romans 10:13 "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."**

**John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."**

**Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."**

Please emphasize this is a spiritual step of faith between them and Jesus Christ. Regardless of the scripture that you use, please take time to remind them that this is a very personal decision that only they can make.

If you do get an opportunity to pray with someone that has accepted Christ, don't get too caught up on the wording. Romans 10:9 is clear about this being a transformation of the heart, this is not about an eloquent sounding prayer.

The thief on the cross didn't pray some pre-written scripted prayer, he simply asked Jesus to remember him when He entered His kingdom

**1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."**

Sometimes when we share our faith we are just planting a seed, later someone else will come along and share a little more. Don't measure success by the number of people that decide to follow Christ.

You are successful when you share your faith that's it. We have no control over how people respond to the gospel.

## The Presenter or the Presentation

I would like to close by sharing a story with you. As some of you may know by now I really like to fish. Several years ago I found out that Wal-Mart was going to discontinue my favorite fishing lure.

That may not sound like such a big deal to you but I caught lots of fish on that lure. I got really good at casting it a certain way. I got really good at retrieving it a certain

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way. In good weather or bad, it just didn't matter that lure always caught fish. That does not mean every other lure on the planet doesn't work.

It is like that with sharing our faith, some of us are like rattle traps (loud and shiny) when we share the gospel and rattle traps are very effective lures. Some of us are like plastic worms (very slow and soft spoken) which are also very effective. In order for us to share the gospel to all men, then we must be willing to allow Christ to use all the lures.

I think sometimes we overthink this witnessing thing and begin to think that someone's eternity depends on our presentation or our technique. What if we don't say the right things or leave out something?

**John 12:32 “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself”**

The great news about the gospel of Jesus Christ is that it's not our responsibility to convince people to place their trust in Him. Jesus said “If I be lifted up I will draw all people to myself.”

Jesus making atonement for our sins is the greatest story ever told and His truth and His power don't rely on our presentation or speaking abilities.

**James 4:5 “Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”**

Remember in the beginning of this lesson when I asked you to think about someone in your life that you had seen sharing something about Christ with others. How many of those people do you think act the same, look the same, talk the same?

We are each unique and the Lord using all that to bear spiritual fruit. Most people would rather hear about Christ from a coworker, a neighbor or a friend than some smooth talking preacher.

Remember where the desire to make disciples and share our faith comes from! That yearning to tell others what Christ means to you comes straight from the Spirit of the living God.

You can share your faith and make disciples...

Jesus said we can and Jesus Is Lord.

Until we meet again, thank you for your service to the saints.