

When you hear the word evangelism... what comes to your mind?

“Evangelism is bearing witness to what God has done, is doing and will do in the world and in one’s life, engaging others in Spirit-dialogue and inviting people to faith.” • Adam Walker Cleaveland

SALT and LIGHT (Matthew 5:13-16)

Congratulations!

You have come to this training this weekend because you are interested in learning more about sharing your faith with your friends.

THAT IS SO GREAT!

First, check out this amazing teaching from Ephesians:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

We are all original masterpieces. We matter to God. He sent Jesus, his Son, to die on the cross to pay the penalty we never could. We’re saved by grace, through faith. We are adopted into his family and God becomes the perfect Father who loves us completely and unconditionally.

The story doesn’t end there.

We get to do great things for God’s kingdom. Not only are we saved from the despair of the world; we are saved to make a difference at our schools, in our families, and with our friends.

We get to make a difference.

God will do great things in your life as you discover what it means to be salt and light. We’re excited you’re thinking about this stuff. We’re praying for you. We’re cheering you on. We’re here to do anything we can to help.

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GETTING STARTED!!!

For most of us, talking to others about Jesus is tough.

We don’t know what to say, and no one likes to look dumb. Everyone fears rejection, and talking about God feels like one of these subjects that will end up isolating us from others. Why would Jesus call us to be the light in a dark world when it can be so tough?

Shining bright doesn’t begin with our mouth.

It starts in our heart, works its way out to our hands, and when the time is right, we need to speak up. Evangelism (sharing our faith with others) is a lifestyle, not a few isolated events.

Evangelism begins with a compassionate heart.

“When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

True compassion is expressed in servant action.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

To develop a compassionate heart, to become more like Jesus, we need to spend time with him. When we spend time with God through prayer and scripture, we will begin to see the world as he sees the world. As we develop our perspective, we discover practical ways to help people around us.

Evangelism isn’t about accosting strangers.

Christians aren’t called to be obnoxious and offensive. We are called to care for the world and to serve people around us. This is what Jesus did, and we’re called to follow his example.

SOME THINGS TO HELP YOU!!!

Talking to your friends ought to be real, natural, and personal:

- **REAL:** you don’t have to change who you are in order to share your faith
- **NATURAL:** it’s a part of the friendships you already have established
- **PERSONAL:** it’s all about sharing about what God has done in your life

Here are a series of “baby steps” to help you talk about Jesus to your friends:

1. Tell them that you are a Christian.
2. Invite your friend to a weekend service.
3. Talk about what you love about being a Christian.
4. Share your story about how you decided to begin taking God seriously.
5. Ask them if they want to know Jesus personally.

God uses ORDINARY PEOPLE to make an EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT for his kingdom:

"Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13)

How does this make you feel? What was the "secret" behind the confidence of Peter and John? How could you build that same thing into your own life?

SALT and LIGHT CHALLENGE

The Salt and Light Challenge is a commitment to change your world.

Why?

- Because Jesus lived a perfect life, died for the sins of the world and defeated death.
- Because most of the people we know don't believe Jesus is the savior we ALL need.
- Because we will grow closer to God when we talk about him with non-believers.

Sharing your faith with your friends doesn't happen in a single conversation. It's a lifestyle characterized by love. When we love like Jesus, we will have opportunities to talk about him.

The Salt and Light Challenge is a commitment to a process:

PRAY for five friends who don't know Jesus

SERVE them in practical ways

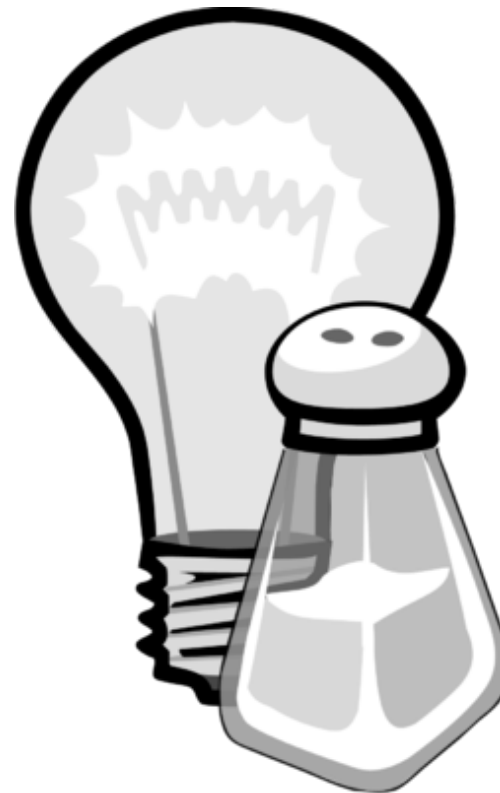
SPEAK UP when the time is right to have a spiritual conversation

Online Resources:

dare2share.org
fca.org

Google: One Verse Evangelism Plan for a great plan on sharing the Gospel

How to Reach Your School with the Gospel... While Being



SALT & LIGHT
Matthew 5:13-16