

NOVEMBER 2022

Coaching Tips

Tip #9 The Art of Sharing



WHY DO WE SHARE?

We left off in our journey through the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations at serving together. From there, we go to sharing. Why do we share? We share our faith in Jesus because we genuinely care about people and we know that Jesus can meet all of our deepest needs. So, where does that start?

The Institute of American Church Growth reported that almost 90% of 14,000 Christians polled said that they came to Christ through a friend or relative that invested in a relationship with them. Think about that for a second... almost 90%. Investing in a relationship with another is a key component to sharing. Now, as you understand who you are in the gospel, and as you develop intentional relationships with those around you... you begin to see others through the eyes of Jesus. And you begin to share your faith in Jesus because you genuinely love and care for the other person.

Scripture:

15 "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"

1 Peter 3:15



The problem is, we tend to view sharing as “selling them Jesus.” We sometimes think that the goal to share is “let’s get you to heaven” rather than “I would love for you to meet Jesus because He really loves you.” We need to treat others as people, not objects of a sale or a marketing ploy.

What are some barriers to sharing? Mary Schaller writes that we don’t share because 1. We’re unclear about our understanding of the gospel and how to explain our experience with God, 2. We are afraid we’ll get a negative response, 3. We think that evangelism is the job of the “professionals.”

How do we get around these barriers?

First, when the opportunity comes to share, what will you say? It’s a privilege to share our story of our experience with Jesus. But, be brief, clear, use common language (don’t use Christianese), and be humble and sincere. Perhaps place the structure of your story into this format: what were you like before knowing Jesus? How did you end up placing your trust in Jesus? What are you like now after becoming a follower of Jesus? Then, practice practice practice.

Also, continue to build your relationship with the other person. Even admitting that you don’t know all the answers can be something that can be turned into a positive as you offer to look for the answers with them. And lastly, God has given all of us the calling to share the gospel and to raise others up as disciples. As we share the gift of the gospel, our faith is actually strengthened. We become more and more convinced that God is indeed worth knowing, that He is the “pearl of great price.” And we want others to know Him, and so we share.

In next month’s coaching tip, we will include another way to share the gospel with others.



Practice: Developing Healthy Spiritual Rhythms

1. For you, what is the biggest hurdle to sharing your faith? Why?
2. Spend some time this week asking the question: what has knowing God added to my life? And then think through a brief, clear, using common language, way of sharing your faith journey.
3. Practice your story. And then pray for divine appointments. Be prepared to share.