

7 tips to share your faith

“All around you are people who hunger and thirst for God, although they may not even realize it. Will you point them to Christ, who alone can satisfy their deepest longings?”

~ Billy Graham

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14)

Tip #1 Build relationships

Really get to know the pre-believing friends that you have been praying for (if you don't already!). Find out their stories before talking about spiritual stuff with them. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting on the next steps to take.

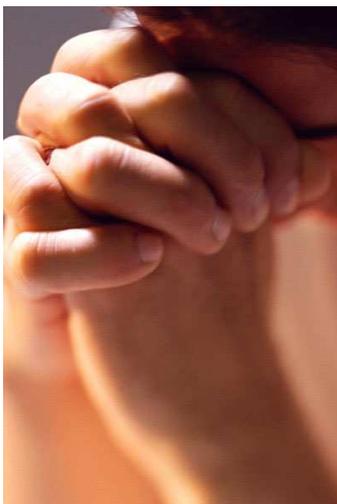


It could involve writing a note to encourage your friend, providing a book or a CD, having coffee, or simply spending time with them.

Ask God to fill you with His love for them and be genuinely interested in their lives. You are developing friendships and every act of kindness and love helps to sow seeds of faith in their lives.

Tip #2 Pray, pray and then pray some more

Pray must precede any effort to reach out to others with the Good News.



For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

What are the common lies that Satan uses?

- Becoming a Christian means restriction and loss of enjoyment in life.
- I can always think of God later in my life.
- I am a good person and doing ok in life. I don't see a need for God.

Hence we should pray for

- Boldness and opportunities to witness.
- Love for others
- God to remove spiritual obstacles and strongholds
- Specific individuals by name
- God to open they spiritual eyes (2 Corinthians 4:4) and set them free from spiritual captivity (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

Tip #3 Find your sharing style



Be prepared to seize every opportunity to share your faith. But remember the need to be sensitive, especially when dealing with people from other faiths and very different backgrounds.

- Listen; seek to understand
- Suspend judgment
- Show care and empathy

There are a few approaches to steer conversations into the spiritual waters.

- (a) Direct approach.
 - Conversation starters

- If you'd ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, I'd be happy to share with you.
 - I'm curious. Do you ever think about spiritual matters?
 - Who, in your opinion, is Jesus Christ?
 - What do you think a real Christian is?
- Conversation starters (for Christmas)
 - Do you think Christmas is over-rated?
 - What's the best thing that's happened to you since last Christmas?
 - What does Christmas mean to you?
 - What was your best Christmas ever? Why?
 - What's the most meaningful Christmas gift you've ever received?
 - What's the most appreciated Christmas gift you've ever given?
 - What's your favourite Christmas song? Why?
 - What was the strangest gift you've ever received?
 - Why do you think Jesus Christ was born?
 - How do you feel about Christmas being so commercialized?

(b) Indirect approach.

- Weaving God into the conversation in creative ways. Learn to be comfortable about mentioning "God", or "church" and even your ministry involvement.
 - Sorry, I'm not free on Tuesdays as I attend a small group in church.
 - I was really stressed up about this project and I am so glad that God answered my prayers.
 - I didn't like the way I used to flare up and asked god to help me with my anger issues

(c) Invitational approach.

- Invite people to seeker-sensitive events. Make sure these events are really seeker-sensitive, provide info on the events that people can hold on and read, and create time after the event to talk about it.
- Even if they say no, turn the situation to your advantage. Steer the conversation to find out more about their spiritual background.

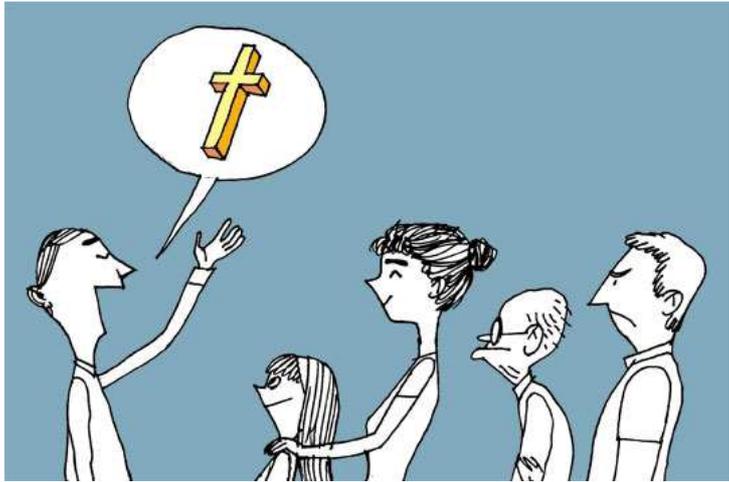
Tip #4 Learn how to share your story

“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15)

Be ready to share your before-and-after story with anyone and everyone who asks! Your story should be:

- Brief. Ideally can be told in a minute. Your listener can ask follow-up questions.
- Clear and simple. Don't use religious jargon.
- Real and humble. Mention one or two areas of your life that Christ is still refining. Nobody has “arrived” and it's important to acknowledge this reality.

Prepare and share your story with your small group members to get some feedback!



Here is a guide to help you pen down your own before-and-after story. Your story can be told in 3 parts:

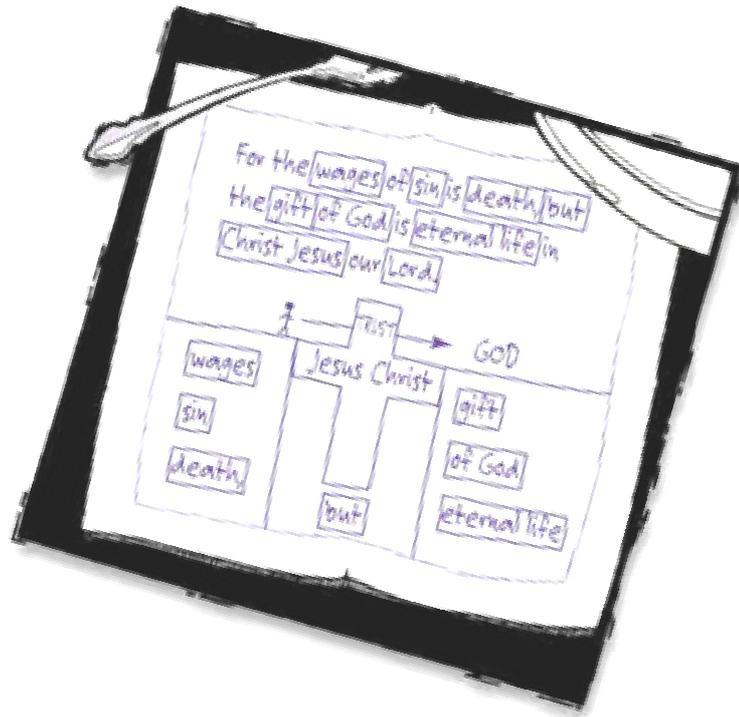
- Your “Before”
 - What type of person were you before you met Christ? Think of an adjective that best summarizes your “before” state. If you came to faith at a young age, consider how you would describe what you were like prior to developing a thriving, more mature relationship with Christ.
- Your Encounter with Christ
 - Describe the circumstances that caused you to submit your life to Jesus Christ.
 - What life stage were you in?
 - What input did you receive that finally triggered your desire to ask Christ into your life?
 - What was the most significant thing about your making this decision?
- Your “After”
 - What is the primary difference that Christ has made in your life? How has your life changed since then?

Tip #5 Learn how to share God's story

Prepare a simple way to share the Good News with your friend. Pick up a tract like “Why Christmas?” which you can use to share why we believe in Jesus. Practise a simple illustration like “The Bridge”, “Do vs Done” or “Two Ways to Live”. You can google them to get some good ideas on how to present it in a way that you find natural.

(a) The Bridge

- Draw two horizontal lines, making two columns. Write God on the right side line and draw a little stick figure on the left.
- Explain about the separation between the person and God.
- Draw two vertical lines from the inside of the horizontal lines to show a cliff of separation. (Romans 3:23)
- Explain that people try to reach God through all sorts of means. Ask the person you are talking with to share what things they have tried to do to reach God.
- Draw a cross that bridges the gap while sharing how Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8). This gift is free (Ephesians 2:8-9). We can believe and receive (John 1:12). This is showing God's solution to the problem of our separation.
- Ask the person, “Where would you put yourself on this drawing?” That helps you to discern where that person is spiritually, and helps to suggest the next part of the conversation. Perhaps there is something to debate, discuss, or an objection to resolve. Perhaps the person wants more time to consider what is being said.



(b) Do vs Done

- Religion is spelt D-O, and is all about trying to DO enough to please God. The trouble is, we don't know if we ever do enough, and the Bible tells us we can never do enough (Romans 3:23).
- Christianity is spelled D-O-N-E. Jesus has done what we could never do. He lived the perfect life and died on the cross to pay for all the wrong things we have done.
- But it's not enough just to know this; we have to receive what he has done; we have to ask Jesus to forgive us and be our Lord and Saviour.
- Ask your friend what they think, whether they understand the difference, and if they see the need for Jesus.

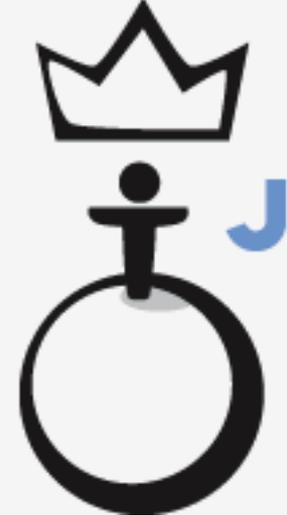
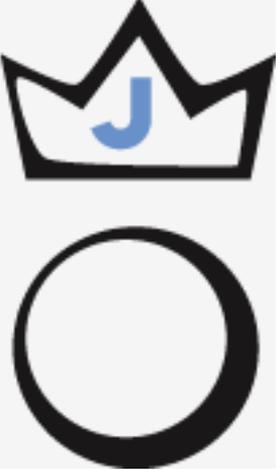
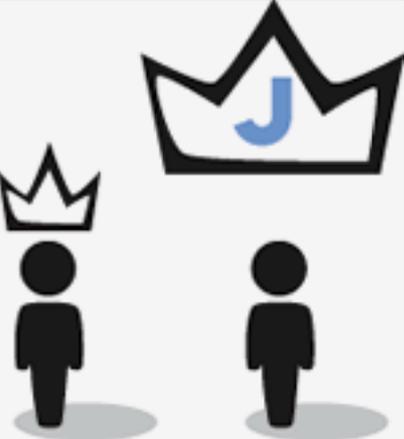
(c) Two Ways to Live

(<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/> for more details)

- This method uses 6 simple boxes to present the gospel. At the end of the presentation, it gives the listener an opportunity to ask questions about the claims made in any of

the boxes, and creates opportunities to have a continued conversation.

	<p>God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world He made us rulers of the world under him.</p> <p><i>You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (Rev 4:11)</i></p> <p>But is that the way it is now?</p>
	<p>We all reject the ruler – God – by trying to run our own way without him. But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.</p> <p><i>There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no-one who understands, no-one who seeks God. All have turned away. (Romans 3:10-12)</i></p> <p>What will God do about this rebellion?</p>
	<p>God won't let us rebel forever. God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgment.</p> <p><i>Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)</i></p> <p>God's justice sounds hard. But ...</p>

	<p>Because of his love, God sent his son into the world: the man Jesus Christ. Jesus always lived under God's rule. Yet by dying in our place, he took our punishment and brought forgiveness.</p> <p><i>Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)</i></p> <p>But that's not all ...</p>
	<p>God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world. Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life, and will return to judge.</p> <p><i>In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)</i></p> <p>Well, where does that leave us?</p>
	<p>We have two ways to live:</p> <p>A. Our Way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reject the ruler - Run life our own way - Condemned by God - Facing death and judgment <p>B. God's Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit to Jesus as ruler - Rely on Jesus' death and resurrection. - Forgiven by God - Given eternal life

	<p><i>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)</i></p> <p>Which of this represents the way you want to live?</p>
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Tip #6 Crossing the finishing line

You can ask simple questions that can lead to a commitment

- Transition. Does what we have been discussing make sense to you?
- Willingness. Is there any reason why you would not want to accept this gift of salvation?
- Commitment. Are you ready to place your faith in Jesus Christ?



Should you friend be ready, you can lead them through a simple prayer comprising the following elements, or use a pray readily available in a tract like *Why Christmas?*.

- Saying sorry for the wrong things that they have done and committing to now turn away from them.
- Thanking Jesus for dying on the cross and forgiving their sins.
- Asking Jesus to be their personal Lord and Saviour.

You can pray aloud and ask your friend to repeat after you.

Tip #7 What's Next?

If your friend has received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, don't stop there! Continue to walk with your friends as they begin a new journey as a disciple of Christ. Invite them to join you in church and in your small group. Look out for the next Alpha course where you can accompany them as they find out more about their new faith.

If there is no response or decision made, do not be discouraged. We are called to be faithful in sowing the seeds, and the gospel is to be shared with, and not forced upon others. Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work in your friend to bring them closer to the point where their spiritual eyes will be open. (2 Corinthians 4:4) and they will acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray for even more opportunities to be part of this process.