

How to share your faith

Books and courses abound on sharing our faith, so I'm not going to go into details. Here are a few things I believe are important:

- Be genuine and love the person, don't try to cram Jesus down their throats—that doesn't work with anyone, Jews or Gentiles.
- Listen at least as much as you talk. When you show you care and you ask their thoughts, then many times that will open people's hearts to the gospel.
- Asking questions is a great way to start a conversation, because most people like to talk, especially about themselves. Then make sure you listen to them and don't argue with them.
 - One question I often ask people is "What can I pray for you?" If it is appropriate, I will ask if I can pray for them right then. Some people are eager for prayer, others aren't. Be sensitive. It works well when I'm out to eat, because I can say, "We are going to pray for our food, what can we pray for you?" Most of the time people will share something. Often that opens a door to share more.
- You might share part of your testimony. If you've been through something they experienced (which you found out as you listened!), then share how God or your faith helped you. Like my Jewish cardiologist said, "I can't argue with anyone's testimony." This was after I told him how God had healed me and I wanted to get off a medicine he had said I would need to take for the rest of my life.

Don't be pushy, because that usually pushes people away from the Lord and closes the door for you to share.

Discovering a Personal Relationship with God

If you don't yet have a personal relationship with God, congratulations on taking a giant step in your search. I've had a relationship with God for many years. It has been the most exciting adventure of my life—and I have traveled all over the world and had some amazing adventures. I encourage you to get to know Him. It is well worth it.

Consider the following:

Note: each verse is from the New International Version.

Romans 3:23 explains that we "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." We can't have a relationship with God on our own.

Romans 6:23 tells us that as a result of sin in our lives, there is a price to be paid—death. But instead of death, God wants to give us a gift—"eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." He trades our sins for the gift of getting to live with Him forever. I say that's a very good trade for us!

John 3:16 sheds light on how much God loves us, how desperately He wants to give us this gift of living with Him forever. We see the sacrifice He made so He could give us this gift. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 10:9 explains there are two simple things you and I need to do in order to receive this gift: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Confess just means to speak out that Jesus is Lord.

Do these truths resonate with you? If you haven’t yet trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can do so right now, by praying a prayer like the following (you can use whatever words you want):

Dear Lord, I realize I’m a sinner and need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising again the third day from the dead. I now confess all my sins and repent. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for saving me and making me right with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Look what happens in Heaven the moment we put our trust in Jesus. Luke 15:7 says, “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” How do you respond to that?

There’s no pressure to trust God immediately. He’s not in a hurry, although He would love to talk with you anytime. If you trusted Jesus as your Savior just now, congratulations. Now I encourage you to do some things:

- Get a modern Bible at a Christian bookstore (if you don’t already have one) so you can read God’s love-letters to you in familiar, contemporary language. As you read, you’ll gain wonderful insights into who God is and the wonderful plans He has for you. A good place to start reading is in the book of John.
- Find a Bible-believing church where you can learn and grow.
- Email me at gaylyn@RelationshipResources.org.

Feel free to email me if you just trusted Jesus as your Savior, so I can pray for you and help you in any way I can as you start your new life! Even if you’re not sure about the whole concept, I’d love to hear from you. We can begin a dialogue with no pressure at all.