



How can I tell someone about Jesus?

One of the assignments the confirmation students have is to "interview" some of the leaders of the congregation. They ask some questions that I came up with for them like, *"What suggestions do you have for me about how to keep my faith - even during tough times?"* But I also require them to come up with at least one question on their own. The above question is one of those.

Here are some of the responses they received:

"By your actions"

It's been said, *"You may be the only Bible your neighbor ever reads."*

i.e. The only way many people will know about Jesus is from what they observe of people who follow Jesus. It's important for them to see that as Christians we are different - in positive ways, not weird ways.

Take a sincere interest in the people around you...

In Philippians 2:20 the Apostle Paul lifted up his friend Timothy as an example of someone who had a *"genuine interest"* in the welfare of people - as opposed to so many others who only *"look out for their own interests."*

Again, it's been said, *"People don't care how much you know about Jesus ... until they know how much you care about them."*

Jesus cared enough about us to die for us. When the rest of the people in someone's life are "looking out for their own interests" you will certainly catch that person's attention when you show that you genuinely care.

Genuine care doesn't have to be difficult.

Simple is good:

- Take someone a meal when they are going through a tough time.
- Offer to watch their kids one night, so they can go out on a date.
- Offer to pray for them with a comment like, *"I know how much it helps me when people tell me they are praying for me, would it be ok if I kept you in my prayers?"*
- Invite them to come to church with you - offer to pick them up (and maybe even promise brunch afterward).
- Invite them to a smaller-group church function - something less "formal" than worship like a Mother-Daughter luncheon, a Bible study, crafting day, a church softball game, a youth lock-in or movie night or a picnic, etc... In these informal settings it's sometimes easier to get to know some of the people in church (and hopefully discover that followers of Jesus really aren't a bunch of weirdoes).

Pray for God to give you an opportunity...

That's a prayer you can bet that He will answer. He wants more than anything for people to get to know Him, so they can trust Him with their life.

The challenge for us is to have our eyes open to *see* those opportunities and be ready for them.

Maybe the best thing about recent movies like *Son of God*, and *God's Not Dead* and *Heaven is For Real* is that they provide non-threatening conversation starters (as well as maybe a place to invite someone).

Movies are a natural topic of conversation. You could say something like

"I just went to see _____ the other day. It really got me to thinking" or "It made me dig out my Bible to see if..." Then just let the Holy Spirit lead from there.

Ken Davis... "Is this the sign?" Give me another one..

All of these things fall into the category of "pre-witness." At some point in time, you have to actually TELL someone about Jesus, so as Peter says, "Always be prepared to give reason for the hope you have."

Prepare yourself by writing out your answer to questions like: What difference has Jesus made in my life? And how - specifically - have I seen God work in my life? (People can't argue with personal experience.)

The confirmation students will be giving us their answers to these questions on Sunday, May 11 during worship. I'd invite you to hear what they have to say.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net