

BRING PREPARED

HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY?

Love your neighbour

“...And if someone asks you about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.” 1 Peter 3:15b, 16a

Now, have you ever received a phone call, or had someone come to your door trying to “sell” you something? You know what we mean, “the pitch.” You can feel the salesperson gearing up, ready to launch in their well-rehearsed, information packed speak. This puts us on the defense psychologically. We get that “what do you want from me?” feeling and start tuning out.

I think the idea of faith being shared in that same way makes a lot of us squirmy and uncomfortable. So, contrast that feeling with a time someone gave you their full and undivided attention in a conversation, showed genuine interest in getting to know you. How did that feel? Were you wary? Anxious? On-edge? Probably not. Most likely you walked away feeling heard and encouraged, and you probably liked that person a little more afterwards.

There is a clear difference between these two types of interactions. One is a conversation, or an “exchange.” The other is a one-sided “pitch”. Even though what someone is trying to sell or share might be really great and improve your life, the way that they’re going about it communicates a particular message. This is because of the assumptions and motivations behind each approach.

Sharing your faith like a “sales pitch” doesn’t give opportunity for you to listen, understand and allow others to ask questions. The conversation is often one sided, and people may feel like the only reason you are investing in relationship is to “win them” over, not because you genuinely care for them. However, when you share your faith in an “exchange,” people will feel listened to, valued and cared for. They will be able to share their perspective, and give you an opportunity to share your perspective. This type of relationship and conversation is a journey, and an investment in people’s lives, long term.

There are actually 3 different stories at play when we encounter someone that doesn’t know Jesus - Our Story, Their Story and God’s Story. Our job is to listen to other people’s stories and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be attentive to where His story shows up in theirs. As we build points of connection, we open the door to share God’s work in our lives and our story.

If you don’t know how to share your story, follow this simple format. Take some time this week to write out your story!

My life before I met Christ- Write some details like who were you? What did you do? How did you think? What did you feel? Try to remember your life before knowing Jesus!

How I met Christ- Give some details! What circumstances were happening in your life? Who was influential in your decision to follow Jesus? How did you feel?

My life after meeting Christ- What changes happened in your life? How did you feel as a result? What areas is God still working in you?