



htb

# RESOURCES

SHARING IS CARING

# CONTENTS



The focus of this series is to explore how we prepare ourselves for sharing our faith. Is it a good idea? Is it helpful?

How do we resource ourselves for the eventuality that we will encounter people who want to know more about the faith we have?

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## 03

WEEK 1  
SHARING:  
GENTLENESS &  
RESPECT

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## 05

WEEK 2  
SHARING: FAMILY-  
FRIENDS-WORKPLACE

---

## 07

WEEK 3  
SHARING:  
THE WORLD

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# WEEK 1

## SHARING: GENTLENESS & RESPECT

When was the last time you shared your faith?

How did it feel? Did you consider it successful? How do you measure that success?

### ICE-BREAKER

As a group watch Tim Keller's first session on sharing faith with people who have barriers to exploring faith: The Reason for God Session 01 ([CLICK HERE](#) to watch)

### REFLECT

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander..

Explore this passage in 3s and 4s and consider what are the barriers/enablers to make this ideal achievable.

1. What does it mean to give an answer in 1 Peter 3:15? Does one need to be an apologist or have a Bible degree to do this well?
2. What might you say to a co-worker, family member, or friend asked you what your reason for the hope that is in you?
3. What can it look like this week for you to better prepare yourself for when someone asks you about your hope? Or, how can you expose your hope in such a way as to warrant questions from unbelievers?

# WEEK 1

## SHARING: GENTLENESS & RESPECT

### RESPOND

The passage tells us that we first need to revere Christ as Lord. If we enshrine or enthrone Jesus in our heart, we place him first in our values. We make him distinctively foremost in our lives.

It is our responsibility to “set apart” or enshrine God in our hearts. That makes us a “sanctifier” or a ‘reverer’(!) No one else can do this for you. Only you can set apart. Your parents cannot do this for you. Your wife cannot do this for you. Your husband cannot “set apart” Christ in your heart. This is your decision. You come to cross-roads in your life when you make this decision. We come to realise that Christ was our entire life, not just a portion of it.

It is with this in mind that we are then able to share the reason for the hope we have in Jesus in a way that Jesus would have done.

How can we make sure that we share Jesus in a manner that Jesus would?

Take some time to pray for each other and reflect on how reverently we have held Jesus in recent times.

### RECEIVE

Name 3 friends that you’d love to see come to know Jesus. Spend some time praying for them and write their names down, return to this list in the week daily and think creatively how you may share the reason for the hope that you have with gentleness and respect.

# WEEK 2

## SHARING: FRIENDS, FAMILY, WORKPLACE

Last session we had an overview on sharing our faith with 'gentleness and respect'. Today we are going to workshop ideas on sharing faith in families, friendship groups and workplaces.

### REFLECT

As a group watch Amy Orr Ewing discuss how we show our faith and some of the barriers to sharing faith. Sharing Your Faith: Embarrassing, Inappropriate and Unprofessional | Amy Orr-Ewing ([CLICK HERE](#))

Ken Costa writes: "The workplace is the coalface where faith is tested and sharpened by day-to-day encounters with the ambiguities and stresses of modern commerce. Our faith is tested when we recognise our weaknesses at work and we learn more about our hard and soft spots in our working relationships, precisely because we cannot always choose the people with whom we work. We are tested and we interact – testily or graciously – with colleagues, or press our own selfishness ahead of the common good." - God at Work

In what ways have you found this to be true? How have you felt in moments of 'testing' or 'sharpening' in the work place?

### RESPOND

Acts 13:42-49:

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." (CONTINUES NEXT PAGE)

# WEEK 2

## SHARING: FRIENDS, FAMILY, WORKPLACE

### RESPOND

Acts 13:42-49: (CON'T)

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

Taking this verse, what were the steps before that lead to Paul and Barnabas being able to communicate the gospel?

Think about invitation 'the people invited them to speak further', not rushing anything (On the next Sabbath = a week later), preaching not their own interest but God's own words from scripture 'For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles,..."'

Of these things, which do you find the most difficult?

How can you develop this way of sharing your faith practically?

As individuals, reflect on the people in your work place, place of study etc. We will all have 'gentiles' in our life who are ready to hear the good news. Ask the Lord if there is anyone that he wants you to share your faith with. Note down these names and be mindful for when you next see them.

### RECEIVE

As a group take an opportunity to pray for the people that have come to mind. Pray for opportunities to share your faith and anything you can do, to practically love those people.

## WEEK 3 SHARING: THE WORLD

The past two sessions have been primarily about sharing our faith in word and deed and this session is about sharing Jesus with the world, with our whole world.

### REFLECT

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

How could the way we live, not just speak, lead people to Jesus?

As a group watch: An Interview with L'Arche founder Jean Vanier. ([CLICK HERE](#))

As you watch it, note down any challenges you find in how you share faith, compared to the radical living of Jean Vanier and his team.

In 3s and 4s after the video, share your personal challenges you noted throughout the film. Spend time trying to collate these challenges into two or three statements.

What would you need to do differently tomorrow to make these challenges apply to your life?

### RESPOND

Service and evangelism go hand in hand. Acts 6:1-4 = “In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” How we communicate service must be fueled by the Spirit of God and His wisdom.

In what ways could your connect group be a beacon of light, sacrificially serving the neighbourhood where you meet?

### RECEIVE

As a group pray for your neighbourhood. Seek to bless individuals and confront issues that people in your area might be facing (remember: our war is not against flesh and blood). Don't be afraid to get passionate!