



MISSIONS UPDATE

"For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

"If you knew something that would save a person's life, would you tell them?" asked an 18-year-old stranger who was recently saved. His fiery passion was impressive. It seems like a simple question, and yet it doesn't feel simple. We often don't feel prepared, but of all the stories that we watch and tell, the Nativity Story is the only one that matters. God so loved the world that he sent us Jesus to redeem us! The Christmas season provides an incredible opportunity to share your faith with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and yes, even strangers! A holiday with the word "Christ" in it that the entire world already knows about, even though many don't believe in Jesus. It's easy to stay in our lane and avoid speaking about faith outside our own safe circles. But God didn't send His Son to be hidden away. He wants the whole world to know the depth of His love for us! But how do we do that?

BABY STEPS


Coming on too strong is off-putting! Inviting someone to church might be too aggressive. Instead, ask questions to learn where someone stands with religion so you'll know how to proceed. Avoid insider questions using terminology only a Christian would understand, like "sinner," "crucified" and "salvation." True or not, complex or shocking language may elicit a response, but probably not the kind you're looking for.

COMMON GROUND

Discussing pop culture like Christmas music and movies, holiday meals and traditions, etc. is a great way to not only find common ground, but to learn about other people and identify opportunities to go deeper. Christmas music with religious lyrics is often played alongside secular music, so commenting on words that are meaningful to you is a way to subtly share your testimony.

RECONNECTING

The holidays gives opportunities to connect with people you have not seen or heard from in a long time. When asked what you've been up to, what inspired that change in job or career, how you are navigating your grief or illness, etc., our responses should convey our reliance on the Lord's leading, his healing power, his love and his graciousness.



Do you have a specific person in your life that you feel led to share your faith with but are unsure how to proceed? Are you interested in practical tips for how you can approach evangelism? Contact missions_board@egcchurch.org or let a board member know what help you need so we can support you.

CAN I REALLY POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS?

Yes, you can! We are all links in a chain - our God places people in our path just so we can touch their lives and vice versa. We are called to share the simple truth of salvation with everyone we can, with childlike enthusiasm. Without Jesus guiding our spirit, we are merely drones, allowing our circumstances to dictate how we spend our time. If we are kept perpetually busy and distracted, then we won't present a threat to our spiritual enemies!

Give God the Glory:

All good things come from above, so we should make that known!

- Examples: "I was afraid, but the Lord provided," "The only explanation is God was at work," "I couldn't have endured without my faith" or "God knew what I needed better than I did."

Ask Questions:

Conversations about faith can start over the smallest commentary

- Examples: "What is your faith background?," "Have you attended a church locally?," "Have you ever read parts of the Bible?," "Do you know many practicing Christians?," "What is your view of Christianity?," or "Do you believe Jesus is who he said he was?"

Casual Conversation:

Practice incorporating your faith into everyday conversation

- Examples: "I've been praying about it," "Sunday morning we'll be at church," "I attend a church near there," "We talked about that recently at Bible Study," or "Praise God, he answered my prayer!"

Permission to Pray:

Genuinely offering prayer blesses both people and opens doors

- Examples: "That sounds hard, would it be okay to add that to my prayer list?" or "I'm adding co-workers/neighbors to my prayers, is there anything troubling you?," or "Can I pray with you?" if led.

Don't assume people will be uncomfortable having discussions about faith! As long as you are not forcing your beliefs on them, acting superior, or passing judgment, the dialogue can be very revealing. You may find that there are more Christians out there than you think and that people are open to the Gospel, but what they see about Christianity is often unbecoming.

**"I HAVE MADE YOU A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY
BRING SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. ACTS 13:47"**