

How to Share Jesus with Others

Lesson 5: Sharing the Gospel

In the last lesson, we studied Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus and the importance of experiencing Jesus's transformational power in our lives, being born again, baptized, and receiving the Holy Spirit. In all this, we begin to hunger for the Spirit's direction in our lives, instead of following the desires of our flesh. How God thinks and feels about us becomes far more valuable than how the world thinks, and in this, our lives begin to change. For some of us, this happens suddenly, while for others, this may be a long and winding journey. Regardless of our story, each of us are a journey of growth and change to become more like Christ. As we experience Jesus's Spirit more and more and see him working in our lives, we become convinced of what we've seen and heard and begin sharing our faith and stories of God with others! Over time, we even lose any sense of fear of what others think about us because our stories of going from darkness to light are powerful and help others recognize their own darkness and need for Jesus's light. Once we get a taste of being used by God in this way, we'll never want to go back to the world. That's why Philemon 6 says that sharing our faith allows us to understand every good thing that is in us through Christ. As we begin to see this response in others, we can know and understand that the Lord is drawing that person to himself. In this way, we know who to pour into as we pour out our lives for the Gospel.

As you're getting to know your new friends, we encourage you to pray that the Lord will open the door to a spiritual conversation. Perhaps you use some of the topics from the Meaningful Conversation handout we shared last week, or you can share your interests in spiritual things like, "I enjoy reading the Bible," "I attend an online Bible discussion on Fridays," or "I love going to church on weekends because Jesus has really impacted my life." From there, you can ask your friend if they're spiritual or if they've ever read the Bible. You can also introduce your testimony by saying, "May I tell you my spiritual story?" As you are getting to know your friend more personally, your friend may also share a personal struggle or challenge with you that you can relate to. So, another way to transition into a spiritual conversation is saying something like, "I can really relate to what you're saying. In the past, I struggled with that too, but I discovered Jesus, and he really changed me. May I tell you my story?" Most people don't mind hearing a personal story and will gladly allow you to share something important and meaningful in your life. You can also use the conversation topics from the [Meaningful Conversations](#) handout to help you!

Based on the homework from last week, talk about a time this week when you shared your testimony with a new friend or an old friend who doesn't know Jesus. Discuss their reaction to what you shared.

If you had trouble last week sharing your testimony, share that struggle. Maybe you didn't make the time, perhaps you were fearful, or you couldn't find a way to bring up the topic. Discuss your challenges, so we can help you and pray for you.

Introducing the Gospel

Introducing the Gospel is easier than you might think. If your person is spiritual, invite them to share about it by saying, "Tell me about your spiritual journey." If your friend isn't spiritual, then go deeper with questions like, "Did you grow up in a spiritual home?" or "What's kept you from seeking God? Tell me more about that." If people are honest, they all have a spiritual story, one that has led them toward God

or away from him. Knowing a person's story will help you know how to relate or what to share next. If your friend had a bad church experience, show compassion for their pain but assure them that Jesus still wants a relationship with them, even if people have failed them. The focus of your conversation should be on Jesus and his Word, not church and people.

If a person is truly not open, they will most likely change the subject, tell you they're not interested, or start an argument and close their ears to what you have to say. But just because they don't immediately show an interest in Jesus doesn't mean that the Lord isn't drawing them to himself. Pray about what to share with them and listen well to what they say. Take time to get to know the spiritual side of your friend and use the last section on Religion and Beliefs in the Meaningful Conversations handout to guide you. Initially, use a combination of topics and questions to get to know your friend. Remember, too much too quickly can push your friend away. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, love, and sensitivity to what your friend needs.

Open the [Meaningful Conversations](#) handout and look at the various topics offered and how they bridge into spiritual conversations. Visit the last section on Religion and Beliefs for more ideas!

Introducing Gospel

At some point during the first few meetings with your friend, you'll want to share the Gospel. Don't feel like you have to share the Gospel right away, but waiting too long can make transitioning into the Gospel more difficult. To do this, you can simply ask your friend, "Have you ever heard about Jesus or read the Bible?" Many people may not know the term "Gospel," but most people have heard the name "Jesus" and the term "Bible." If they say, "Yes," ask them what they learned. You can then say, "Do you mind if I share a little bit about Jesus with you?" We've made this process simple and have placed on our website a brief Connect the Nations Gospel video called ["Where Can I Find Meaning in Life?"](#) that you can share with your friend. Videos are very powerful and give people a visual of what you're sharing. You can also watch this video a few times to learn the key points to share in conversation. You can access the video on the [Explore](#) page of our the E2T2 curriculum under the ["What Does the Bible Say?" Gospel Brochure and Video](#) section.

Take a few minutes to watch this video. Write and share the key points you learn about the Gospel.

Going Deeper

If your friend is interested in learning more about Jesus and the Bible, we also offer on the same page a [Connect the Nations Gospel Brochure](#) that's been translated into multiple languages, thanks to our generous partners. This brochure is designed to answer some of the common questions people have about life and God, and you can study this brochure to learn more about how to answer those questions when others ask you. We've put together a [Gospel brochure instructional video](#) on how to fold and use this brochure as you reach out to friends and family. Scroll down the webpage above page to watch this video.

Take a few minutes to watch this video also. Write and share the key points you learn about the brochure and how to use it when reaching out to others about Jesus. Share any questions you have.

Open the Gospel brochure and discuss the layout. Read the cover and the headings and highlights of each section. Note the scriptures listed at the end of each section.

While you can always give people you meet this brochure if you don't have time to build a friendship, we want to emphasize that relationship building is the best way to make Christ followers the way Jesus asks us to. These tools are provided to support you in the process, and the more you use them, the stronger you will be in sharing the Gospel with or without the tools!

Now What?

Once you've found a friend who is genuinely interested in learning more about Jesus, Connect the Nations offers numerous tools and studies to help your friend to become Jesus's follower. The best way to invite your friend into these studies is to ask them, "Do you want to study the Bible together?" or "I have a Bible study that talks about that issue or topic. Do you want to do the study together?" If your friend has never read the Bible, you can begin by reading one of the Gospels together or verses and stories that relates to their needs. As they begin to express other needs and questions, you can move into Connect the Nations studies that best suit them. Once your friend expresses his desire to learn what it means to follow Jesus, we offer a ["What does the Bible say?" Study Guide](#) found on the [Explore](#) page of our website. This study guide is an in-depth walk through the brochure and includes most of the passages listed inside it. This study will allow your friend to journey step by step into what it means to truly follow Jesus!

Our E2T2 curriculum is continually growing and stands for **E**xplore, **E**xperience, **T**ransform, and **T**estify. The program is uniquely designed to address many needs that people genuinely have along their spiritual journey. As you open the [Explore](#) page, you'll notice a few classes, including [TalkEnglish Program](#), which is an English through the Bible program to help your international friends practice English while studying the book of John. This program is also designed to help people become true followers of Jesus, and many of the concepts found in our Gospel brochure are already in this program! *God is Our Perfect Father* helps people overcome false views of God or hurts from their own fathers and helps them to understand God's loving nature. The *Evidence for Jesus* class is a great class for scientists and skeptics who want evidence for their faith. We highly recommend reading and sharing our *Persia in the Bible* study designed specifically for Iranians who wish to learn more about the Bible. On the [Experience](#) page, we have some great studies on prayer, but we'll be adding more studies soon! On the [Transform](#) page of our website, we also offer several helpful "Healing Handouts" with verses on *My Identity in Christ*, *The Promises of God*, and *Physical Healing*, as well as studies on anxiety, relationships, and overcoming sin. The [Testify](#) section offers numerous written and video testimonies in the areas of miracles, spiritual encounters, spiritual transformation, and salvation. If you have a powerful personal testimony, be sure to send it to us through our Share Your Testimony portal on the main Testify page!

Take a few minutes to look at each section and the key studies that can address questions and the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of your friends.

This website is designed to equip you not only in your own relationship with Jesus but to help you share your faith and study the Bible with your friends so they too can become genuine and healthy followers! Once you help a few people, you can then learn how to grow your own local house church or Bible study. Just visit the [Testify Classes](#) page to learn more!

Praying for Your Friend

We highly recommend begin praying with your friend very soon after you've met them and engaged in some level of spiritual conversation. Prayer is inviting the Holy Spirit to move in the life of your friend

according to the needs they share with you. Pray for them with love and faith, and expect the Holy Spirit to move! Praying with your friend allows them to hear how you pray. Most people have never heard a friend pray for them in a way that moves the heart of God. Your personal relationship with Jesus, your faith, and your intimate style of prayer will impact their hearts, as will your love and genuine care for them. Continue to pray for your friend regularly in your personal times with Jesus. Pray that your friend will encounter Jesus through visions, dreams, and miracles and that they will sense Jesus's peace and love. Pray that they will be drawn to reading God's Word and depending on Jesus in prayer. And be sure to reach out to us if you need help or have questions along the way. We would love to join you in prayer for your friends and help them to grow spiritually. At any time, you can refer people to our website for the Gospel video, brochure, classes, and testimonies to strengthen their faith! These testimonies are powerful and can help people experience Jesus even when we're not with them.

Do you have anyone on your mind right now that you want us to pray for before we close? Let's pray for them!

This Week:

1. Practice printing and folding the [Connect the Nations Gospel Brochure](#). Watch the video again for instructions or read the instructions on the webpage. Keep these brochures with you when you are out or meeting with friends.
2. Read each section of the [Connect the Nations Gospel Brochure](#). Summarize each section in your own words and look at the verses at the end of each section if you have any questions.
3. Continue reaching out to the friends you've been meeting or ones you already know. Engage in spiritual conversations, share with them a personal testimony of how Jesus has touched your life, and introduce them to the Gospel. Continue reviewing the [Meaningful Conversations](#) handout for ideas!
4. Continue praying for your friends and reading more about Jesus in the Gospels.