

Share Your Faith with Words

Share Your Faith – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – December 2, 2012

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

1 Peter 3:15b (NIV) 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,

1. _____ to God

1A. _____ God's direction

Acts 8:26 (NIV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

1B. Expect _____ appointments

Acts 8:27-28 (NIV) So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.

1C. _____ the Spirit's guidance

Acts 8:29 (NIV) The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

2. _____ God's truth

2A. Begin with a _____

Acts 8:30 (NIV) Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

2B. Listen to their _____

Acts 8:31-34 (NIV) "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter ..." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

2C. Begin where _____ at

Acts 8:35 (NIV) Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

3. _____ God to move

3A. Expect the person to be _____

Acts 8:36 (NIV) As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

3B. Expect the person to be _____

Acts 8:38-39 (NIV) And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Share Your Faith with Words Study Guide

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Intro. Do you find it easy or difficult to talk to others about spiritual matters?
Why?

In what ways could you prepare to share your faith with others (1 Peter 3:15)?

Why must our actions be supported by our words in order for an effective sharing of our faith (Matthew 5:16)?

1A. Why do you think that God's directions often only give us our next step (Acts 8:26)?

1B. Explain your understanding of what a divine appointment is (Acts 8:27-28)?

1C. How do you think you can grow in learning to hear the Holy Spirit's guidance (Acts 8:29)?

Is there anyone you feel God is leading you to share your faith with?

2A. Why do you think that Philip and Jesus often began a conversation with a question (Acts 8:30)?

2B. Explain why listening to the person you desire to share your faith with is so important (Acts 8:31-34)?

2C. Why is it important to begin where a person is at spiritually, rather than where you want to take them (Acts 8:35)?

In what ways are all the Scriptures about Jesus (Luke 24:27)?

3A. Why is baptism an important first step for a new believer (Acts 8:36, Acts 2:38)?

3B. Explain the importance of baptism after a person believes compared to infant baptism (Acts 8:38-39)

In what ways could sharing your faith lead someone closer to God, even if they did not become a believer immediately?

What changes in your life do you feel God is asking of you in preparation for sharing your faith more effectively?