



EVERYDAY CHURCH
(4) Everyday sharing of Jesus
1 Peter 3.

Opening up! Connecting with each other.

Share with one another a time when you just had to tell others about some good news.

You might like also to share whether last week's study has had an effect on your thinking or living during the past week.

Listening in!

Introduction

Some people are natural evangelists. They somehow regularly get into conversations about Jesus in a natural way. For most of us it is much harder talking about something that is deeply personal. Living in an increasingly non-Christian culture many people have little knowledge of the Bible, so talk of faith, sin and God can make it difficult as well. Yet here are 6 reasons for sharing Jesus:

- (1) The love of God – his love is not just for us.
- (2) The command of Jesus who said 'go and make disciples'. God is looking for others to join us in living out his purpose and plan for the world.
- (3) The responsibility of the church – we are ambassadors for Christ (1 Corinthians 5.20).
- (4) It is a Christian's privilege - we have received mercy (2 Cor.4.1) and so we have the privilege of carrying the Good News.
- (5) The need of all people to know Jesus (Ephesians 2.1; Revelation 3.14-21) as well as the transformation Jesus brings with healing and wholeness to people and places.
- (6) The joy of Jesus. When people met Jesus so often there was joy. Andrew, Peter and Zacchaeus were filled with joy on meeting Jesus; joy is also a theme in kingdom stories such as the pearl of great price, the hidden treasure and the prodigal's return. 'In his presence is joy for ever more' (Psalm 16.11). It's a joy to share, and what we share brings joy.

- Read 1 Peter 3 and then verses 15 and 16 a second time.

Looking out!

In Colossians 4.5 Paul spoke of making the most of every opportunity.

- How does 1 Peter 3 help us to do that in terms of attractive lives and helpful words?
- How and when do we feel there are opportunities to share our faith? (Do experiences of sickness, death, disaster, loneliness, disappointment, resentment, regret etc. give opportunities?) If you can, give examples of what has worked and maybe even what hasn't, and then reflect on any lessons that can be learned.
- How can our church as a community proclaim the Good News (1 Peter 2.12)? Maybe there is something that you as a small group could do together?
- Are we a community of grace? If not, what do we need to do to be such a community reflecting the grace of God and are there things that we need to avoid?

Looking up!

Prayer for ourselves

Turn your reflections into prayer that we will be better at sharing the hope that is in us (individually and as a church). Wait on God and be open to God putting some practical ideas in your head!

Prayer for others

Why not make a list of about 3 to 5 names of people who from today you are going to pray for that they come to know Jesus. (If you share here, remember that what is shared should remain confidential.)