

## Good and Bad Habits - Sharing faith Sermon transcript

### Read Psalm 96:1-4

Imagine that you have just met the person sitting next to you. They have asked you a question, "tell me about yourself." Turn to them now and take thirty seconds each to answer the question - "tell me about yourself?"

As a Christian, our faith is an integral part of who we are. I wonder, when you meet someone new, how quickly you mention your faith. When you answered the question, 'tell me about yourself', what did you say?

Jesus came and told his disciples, "...go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

When we know and love Jesus, when we understand the gift that he offers, we have a responsibility to invite others to share in the Good News. To share the life-changing relationship that we have with Jesus. Some people have a gift of evangelism - they are quite comfortable sharing about their faith with every person that they meet. Many of us, need to develop habits for sharing our faith.

This doesn't mean that we have to stand and preach on a street corner or impose our beliefs on someone who doesn't want to listen. So, how do we develop habits for genuine, respectful, sharing of our faith?

### 1. Make a habit of proclaiming God's goodness

We can share our faith by proclaiming God's goodness. The Psalms are full of proclamations of God's goodness.

*Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!*

<sup>2</sup> *Sing to the Lord; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.*

<sup>3</sup> *Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.*

<sup>4</sup> *Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.*

*Psalm 96:1-4*

We also can proclaim God's goodness daily. By making slight adjustments to everyday language, we can constantly point people towards God.

Instead of "Isn't this a beautiful day" - "Hasn't God given us a beautiful day?"

Instead of "I'm happy today because I have a precious new grandchild" - "I'm praising God today for my precious new grandchild."

What is one way that you could proclaim God's goodness this week?

# GOOD HABITS



## Practical suggestions

- Make a list of 5 things that you might regularly say to people you meet - adjust them to proclaim God's goodness.
- Adjust the signature on your email account to proclaim God's goodness.

## 2. Make a habit of living your life as a testimony - live so others will see Jesus.

*Ask a volunteer to answer some 'yes' or 'no' questions. Quietly explain to the volunteer that you want them to say the correct answer to the question but at the same time they must do the opposite head movement. That is, say 'yes' but shake their head or say 'no' but nod their head.*

*Example questions:*

- Did you brush your teeth this morning?
- Do you like chocolate?
- Is pink your favourite colour?
- Do you have a rabbit?
- Did you work/go to school this week?

*Thank your volunteer then ask, "Is anyone feeling confused?"*

One of the most important ways of sharing our faith is by living it. Living our life as a testimony also means that we live in such a way that our actions and attitudes aligns with our words. When our words and actions or our beliefs and attitudes don't match up, people feel confused. They don't know what to believe about us or about our faith.

"So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

James 2:17

"...let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. <sup>19</sup>Our actions will show that we belong to the truth..." 1 John 3:18-19

"...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:15-16

Jesus lived in a way that clearly aligned with his values, beliefs and teaching. He modelled the truth in the way that he lived. Jesus treated every person with respect and with love and people were drawn to him. They saw that he acted differently and so they wanted to listen to his teaching. They wanted to understand why he acted this way.

People were drawn to Jesus. When we live as his followers, demonstrating genuine, practical love for others, they will also be drawn to us and want to know why we live this way.

## 3. Make a habit of knowing what to say when opportunities arise.

Turn to the person next to you and, in two sentences, tell them how you came to know Jesus and the difference that knowing Jesus makes in your life.

# GOOD HABITS



As we live out our faith, as we regularly proclaim God's goodness, opportunities will arise for us to share about our faith.

*"...worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way..." (1 Peter 3:15-16)*

It is important that we make the most of the opportunities that arise. Sharing our personal story of faith is usually a gentle and respectful way of telling others about Jesus. When we speak of the love and the hope that Jesus brings into our life, others may want to learn more.

## **Practical suggestions**

- Write out your story of faith - think about the key points of how you came to know Jesus and the difference knowing Jesus makes in your life.
- In a small group or with your family, take turns sharing about your faith.

Is there something you need to change to ensure that the way you live aligns with your faith and your beliefs? What could you do on a regular basis to demonstrate God's love in a practical way? How will you share your faith with others?

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(Psalm 96:1-4)