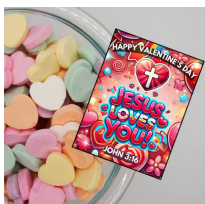


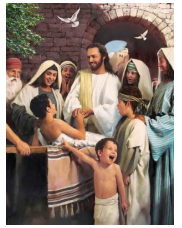
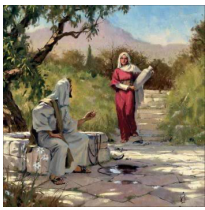
Finding Common Ground to Connect with People During Outreach

By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. **Establishing Common Ground, Making Connections** - If we use common ground experiences, we can connect with the people we want to reach, making them more receptive. When Jesus was sharing the gospel it was not too difficult for Him to find common ground. Most of the people were Jewish and already had knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures and religious customs. Even so, He often used everyday experiences: fishing, farming, money transactions, etc. Today, many people in the San Francisco Bay Area do not have a Christian background and may not trust the Bible. Fortunately, we can look to Jesus as our example, because He really knows how to connect with people.
2. **Make Comments About Shared Activities and Places** - To connect with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus spoke of the living water that He, the Messiah, could give her (John 4:4-42). - **When we witness**, we can make opening comments about our shared locations, activities, and experiences, like: shopping in a grocery store, waiting for a bus, or being present at our children's school events. We can even mention the weather or ask how they are doing. Let's be friendly and let's use eye contact.
3. **When Appropriate, Emphasize with Their Emotions** - We are not to share in their hatred, but sadness, joy, etc. can be appropriate. To connect with those grieving, Jesus also grieved (John 11:33-35). He compassionately raised a grieving widow's only son from his casket (Luke 7:11-17). - **When we witness**, if we meet a person who is sad, we need to take time to listen, empathize, show compassion, and offer to pray for them. Prayer opens up the door for people to experience God's presence, love, and power. As we pray, consciously allow the Holy Spirit, our "rivers of living water, to flow out of us" touching them, even entering them (Luke 6:19; John 7:38-39). We want them to have an encounter with the Lord and can do that even without us touching them. While praying, keep our eyes open to peek at their responses. Are they receiving the prayer or feeling embarrassed? Also, invite them to our church.
4. **Give Compliments** - To connect with the Canaanite mother whose daughter was demonized, Jesus complimented her on her great faith, then showed His compassion by casting out the demon (Matt.15:21-28). - **When we witness**, we can start with a compliment, then when possible, offer to compassionately pray for them or their loved ones. Remember, prayers should not be loud nor long.
5. **Use Relatable Terminology and Show Acceptance** - To connect with the Greek converts, Jesus explained that He had to die so others could live, by using terms that also resonated with their Greek culture and mythology. He then said that if they would serve and follow Him, His Father would honor them (John 12:20-26). - **When we witness**, we can use terminology that people can relate to because of their cultures, even their countercultures. We should have accepting, non-judgmental attitudes, no matter their current life styles. Why? The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, that's not our job.
6. **Use the Joy of Holidays** - To connect with multitudes of people, Jesus would do outreach on holidays (John 7:1-15). - **When we witness**, we can use holidays too. They are a great way to connect with many people, who are usually already in a good mood. How? Dress for the holiday and go to a place where they are celebrating. Examples: for St. Patrick's Day, dress in green, go to a parade or outside a bar, wish every one, "Happy Saint Patrick's Day!" and pass out tracts about St. Patrick's love for God. For Christmas/Hanukkah, dress festively, wish people "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Hanukkah," pass out both tracts, maybe even sing carols or have them playing quietly. Most people accept all kinds of holiday tracts. We have tracts for 17 different holidays on our website!
7. **Smile and Be Filled with the Holy Spirit and His Fruit** - To connect with others, we need to be showing good attitudes. Apostle Paul said, "Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** in **believing**, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 13:15). "but the greatest of these is **love**" (1 Corinthians 13:13). - **When we witness**, we need to be aware of and control our attitudes and the way we are expressing them. Usually, they are being broadcast through our facial expressions and body language which speak louder than our words. Even tired and judgmental attitudes can be seen. True smiles are seen in the eyes too, not just in the mouth. So truly smile, no matter what the weather or any other conditions may be. Let's be filled with the Holy Spirit and shine!
8. **Shine? Yes, let's Shine!** - **When we witness**, let's "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, **And His glory will be seen upon you**. The Gentiles **shall come to your light**" (Isaiah 60:1-3). "You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14,16).

We Can Do This! Let's Win the Lost!





I Love to Tell The Story

Lyrics by Katherine Hankey, Music by William G. Fischer

1st Verse I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

Chorus I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.

2nd Verse I love to tell the story;
More wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies
Of all my golden dreams,
I love to tell the story,
It did so much for me;
And that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.

3rd Verse I love to tell the story;
'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it,
More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story;
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God's own holy Word.

4th Verse I love to tell the story;
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story,
That I have loved so long.

We have more than 100 tracts and lessons on our homepage at: nationtakers.com. Scroll down to the bottom and click on "Resources." You may print them out yourself or let me know which ones you need and how many. Then I will print them out and you can come get them from me at church.

