

6. Equipping everyone to share Jesus naturally

We are all 'salt & light'; called to live in ways that provoke questions from others which invite us to tell our faith story. Can we lose the fear & guilt that shackle us from responding freely? God has given us each a unique place to live, work and speak.

Core Texts

Matthew 5:13-15; 1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:2-6

Core Teaching

- ❖ To KNOW our faith
 - Experiencing God's hand on our lives
 - Recognising God's unconditional love for us
 - Allowing God to 'pay our way' for us.
- ❖ To LIVE our faith
 - 'Walk the talk'
 - Live provocatively – so that people ask why we do what we do.
 - Our lifestyles reflect our faith in Jesus
 - Being authentically, and distinctively Christian
- ❖ To SHARE our faith
 - Pray for opportunity to share it
 - GO and share it
- ❖ Reasons why we don't share Jesus
 - We don't like people
 - We don't care about people
 - We don't know people
- ❖ This is NOT about increasing our congregations but about sharing Jesus – don't get confused!

Some Initial Questions

- Why would you want to be equipped to share Jesus naturally?
- Why do Christians live as practical atheists?
- What difference would it make to your lifestyle if you were equipped to share Jesus?
- What difference would it make to the church if everyone was able to (and did) share Jesus?

a) Think of a present that someone has given you in the past and they thought it was something you needed but you didn't. What did you do with it? Throw it away? Give it away? Let it linger at the back of a cupboard?

What would have made you take a second look or even tried it out?

Perhaps if they had explained why they gave it to you; or how it had made such a difference to them you would have looked at it differently. But if the anti-ageing cream doesn't make someone look younger – why bother?

Why would someone want to know about Jesus if he makes no difference to your life?

b) Have you ever given someone a gift and they've never used it? How disheartening is that? When people go out of their way to give time and energy to teach Christians to share their faith and the Christians never share it – what's the point in that?

c) Jesus had the point of view that everyone was worth saving. Who are we to disagree? He also asked his followers to 'go into all the world and make disciples...' he chose us and 'appointed us to go...' Why don't we do it?