

SHARING YOUR FAITH

This discussion handout accompanies the Sharing Your Faith video. This can be used as part of a workshop or a small group discussion.

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Task #1: Faith Sharing Experiences

Have you ever tried telling others about your faith or about Christianity? What was that experience like? Or have you ever been on the receiving end of other people's evangelism efforts, either by Christians or people of other faiths? How did that feel? Share with one another and describe briefly what happened and how you felt and responded to the whole experience. Note down both the positives and the negatives that were shared.

Task #2: Biblical Reflection

Read the bible passage below and discuss the following questions:

1 Peter 3:8-9, 13-17 (TNIV)

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ... Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1. Does this passage give insights on sharing our faith, and on how we do that?
2. Name or list attitudes and actions suggested in this passage that you should have or do when sharing your faith.

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Task #3: Watch the Sharing Your Faith Video

What were the four major themes outlined in the video?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

Notes:

Was there anything new or different for you? Or what did you find most helpful?

Would you add any other themes to this list?

In what ways do you think you can apply these four themes?

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Task #4: Going Deeper: Lessons from Paul on Sharing Faith

In groups or all together, read the following two passages and discuss and fill in the comparison table after.

Acts 13:13-43 TNIV

¹³ From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

¹⁶ Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "People of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! ¹⁷ The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; ¹⁸ for about forty years he endured their conduct ^[a] in the wilderness; ¹⁹ and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years.

"After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²² After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

²³ "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is someone coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brothers and sisters from the children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

³² "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

" 'You are my son;
today I have become your father.' ^[b]

³⁴ God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

" 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' ^[c]

³⁵ So it is also stated elsewhere:

" 'You will not let your holy one see decay.' ^[d]

³⁶ "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸ "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

⁴¹ " 'Look, you scoffers,
wonder and perish,
for I am going to do something in your days
that you would never believe,
even if someone told you.' ^[e]"

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⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

Footnotes:

- a. [Acts 13:18](#) Some manuscripts *he cared for them*
- b. [Acts 13:33](#) Psalm 2:7
- c. [Acts 13:34](#) Isaiah 55:3
- d. [Acts 13:35](#) Psalm 16:10 (see Septuagint)
- e. [Acts 13:41](#) Hab. 1:5

Acts 17:16-32 TNIV

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' ^[a] As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ^[b]

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

Footnotes:

- a. [Acts 17:28](#) From the Cretan philosopher Epimenides
- b. [Acts 17:28](#) From the Cilician Stoic philosopher Aratus

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Paul in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13)	Paul in Athens (Acts 17)
<p>1. Audience:</p> <p>2. Context: Speaking in a ...</p> <p>3. Paul's Message:</p> <p>4. Audience's Response:</p>	<p>1. Audience:</p> <p>2. Context: Speaking in a ...</p> <p>3. Paul's Message:</p> <p>4. Audience's Response:</p>

Which of these two contexts is closer to your current cultural contexts today?

What further lessons/insights can you draw from Paul's example and practice?

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Closing Prayer

Consider closing your time together in prayer. If people are comfortable, you can each take turns praying or one person can choose to lead in prayer. Thank God for the good news of his salvation. Pray for yourselves that you may nurture the desires and abilities to be God's witnesses to those who do not yet know God. Pray for opportunities to co-operate with the Holy Spirit's work in people's lives.

If you appreciate this video and discussion handout, please consider sharing it with others. Also please consider partnering with the ministry with your prayers and with your financial gifts.

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