

Thirteen Natural Ways to share Christ Ideas from *On Mission* North American Mission Board

So you want to talk to people about Jesus but you're not sure how to place yourself intentionally into *on mission* situations. The best preparation is to always be prepared with both the long and short versions of your testimony. You never know when a potentially life-changing conversation with someone might happen. Also, remember that God has promised to give you the words to say when you feel like your own words will just get stuck in your throat. Ask Him for this help. Of course, it's essential to enter into any evangelistic conversation with prayer and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading, but, these 13 ideas, by no means inclusive, can help you find natural, non-confrontational ways to talk to others about Christ.

1. Inviting people to church can be a good start, but take it one step further. Offer to drive them yourself and treat them to lunch afterward to talk about what they heard during the service.
2. Cultivate an accountability partner or group. Set a goal of talking about Christ with someone within a set amount of time—perhaps once a week or once a month.
3. A cup of cool water still goes a long way. When laborers come to your house or place of business, remember how often Christ met a physical need to pave the way to a spiritual lead. Use the “instant friendship” a free drink affords to tell about the origin of giving a cup of cold water in Jesus' name. And don't just limit yourself to water. The next time you stand in line to order your soy latté at Starbucks, offer to pay for the person behind you as well.
4. Planning to head to the cinema to catch the latest summer blockbuster? Instead of simply talking about the stars or action in recent movies, bring up the spiritual element of the films. Many of today's films offer opinions about matters of faith or at least the search for Someone beyond ourselves. Try catching a flick with non-Christian friends and discussing it afterward. Or, be prepared to discuss the film's spiritual element in conversations at work or with friends.
5. Do you regularly commute on public transportation? If so, you may encounter people with whom to talk about Christ during the brief rides between stops. Also, if it is your habit to read your Bible or Christian books while riding, be prepared to discuss them with fellow commuters. These may catch their eyes and prompt evangelistic discussions.
6. When dining out, tell the person serving your table, “It's our custom to pray before meals. Is there anything we can pray about for you?” Then be sure to leave an appropriate tip. Don't blow your testimony by coming across as a tightwad!
7. When you get your hair cut, you may be surprised how easy it can be to talk freely about your church and your faith.
8. Use the FIRM acrostic to guide conversations toward an intentionally evangelistic focus. First, discuss Family, then Interests, Religion and Message (your short-form testimony).
9. Tell door-to-door canvassers and telemarketers that you'd be happy to give them a few minutes of your time in exchange for a few minutes of theirs. This is better (and nicer) than simply hanging up or slamming the door. Be prepared with a brief testimony.
10. If you hand out tracts, commit to always speaking with a person rather than just passing them out in silence.

11. Like to read? Try sharing books you enjoy with others. Start book-sharing groups or reading clubs in your neighborhood. Choose books that encourage evangelistic discussions, such as Christian fiction, inspirational books or even biographies. Remember, secular books may also address spiritual concerns. As you discuss, be prepared to talk about opinions the authors present from a biblical perspective.
12. Music is a huge cultural indicator, and can make a great bridge to engage people in *on mission* conversations. Much of today's music speaks of hopelessness and searching, and you need to be ready to share hope and the ultimate goal of the search—Jesus Christ. Think of all the places music has infiltrated—retail stores, waiting rooms, the workplace. Statements like “I wonder why they feel that way about life,” or “I didn't realize that song talked about spiritual matters,” can pave the way to some interesting and potentially life-changing conversations.
13. When traveling—particularly when flying—start conversations with the person in the seat next to you. After talking briefly and asking where he or she is from, ask: “What's the spiritual condition of your city?” Then ask if they attend church, and lead the conversation to Christ.

Do you have an innovative way to create opportunities to share Christ? If so, please send us your ideas: *On Mission*, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176 or email at onmission@namb.net. Reprinted with permission from *On Mission*, North American Mission Board, SBC.