

Sharing Our Faith

In our daily activities at work, school, or chance meetings at the grocery, we don't have the opportunity to have lengthy discussions about the Bible, Jesus, or His church. But during normal conversations, we can mention something about our faith, beliefs, and Biblical truths in such ways that might lead to opportunities for additional discussions. These might be referred to as an "ice-breaker" or "foot-in-the-door" moments. When Jesus met the woman at the well, we see an example of how He initiated a conversation with just a few words. By asking her for a drink of water, He was able to start a discussion about "living water" (John 4).

Some years ago, a co-worker and I were struggling with an engineering problem, and I commented that I was going to "tear my clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes." He asked me to explain and I said that this was just a Biblical expression (referring to Esther 4:1, when Mordecai learned of Haman's conspiracy to kill the Jews). This was an ice-breaker of sorts and we were able to talk some about religion later.

There is a sad and happy ending to this particular story. My friend developed a rare form of cancer and died within a few months. One day, before he died, I received a call saying that he was going to be baptized and asked me to come. A few moments before he was transported to the building to be baptized, I simply said to him, "Remember, the Bible says you are baptized for the remission of your sins." That day he was carried to the baptistery on a stretcher and was immersed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for forgiveness of his sins by a denominational preacher, where his wife sometimes attended.

I don't know if my few brief discussions with him had any effect on his decision. I think it did. But I know that I don't always take advantage of opportunities to speak a good word about Jesus. Occasionally, I read the obituary or hear of the death of someone I have known from work or school and I can't remember discussing my faith with them.

The Christian grace of knowledge (which we are to add to the grace of virtue, 2 Peter 1:5) involves the idea of speaking with wisdom, or a word "fitly spoken." Proverbs 25: 11 says, *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.*

For the elders,
Don Denton