

# TURN YOUR FEAR INTO FAITH

## CHALLENGE

### Effective evangelism

Today we are taught from an early age not to talk to strangers. We are taught at nursery, school and our parents tell us not to talk to strangers.

*So how do we start a conversation with anyone?*

*How are we to share the gospel with a stranger, since everyone we meet are a potential stranger?*

*How do we go from not talking to strangers, to talking to strangers sharing what we know?*

*How are we to share the gospel?*

Introducing yourself to someone you just met can be scary. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words you need. Have courage! It might be awkward at first. There are a variety of ways to start a conversation to share the gospel one of the ways I find most successful is the direct approach.

### Steps to overcome fear:

**Not all fears are bad, it reminds us of the significance of the task and to rely on God.**

Fear that keeps us from sharing, not knowing what to say.

You can only stand with confidence against negative fear when you know that God is standing with you.

## Step 1 THE DIRECT APPROACH

Start with observation, exploration and ask questions that will allow the person to respond in context. Have an opening line. Questions create engagement when asked correctly. It causes the person to respond and that's the door opener you are looking for:

- I am new in the area, what's it like in this area?
- I am standing at the bus stop waiting for a bus or at the train station, in a queue. I ask the person next to me in line, a question. I often start a conversation by asking the person a simple question that links to the bus service or train service to get their opinion.
- Often I make a comment on the weather to draw that person into a conversation. I find using a complimentary, also works. For example, I like your perfume, is that---you are wearing?
- Or I like your hairstyle, did you do your hair yourself? Have an opening line as part when using the direct approach. Start with an introduction of who you are.
- "Hello my name is\_\_\_ this might seem ridiculous. I am a Christian, and I know this seem strange, for a stranger to want to talk to but I am talking to people about my faith. You look like a person who I can approach and get your view about Jesus. What do you think about Christians?"

- These types of questions will get the person to respond in context.

## Step 2

- Have an excuse; you can use a questionnaire if you feel uncomfortable approaching a stranger.
- People will respond to question, if they feel it is for a good cause. They want to be heard.
- Prepare your question before hand.
- Questions can be around the weather
- If you are in the park, about the park, the facilities in the park, the layout of the park etc.
- If you are talking to a parent. Introduce your self and compliment the parent about the child, what you have observed the child doing. Start a conversation from that topic, parents love to talk about their child achievements.
- If you just finish watching a movie, you can ask the person what was your thoughts on the movie?
- Give them opportunities to share their views, people like to be helpful, it makes them feel good.

## Step 3 share own testimony or the process of the good news

- Engage them in an emotional question, that ask about their feelings.
- How do you feel about the changes that the community is undergoing?
- Emotional context causes emotional response.
- It is a way of exploring people thoughts and feeling on a particular subject.
- When people connect on similar context it creates an emotional bond, especially on first contact. It makes a lasting and unforgettable and memorial event.
- People tend to embrace emotions more than they do facts and figures.
- Things with strong emotions, people tend to remember the details.
- Share the memory of when you first became saved.

- How this happened.
- When did it happen. What the difference Christ make. Use the gospel to bridge the gap and show the changes Christ made in your life.

## **Bridging the gap**

People are looking for Christians they can trust. Be honest and show integrity.

Turn gospel sharing into your daily routine.

Something you enjoy doing.

Understand the power of sharing your story. Be yourself, have fun , have a laugh and above all be natural .

## **Exercise**

**1. What is the problem that the person is experiencing, that you can help with?**

**2. What can you say that they would listen to- they need to hear**

**3. Share your experience in the moment.**

