

Life Lived Evangelism

When we gather with our family or friends all people in the group share with each other. What is shared are recent activities, insights or passions. A son talks about footy. Grandparents talk about time spent with their grandchildren. A family shares about the things that happened on their last holiday or those embarrassing moments. Teenagers talk about what they got up to on the weekend. In these conversations people share themselves with others.

1 Peter 3:15 strongly directs us to always be ready to respond to anyone who asks us about our faith. Many people are seeking hope in their life. The only true hope for people is the promised hope that comes through Christ's sacrifice for sin and victory over death. At the end of Matthew Jesus directs believers to go and make disciples of all nations, Matthew 28:19. Overall, Jesus and Peter make it a priority of Christians going into the world, sharing the hope they have and making disciples. The good news for us at TPC is that we go into the world every day. This may be to shop, for work, for coffee or tea, for sport, for interest groups or just to get outside.

The challenge then is to be ready and look for opportunities to speak about the hope that we have as Christians with non-Christians. It is in this area Christians seem to be afraid, unsure or reluctant to speak about their faith in Christ.

It is my observation that most people love to hear a person talk about their experiences. A grandparent does not share with their friend the six steps of effective grand parenting. They share what they did, what they said and how the grandchild shared in that experience. To listen as someone describes how sweetly the football came off the boot, how effortlessly it sailed through the air bending on the breeze to go through the goal posts. In sermons, I notice people's attention peaks when the preacher shares a personal experience to highlight a point being made.

Sharing the gospel most often occurs in relationship with a non-Christian where the believer has shared some aspects of the impact that Christ and their faith has on daily life. Why? Because the person is sharing the reality of Christ living in them.

Life Lived Evangelism is a relational journey that assists the Christian to grow in their confidence to share with others how believing in Christ impacts how they think and what they say in the tasks of daily life. And then, when appropriate, to strategically create opportunities to share the good news of Jesus.

It seeks to do this by:

Looking at the role God has in mission

Looking at the role prayer has in mission

Beginning to develop and to speak from a biblical world view

Reflecting and challenging the fears that stop us from speaking

Identifying your strengths in sharing your faith

Identifying opportunities to share your faith

Identifying and developing your conversion story

Practicing within the group to share your faith

Identifying means by which the church can assist in mission

John Neasey - 2017