

The power of an open door

By Kate Ward

I will be the first to admit that thinking about adding one more thing to my already crowded schedule makes me want to cry. Raising kids, going to a job, and being involved in a local church can consume all your time. Just like other necessary things in life, however, you have to make time for the important stuff, the stuff that eternally matters.



I first went to the “mission field” when I was straight out of college on a three-month internship to England. The trip challenged me to not think of evangelism as an event but as a lifestyle. During that chapter in my life, God put on my heart a great passion for sharing Christ with people

Fast forward 19 years and my life looks a bit different. I no longer am “paid” to do evangelism full time. I have to incorporate it into my everyday life because it is still a priority. I know a lot of moms that don’t feel “called” to share Christ with people. I would challenge those women that sharing Christ with others isn’t a calling: it is an act of obedience. God gave us this amazing gift of forgiveness and grace. Out of thankfulness to him and love for others, we should be telling everyone we meet about how God can truly change lives!

So why don’t we shout it from the roof tops? I think life gets in the way. I’d like to suggest, however, that there is always time in your day to share Christ with people. Perhaps we just have to change our perspective of what sharing Christ with people looks like.

I no longer think of evangelism as an event that I do a couple of times a year. It also isn’t something I have to stop living life to start doing. I Peter 3:15 says, “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.” As I live out my day, people are watching. They are watching how I parent and they are watching how I respond to others around me. When they see the HOPE that I have to not give up and to be kind to others, they might wonder how I can feel and act like that. Am I brave enough to tell them that it all comes from God living inside me? What a testimony to actually tell others the huge difference God makes in my life!

When my husband and I got married, we said we had an “open door” policy. We told this to neighbors, friends, and family. We wanted our home to be a place where people could come and feel Christ’s presence. But over the years, I have learned how hard it is to truly live this out. I have opened the door for people to see me in my mess, in my hurt, and in my anxiety. I don’t close the door to others when I need them to see me desperate for God to fix me, carry me, or just hold me through the hard times. I want them to see that the reason I follow God is because

I need Him! He doesn't make my life better; he truly makes my life. As Paul articulates it, "His faithful love is better than life" (Psalm 63:3).

When people see your desperation for something bigger than yourself, they can't deny it. They can say they don't believe in God and they can say that God isn't for them, but they can't look at me and say my life isn't different because of God.

I say all this to say, if you are a follower of Jesus, and you want to be obedient to God's call to tell others about Him, just open the door of your life. Let people in to see your good days and your bad ones. Be ready to praise God for his blessings and vocalize your need for his strength, power, and wisdom in the hard times.

Don't feel like you will mess up your "witness" if people see you in your sin. Use those moments to share how God has saved you from your sin and helps you daily overcome your temptations and struggles. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Sharing about God is as simple as living out this verse and telling people about it.

As I start each day, I pray for all the people that God will put in my path that day. Each person is someone that God loves dearly, and he died for each and every one of them. I also pray for boldness and opportunities to open the door to people and share the Hope that could change their lives as well. And I make sure I keep the door open.