

THE PURPOSES OF A CHURCH

Part 3: Share Hope

Instructions from Jesus to Invite Others to Join Us

“Wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News!” (Mark 16:15 GW).

“YOU will be My witnesses!” (Acts 1:8 NIV).

“I’ve been given all authority...Therefore, go make disciples!” (Matthew 28:18-19 NLT).

Things to Remember That Give Me Confidence

1. Everybody I meet has the same longings that I do.

“God has planted eternity in the human heart...” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT).

“Jesus included everyone in His death, so everyone could also be included in His life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own” (2 Corinthians 5:15 MSG).

“Jesus said, ‘I have come so that you can have real life and eternal life, a better life than you ever dreamed of!’” (John 10:10 MSG).

2. Everybody has the same questions I do.

“None of us can ever fully understand all God has done, but He puts questions in our minds – about the past and the future” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 MSG).

3. Most people don’t really know what they believe and they often contradict themselves.

“God is not a God of confusion, but a God of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33 (NCV).

“When you know the truth, the truth will set you free!” (John 8:32 NLT).

4. Anyone can be saved if I listen for their unmet need or hurt.

“Everyone falls short of God’s glorious ideal” (Romans 3:23 LB).

5. People have excuses, but we have God’s Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit, God’s gift to you, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord” (2 Timothy 1:7-8 LB).

“Jesus said, ‘This will be your chance to tell about your faith. Don’t worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say’” (Luke 21:13-15 CEV).

How Can I Share My Hope?

1. Live it!

“Live such good lives among your unbelieving neighbors...that they see the good things you do, and will honor God by believing” (1 Peter 2:12 NIV/NLT).

2. Learn it!

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way” (1 Peter 3:15 NLT).

3. Listen First; Ask Questions!

“A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out” (Proverbs 20:5 TEV).

(continued)

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4. Share your stories!

“I do know this: I was blind, but now I can see!” (John 9:25 NLT).

5. Bring them to worship!

“Go into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full” (Luke 14:23 NLT).

Why Do We Share Our Hope?

1. Everyone needs what Jesus offers. (Matthew 11:28-30).
2. Jesus commands us to do it. (Mark 8:38).
3. We're grateful to God, and we love people. (2 Corinthians 5:14).
4. We will be rewarded in heaven. (Proverbs 11:30).