



A PASSION FOR LIFE...

Session 1 - Making Meaningful Connections

“...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.
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,”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Questions

1. Who is your “everyone” that Peter speaks of in 1 Peter 3:15? Write down their names with whatever you use to make notes (phone/notepad). List people you already have a natural connection with: family, close friends, neighbours, colleagues/classmates, casual friends, acquaintances. Also think about your weekly routine. Are there people you see regularly that you could be more intentional about getting to know e.g., parents at the school gate, the postman, your hairdresser, dog walkers in the park or people at the local café/shops?
2. On your list, Place a mark besides the names of the people with whom you have already shared the gospel over the years.
Put a different mark by those with whom you have never shared the gospel - think and pray about your points of contact with them. Note any information you need to remember or find out.
3. Have you found any helpful comments, questions, ideas or acts of kindness that could help ease you into conversations with people and get you beyond the “Hi! Bye!” phase of your relationship?
4. Think of the people on your list who would be encouraged if you offered them some hospitality. What natural opportunities are there for you to share your life with them? - Chatting and (carefully) asking questions? Acts of kindness? Hospitality? Make a plan to invite them soon and consider which of your Christian friends might it be good to introduce them to?
5. In what ways could we as a local church develop connections in the community to build friendships and show love & hospitality with the aim of introducing people to Christ? Are there things we do as a church that need to change in order to better share the good news

Further Bible Reflection

The idea of hospitality is everywhere in the Bible. It's about creating the space and opportunity to connect with people, to build relationships with them, share life and to talk together in ways that we couldn't in our otherwise fleeting encounters. Amazingly, many of the examples listed in the Bible are of unbelievers inviting Jesus or his followers into their home. Take some time to look at the following passages and reflect on what it teaches.

Bible Passages

Luke 5:27-32 - Levi and Jesus

Luke 19:1-10 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

Acts 16:15, 34 - Lydia and the Philippian jailer

Hebrews 13:2 – Entertaining angels

1 Timothy 3:1, 2 – Leaders modelling hospitality

Think about what it looks like to open our hearts, be generous with our time and welcome others intentionally to build bridges of friendship and create opportunities to share the hope Jesus offers.

Take Home

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/lc1-view

Consider using a prayer journal or downloading a prayer app like PrayerMate. (It makes praying for people far less daunting. You can use it when you have a few spare minutes or even when you're on the go like walking or doing jobs around the house!) Add in some or all of the people you're connected with so you can regularly be praying for opportunities to **live it out and speak it out**.

Prayer

- Thank God for the people in your lives who loved and shared the gospel with you.
- Ask God to help you to open your eyes to see those He has put around you and to have the desire and opportunity to get to know them better and share your life with them.
- Ask God to help you to speak more naturally about your faith with everyone and be prepared to share the reason for the hope you have in Jesus.

Notes