



Dare 2 Share Ministries, Int'l.

Reach Out Don't Freak Out!

...7 Steps to Sharing Your Faith With Confidence



DARE 2 SHARE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



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1. Pray!

Prayer is the key to effectively sharing your faith. Through this direct pipeline to God we can get the courage we lack, the wisdom we need and the answers we lack when it comes to sharing our faith.

Here are a few things to pray for...

- Pray for the wisdom to know how to approach your friend with the gospel of Jesus Christ. James 1:5 makes this promise, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."
- Pray for clarity as you share the gospel. In other words, ask God to give you the words that will present the gospel with crystal clear simplicity. In Colossians 4:4 the apostle Paul asks the Colossian believers to "Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."
- Pray for boldness to share the gospel. Paul asked the Ephesian believers to "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should." Ephesians 6:19,20.
- Pray for your friend to trust in Jesus Christ as their savior. Paul prayed for the Israelites this way. He wrote, "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved" Romans 10:1. We can pray the same way for our friends, co-workers, neighbors, family and countrymen.

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2. Get real!

Nobody likes a fake. Get real with your friends as you share the gospel message with them. Let them know that you also struggle and that the only difference between you and them is that you have someone in your life (Jesus) who has forgiven your sin and given you the strength to overcome the struggles of life.

When we are perceived as “know it all’s” or religious we turn more people away than we turn toward Jesus. Get real. Speak their language. Use words they understand when you share the gospel story, not all of the Christian lingo that we learn in church (“redeemed”, “born again”, “saved”, etc.) Remember you don’t have all of the answers, you just know the One who does!

Somebody once said, “Evangelism is one beggar showing another beggar where to find the bread.” Just because we are Christians doesn’t mean that we are any better than anybody else. The only difference is that we have a Savior, the Bread of life, who has forgiven our sins and satisfied our spiritual hunger. So share the gospel with humility and love.

3. Master The Gospel Journey™!

Sharing the gospel with someone else is like taking them on a journey with six stops along the way. The evangelist becomes a guide of sorts who brings their fellow sojourners to six stops along the way to pause and ponder the landscape of the story of the Bible, the gospel message. This journey begins in Genesis chapter one with the creation of humanity and concludes with the last chapter of the Bible, Revelation chapter twenty two. In between there are twists and turns, break ups and make ups, mystery and intrigue but the driving message of the plot is that from the ashes of sin comes the redemption of mankind through the death of Christ and His resurrection from the dead.

In many ways this journey is like a fairy tale that just happens to be true. It could begin “Once upon a time” and conclude “and they

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lived happily ever after.” This journey through the storyline of the Bible is filled with mankind’s weak attempts at reconciliation toward a God whose heart humanity had broken. Much of the Old Testament is filled with examples of how sinful humanity attempted to gain God’s acceptance through good deeds (Cain and his vegetables), obedience to God’s commandments and a seemingly endless array of blood sacrifices. But all of these failed attempts prepared the way for the coming of Christ and the hope that He offered by His once and for all sacrifice on the cross.

The irreducible minimum of the gospel message can be communicated in an acrostic with six letters in it that happen to spell out the word “gospel”.

God created us to be with him. *Gen. 1-2*

Our sin separated us from God. *Gen. 3*

Sin cannot be removed by good deeds. *Gen. 4 - Mal. 4*

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. *Matt. - Luke*

Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life. *John-Jude*

Life that’s eternal means we will be with Jesus forever in heaven. *Rev. 22:5*

God created us to be with him.
Genesis 1-2

In these two chapters God creates all of the universe and everything in it (Genesis 1:1), including the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. God created Adam and Eve with purpose. He called them to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28) and fill the earth with their offspring. He gave them the mission of taking care of the earth and tending the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15.)

God made them to be in complete fellowship with Him and with each other. Their nakedness (Genesis 2:25) represented the fact that they had no sin, therefore no shame, therefore nothing to hide before God

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or each other. They regularly communed with God in the garden and had sheer bliss, pure happiness and unadulterated joy. It was during this time that they were living everyday as God intended, in right relationship with each other, God and His creation. The only command God gave to them was not to eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the same way God made us to be in fellowship with Him. His original plan was that you and I were in absolute and perfect relationship with Him and with each other in total unity. God created us to be in harmony with all of heaven and all of earth. But that plan was disrupted by one evil act thousands and thousands of years ago.

Our sin separated us from God.

Genesis 3

When Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6), and thereby sinned, they immediately became aware of their "error." They sewed fig leaves together to cover their shame and hid in the garden from God (Genesis 3:7,8). Now they were hiding from the one that they used to fellowship with regularly. Men and women have been hiding from God ever since, covering their sin and shame with the fig leaves of religion or philosophy.

God confronted them face to face. As a result of their sin there were immediate and future consequences. The immediate consequences were being banished from the garden (Genesis 3:23,24), having difficulty in childbirth (Genesis 3:16) and our work turning from a joy that we love to a job that we hate (Genesis 3:17-19).

The future consequence for Adam and Eve was physical death. God had promised in Genesis 2:17 that the day he sinned by eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that he would "surely die." Spiritually Adam and Eve died the day they sinned in the garden. Their souls became immediately polluted by sin and selfishness. As a result all of their offspring (and that includes you and me) were born sinful and selfish. Through Adam every person ever born is born deprived and depraved, deprived of God's fellowship and depraved to

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the core (Romans 5:12-14).

When confronted by God the blame game begins. Adam blames Eve (Genesis 3:12) and Eve blames the snake (Genesis 3:13). Humanity has been playing the blame game ever since. What began as paradise unraveled with a single choice to disobey God and listen to Satan instead. Every war, famine, argument, sin and tragedy can be traced back to the garden of Eden where Adam and Eve chose to turn their backs on God for a taste of fruit.

Sin cannot be removed by good deeds.

Genesis 4-Malachi 4

From the beginning humanity has attempted to remove the stain of sin by good deeds. When Cain offered God vegetables as an appeasement for his sin God rejected it (Genesis 4:1-4). Cain was infuriated and killed his brother Abel.

In Exodus, the second book of the Bible, God gave the Israelites the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), not to save them from their sin, but to show them that they couldn't live up to his perfect standards on their own (Galatians 3:23-24). Instead of looking to Him in faith many of the Jews looked to themselves and thought they could please God in their own strength. But God saw their "righteous" deeds like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Even the best of their good deeds were corrupted by selfish motives.

In Leviticus, the third book of the Bible, God gave the Israelites the sacrificial system. Every time a Jew sinned he or she was to sacrifice a goat without any blemishes (Leviticus 4:27-31). Think about that. If you were a Jew in the Old Testament and had to make a sacrifice every time you lied, lusted, gossiped, complained or argued you would soon run out of goats. Other offerings included offerings of bulls and sheep.

The sacrificial system was meant to point inward, upward and forward. It pointed inward to convince you of your sinfulness. If you were honest before God then you would soon realize that you could never make enough sacrifices for your sin. It pointed upward

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to make you trust in God for your salvation instead of sacrifices that you could make (Psalm 51:16,17). It pointed forward to the ultimate sacrifice of the lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who would someday come to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

The rest of the Old Testament tells the story of the Jewish people, some of whom realized they were sinners and needed God to save them (Psalm 51:1,2) and most of whom trusted in their own goodness instead of the mercy and grace of God (Isaiah 64:6).

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. **Matthew-Luke**

When Jesus came to the earth he came as the fulfillment of the law (Matthew 5:17) and the ultimate sacrifice (Luke 24:45). He lived the perfect life that we could not live and died in our place, for our sin. When he died upon the cross he screamed the words "It is finished" (John 19:30). What he meant by these three words was that the price for our sins was paid completely. He was fully God and entirely man. As a perfect human he could die for other humans. As the true and living God his payment for sin was infinite.

Jesus rose from the dead three days after he was murdered on the cross (Mark 16:6). He was seen by over 500 witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:6) on at least 12 separate occasions over the course of forty days (Acts 1:3). Because he died our sins our paid for entirely. Because he rose from the dead we know that Jesus was who he claimed to be, God in the flesh.

Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life. **John-Jude**

The amazing thing about eternal life is that it is a free gift given to us by God through faith alone and not by any of our good deeds (Ephesians 2:8,9). Jesus paid the price for our sins when he died on the cross and all we must do is receive the gift of forgiveness



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through faith. When we believe that Jesus died for our sins and trust in him alone we receive eternal life, are passed out of death into life and are guaranteed a home in heaven (John 5:24).

Eternal life is not achieved by good deeds but received through faith. It's not a matter of trying but trusting. When we believe we receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. Almost the entire New Testament is dedicated to talking about this eternal life and the implications of it in our everyday lives. From John through Jude the disciples of Jesus show us how to live like Jesus intended, serving each other in love. This is the heart of eternal life!

Life that's eternal means we will be with Jesus forever in heaven. **Revelation 22:5**

Because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead we will be with Jesus forever in heaven. When we trust in Jesus we enter into a personal, permanent relationship with God called "eternal life."

Part of the reality of eternal life is that it doesn't start after you die but as soon as you believe (John 10:10). This life is the joy of a real, exciting relationship with Jesus every single day through prayer, worship and living in the strength that God provides through his Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

The other part of the reality of eternal life is that all who have it will be with Jesus forever and ever in heaven someday. Once we receive it is ours forever and we are his forever!

The last chapter of the last book of the Bible makes it clear that we will "rule and reign forever" with Jesus (Revelation 22:5). In essence the last chapter in the story of the Bible concludes by saying, "and they lived happily ever after."

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Gospel Journey Suggestions:

Start the Gospel Journey by asking questions:

- What are your spiritual beliefs? (God? Heaven? Hell? Etc.)
- Would you mind if I share with you what I believe?
- Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die?
- If I could tell you how you can know for sure would that be good news?
- What are your religious beliefs?
- Do you want to know why I believe in a relationship with God and not a religion?

4. Remember the 3 laws of effective witnessing:

a. The Law of *The Before and After Factor*.

When sharing your faith use “The Before and After Factor”. What is it? It’s the one thing that changed the most when you came to Jesus. Maybe it was a sense of understanding what it means to be loved unconditionally by a Father. Maybe it was a deep sense of true forgiveness for the first time. Perhaps it was a feeling of purpose and hope and direction. What was that one thing that changed most in the deepest part of your soul when you came to Jesus through faith? Share it.

b. The Law of *the short jump/long journey*

Remember that for some it’s a short jump to salvation and for others it’s a long journey. As you share the gospel with them remember that it may take weeks, months or years before they understand and accept it. For those who are ready it’s a short

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jump. God has been preparing their heart through conviction of sin and circumstances from him to bring them to the point of spiritual readiness. You were the one who had the benefit of “picking the fruit when it’s ripe.”

For others it’s a longer process. They are not ripe. They are not ready. So what do you do? You continue with them on their spiritual journey until they are ready to believe. You answer their questions the best that you can and love them with the love of Jesus Christ. You go on the journey of faith with them, consistently, courageously and compassionately pointing them to Jesus every step of the way.

c. The Law of the Argument Buster

“I don’t know. But I’ll find out!” This simple phrase is what we at Dare 2 Share call “The Argument Buster.” You see you don’t need to have all the answers to witness. You just need to learn the answers along the way. As you get asked questions that you don’t have the answers for you can learn the answers. Here’s how:

Study your Bible!

There is no better book to learn from than the Bible. There is no better teacher than the Holy Spirit who lives inside you. So, if somebody asks you a question that you have no clue what the answer is use it as an excuse to dive even deeper into God’s Word. Use a concordance (the thing in the back of most Bibles that shows you where certain words and subjects are covered in the Bible giving you a specific book, chapter and verse.) Use a commentary (a Bible expert’s interpretation of certain passages of the Bible to help you understand what they mean. But more than anything, use the Bible! Read it and re-read it, asking the Holy Spirit to give you insights until you have the answer you are looking for!

Ask your pastor!

God has given you spiritual shepherds to guide you, counsel you, and give you answers from Scripture when necessary. Ask your

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pastor the question that you have been posed with, if he doesn't have the answer himself, I'll bet you he will know where to find it! Remember your pastor lives in this world 9-5 (and then some!) He is better equipped than you to find answers because this is his job! Most likely he has been trained professionally to answer the tough questions.

Check out the internet!

There are bunches of websites out there that will give you help in finding answers to tough questions from the Bible. If you want to know...

- How to reach out to a Mormon...
- How to reach out to a Muslim...
- How to reach out to an Atheist...
- How to reach out to a Wiccan...
- How to reach out to a difficult friend or family member...

Then click here <http://www.dare2share.org/top10>

Another great website to help you answer the difficult questions and learn how to answer the objections from those of other faiths check out www.equip.org

Buy some resources!

AVAILABLE FROM DARE 2 SHARE:

Last Chance...survival guide to sharing your faith in the end times
by Greg Stier

This book will equip you to share your faith, defend your faith and live your faith in light of the return of Jesus Christ. It contains a personal witnessing profile test that will help you understand your style of evangelism. It is packed full of helpful resources to help you share your faith with clarity and confidence.

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Battle Zone...Arming Yourself to Wage War With the Devil by Greg Stier

Your Supreme Commander has equipped you with powerful weapons and indestructible armor. Your job: Put on that armor and ready those weapons! Then step into battle, armed with a worthy battle plan sent from the highest officer, your Heavenly Father, trusting Him to free the prisoners and make you a mighty soldier in His victorious army.

Outbreak: Creating a Contagious Youth Ministry Through Viral Evangelism by Greg Stier

This comprehensive 275-page hardback is the perfect resource for anyone who works with teens! Greg pulls principles from Scripture to motivate and equip you to create an "evangelistic outbreak" in your ministry. Endorsed by Josh McDowell, Doug Fields, Wayne Rice and many more! Forward by Barry St. Clair, founder of Reach Out Youth Solutions.

Go to www.dare2share.org to purchase books by Greg Stier

OTHER RESOURCES:

A Case for Faith and *A Case for Christ* (adult or teen versions) by Lee Strobel

Before Lee Strobel was a best-selling Christian author he was an award winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Doing extensive research on Christians and Christianity (with a very skeptical bias against Christians) he himself became a believer. Now he is one of the world's foremost Christian apologists (someone who defends the faith to skeptics.) Both of these books are excellent resources to know what you believe and why you believe it. They are

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written to the skeptic from the perspective of a reporter who is interviewing experts to find the truth. Both of these books come in teen versions as well.

Evidence that Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell

This is the flat out best book when it comes to presenting the pure, unadulterated evidence for Christianity. If you are doing research on specific questions that someone has and just want the facts this is the book for you!

5. Get creative!

When sharing your faith it is important that you get creative. Take a few minutes and read Acts 17:16-34 and you will see how creative the apostle Paul was in sharing his faith with the Greek philosophers on Mar's Hill in Athens. He used a creative opener, quoted pagan poets whom his audience was familiar with, tried to find common ground and then shared the whole story of Christianity from creation to the cross and beyond! Paul was creative when sharing his faith. We need to be as well!

Here are some creative ways to share your faith:

Learn to use Witnessing Radar

This is the skill of learning how to turn conversations toward spiritual things and then toward Jesus Christ. It is learning how to bring up Jesus naturally in the course of everyday conversations. I use the word skill because that's exactly what it is. It takes practice, work, and discipline over the long haul. I have been sharing my faith actively for twenty five years and it is a skill I am still working to improve. For a great example of how to use witnessing radar check out how Jesus used it in John 4:4-26.



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Use the Prayer-Dare-Share Strategy

- **PRAYER:** Begin praying for your non-Christian friends consistently. It shouldn't surprise us that those who pray most for their friends to come to Christ reach most of their friends for Christ.
- **DARE:** This "dare" revolves around inviting your non-Christian friends out to a place where they can be exposed to authentic Christianity and the gospel message. Maybe it's church, an outreach type meeting, or a Christian concert. But it's a place where non-Christians can hear the gospel in a friendly environment.
- **SHARE:** After the meeting you share the gospel by asking your friend, "What did you think of what just happened?" Pretty soon you are talking about the music, the message and the gospel. This is a simple and non-threatening way to share the gospel message with your friend.

The Prayer-Dare-Share strategy revolves around what some call "invitational evangelism." It all started when Andrew invited his brother Peter to come and meet Jesus (John 1:41,42.)

Write a letter

If you think about it the book of John is one long letter written to convince unbelievers that Jesus was who he claimed to be. John wrote, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31.) The book centers around eight major miracles of Jesus and uses the word for believe 98 times to convince the unbeliever to...well, to believe! Just like the apostle John used a letter to convince non-Christians to cross the line of faith, so can we!

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If you need help with writing a letter to a friend, family member or co-worker just email expert@dare2share.org

6. Discipleship is a must!

We wouldn't imagine taking a brand new baby and leaving it outside in the cold to fend for himself! But oftentimes Christians do that exact same thing with spiritual newborns. Babies need shelter, warmth, care and food. So do your friends who come to Jesus. If you have the privilege of leading your friend to Christ they need the shelter of a body of believers who love them, the warmth of spiritual encouragement, the care of pastors who will help them grow and the spiritual food of God's Word. You need to help your friends get connected into a group of believers in a local church where they can grow spiritually.

If you need to use some free discipleship resources to begin the growth process click here: <http://www.eteamrevolution.net/-1999997450>

You will discover eight simple follow-up sessions that will help your new believer friend grow as a believer!

7. Come out to a Dare 2 Share Conference!

Dare 2 Share specializes at equipping Christian teens to share their faith. This is a full-weekend conference where students and adults alike are transformed by the power of the gospel message and equipped to share it with clarity and confidence. This is the most interactive, fast-paced, dynamic conference you will ever participate in. Although it is designed for teens, we encourage adults to come as youth group sponsors and volunteers so that they, too, can be impacted by the mission and message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will leave ready, willing and able to communicate the life-changing story of Christianity with confidence to your friends who don't know Jesus. For more information on a Dare 2 Share conference near you click here: www.dare2share.org

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For more information on how you can volunteer for a conference near you please e-mail molly@dare2share.org

For more information on bringing a youth group to one of our training weekends please e-mail john@dare2share.org



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