

Following Jesus' example, our mission is to connect with God, connect with others, and connect others to God.

## Connecting Others to God

When we make the choice to meaningfully connect to God, our lives are enriched with a joy and purpose and love that cannot be found anywhere else. Without that connection, we are stuck the prison of our own self-centered lifestyle. Our struggles are fought against the lonely background of striving to be loved. Connected to God, we discover there is One who loves us unconditionally and will guide us into true happiness. This is what Jesus called the Good News! So how do we invite people into this life-changing discovery?

Let's start with some basic points:

- ✓ This is not about religion. It's about real living. You're not trying to strong arm them to church or force feed Biblical theology down their throats. This is simply about sharing your story and how God has become a part of that for you.
- ✓ *Everyone* is actually connected to God and God is continually working for good in their lives. The Bible says this. However, everyone is free to receive His Good Stuff (which is abundant living) or reject His Good Stuff (which is isolated dying). That's *our* decision.
- ✓ *Everyone* is on a spiritual journey (a.k.a. a search for meaning/truth) whether they realize it or not. Growing daily in your relationship with Jesus opens up new opportunities to live fully. Everyone draws direction for their life from somewhere. For you, it's about letting God be the primary director of your life. That's your story.

The best way to connect others to God is to live a life that makes them **hungry** for what you have. When you don't just react to life as a victim but you are proactive in your trusting Jesus for everything, people get curious. Let people (and the Holy Spirit) set the scene for a spiritual conversation. Be willing to be open and vulnerable as you share your challenges and how God has been there for you. Let people ask questions. You don't have to know all the answers. Trust God. Here are some other things to consider:

- **Awareness** is a **big** deal. First learn to be aware of what God is doing in your life. Open your eyes to the "little miracles" of his touch. Cultivate gratitude. This will open up your conversation with Jesus and be the starting point for real life change. Then go with the changes the Holy Spirit is empowering you to make in your daily attitudes and actions.

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- Life is a classroom. Basic life lessons from the Teacher may vary but the essential theme will be: **Allow the self-centered, defensive Self to die and let the loving, connecting, giving Self to be born again inside you.** This is a pure gift from a God who treasures you.
- Take that same growing awareness and direct it toward others. Ask yourself, "What is Jesus doing in *their* life at this moment?" **Practice listening deeply for how Jesus is already serving their needs.** Then pose the question to God, "How can I come along side You and help?" This takes practice but stick with it! It can be as simple as asking if you can pray for them for a challenge they're going through. This is what the Apostle Paul called "walking in the Spirit".
- As you **practice acts of kindness** in another's life, *listen to their response.* Learn to ask non-judgmental questions if you're not clear. Is there a place to mention naturally how God has made a difference in your life? Can you invite them to trust God in their life too?
- **When someone says they are ready to trust God,** offer to help them tell God themselves. Suggest they talk to God just as if He were a best friend right there with you (which he is!). No fancy prayers: Have them simply express that they're sorry for trying to live without Him and that from now on they will try to trust Him for everything in their lives.
- Offer to **follow up** with them personally to see how things are going. Invite them to meet with other Jesus-followers or just meet with them in their own home for awhile. Help them to get into reading the Bible. *Then invite them to tell their friends and family about the things God is doing for them and that they can invite people to experience God's loving presence too!*

Your ability to live a connected life will be the invitation card to others to connect too! Don't worry about doing it "right"... just watch for God's lead! Put on the servant's towel and wash some feet, simply encouraging people to be on their own journey with God. Then watch the cool stuff happen!

For other resources and encouragement:



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