

A Methodist Way of Life for April 2025 Tell “We speak of the love of God”

Introduction

Evangelism is a weighty word. A few people love it but many fear it. Some may have never heard it. Evangelism simply means ‘sharing the good news’. We are asked to share God’s love with others. This might include facts – like explaining the “Three-in-One” nature of a God who is Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. But it’s also about sharing experiences and connecting with people on an emotional and spiritual level.

We may be aware of a time when God felt very close and real. These can be both good times in our lives, or very tough times. Perhaps we can share times when God’s love was poured out upon our lives as we journey along.

Evangelism is something that all Christians are called to do. As it says in Romans, “How are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?” (Romans 10:14). Each of us has a role in speaking of God’s love – the entire congregation. It is not a special job reserved for Ministers or preachers. God calls us all, as a Body of Christ, to speak – and hopefully we want to, in the way that is right for us! As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15).

Key themes

- It’s natural to want to pass on good news. Evangelism is about passing on the good news of Jesus’ love for you, and it flows out of our excitement about what we have discovered.
- Your story matters. You’ve got a story to share about how God’s love has affected you, a story that might make all the difference to another person.
- *Speaking should always be accompanied by listening – allowing others to tell their story and allows us to notice God in them. Evangelism is not about us talking at other people, but forming meaningful relationships with others, and sharing our stories and experiences of God together.*
- Evangelism is something many Christians think is difficult and scary. But once you try, you might be pleasantly surprised by how it makes you feel. When we have faith conversation, our own faith deepens.

Relevant bible passages

Let’s explore four bible passages to be encouraged to tell out our faith.

Psalm 89 verses 1 and 2

“I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.”

Epistle to Romans Chapter 10 verses 14 to 15

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news”.

1st Peter Chapter 3 verse 15

But 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.

2nd Timothy Chapter 4 verses 2 to 5

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Reflections

To whom should we speak the love of God? Some of us may find it easier to speak with friends, others with strangers. Ultimately, it is a message for the entire world. When we are in relationships with people, they can also show us God at work in their our own lives as well. It’s amazing how much we can learn about God when we think we’re evangelising others! When we build relationships with others, we meet God together and are all transformed. Evangelism should not be something you do *to* other people but *with* other people; we should also be prepared to meet God and be changed by these interactions.

If we are given an opportunity to share our faith, we might choose to tell a story of how God makes a difference to us. We can share honestly how our faith helps us in the ups and downs of life, and our declaration may be as simple as saying “I felt/knew that God was with me when.....” and giving an example of something we have experienced.

Ideas for discussion

- Who talked to you about God as you became a Christian or grew in faith?
- What’s your story of the difference God’s love has made in your life?
- Do you find it easier to talk about faith with friends or strangers?
- Who do you know with whom you could share something of your faith this week?

Source: “A Methodist Way Of Life” Abridged and amended for BMC
www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/ then search for “Pray”.

Prepared by: John Cornish