

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
(1 Peter 3:15)*

“Jesus called out, ‘Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men.’” (Matthew 4:19, LB)

- Following and fishing go together!
- We are to be matchmakers, not salesmen.
- We are to be fishermen, not hunters.

HUNTING	FISHING
Aggressive	More gentle
Based on confrontation	Based on attraction
Go out there and shoot them	Get them to nibble on the bait
Uses one-size-fits-all bullets	Allows you to try different lures
Take your best shot – it’s over	Requires give and take to reel it in
Scares animal away if you miss	You get more than one chance
The animal has no choice	The fish gets a choice
Must be a skilled shot	Anyone can put bait in water

Three Keys to Spiritual Fishing

1. Identify your fishing pond.
2. Learn about the kind of fish in your pond.
3. Remember fish get hungry at different times.

MY FISHING POND		
ACTS 1:8	MY CHURCH	MYSELF
Jerusalem	Saint John	Family
Judea	New Brunswick	Relatives
Samaria	Canada	Friends
The World	Every Country	Acquaintances

CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIANITY

A Midweek Bible Study Series
Sharing YOUR Story



First United Pentecostal Church

Life
notes

Matthew 5:13-16 ¹³ **You are the salt of the earth.** But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ **You are the light of the world** — like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. ¹⁵ Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Starting Spiritual Conversations

1) Direct Method, 2) Indirect Method, 3) Invitational Method

Direct Method

- Don't wait for an opportunity; create one!
- Raise a spiritual topic to see if they are interested.
- You don't force them, but you open the door.
- If they don't take the hint, return to a safe topic.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS: *Do you ever think about spiritual things? If you ever want to know the difference between Christianity and religion, let me know. How's it really going? Who, in your opinion, was Jesus Christ? Do you ever wonder what happens to us when we die? What do you think a real Christian is? What's your spiritual background? Were you taught a particular religion growing up?*

Indirect Method

- Builds on the direction the conversation is headed by using the topic being discussed as a bridge to a related spiritual topic.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS: *(How's it going?) Well, financially, okay; family-wise, pretty well; and spiritually, things are great. Which one do you want to talk about? (What are you doing on the weekend?) I enjoy working with sound equipment / kids / music / other ministry. (Where do you do that?) Do you think the Easter celebration is based on fact or fiction? Do you buy into the idea that the baby in the manger was God's Son? I've had similar frustrations in my life. Can I tell you about something I learned at church that really helped me?*

Invitational Method

- Transition the conversation by inviting them to an event that relates to the topic you are discussing.
 - Give a visual reminder
 - Offer to pick them up
 - Do something together before or after the event
 - Introduce them to other Christians at the event

Starting Spiritual Conversations

- Pray about it!
- Take an interest in the other person's world
- Talk to people one-on-one
- Pique their curiosity
- Use "reciprocal reflexes"
- Be willing to take risks
- Make the most of split-second opportunities
- Don't underestimate their degree of interest!

A personal testimony is STILL the most persuasive form of communication.

"You are the ones chosen by God ... God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you." (1 Peter 2:9)

"Let the whole world know what He has done for you." (Psalm 105:1)

"Every day tell how He saves us. Tell the nations of His glory; tell all peoples the miracles He does." (Psalm 96:2-3)

- **DAVID:** "Come and listen, and I will tell you what God has done for me." (Psalm 66:11)
- **WOMAN AT THE WELL:** "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in [Jesus] because of the woman's testimony." (John 4:39)
- **MAN BORN BLIND:** "I don't know whether he is good or bad, but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!" (John 9:25)
- **PETER AND JOHN:** "We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)
- **PAUL:** On six different occasions, Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers. (Acts 22-26)
- **JESUS:** "I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes." (John 3:11)