

Reaching Out Together

Questions

How do you feel about inviting other people to church or to church activities? Is it something you're comfortable with or you generally avoid?

What's your story of faith? Why does it make a difference to you that Jesus is part of your life? Is that story or experience something that you are comfortable sharing with others? Have you ever been in a situation where you've had the opportunity to share?

Do you think of yourself as a welcoming and hospitable person? When you reach out to others, what does that usually look like?

"Preach the Gospel; if necessary, use words." (St. Francis) Have you ever thought about the idea that your life is constantly telling others about Jesus, without words? Have you given much thought to the idea that you are Christ's representative on earth?

How does it help you to know that reaching out is something that we should do together? How does this fit into Better Together? What do you think we need to do in order to be a community that effectively reaches out together?

How can you (individually or together) be like the woman at the well, and share Jesus' story with those around you?

Verses

Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity. When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should Colossians 4:5 (NCV)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

You are working together and struggling side-by-side to get others to believe the Good News. Philippians 1:27b (CEV)

I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6 (MSG)

Work together as partners who belong to God. 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NLT)

Two can accomplish twice as much as one. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (LB)

Open your homes to each other without complaining. 1 Peter 4:9 (TEV)

Reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it! Romans 15:7 (MSG)

Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Romans 12:16 (CEV)

Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. 2 Corinthians 5:20b (MSG)

[The Pharisees] had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crocks and riffraff?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite the outsiders, not coddle insiders." Matthew 9:10-13 (MSG)

Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let's really love them, and show it by our actions. 1 John 3:18 (LB)

Challenge

Think through what your faith story is — not "when you got saved," but what knowing Jesus means to you, in your life. Why does it matter that you are Jesus' apprentice? What does that mean in your life? Think through your answer so you're ready to share at a moment's notice ... let's be ready and look for opportunities to share this week!