

# Sharing faith without losing friends.

Week #2: Seeing People

March 10, 2019

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Sharing our love for Jesus with others is something most of us really want to do. The forgiveness we have experienced, the purpose that we have been given, and the Spirit of God leading us through this life and into the next is the best thing that's ever happened - and good news is to be shared.

Yet, bringing Christ into our relationships can be intimidating. We don't want to be misunderstood, we worry that we might lose a friendship, and we're not sure whether what we say comes out the right way at the right time in the right place to the right people ...

So, let's take a couple of weeks to learn that sharing Christ can be fun when we follow a few simple principles, beginning with the truth that God puts all sorts of people in our lives to love just like He does - unconditionally and genuinely.

## **Study Questions: *The transformation of Peter.***

1. In the transformation of Peter we see him brought to the end of himself. How do we test our agendas to see if they are in line with that of Christ?
  - What role do you think shame plays in preventing us from sharing our faith?
2. By the lake Jesus restores Peter and calls him to a life of service to others, service that asked him to give up everything for the sake of Christ.
  - Read John 21:15-19. Imagine it is you by that fire with Jesus. What might Jesus be asking you to give up for His sake? Is there something you need Him to call you out of so that you can be freed to serve Him with your whole self?
3. Last week we read how Jesus looked past Zacchaeus' obvious flaws and reputation and saw something no one else did. We live in a society that is increasingly embracing lifestyle choices in conflict with scripture and commonly held up as right thinking.
  - Was there a time in your own life where your thinking was misaligned with scripture?
  - Read Romans 5:1-11. How does this passage inform our approach to sharing the gospel with friends who hold values different from our own? What do you think God's agenda might be for the church as we interact with our changing society?
4. Last week you were asked to consider your friendships, specifically with those who do not yet know Jesus that God has placed in your life? Pressing in a little deeper, what do you appreciate about your friends who don't share some of your worldviews in some challenging areas? Does your story mesh with their story; are you able to relate to them?
  - What person in your life needs you to embrace them in spite of the significant differences in beliefs, lifestyle, and worldview?
  - Will you ask God to help you see people, to recognize their need, and to reach out to them in the name of Jesus?
5. Pray again this week for the friend or family member that God has placed on your heart. Pray for insight, for patience, and for wisdom as you seek to be a friend who walks with Jesus and has a story to share.