

SHAPING
AND
SHARING
A VITAL FAITH

Rev. Dr. Ken A. Ramsey

1. Faith Sharing:
Foundations

Establishing solid foundations that can lead us forward as a church toward an active ministry of sharing faith and reaching the unchurched.

Unchurching the Church

My Journey With Matthew 16:25

12 Affirmations of Faith

which must be shared if a church wants to experience new life and reach the unchurched.

12 Affirmations of Faith

1. It is God's intention to use the church to reach the world for Christ.
2. Every church is to be involved in this task.
3. God will provide the way for us to be faithful.
4. The church does not exist for itself, but for the unchurched.

12 Affirmations of Faith

5. There are fundamental shifts, which must occur in our self-understanding and practice if we are to reach out effectively.
6. There is the tremendous need to listen to what unchurched persons are saying about and to the church.
7. The agenda of a congregation needs to begin to reflect the needs of the unchurched not the church.
8. In order to effectively offer Christ, we must be willing to sacrifice entrenched ways of being and doing.

12 Affirmations of Faith

- 9. Unchurched persons can offer many gifts now for the church. (God's grace is stronger than our requirements and often operates even before we realize.)
- 10. We must be open with regard to our motives, letting the love of Christ constrain us.

12 Affirmations of Faith

- 11. Feelings of insecurity often lead to growth both personally and corporately.
- 12. Stepping outside the walls will be required. The Christ crucified "outside the gates" calls us to journey to the outside to be fruitful in ministry. The message from the margins will be essential to our discovery of new life.

Discussion

- Which of these did you find the most challenging?
- Which of these do you feel are most important for a "faith sharing" church?

II. FAITH SHARING: FORM AND FOCUS

Learning the practical principles
for sharing faith with others in an
invitational and relational manner.

Top Ten Practical Principles For Sharing Faith

1. Be clear about your purpose.
2. Faith sharing must be grounded in prayer.
3. To do mission of Christ, one must have the mind of Christ.

Top Ten Practical Principles For Sharing Faith

4. God is far more interested in our availability than our ability.
5. Take the person and the environment seriously.
6. Make invitational statements rather than ask questions.
7. Listening opens the door for speaking.

Top Ten Practical Principles For Sharing Faith

- 8. Don't say "you", say "I", Witness in the first person.
- 9. It is better to expose our vulnerability than to pretend invulnerability.
- 10. If people volunteer information, we can rest assured they wish to tell us more.

Discussion

- What fears do people have about faith sharing?
- Which principle might help you the most in sharing faith?

III. FAITH SHARING: FITNESS

Cultivating the disciplines and practices that keep the disciple and the church spiritually fit for the task and call of faith sharing.

Fitness For Faith Sharing

- Prayer and Fasting
- Study of Holy Scriptures
- Worship
- Regularly receiving the Lord's Supper
- Christian conversation/conferencing (in smaller groups or with a spiritual friend)

Two Fitness Models For Your Life and Your Church

Revival Is A Four Letter Word

Do This And Live

**IV. FAITH SHARING:
FRUITFUL ARENAS**

Discovering and creating arenas in which faith sharing can occur within our lives, our church, our community, and our world.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jerusalem
In the church and close to home.

Judea
The Larger Community

Samaria
The Marginalized Community

The Ends Of The Earth
The Global Community

Seven-Fold Pattern For Faith-Sharing Interaction

1. Pray for revelation.
2. Engage in conversation.
3. Build the relation.
4. Listen for invitation to connect.

Seven-Fold Pattern For Faith-Sharing Interaction

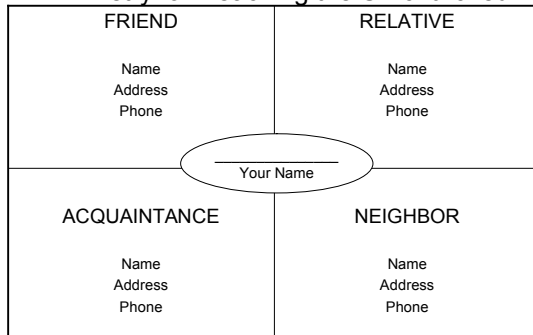
5. Invite participation with you.
6. Follow up with communication.
7. Repeat.

Essential For Every Church

- Prayer, active and often and visible for the un-churched, that includes following through on our prayers.
- Learning again how to radically love one another.
- Active faith sharing and visitation by pastor and people (but pastor takes the lead).

FRAN PLAN

A Ministry for Reaching the Un-churched



Next Steps:

Where will we go from here?

Your Covenant
With God and the Church

Follow...
Follow-up...
Follow Through
