

LIVING HOPE

PART 7

...That You Can Share

AUGUST 4 & 5, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER
1 PETER 3:15–20

Four Keys to Sharing My Hope

1. Right _____

But in your hearts, set apart **Christ as Lord**... *1 Peter 3:15a NIV*

2. Relevant _____

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

- Be _____
- Be _____
- Be _____

3. Respectful _____

But do this with **gentleness and respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ might be ashamed of their slander. *1 Peter 3:16*

See *Beyond Opinion: Living the Faith We Defend* by Ravi Zacharias

The gospel in a nutshell:

For Christ died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit... *1 Peter 3:18*

4. Relaxed _____

[Jesus] went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact... *1 Peter 3:19–20 (The Message)*

What's the point of the obscure Noah reference?

- If Noah had _____ with him, so do I.
- If Noah didn't have to _____ results, neither do I.
- If Noah could handle the _____, so can I.



TWIN LAKES
MINISTRIES
www.tlc.org

Some resources for sharing your hope:

God: The Evidence Patrick Glynn

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism Tim Keller

Unbroken (Exciting true story of Louis Zamperini) Laura Hillenbrand

Mere Christianity C. S. Lewis

The Case for Christ Lee Strobel

Why Jesus? and Has Christianity Failed You? Ravi Zacharias

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read 1 Peter 3:15–16. What principle did you learn this weekend that will make a difference when it comes to sharing your faith with others?

Which of the principles do you think is most ignored by Christians today?

What is your biggest obstacle in sharing your faith?

Ask God to help you share your faith with natural, confident ease. Begin to pray by name for people you know — in your neighborhood, family, or circle of friends — that the Lord might use you to reach them. Write their names here and pray for them each day this week:

Tuesday

Read Acts 8:26–40. Philip had his “radar” on — he was ready to share when he saw an opportunity. How does Philip practice the principles you learned in the weekend message?

Are you ready if a surprise opportunity comes up? Are you confident the Lord will help you?

Ask God to help you to be sensitive to His leading this week.

Wednesday

Read John 1:1–41 (This is a little longer than I usually ask you to read for a devotion, but it’s a great example of Jesus Christ sharing in a conversational way. Why did so many in the town believe?)

Do you suppose the woman had all the answers to their objections and questions?

continued 

Then why was she so effective?

What does this teach you about how to share your own faith?

How does Jesus practice these principles of sharing your faith:

- Finding common ground:
- Answering questions they’re asking:

Ask God to show you opportunities today for sharing your faith in a relational, respectful, but clear way.

Thursday

Read Acts 17:16–34. Paul gets to share his hope in the heart of the pagan Greek world: The Areopagus at Athens! What impresses you about his speech?

Notice that Paul uses two quotes from Greek philosophers, plus he quotes the inscription on an idol. Jot down two specific examples from your non-Christian culture — TV shows, movies, music, books — that you can use to convey the gospel to people:

Ask God to help you be as bold and confident as Paul in sharing your faith. Think of ways to state the gospel so it would make sense to your own circle of friends.

Friday

Reads Matthew 28:18–20. What is Christ’s final command — his “marching orders” — to his disciples?

How can you keep your focus on Christ’s commission?

Why do Christians slip from their focus on evangelism and missions?

Ask God to help you focus on your purpose in life: To spread His kingdom! Ask Him to help you develop relationships in ways that your hope becomes clear to people.

Saturday

Finish any devotions you may have missed. Work on the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend, and for the church to continue to grow and change lives! Thank you!



But in your hearts set apart 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.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV