

How Can I Share the Gospel in a Casual Conversation?

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Christians want to share the gospel message of Christ with others, but many believers don't know how. Here is a simple and effective example that can be used, or adapted, to do so during the Christmas season. Try it with your barber, your auto mechanic, or any other acquaintance or friend.

Christian: I really like Christmas—getting together with family members, good food, presents, and all. I bet you do too.

Acquaintance: Yes, I like Christmas too. . . .

(It usually doesn't matter what he or she says in response, or whether the person says anything at all.)

Christian: But did you ever wonder whether the Christmas story really happened? All this about a baby being born in a barn, angels appearing to shepherds, wise men coming from the East and all that?

Acquaintance: I don't know if this is true or not, and I don't know if there is any way to find out.

Christian: An even bigger question is: *Did Jesus really rise from the dead?*

The Apostle Paul first made a career for himself by persecuting those who believed the resurrection, but later he had an amazing change of mind. Paul wrote that over 500 people personally saw Jesus after He rose from the dead.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Peter wrote of eyewitness reports, too—as did the non-Christian historian Josephus. The eyewitnesses of Jesus were in a position to know what really happened, and they were willing to die rather than change their story.

(Chances are very good that the person with whom you are talking has never before heard that there is impressive evidence that Jesus rose from the dead. People are naturally curious. Some of them will want to know more.)

Acquaintance: Where can I get more information about all this?

Christian: You can read the Gospel of John, or try the Gospel of Luke and his sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. Underline every reference to eyewitnesses and to historic persons, like Pontius Pilate.

You'll discover that the Christian faith is not wishful thinking. Christians trust in Jesus because of who He really is and what He really did—Jesus lived, died, and rose back to life to save all people from sin.

Allen Quist is author of *The Reason I Believe: The Basics of Christian Apologetics*. For a free video archive of his "Evidence for Easter" presentation, visit www.blc.edu/apologetics/events.

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