



Episcopal Evangelism 101 Exploratory Exercises

What is Evangelism?

Evangelism: the spiritual practice by which we seek, name and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people – then invite everyone to MORE.

- What part of this definition resonates for you?
- What makes you curious?

Read the short, practical intro to evangelism at:
www.episcopalchurch.org/evangelism

Noticing God Meditation

God's presence is all around. Take a moment – better yet, make it a daily practice – to notice and grow in gratitude for the palpable, loving, life-giving presence of God.

Notice your own life and story. Where in your own life today do you see, feel, hear or sense God's loving presence most clearly?

Notice your neighborhood. As you look or walk around what do you see that fills your heart with gladness, hope or gratitude? Where do you see a clear sign of the Spirit's activity?

Notice the web. What sites, groups, and individuals reflect the loving presence of God to you?

Mining the Tradition in Your Heart

We each treasure some stories, images, and ideas from the Christian faith more closely than others. Some stories, images, and ideas speak to us more strongly at different points in our lives. It is a gift to know and to be able to share some of these treasures with others, and to tell why they are (or were) important to you.

- *From David Gortner's, **Transforming Evangelism***

What are your most treasured Christian stories, texts, and images?

In small groups and alone, tell these stories, and tell why they speak to you and for you.

In StorySharing, we tell our stories and receive the stories of others.

Download the full guidebook at www.evangelism.org/storysharing.

- Pairs work best for these exercises.
- Share real stories in real words.
- Aim for vivid, sensory-rich storytelling and generous hospitality.

Simple StorySharing Basics

Ask open questions to help your partner to speak freely and fully:

How did that make you feel?

What did you see?

Please, tell me more.

StorySharing at Church

During a sermon, pair off and share around a question related to the topic

During Coffee Hour, call for a pause and invite people to do StorySharing in 2-minute rounds (1 min./person), sharing with a new partner each time

At the start of meetings and classes, do one round of StorySharing in pairs, small groups of equal size, or with the whole group

During Formation Hour, try 6-minute rounds (3 min/person) to explore issues

Deepen community by organizing a one-month StorySharing campaign, so every member does 2 30-minute StorySharing sessions with members they don't know

Sample questions/story prompts

Have you had an experience when you knew you were loved? Share that story.

Share about a stirring experience of God.

Do you recall the story of when you knew this church was your home? Share it.

When have you felt God really alive in our church (in the last month)?

StorySharing beyond Church

Offer an honest invitation based on your genuine desire to build this relationship and to hear this person's story

Ex: "Our ministry is listening to our neighbors, because we know things have changed here. I'd love to hear your story and questions and share my own. Could we talk soon for half an hour?"

Sample questions/story prompts

When have you felt really connected to a community, the world, the universe, or something greater than yourself?

Who are the people or groups that help to lift your spirits?

Have you ever had a compelling experience of the holy or of God? Share that story.

Have you been part of a community? Share that story.

How have you used spiritual or meditative practices – prayer, meditation, deep breathing, etc. – in your life? Share a story about your practice.