

25 ways to share your faith during the Christmas season.

Christmas is probably the easiest time of the year to share the Good News. Even non-Christians are naturally thinking about spiritual things during the holidays (it's impossible not to considering all the spiritually themed decorations and music). It's also a time of year when many are depressed and sad. They need the hope that you have. Here are twenty-five easy and creative ways that you can share your faith this Christmas season! These are just a start and I hope they encourage you. If you're diligent, you can do one each day from December 1st through Christmas Day. Ask God for wisdom and for more creative ideas and I'm sure He will bring even more Christmas evangelism ideas to your mind (James 1:5).

1) Be creative with how you decorate the inside and outside of your home. Find ornaments and decorations for your interior that will point visitors to Jesus. It's your house so go all out. Have fun for the glory of God! As far as the outside decorating goes, the sky's the limit. You could spell out an evangelistic message in lights, put out a lit nativity set or do something as simple as setting up a cross of lights. Each of these simple decorating ideas will add a little Christmas cheer to viewers' lives and point them back to Jesus, the reason for the season!

2) Send out Christmas cards that will share your faith with your friends. Once you find the right cards, be creative as you consider what to write. Be sensitive but ready to share the Good News of Christmas with the people you love dearly.

3) Share at the post office. Any time you find yourself in a line think of it as an opportunity to share your faith. I won't lie, it isn't always the first thing that comes to my mind either but the Holy Spirit in you will be quick to remind you! It's really pretty simple. Just nod at the person in front of you when you enter and make some comment about the line (just don't complain too much). You could ask something like, "how long have you been here?" Since it's Christmas ask a Christmas related question like, "sending out last minute Christmas gifts?" Then, ask an easy follow up question about whether or why they celebrate Christmas. Then begin working through the sound barriers. Those will be easy with this topic. If the line is long enough, and it probably will be, you may just get to go through the whole gospel with someone while you wait. There may even be eavesdroppers who will hear the gospel. I was doing this once and after the person I was witnessing to left, the person who had been behind me, who had previously heard me teach on evangelism at a local church, said, "way to go, I was praying for you the whole time."

4) If you're going to be spending time shopping before Christmas, make it a point to share your faith while you're out. You could easily share with someone you find yourself in line next to. You could also share with any of the store employees or cashiers that help you out. Have a simple conversation starting question ready, like, "How is Christmas going for you?" Then work through the sound barriers and share the Good News with them. Just be sensitive about their schedule, they are on the clock and very busy. So whether you share with a store employee or just another shopper, make sure to share the Good News while out buying gifts this Christmas season.

5) Give an evangelistic gift. Picking the right gift can always be difficult but it shouldn't be hard to pick a good, evangelistic gift for your loved ones. Make sure to include a good evangelistic

card as well. You could buy your loved one a Bible. Even if they aren't a believer, you can buy them a high quality gift Bible that would look nice on their bookshelf and would be there the next time they became interested in investigating further. You could get them a good Christian book or DVD. You could buy them a classic movie that points to Jesus! *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *It's a Wonderful Life* or *The Nativity Story* would all work well. You could also make them a creative gift bag. Whatever gifts you end up buying, don't miss the opportunity to point those you love most back to Jesus.

6) Serve people this Christmas. Good works are never a substitute for evangelism but they can be a great transition to the gospel. Christmas can be a great time to serve others and use that as a way to share the Good News. Apply some of the servant evangelism ideas listed previously next Christmas season.

7) Help someone this Christmas. Times are tough! Many are out of work and many more are under-employed. I'm sure there are numerous people in your sphere of influence that are pretty needy this holiday season. A great way to share your faith with them could be to start by sharing some money or food or helping them with whatever need they may have. They may even just need some presents for their kids. Every one of them is at a place where they are probably very open to the gospel and will be even more when believers share both physically and spiritually with them.

8) Tell people about Santa. Santa is real! You probably already knew that. I'm obviously not talking about the pudgy character dressed in red! Our society has lost the true meaning of Christmas and perverted it with a commercial perspective epitomized by the character we call Santa Claus. Erin and I have never led our kids to believe in Santa (or any other fictional characters) but have found the topic is a great way to transition back to Jesus and the Gospel. Next time you hear people talking about Santa, go ahead and tell them the real story. Nicholas was a wealthy man, orphaned as a boy, who loved God and desired to serve Him. Because Scripture tells us to give to the poor, he spent his life, as a minister, giving away his wealth and providing for the needs of children and the needy. Many of the traditions we have about Santa Claus arose from his efforts. Tell people the true story of a man who loved God so much that he was willing to give all he had to love others as well. That will give you an interesting and easy start to sharing about the greatest gift ever given, the gift that inspired Nicholas to give the way he did and the gift that we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus!

9) Share with your co-workers this Christmas. Decorating your office with a few Christ centered Christmas cards, pictures or posters is a good start. Even if you don't have an office, you could come up with creative ideas to bring Christ into your surroundings. Maybe it could be the Christmas music you play or some other idea. A visible reference to Jesus in your office is a great way to share your faith in your workplace this Christmas. A second way would be to carefully select Christmas cards that share the gospel for each of your co-workers. A third idea would be to pick Christ centered gifts for your Christmas party. You could also help a co-worker out, creating an opportunity to share the Gospel. Finally, say Merry Christmas instead of Happy Holidays. That could easily open up discussions with co-workers.

10) Next time you're in town ask your cashier or clerk wherever you happen to be doing errands, or your server at a restaurant, if they celebrate Christmas. If they say, "no," ask what they celebrate. Last time someone told me, "no", I asked what they celebrate and the lady said, "Nothing, I was raised a Jehovah's Witness." I asked if she was still practicing and she said, "no." I asked what she thought about spiritual issues and she said something to the effect of, "searching and open." That opened up a conversation about Christ and a continuing opportunity to share. If they say they do celebrate Christmas, ask them what they celebrate about Christmas. That might catch them off guard but no matter what it will open up into a natural conversation about the meaning of Christmas, Jesus!

11) Tell someone what you want for Christmas. We always get asked what it is that we want for Christmas. Simply state that that's a hard question to answer because you already have more than you could ever ask for, the greatest gift of all, a relationship with Jesus. You can easily tie this back to Christmas and share the gospel. Another simple way to transition to the gospel from a conversation each of us are bound to have numerous times this year!

12) Share *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. A Charlie Brown Christmas has a clear reading of Luke 2:8-14 and a clear description of the real meaning of Christmas, a Savior born to all people. You can often watch it for free on Hulu and Netflix (spread the word this Christmas season). The next time you're talking about Christmas bring up *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and then tie it back to the gospel or just invite a friend to watch it with you and then talk about it afterwards.

13) Do a Christmas Soularium survey. You'll read about the Soularium tool in chapter ten. Simply alter it a bit, asking three different questions. You could ask, "Which picture or pictures describe what you look forward to most over the holidays?" Then ask, "Which picture or pictures describe how you will celebrate the holidays?" And finally, ask, "Which picture describes what you think is the meaning of Christmas?" These questions will lead to an incredible conversation about Christmas and the meaning of Christmas, Jesus!

14) Give out Christmas gift bags. This is another great idea from Trisha Ramos of *Fish with Trish* (fishwithtrish.com). Make a few gift bags that you could give out to friends, co-workers and neighbors before everyone heads their own ways for Christmas. Include a few small treats along with a short evangelistic message.

15) Share the gospel while having fun! Whether you'll be traveling or sticking around town having fun, take the initiative to share the gospel during your free time this Christmas. If you're just out on the town, try sharing with any waiters or baristas you meet (remember evangelism idea #50). If you're hitting up the slopes, take advantage of all those lift rides with strangers. I can't even count all the great evangelistic conversations I've had riding the lifts with strangers. Whatever you happen to be doing, remember that vacation time should be a vacation from work, not from sharing the Good News. Witnessing is one of the greatest joys in life and making it a part of your free time this Christmas is sure to make your Christmas even better. Whatever fun activities you have planned, make Jesus and telling others about Him, part of them!

16) Share the Good News while traveling! Many of us travel during the holidays. If you will be traveling, make it a point to share the Good News with those you encounter along the way. You may never see them again and this may be the only opportunity you ever get to share with them. If you're flying you'll have numerous opportunities to share with people in airports and planes. You could easily start a conversation by asking them where they're traveling to and then working through the sound barriers from there. If you're driving you could tell a cashier at the gas station "Merry Christmas" and that Jesus loves them. Who knows what will happen when you take the initiative to share as you travel over the holidays!

17) Invite a friend to a Christmas production somewhere in your area. You could invite someone to a Christmas Eve service, a live nativity or a Christmas themed movie. Events like these are fun and Christmasy ways to bring up Christ with your friends. Everyone likes being invited to events like these and whether they come or not, as soon as you invite them you've initiated a conversation that can be brought back to the gospel easily.

18) Share the Good News with kids. It might not seem like evangelism but it is. Our kids need to hear the Good News as much as any stranger on the street. They are being bombarded with false descriptions of the meaning of Christmas and it is more important than ever that they need to hear the real meaning of Christmas. You wouldn't believe how many college students we meet each year that grew up in Christian families but have never heard the gospel. You could intentionally share the gospel using some of the ideas I've already shared or by doing a Christmas Advent together. Most importantly, just make it a point to go over the Christmas story from the Gospels with them. Make sure to discuss the significance of Christ's birth and why He had to come, live, die and be risen to pay the price for our sins so each of us could have peace with God. What a great celebration. So whether they're your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews or just youngsters that happen to be celebrating with you, make sure to share the gospel with them this Christmas!

19) Wear a pin. My friend Mark Hohle challenged us all to apply this idea at a recent men's retreat. It is pretty simple. Wear a pin that reminds people why we celebrate Christmas. Make sure it is visible and be ready to get into conversations when people see it. This might not be everybody's favorite idea but it is one more way to share your faith over Christmas.

20) Get online. You could post an evangelistically themed Christmas message or video on your social media, send an e-mail with a nice Christmas note or message or you could send a Christmas e-card. Whatever you do, bring Christ into your internet world this Christmas!

21) Go caroling. My friend Gerry Geraghty does this every year. The carols we sing at Christmas time are full of the Good News and peoples' hearts are open to Christ's message in a special way this time of year. Christmas caroling can be a great way to share the Good News during Christmas time! Here are eleven great carols with evangelistic messages. *Silent Night*, *The First Noel*, *Oh Come*, *All Ye Faithful*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Joy to the World*, *From Heaven Above to Earth I come*, *Do you hear what I hear*, *Away in a Manger*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* and *O Holy Night* are all Christmas carols that include evangelistic lyrics. After caroling, make sure to try to share the gospel with your listeners and even any non-Christians who go caroling with you.

22) Throw a Christmas party. Throw a Christmas party before Christmas and invite a ton of friends (especially those you want to share the Good News with). Plan the event in such a way that you can clearly refer to the gospel and share with your loved ones in a very warm and friendly way.

23) Talk about candy canes. I'm sure you'll have lots of guests over for Christmas or be a guest along with many others at someone else's place. Candy canes are a great intro to share the gospel, especially with children. Tradition tells us that the candy cane's "J" shape should remind us of Jesus and when flipped around, it reminds us of a shepherd's staff and how each of us are His sheep. The white color of the candy cane stands for purity. The large red stripe reminds us of His blood which He shed for our sins to make us pure before God. The three small stripes represent the trinity. Talk about a great way to get to the gospel from something that will most likely be a decoration wherever you spend Christmas. You could also give out candy canes with a short message including this information attached.

24) Share during your Christmas celebrations. When family and friends are gathered next Christmas, make sure to share the gospel with them in a sensitive way. Before they arrive, pray for each of your non-Christian relatives. Don't forget the "divine order," talk to God about people (in this case, your loved ones) and then talk to your loved ones about God. Once you're together with them, use some of the following ideas to get into conversations. There are numerous ways to share Christ during your celebrations. Whether you're the host or just attending, you could spice up the Christmas party by taking everyone to a Christmas Eve service, singing some great evangelistic Christmas carols together, watching a good movie or telling people about the significance of candy canes or the true story of Santa. Make sure to read the Christmas story from the Gospels and relate it to the reason Christ had to come in the first place. Don't forget to share with the kids you're celebrating with as well, they need Jesus too! Another opportunity to share is praying before the meal, which is a great way to point your loved ones back to Jesus. Whatever you do, just be willing and take the initiative and look for the opportunities God will bring up!

25) This last Christmas evangelism idea is my favorite for sure. Every Christmas, my family makes fresh Christmas cookies. We make some from scratch but we also buy some of the Christmas themed and decorated "bake at home" ones at the store. Anyway, we cook hundreds of them fresh and then put five or six each into about 115 ziplock sandwich bags. Then, the kids draw a sweet Christmas picture with a simple gospel message and we scan it and print it onto large labels that we simply stick onto the bags. Each label also includes the time and location of our church's Christmas outreach program. We also leave our contact info. One neighbor recently stopped by to let us know our Christmas cookie gospel message prompted her to visit a nearby church where she put her trust in Christ! This is a fun and easy idea that works!

Once Christmas is over, continue asking friends and relatives how their celebrations went, transitioning those conversations to the gospel as well. Christmas is a special time of year. What better way to celebrate than by sharing the meaning of Christmas with people?

Go for it!

Don't get caught up in the selfishness that characterizes so many of our holidays. These are incredible opportunities for evangelism. Decide to make the most of them and I'm confident you'll experience more holiday cheer than ever before! Remember, you don't have what it takes but the Holy Spirit in you does. Take the initiative, in the power of the Holy Spirit and then trust God to come through in the lives of those you share with!