

Local
Friends

presents

Share Your Faith

an interactive training seminar
to help you talk about the things
that matter most to you

What is on offer?

This interactive seminar will **address the four basic problems** – the main reasons why most Christians do not share their faith.

- They don't understand **what to do**. If you think you ought to be forcing your beliefs onto unwilling people, you probably will not want to do it (and it usually won't work well if you do).
- They don't know how or where to **start talking** about their faith in a natural way. If you feel uncomfortable, you will not enjoy the experience, and neither will the people you are talking with.
- They are not confident about **what to say**. If you can't communicate what you want to say in under a minute, you probably can't explain it clearly when you have an hour.
- They are afraid they will not be able to **answer the questions** that arise. What do you say about suffering, other religions, evolution, the Crusades and contradictions in the Bible?

This seminar will not tell you what to say, but it will help you **find your own words** to communicate the things which matter most to you. In addition, it will give you the opportunity:

- to **explore ways of talking about your faith** that work for you;
- to **discover a simple and effective three-stage strategy** to open up conversations about spiritual matters; and
- to **find answers to the questions** that worry you.

Most importantly, it will enable you to do more than just talk with other people about what you believe: you can be confident that you are not only **telling** them about a God of love but also **showing** them God's love in the way you interact with them and **helping** them respond if they want to do so.

If you are not already sharing your faith, this seminar will help you **get started**, talking naturally about the things which matter to you, when it is appropriate and will be appreciated, in the different situations where you find yourself.

If you have started, this seminar will help you explore ways to **be more effective**, and how the whole process can be more enjoyable for yourself and for others.

Overview

You don't have to be an evangelist to be able to share what you believe with other people. Every Christian can do this in a way that is clear, simple and attractive; that is natural and comfortable for you; and (most importantly!) is enjoyable for the people you talk with.

You might be surprised by the difference it makes to your faith and confidence when you are able to talk with other people – with friends, family, work colleagues and strangers – about what you believe, when you can communicate it clearly and attractively, and when you are not worried about the questions they might ask you.

While the seminar is primarily aimed at Christians who wish to share their faith more effectively, it is also suitable:

- if you are not a Christian, or not sure whether you are a Christian;
- if you are not sure you want to talk with others about what you believe, but suspect it might be a fun and interesting thing to do; or
- if you simply want to understand how Christians can believe such strange things.

While we can help you find the words to talk about your beliefs, the greatest benefit of this seminar is that we will help you ask questions to understand the people around you – what they believe and what matters to them. When you are prepared to create a safe space for people to talk with you, and when you really listen to what they have to say, you might be amazed by the conversations you can have.

Running the seminar

If you would be interested in attending, please get in touch and we can let you know when the next seminar is being planned. If you would be interested in us bringing a seminar to you – again, please get in touch to talk about the details.

The arrangements are negotiable, but we usually run the seminar on a Saturday from 9.30 am to 5 pm, for between 10 and 30 people. The ideal target range is 15-20 people: this generally provides a good range of experience while enabling everyone to contribute. Where possible, we aim to include a wide range of ages, Christian experience and personal situations; it is often helpful to include people from several churches.

The normal cost is £15 per person for the day. This includes drinks and biscuits, plus a comprehensive set of notes, but we ask people to bring a packed lunch. Further sets of the training notes can be purchased by prior arrangement for £5 each.

About us

This training is arranged through Local Friends, a scheme to help Christians support people in their local community.

The seminar will be led by Paul Hazelden. Paul has been training people in different methods of evangelism since 1982, and has worked with a number of churches and evangelistic organisations. Much of the material was developed while working for Open Air Campaigners.

Further Details

For more details, please contact us in one of the usual ways.

- **Post:**
Abbeywood, 57 Avon Way, Bristol, BS9 1SL
- **Telephone:**
(07816) 893 676
- **Email:**
paul@hazelden.org.uk