

Time and Teamwork

In this segment, three strategies are introduced to overcome our stifling schedules and fragmented lives in order to have some time to focus on evangelism.

- Clarify our priorities;
 - Integrate evangelism into the activities of our lives; and,
 - Team up with other believers whose gifts compliment ours.
1. After watching the video, which of the following statements best reflects your current feelings regarding focusing on lifestyle evangelism:
 - Frustration: I don't see how I can integrate evangelism into my schedule.
 - Hope: I'm beginning to see a glimmer of how it will be possible.
 - Confidence: I'm sure I can fit reaching the lost into my schedule.
 - Other:

 2. What team strategies for evangelism did the video recommend?

 3. Below are some of the gifts needed to reach the lost. Check off the ones you think you have.
 - Meeting and making contacts with unbelievers
 - Hospitality
 - Building relationships
 - Praying
 - Explaining biblical ideas in secular language
 - Leading discussion
 - Organizing and coordinating details

- Serving:
 - Meeting people’s physical needs
 - Listening when someone hurts

Going Deeper

An Illustration

One day, a couple of years after Mario had become a Christian, he and I were reminiscing. He asked me, “Do you know what it really was that made me decide to become a Christian?” Of course, I immediately thought of our countless hours of Bible study, but I responded, “No, what?”



His reply took me completely by surprise. He said, “Remember that first time I stopped by your house? We were on our way someplace together, and I had a bowl of soup with you and your family. As I sat there observing you, your wife, your children, and how you related to each other, I asked myself, ‘When will I have a relationship like this with my fiancée?’ When I realized that the answer was ‘never,’ I concluded I had to become a Christian for the sake of my own survival.”

I remember the occasion well enough to recall that our children were not particularly well-behaved that evening. In fact, I remember I had felt frustrated when I corrected them in Mario’s presence.

Mario saw that relationships with Christ bind a family together.... Our family was unaware of its influence on Mario.

We tend to see the weaknesses and incongruities our lives, and our reaction is to recoil at the thought of letting outsiders get close enough to see us as we really are. Even if our assessment is accurate, it is my observation that any Christian who is sincerely seeking to walk with God, in spite of all his flaws, reflects something of Christ.

(Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*, p. 119)

For Further Reading

Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*, chapters 13-15.

Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Saltshaker and into the World*, chapter 12.