

appnotes

October 6-10, 2014

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 5:13-16

As you follow Jesus and live out your new identity in Him, you can't help but make a difference. Jesus gives two pictures of what it means to make an impact in your world. You are salt. When you take your faith to work you are salt. You add flavor to the lives of your co-workers. Do your words and actions enhance the workplace? You are light. Your lifestyle should be a beacon pointing others to the difference Jesus has made in your life. What difference is your faith making in the workplace?

DAY 2

READ JAMES 3:1-12

Words matter. One of the most practical ways to bring your faith to work is by the way you use your words. Sharing your faith isn't just about what you say; it actually has a lot to do with what you're not saying. James warns that, as Christ-followers there shouldn't be an inconsistency with our words. We shouldn't be talking about how great Jesus is and then slamming our boss or other co-workers. People are quick to pick up on that kind of hypocrisy. Are your words consistent; or, are you sending mixed messages?

DAY 3

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-16

Paul encourages us to have the same spirit of humility that Jesus modeled. Even though he was God, He humbled Himself and served others. Imagine the impact you could have at work if you stopped looking out for your own interest and instead, worked hard to care more about others. That kind of example could not be missed. This week, begin to put Paul's suggestions into practice. Don't argue or complain, but serve those you work with. As you do, you will stand out and show Whom you really work for.

DAY 4

READ 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

Wow, Paul certainly isn't leaving us to wonder as he writes this passage! Are you known for being busy or just a busybody? Paul reminds us that as believers we are called to work hard and set the tone. That is what he and the other disciples did when they had visited the believers in Thessalonica. They didn't just sit around and expect others to take care of them, but they worked to set the example. In short, we should give our best because God gave His best. No one is going to be drawn to Jesus by a group of people who are lazy and disruptive.

DAY 5

READ 1 PETER 3:8-16

Approach trumps content every time. As Peter explains that we should always be prepared to share our faith, he adds on an important addendum: with gentleness and respect. The reality is, people don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care. Since we have been entrusted with the most important message in the world, we have to be intentional with the way we communicate it. The most effective way we can communicate the message of the cross is to emulate it in our lives. Peter tells us to be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble. If we live that way, our message will come across loud and clear as we share our story.

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20 Practical Ways to Bring your Faith to Work:

1. Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
2. Make it a daily priority to speak or write encouragement when someone does good work.
3. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their stories.
4. Bring breakfast once a month for everyone in your department.
5. Organize an exercise group before or after work.
6. Create a regular time to invite co-workers over for dinner.
7. "Put Christ on the table." (When co-workers ask about what you did over the weekend, mention church instead of intentionally dancing around the topic.)
8. If there is another Christian in your office, meet and pray with them to hold each other accountable to the task of bringing Christ to your office.
9. Learn how to share the gospel *briefly* (as in, less than 30 seconds), so that you can communicate it in a conversation without hijacking it entirely.
10. Make a list of your co-workers' birthdays or anniversaries and send a note of encouragement on that day. If appropriate, ask, "What is one thing I can be praying for you this year?"
11. Make every effort to avoid gossip in the office. Be a voice of thanksgiving, not complaining.
12. Find others that live near you and create a carpool.
13. Be the first person to welcome new people to the office.
14. Make every effort to know the names of co-workers, along with their families.
15. Offer to pray on the spot for someone who tells you they are going through a difficult time.
16. Volunteer to clean up after parties.
17. Keep copies of *The Reason for God*, *The Case for Christ*, or *Our Daily Bread* in your office. Give a copy to anyone who asks.
18. Visit co-workers when they are in the hospital.
19. Invite co-workers into service projects you are already involved in through your church.
20. Lead the charge in organizing others to help co-workers in need.