

**\*THOSE WHO WOULD CALL THEMSELVES 'NON-RELIGIOUS' & WOULD TICK 'NONE OF THE ABOVE' WHEN ASKED ABOUT RELIGION.**



Equipping the Church for Mission

## GETTING TO KNOW SOME NONES\*

With over half the UK population resisting any kind of 'religious' label, it's more important than ever that churches and individuals within them keep contact and build relationships with this growing demographic. But how can we do this and what should we do once we have made contact? Have a look at the five pointers below for some top tips.



### BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT MAKING RELATIONSHIPS

Go out of your way to meet 'nones' in your neighbourhoods and networks. Not sure who they are? Have a look [here](#) at the research done by the Bible Society. Look out especially for those they describe as *Bible Indifferent* or *Bible Dismissive*. Enjoy their company, learn from them and avoid spending so much time in church meetings that you haven't the time to meet those with a different take on the world to you. Remember, Jesus often sought out the least-religious in any crowd.



### TALK OPENLY OVER FOOD

Either at home or through church, invite non-religious friends to a meal and simply ask them more about their view of life, what matters to them and, if it seems appropriate, why God isn't on their radar. Don't shy away from the big topics (life, death, the environment, purpose...). We bet you'll learn lots and who knows, they might ask you some pretty meaty questions too.



### SHARE YOUR EVERY-DAY LIFE WITH OTHERS

For many non-religious people who later become Christians, it is their friendship with Christians who share their every-day lives with them that has the biggest influence in their journey to faith. So be real, be authentically *you*, do life together and talk freely about the things you believe, the things that inspire you and the impact they have on your life.



### DON'T BE SHY ABOUT JESUS

For many 'nones' Jesus is very much a person of interest and yet not someone they necessarily know that much about. Helping someone know more about Jesus, telling them what inspires you about him and sharing his impact on your life and on the world is probably the single biggest thing you can do for another person. Don't be shy!



### EMBRACE THE SPIRITUAL

As you probably know, many 'nones', though eschewing 'religion', would often call themselves 'spiritual'. So introduce them to some of the great spiritual practices of the Christian faith: meditation, prayer, the examen, silence, daily offices, fasting and so on. Recommend apps like [Lectio 365](#), [Pray-as-you-Go](#), [Bible-in-one-Year](#) and [Infinitum Life](#) and consider putting on a spiritual event just for them. Let us know how it goes!

Although many around us in Hamilton are not 'nones' (i.e. non-religious'), a lot of this advice is really helpful for any conversation about God. Take courage that God is with you!

# SHARING FAITH WITH 'NONES'\*

With over 50% of the UK population now ticking the 'none of the above' box in surveys about religious faith, how can Christians best help their non-religious friends and family who want to explore the Christian faith? We asked a number of 'nones' who have recently become Christians for their top tips and we summarise their responses below.

## SIMPLER



- Don't over-complicate things
- Just tell your story as it is
- Be natural
- Don't use unnecessary jargon
- Help people know there are no stupid questions
- Show simple kindness, love & generosity

## HUMBLER



- Start & end with love and listen well
- Create a safe space for sharing deep things
- Don't pretend to be better than you are
- Be honest about your doubts & uncertainties
- Relax and admit you're not the finished article
- Acknowledge the Church's imperfections

## BOLDER



- Be courageous, open & honest about what you believe
- Live in such a way that attracts interest
- Don't decide for others; they may be more interested than you think
- Remember that what you have to say might be life-giving for others
- Don't procrastinate!
- Don't worry about getting things wrong
- Ask God to lead you & tell you what to say

### Pray

- Pray for those you know who aren't yet disciples of Jesus.
- Pray with people in times of need.

### Serve

- Kind words.
- Offering to help (sacrificially).
- Sharing what we have.

### Own up ('I have found...')

- That you go to church.
- How Christianity helped in your life.
- How you came to faith.
- How you handle struggles/doubts.

### Invite ('Come and see...')

- To a connecting event: coffee, meal, social event with others from church
- To join us in serving the needs of others: a foodbank, night shelter, lunch club, overseas mission trip.
- To consider Jesus: invite to read, watch, listen or attend (gospel, blog post, video, film, podcast, Alpha).