

## 12. Share Him (2Q 2026 Growing in a Relationship with God)

**Biblical material:** Matt. 28:18–20, 2 Pet. 3:18, 1 Pet. 3:8–15, Hosea 7, Zechariah 10; Isaiah 50:4.

### Quotes

- Sharing Jesus is as simple as connecting with others around their passion or their pain. *Alvin L. Reid*
- Reflect Christ through kind words, patience, a gentle temperament, love, and respect. *Billy Graham*
- There are some of us who cringe at the very thought of sharing Jesus with others. We are scared of what other people will think if we bring up God in today's world. Broaching the subject of religion and God, and dare we say it? Speaking the name of Jesus can be very intimidating and even downright scary. *Alicia*, <https://www.christianwomenscorner.com/how-to-share-jesus.html>
- If you can walk with God and proclaim the good news, that's the greatest legacy. *Luis Palau*
- Christians think (the lost person) is rejecting them, but really they are rejecting Jesus instead, We must always remember, it is the gospel people are rejecting, not us. We need to get away from the “we're winning them” idea and realize it is the Lord who is winning them. *Bill Fay*
- Knowing the terrible fate of those without Christ, how can we who claim to believe the Scriptures and truly love people refrain from sharing Jesus with them? *Randy Smith*
- I've seen far too many Christians who are more than willing to travel halfway around the world to volunteer for a week in an orphanage, but who cannot bring themselves to take the personal risk of sharing Jesus with the co-worker who sits day after day in the cubicle right next to them. *Lee Strobel*

### Questions

What is more important than sharing Jesus? How can we be ready to share Jesus without sounding pretentiously pious? What dangers face the organizational church in its mission to share Jesus with the world? What is missing from much of the evangelism carried out by Christian churches? How do we fit in the great controversy in our presentations about Jesus?

### Bible summary

Matthew 28:18–20 is the gospel commission. 2 Peter 3:18 is his prayer that we “grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:8–15 is a wide range of Christian instruction, ending with “Always be ready to explain to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that you have.” Hosea 7 is God's condemnation of Ephraim. Zechariah 10 is God's promise to restore Ephraim and Judah. In Isaiah 50:4 the prophet explains how God has given him the ability to teach and encourage others.

### Comment

On January 1, 2002, the Executive Committee of the General Conference voted that the three core values of the Adventist Church were “Unity, Growth, and Quality of Life.” Jan Paulsen, president of the world church at the time affirmed that “these three values contain the genius of Seventh-day Adventism,” and define the “ethos and self-awareness” of the Adventist Church.

Unity, Growth, and Quality of Life. These are managerial aspects, not words of vision. The three “strategic values” could equally well be adopted and promoted by any company or corporation. For example, General Motors would recognize the importance of providing say child care facilities so as to assist its workforce and to improve morale and job satisfaction. They are just as interested in promoting quality of life as we are because it provides corporate benefit. Similarly,

what corporation does not believe in growth--expansion and development of their business to increase profit? Unity too—any business needs to stay together, to be unified in structure and program. To focus on a cohesive organization is essential for market success.

So while such words are important, they do not define the vision and mission of the Adventist church. They are concepts for managing the organization. The vision and mission concepts for the Adventist church are *telling the truth about God, sharing hope in Jesus, and having eternal relevance*. By “God” we take this to mean the gospel message of salvation brought by Jesus, who in his life and work demonstrated God's true nature and character in the context of the great controversy.

Bringing people to God is our primary mission, and sharing Jesus' picture of the saving, healing, trustworthy God in contrast to the defamatory attacks of the Devil is our primary vision.

More than anything else, we have chosen to preach hope in Jesus. Even in the choice of our name, Adventists point to the centrality of the blessed hope in our beliefs and self-recognized purpose. Hope is who we are.

And relevance—eternal relevance. If we become irrelevant, then we have no reason to exist. This is why we have developed so many programs of relevance—education, health, relief aid and development. Only as we have a practical impact on our world can we fulfill our mission. Our vision is of a transformed world and a redeemed humanity—a vision of eternal relevance to every being on this planet. In sharing our message and mission, we must make it so: immediately relevant.

While we may need to manage the organization and the structure of the church by encouraging unity, growth, and quality of life; more importantly we need to re-emphasize our vision and mission through sharing Jesus, in the widest meaning of that phrase. The day that we forget that this is our central mission is the day we deviate from our calling and become just another organization.

### **Ellen White Comments**

We can have no higher joy than to be laborers together with God, rescuing souls from the slavery of sin; and upbuilding the kingdom of Christ. This joy is Christ's joy, and every soul who partakes of it has his joy full. Again and again we may drink of this fountain of joy, and rejoice in it, knowing that no other joy can bear any comparison to it. {RH, February 13, 1894}

A man is no sooner converted than in his heart is born a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. The Spirit of Christ illuminating the soul is represented by the light, which dispels all darkness; it is compared to salt, because of its preserving qualities; and to leaven, which secretly exerts its transforming power. {4T318-9}

How changed would be our experience if the time we spend in repining were spent in beholding Jesus, and in telling others of his love! Then our words would be profitable. {AUGleaner September 16, 1903}

In our institutions the spirit of Christ was to be a witness to the world of the character of God, a living epistle, known and read of all men.... {PH149 20}

We should follow the example of Jesus, who was the perfect Teacher. He educated men by revealing to them the character of the living God. He said, “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” This is the important subject to impress upon the minds of youth; for they must have a knowledge of the paternal character of God, in order that they may be led to subordinate temporal to eternal interests. By beholding the character of God, an intense desire will be created in their hearts to impart to others the beauty and power of truth. {CSW 109}