

The BELLS Method⁷

You have influence in some folks' lives. Use this method of relational evangelism with them.

Bless others.

- Words of affirmation - a note or word that encourages and empathizes.
- Acts of kindness - lightening the load of someone else through service and aid.
- Gifts - Expensive or free, expressing that the recipient has been thought of.
- Word of warning: bless to bless, love to love. Don't arm twist. They should feel blessed, not manipulated!

Eat together.

- Invite a friend out, buy lunch and make a friend, have dinner together, etc.

Listen to the Spirit.

- Listening in prayer/meditation rather than talking.
- Set aside a designated time each week and find a private place or prayer closet for it.
- Eliminate the distractions, get comfortable but reverent, and aim for a 20 minute session.
- Let God in - consider using a centering prayer or simply quieting yourself and letting the Holy Spirit guide you.
- Follow the Spirit's promptings - The Spirit might bring someone's name to mind, convict you of sin, encourage your faithfulness, or call on you to (re-)engage with someone.

Learn from God's Word.

- Let scripture master you, don't try to master it. Go slow and read intentionally, collecting guidance not just facts.
- Read the Bible, books about our faith, theology, and more.

Send yourself out.

- Identify yourself as a missionary using the following terms as guides: reconciliation, justice, beauty, and wholeness (or discern your own).
- Connect people to God in Jesus as you know Him from prayer and study.
- Journal it: it gives you a record and an intentional time to process. Let the journal help you understand how you fit into God's mission.

⁷ Adapted from *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost