Elevator Evangelism

How to make our holy encounters count
Follow your passion. It will lead you to your purpose.

The only courage you ever need is the courage to live the life you want.

No experience is ever wasted. Everything has meaning.

Oprah Winfrey
Will you by word and example proclaim the Good News of God in Christ?

(BCP, 305)
“We should be doing evangelism as well, as often, and as authentically as we do outreach.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.”

1Peter 3:15
The world is full of elevators.
Qualities of an elevator speech:

Personal and Sincere
Simple
Open-ended
Personal and Sincere

“I was a knucklehead”

“I was choked by depression”
Simple
Know what is essential
and say that.
I’m a Christian because Jesus Christ found me and called me, around 40 years ago.

I’m a Christian because it makes sense to me, because Jesus rose from the dead - he conquered death and sin and suffering.

I’m a Christian because in Jesus I see the God who didn’t say, “This is how you lot have got to behave, and I’m going to watch you and judge you.” Instead he came alongside us and lived in the middle of the absolute foulest mess, and died unjustly young in great agony, and bore all that was wrong in this world on his shoulders.
I'm a Christian because in my own experience I’ve run away and God has met me and yet not been angry with me. When I’ve failed he’s picked me up and healed and strengthened me.

That’s why I’m a Christian. And that’s why, whatever happens, whatever stupid mistakes, I know that even at the end of it all, even if everything else fails, God doesn’t — and he will not fail even to the end of my life.
Open-ended

Leave them interested and wanting to know more
“God’s grace is scandalous.”
“Let’s get coffee.”
Momastery
Glennon Doyle Melton

“Every time I read her things I cry.”
“I am more and more convinced that God came among us in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth to show us the way to be reconciled with the God who deeply and passionately loves each and every one of us, to be reconciled and right with that God and to be reconciled and right with each other as the children of that one God who created us. He came to show us how to get right and how to get reconciled…”
“…He came to show us therefore how to become more than simply the human race – that’s not good enough. He came to show us how to be more than a collection of individualized self-interests, came to show us how to become more than a human race. He came to show how to become the human family of God. And in that, friends, is our hope and our salvation, now and unto the day of eternity.”
Contextual
Speak to your audience
Practice

The more we share, the easier it gets
1 Epiphany A – Acts 10:34-43

“We are witnesses of all he did...”
6 Easter A – 1Peter 3:13-22

“Always be ready to make your defense...for the hope that is in you.”