



Building Godly Relationships with Co-Workers

Do you think you will go to heaven? Jack Welch, the former powerful CEO of General Electric, promises to address this in his best-seller, [Winning](#).

He gets there in the closing pages: “After a few seconds of stunned silence, my first answer to this one was, ‘Well, I sure hope that’s long-range planning!’” After connecting heaven to his legacy, he offers: “So, as for heaven, who knows? I’m sure not perfect, but if there are any points given out for caring about people with every fiber of your being and giving life all you’ve got every day, then I suppose I have a shot.”

By themselves, these words won’t get Jack Welch into heaven. Unfortunately, he’s not alone in the workplace when he connects heaven to being a good person, and that is why marketplace ministry is a big deal.

How can we be ready to share Jesus with a co-worker? In 99% of the cases, you need to take a number of steps before that door opens.

First, **build relationships**. Is anybody you know sick, have a sick family member, or hurting? Celebrating a job success or struggling in their role? Dealing with financial issues or mending family issues? Trying to process the gore they saw on the news last night? Of course! Every person in your office is dealing with something in their lives right now. Jesus focused his time with everyday folks; shouldn’t we? Ask, listen. Ask again later, listen.

Then, **bring God into the dialogue**. Doesn’t have to be deep theological stuff. Instead of answering “fine” for how you’re doing, how about “God made a great day!” Instead of being glum about Mondays and celebrating Fridays, how about “You know, I have a feeling God wants us to get the most out of every day!” God’s anxious for you to open your mouth for Him!

Most importantly, **pray**. Pray strategically – God, who do you want me to reach? Who are my “enemies” that you want me to lift up? How can I be more intentional?

Then, and this may be scary ... pray with them, not just for them! It’s one thing to say, “I’ll pray for you.” It’s a whole better thing to say, “Really? Can we find a quiet place around the corner and pray for that? I believe God answers prayer, and I’d love to help if that’d be OK.”

Very few will ever turn you down in any of these areas. After all, we crave relationships, and most people crave God. It takes someone – you and me – to step out and start. Certainly, we still need to be sensitive. If a co-worker asks you to stop, the law and human respect say to stop.

Then, **be ready for that one moment**. That moment when you hear, “Why are you so happy?” or “Ever wonder if all this work is worth it?” Or, when you see their stress or feel their pain. That’s the point to gently ask – in the style that fits you and honors God – “Would you like the keys to God’s heart?”

You’ll find excellent resources to help in that simple and profound conversation. [Campus Crusade for Christ’s Four Spiritual Laws](#), [Step Up to Life](#), and [Share Jesus Without Fear](#) are a few. Each makes the point that leading someone to Jesus means helping the person understand that we’ve all sinned against God and will fall short of heaven as a result, that we need to tell Him we’re sorry for that, that God gives us the free gift of heaven because Jesus died on the cross for us, and that we need to begin a new life and relationship with God.

Along the way, put your walk in terms that your friend will understand. What happened to bring you to Christ and deepen your relationship with Him? Identify how you found Jesus; let God take it from there.

Through all steps, we need broad perspective. Make sure you have a pure heart and a desire to make a difference in your co-workers’ lives and in God’s kingdom. You’re not doing this to get on the gossip mill, feel good, or look good. You’re doing it for God. His game. His timing. We are God’s instruments in this dialogue.

Additionally, when you help your friend enter a personal relationship with Jesus, it’s only just begun. We are accountable for discipling and mentoring. It starts with us and continues by plugging our friend into a life-giving church for care and feeding in Jesus.

If we spend 70% of our lives in our workplace where the majority of people have yet to find Jesus, if we build relationships with people we see more often than family, and if we care about working for God, the harvest fields are wide open. God put you here to connect with your co-workers. Nobody is better suited for the place you are.