

Top Tips



Faith in
Later Life

Sharing the Gospel with Older People

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Rooted in Scripture: What does the Bible say?

Scripture gives us a clear mandate to share the gospel with older people.

- Importantly, loving older people reflects **God's heart** (Isa 46:4; Lev. 19:32; Jn 19:26–27; 1 Tim. 5:1–8).
- Faith in Jesus is of **eternal consequence** (Jn 3:18; Acts 4:12).
- Jesus' **Great Commission** sends us to make disciples of all peoples – there is no age limit (Matt. 28:18–20).
- God shows **no partiality** (Acts 10:34–35; Gal. 3:28).
- The story of Nicodemus shows us that even late in life someone can **be born again** (Jn 3:1–16).
- People **cannot believe without hearing**, so we must tell them (Rom. 10:14–15).

- Reaching older people with the good news of Jesus**
- Discipling older Christians to become like Jesus**
- Mobilising them to be disciple-makers**

Fostering Fruitfulness: What difference can this make?

Sharing the gospel with older people helps us to:

- Introduce people to Jesus
- Clear up misunderstandings about what it means to be a Christian.
- Help them follow Jesus

For those who repent and believe:

- God promises **restoration** – He can “restore the years,” (Joel 2:25–27)
- There is **purpose** in later life (Psalm 92:14).
- The **light** of the world can guide them through the darknesses they will inevitably face – loss, change, and even death, with hope that the best is yet to come (Jn 8:12; 11:25–26).
- He gives strength at every stage of life; “renew their **strength**... walk and not be faint” (Isa 40:31).

Tips at a glance

The Importance
of Prayer

Be prepared to
share your
story

Special Seniors
Events

Familiar Prayers
and Hymns

The Gospel of
Love

Faith in Later Life's Top Tips

1

The Importance of Prayer should not be underestimated when it comes to sharing the gospel with older people. It's hard for people to accept they've been wrong for so long and we will not easily convince them. We need God to join our conversation and bring His power, wisdom and guidance. Pray before, during and after you share, and if your gospel sharing moment is planned – invite others to pray too.

2

Be prepared to share your story and "the reason for the hope that you have" according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. People respond better to real life stories than to facts and theories. Practice sharing yours; before Jesus – how you met Jesus – what's different now. Be available to tell your story to strangers and friends, at home and abroad.

Further Inspiration

For more on this subject, please head over to our Resources on our website at faithinlaterlife.org.

If you lead a ministry among older people in your church or Christian community, we'd love you to join our network – it's free and you can find out more at faithinlaterlife.org/get-involved/church-champions.

3

Special Seniors Events in Church and in Care Homes are excellent opportunities to make friends, have fun, and to hear the gospel. As well as regular groups and services, consider seasonal events and invite older people from the community for eg Harvest Supper, Carol Singing, Valentines Day, Maundy Thursday. Make it special, include 'bring a friend' invitations, good food, and a sensitive but direct speaker.

4

Familiar Prayers and Hymns help older people connect with God's truths using comforting words they already know. *The Lord's Prayer* contains the gospel message where they can: be introduced to the Father, welcome His kingdom, align their lives with His will, receive His forgiveness, and ask for deliverance from evil. And many will recall hymns like *Amazing Grace* from their school days.

5

The Gospel of Love simply shared can break through even the most reluctant hearts. John 3:16 and Revelation 3:20 are helpful in letting the people you're sharing with know how much God loves them, and how He gently knocks on the door of their hearts, lovingly waiting for them to open the door and invite Him in.

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.' Psalm 92: 12-15

