

Calendar

20 Practical Pointers

Here are twenty practical ideas to get you started in sharing your faith with Jewish people based on the *Calendar* series of videos. These are 'how to' tips and suggestions. They have been divided up into three simple sections to help you find the right kind of idea. These ideas should be followed in a spirit of genuine enquiry, demonstrating love and compassion for the individual and the Jewish community because every Jewish person is different. It may be the case that your Jewish friend is quite secular and, as such, does not really understand what the Feasts of the Lord are. Therefore, you must ask questions to gain clarity – seek to understand rather than to 'tell' and then you can find the right way of sharing the Gospel.

We recommend that you view the Care section of videos first and then watch all of the videos before you engage Jewish people with the Gospel.

Suggestions for Practical One-to-One Engagements

Partake in the Jewish Festivals in food, in activity, in taking days of rest off work to be with family. If you have Jewish neighbours, know that they are watching your life.

If your Jewish friend attends synagogue, ask if you can go with them, maybe on Shabbat. Discuss the similarities and differences between Christianity. Use this as a learning experience to help your private prayers.

At Yom Kippur, perhaps discuss heavier topics – judgement / eternity / names written in or blotted out of the book of life / atonement. Maybe this would be a good time to read Isaiah 53 – perhaps your Jewish friend could read this out to you from the Bible? Ask them who they think it is speaking about!

If appropriate, can you invite your Jewish friend to a Christmas carol concert at your church? Maybe there is a special speaker that they would enjoy coming to see? Be prayerful about opportunities.

Join together with other believers. Visit messianic fellowships.* Start conversation exchanges. Talk about the ways that the Jewish and Christian calendars differ. What hope in Yeshua could you express?

Suggestions for Practical Group Engagements

Share your interest with other Christian friends. Perhaps you could watch an online synagogue service of a Jewish Festival together? This will improve your cultural understanding and help you pray for the rabbi or the congregants by name afterwards.

What books are you currently reading? Are they titles that could provoke conversations about faith? If appropriate, share the books with Jewish people you

know. Could you start a small book group at your church or perhaps in a neutral venue like a coffee shop?

On Shabbat, what patterns could you adopt to help your Jewish friend see that Yeshua is the true fulfilment of sabbath rest?

At Rosh Hashannah* – eat apples dipped in honey - wish one another a good and sweet new year – send out Rosh Hashannah cards. Electronic ones to email are found [here](#). Perhaps give a Jewish family you know a basket of fruit with a Rosh Hashanna card to let them know you care. Learn more [here](#).

At Sukkot,* build a sukkah* (temporary shelter) in the garden, read Bible stories, host a meal in the sukkah. Pray. Sing. Rejoice!

At Shavuot,* (Pentecost) decorate your home with green plants and flowers. Give such gifts to your Jewish friend. Read Bible verses about the giving of the Torah. See [here](#) for how to celebrate Shavuot.

At Purim,* present your Jewish neighbours with gifts or food parcels. Engage in appropriate fun ideas – God is to be celebrated as the Great Deliverer. See [here](#) for how some people celebrate Purim!

Pray strategically as you reach out. Maybe pray / learn some prayers from the Siddur (Jewish prayer book) – some can be quite messianic!

Suggestions for Pastors/Leaders

Combat antisemitic stereotypes in online forums. Write to your local paper if something comes up in the news. Actively do this in Christian circles too.

Commit to reading through the weekly Torah portion – make notes on them and be ready to discuss your thoughts. A calendar is found [here](#). Can you segue from these into conversations about Yeshua?

At Passover, have a Seder* (Passover meal), send greetings, share recipes (without yeast of course). Read through the story of the Exodus with your family. Invite your Jewish friend to come and hear the Bible being read. Maybe read out some New Testament passages too.

Give appropriate gifts along with cards / emails / letters / calls. Perhaps include a quote from a psalm or Bible prophecy that links with the Festival.

Share how Yeshua is in each of the Feasts – our Passover Lamb, our True Deliverer, the One who will come again at the shofar* blast, the One who will dwell on earth forever as the Holy King. See the 'Further Resources' document for more details on the prophetic meaning of the biblical Feasts.

Host a Hanukkah* party – spin the dreidel* and eat latkes* (fried potato pancakes commemorating the miracle of the oil. Recipes found [here](#)). Put on a Purim Spiel*

(the story of Esther in a play) at your church. Invite Jewish friends / show them the photos. Share relevant passages of the Bible. More [here](#).

Watch the JET videos with other pastors. Perhaps form prayer / outreach groups.

And there's more! – be prayerful and creative and find appropriate ways to reach out.

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