

A blurred background image showing three people in conversation. On the left, a woman with curly hair is seen in profile. In the center, a woman with long dark hair is facing slightly to the right. On the right, a man with a beard and glasses is gesturing with his hands while talking. They appear to be in an indoor setting with large windows in the background.

# Conversations that Count

Sharon Dirckx

# Be Ready

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer **[apologia]** to everyone who asks you to give the reason **[logos]** for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience,

**1 Peter 3:15-16**





# **4 Barriers to Overcome**

**1) People are not interested**

# **Why young Britons are turning to Prayer**

The Guardian Newspaper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022

**‘With the world crumbling, God gives me reason to hope’**

Since getting pregnant, I’ve come back to prayer. I was raised Christian and have come back to it from time to time. But this time things feel different. With the world crumbling, God has given me a reason to hope and see beyond the hopelessness of our current political and financial landscape. It’s quite a scary time to be bringing a baby into the world with all the uncertainty – the financial situation and working out what kind of world he’s going to be born into is quite scary. Prayer has really helped me to take myself out of those world problems and see things in a broader context.

**Tess Williams, 32, midwife, London**



# **Why young Britons are turning to Prayer**

The Guardian Newspaper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022

## **‘I connected with faith after seeing priests on TikTok’**

I used to go to church with the Scouts when I was six or seven but it was never regular – I didn’t really understand what was happening when I was that young. I wasn’t brought up in a religious family and I didn’t have a relationship with faith until recently, when I started seeing videos by priests on TikTok. After I saw that and became interested, I could understand it a bit more. I wanted to connect with faith because I wasn’t happy with the way my life was going, and I wanted to be better to other people. Developing my spiritual health has made me feel happier. I pray because it’s a way I can speak to God and give him my worries or concerns. I’m not involved with a particular church – I’m just trying to find my place at the moment.

**Thomas, 18, student, Wakefield**



# **4 Barriers to Overcome**

**2) This conversation won't make any difference**

A photograph of a family of four sitting at a table, smiling and eating. The father is on the left, wearing a plaid shirt, and the mother is on the right, wearing a blue shirt. Two young boys are in the foreground, one looking at the camera and the other looking to the side. They are all smiling and appear to be enjoying their meal. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

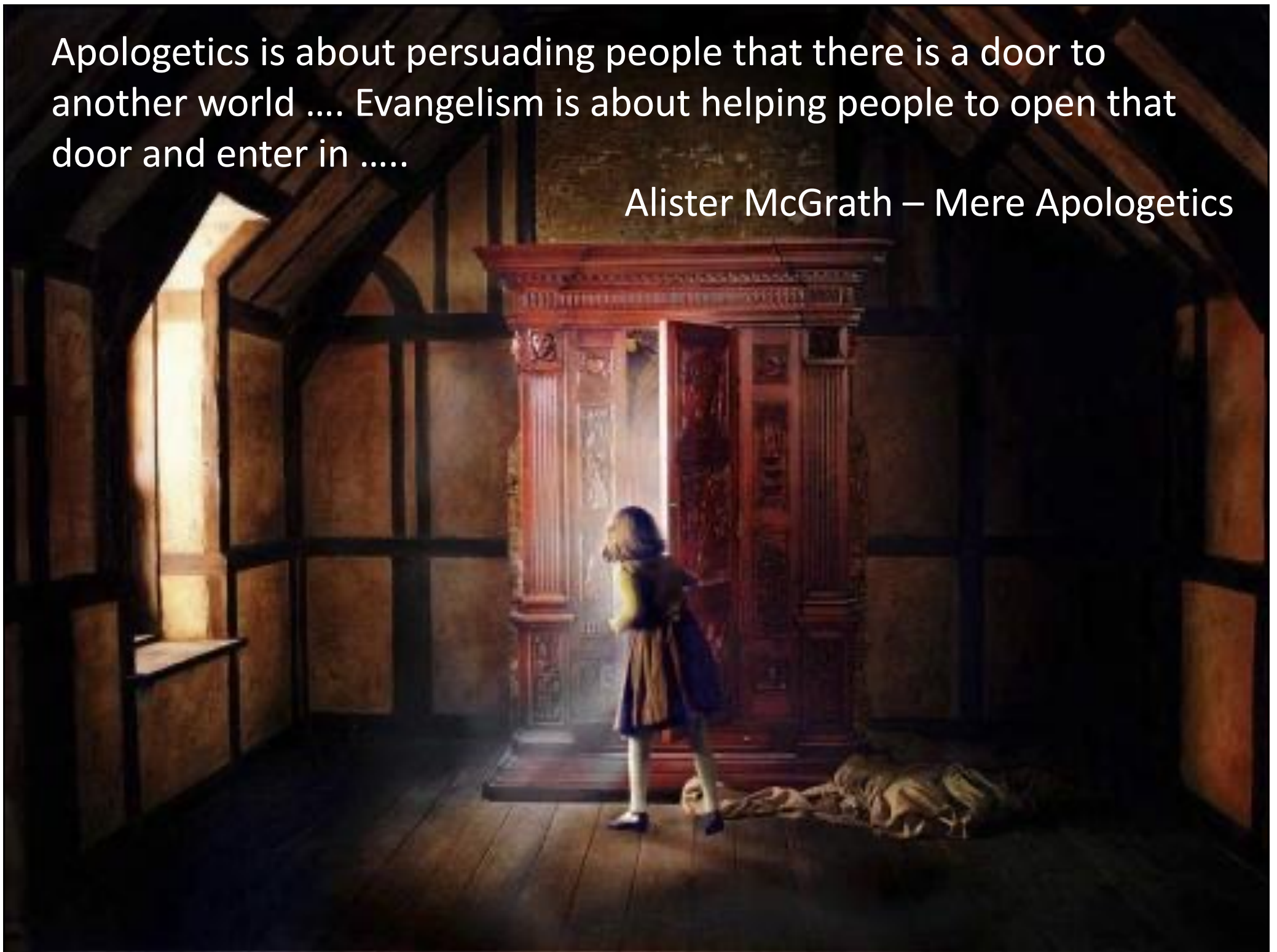
# **4 Barriers to Overcome**

**3) I'm not Billy Graham!**



Apologetics is about persuading people that there is a door to another world .... Evangelism is about helping people to open that door and enter in .....

Alister McGrath – Mere Apologetics



A photograph of a family of four sitting at a table. A man with a beard and a plaid shirt is leaning over a young boy in a white shirt, who is looking at a plate of food. Another man in a blue shirt is smiling in the background. A young girl with blonde hair is partially visible on the right. The image has a semi-transparent overlay with text.

## **4 Barriers to Overcome**

**4) I don't know enough to embark on conversations like these**



A faded background image of a woman with glasses and long blonde hair sitting at a wooden table with two young children. They are all smiling and appear to be having a meal or tea. There are white cups and saucers on the table, along with a blue container and some food. The overall tone is warm and family-oriented.

## **3 Things to Remember**

**1) Who you are matters more than  
what you know**



# Holiness

**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give the reason [logos] for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience,**

**1 Peter 3:15-16**

A faded background image showing a woman with blonde hair and glasses sitting at a wooden table with two young children. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. On the table are two white cups of coffee on saucers, a blue container, and a yellow container. The woman is in the center, with a boy on the left and a girl on the right.

## **3 Things to Remember**

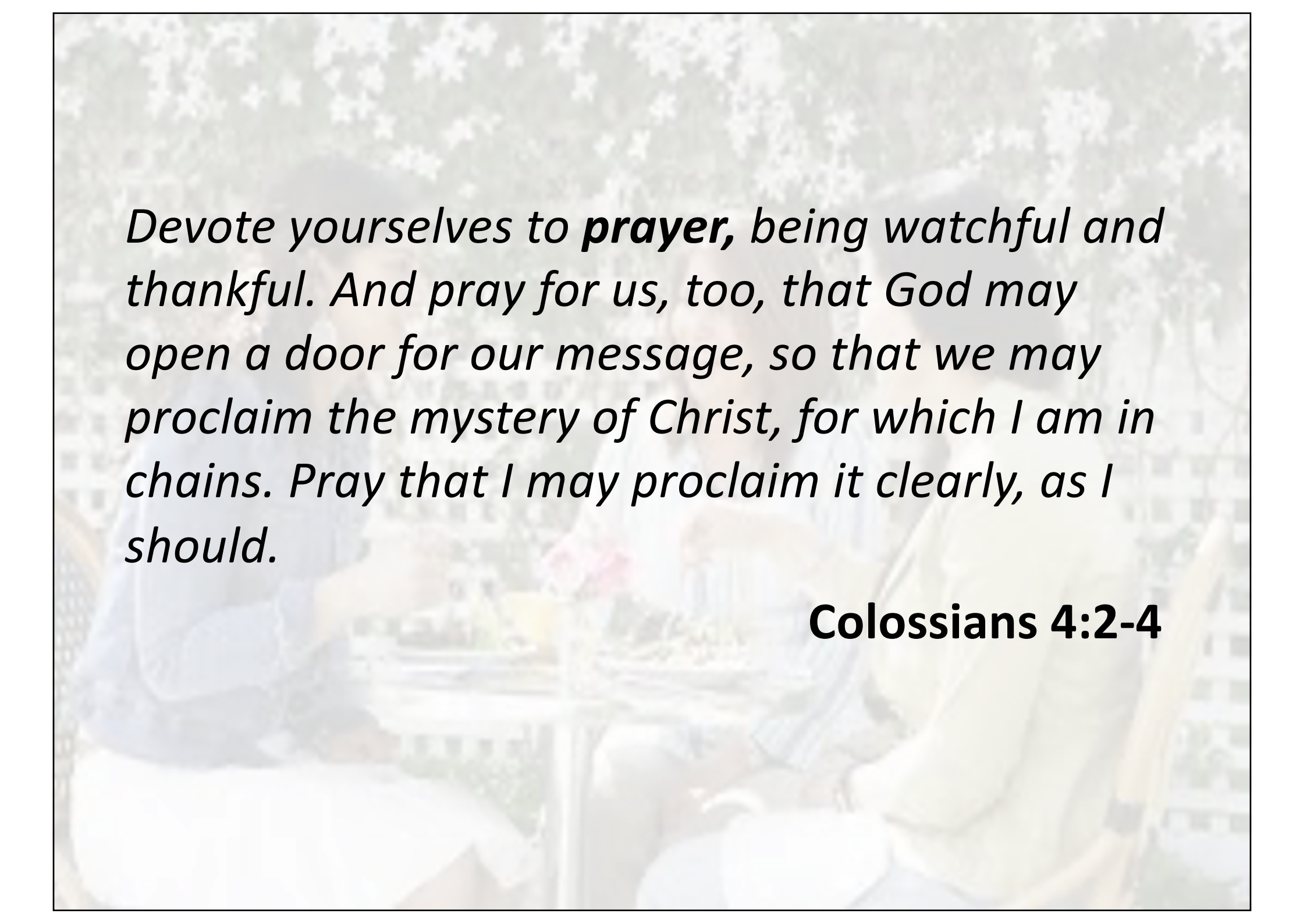
**2) God loves your friends and family  
even more than you do**

A faded background image of a family sitting at a wooden table. A woman with blonde hair and glasses is smiling at the camera. Two young children are seated in front of her, each with a white coffee cup on the table. The scene is indoors, likely a home or a cozy cafe.

## **3 Things to Remember**

**3) Prayer changes lives and situations**





*Devote yourselves to **prayer**, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

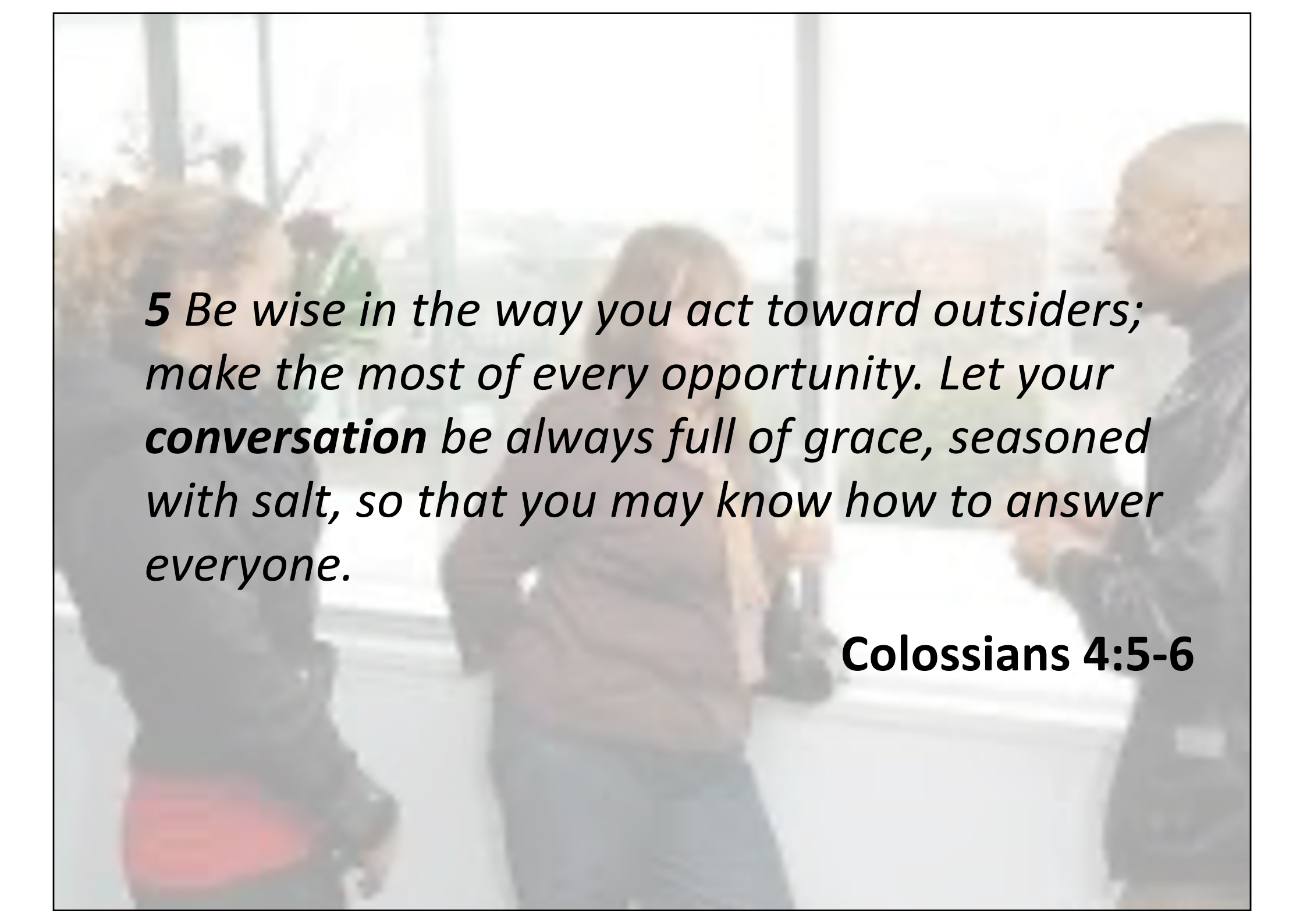
**Colossians 4:2-4**

A blurred background image showing three people in an indoor setting, possibly a hallway or meeting area. On the left, a woman with curly hair is seen in profile. In the center, a woman with long hair is looking towards the right. On the right, a man is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The image is intentionally out of focus to emphasize the overlaid text.

## **3 Skills to Grow in**

### **1) Asking Good Questions**





*5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your **conversation** be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

**Colossians 4:5-6**



# Questions to ask ourselves

Why might this person be saying/asking this?

What seems to be their view of  
God/Christians/Church/Life in general etc.?

What questions(s) could I ask them?

What kind of answer might I eventually give?



## **Questions we could ask our friend**

Why do you say that?

What makes you think that?

Why is this important to you?

What comes to mind when you think about God, Jesus, Christians?

How did you come to believe what you believe?



# Is God morally dubious?


- Gen2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat *from any tree* in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”
- Gen 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God *really* say, ‘You must not eat from *any* tree in the garden’?”



A blurred background image showing three people in a modern office or public space. On the left, a woman with curly hair in a dark jacket. In the center, a woman with long brown hair in a brown jacket. On the right, a man with a shaved head in a dark jacket, gesturing with his hands. They appear to be in conversation near a large window with a city view.

**3 Skills to Grow in**

**2) Become a Translator**



Find the common ground – what  
do we agree on? Start there

Translate complex Christian terms

Find examples in culture/life that  
people can relate to

Develop dual listening

A blurred background image showing three people in an indoor setting with large windows. On the left, a woman with curly hair in a dark jacket and red skirt. In the center, a woman with long brown hair in a brown jacket. On the right, a man in a dark jacket gesturing with his hands. The text is overlaid on this image.

**3 Skills to Grow in**

**3) Learn to tell your story**



# Telling your Story

- What life was like growing up/before you came to know Christ?
- What was it that got your attention?
- What were the points of crisis AND process (most stories have both – even if you grew up in Christian home)
- Were there key bible verses (but remember to translate!)
- What difference has Jesus made to you?

# Into Groups

**What question(s) do you dread being asked?**

- Why might someone be asking this question?
- What question(s) could you ask in return?
- When you do respond – what might you say?



# Pray

**5 friends** – Who are these 5 people for you? Pray for by name

## Pray....

- For opportunities
- Eyes to see them
- Courage to take
- Wisdom to know what to ask and what to say
- Gentleness and respect