

My Faith Story

Hi, I'm Eydie. As a participant in a small group, I would like to share with you how a Small Group actually changed my life.

I grew up in a single-parent, Christian home. I was content attending church services, reading my Bible, praying and assisting others in need. I loved having the Lord in my life but I had a reluctance to share my belief because I was concerned my words might push "inquisitive minds" away from exploring their interest in God. This concern limited most of my Faith conversations to just those within my personal comfort zone.

A few years ago, I formed a Small Group of women who meet weekly at my home on Thursday mornings. Over a cup of tea, these meetings gave me an opportunity to share my beliefs one-on-one in a very comfortable environment. We shared experiences, thoughts, encouraged each other and I **grew in Faith** and in confidence when sharing my Faith.

Our Small Group had studied "Crucial Conversations." This book has not only guided me but has given me confidence in fulfilling my desire to share my Faith outside my limited comfort zone of mostly like-minded friends, family and acquaintances. I came to realize my need to be **looking anywhere** for unexpected open doors and unplanned opportunities which would provide a "listening space" for me to share my life story and my beliefs.

Then last winter a snowstorm called me outdoors for snow removal duties. I often greet neighbors when outside but on this day I offered my assistance when I noticed our neighbor shoveling snow. We had really never spent time with each other before, even though we lived next door for eighteen years.

Unexpectedly, this busy woman accepted my help. As we shoveled, we talked about life. We became more comfortable with each other and then out of the blue she mentioned prayer. WOW - a God moment. What **an opening** He had created! *I RESPONDED.*

Proverbs 3:5 & 6 (NKJV) states: ⁵ "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Now I, with His help, have opened the door with my neighbor and who knows what other doors may open in friendship. I have now personally experienced how easy and natural it is to reach out and share my faith, even in small ways.

I'm thankful to my Lord for teaching me more ways to share Him with others and I am truly excited about the possibilities ahead.