

# An Introduction to Faith Sharing Profiles

ANDY FROST



*In the face of common tensions in evangelism, Andy Frost introduces the newly-developed Faith Sharing Profiles and explores how they can help us to share the good news of Jesus faithfully and powerfully.*

In the face of common tensions in evangelism, Andy Frost introduces the newly-developed Faith Sharing Profiles and explores how they can help us to share the good news of Jesus faithfully and powerfully.

Over the last 25 years, I have been working with local churches and individual Christians who want to share their faith. What I have discovered in that time is that many of us can feel pressured to share Jesus in a certain way. And when we fail to do so, we can end up feeling really guilty!

I believe that faith sharing is not a 'we-have-to' but a 'we-get-to'. We get to share Jesus with our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. I also believe that each of us has a unique personality and temperament, and that God uses these as we share about him.

At SJI (Share Jesus International) we have conducted a piece of research in an attempt to understand better how different practicing Christians share their faith. We conducted some quantitative and qualitative research that helped us identify

four underlying tensions that exist when it comes to faith sharing.

These tensions are not just theory, but start with the everyday attitudes and behaviour of real people. It's important to note that these tensions do not give us an idealistic theology, or a projection of where we want everyone to be. Looking through the New Testament, we see an array of different styles of faith sharing.

It's important to state that, although some tensions need to be resolved, these are tensions to be held, and they help us better understand how one another approaches faith sharing.

## 1: MOMENT VS JOURNEY

Do people come to faith in a moment or is it a journey? Some people approach faith sharing by looking for a moment where people will say yes to Jesus. They are looking for a 'Paul on the road to Damascus' moment. Others approach faith sharing as a journey. They look to help people make the next step, such as Paul in Athens when some state, 'We want to hear you again on this subject.' (Acts 17:32)

## 2: PERSONAL VS CORPORATE

Is faith sharing something I do by myself or is this something we do together? Some people look to share Jesus with their friends and feel they are responsible for their faith journey. Others see sharing Jesus as something we do together. Responsibility lies with the local church and their role is to help people connect.

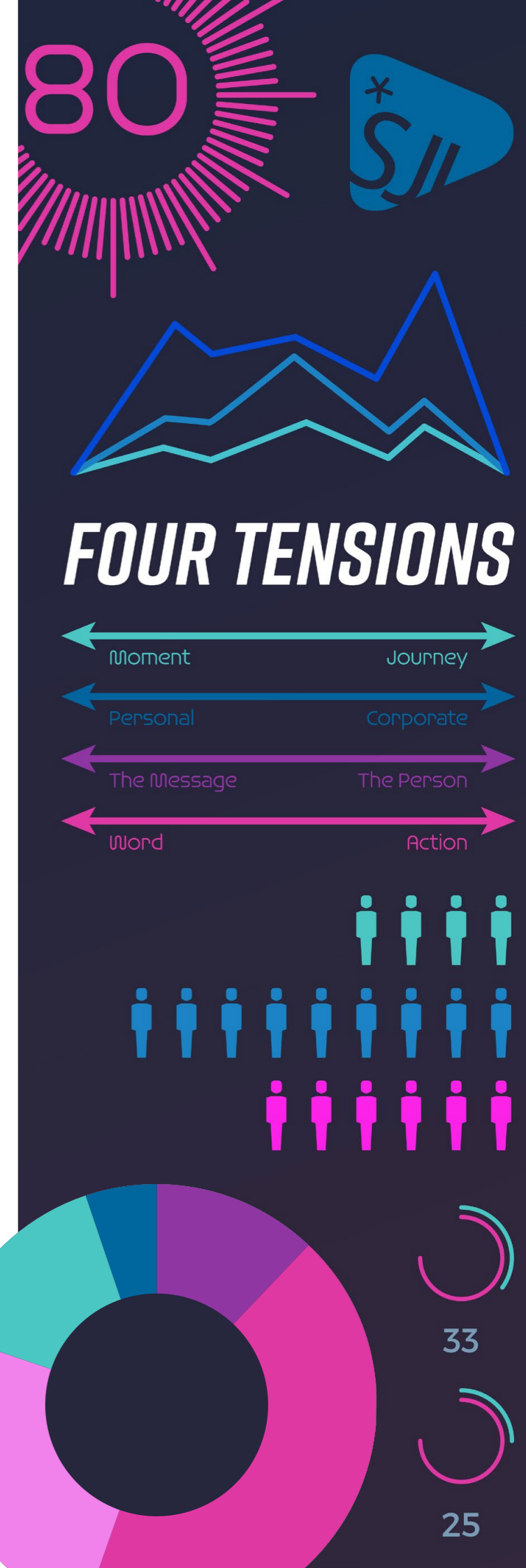
## 3: THE MESSAGE VS THE PERSON

Do we begin a faith sharing conversation thinking about how we can communicate the message of Jesus as quickly and effectively as possible, or do we look to the person we are talking to, to take the lead. At one end, some people know what they want to share and look for how best to do this. At the other end, people look for what God is doing and wait for the right time to share.

## 4: WORD VS ACTION

Is faith sharing done primarily by what we say or what we do? For some people, it's all about the words we share, but for others, actions speak louder.

As you look through these tensions, you may be aware that you will behave differently in different settings, but we all have a leaning to one end of each tension. We might like to think that we sit perfectly in the middle, but we all have leanings!



These tensions have formed the underlying basis of six Faith Sharing Profiles that we have created to give some broad brushstrokes as to how we share Jesus. A short online quiz can now be completed online to help practicing Christians discern how they tend to share their faith. With the caveat that our approach will change according to context and situation, these profiles help us discern our natural tendencies.

We are finding that these profiles are helping Christians to understand one another better. Over the last few weeks, I have done this quiz with church leadership teams who have been able to recognise how they approached faith sharing from different perspectives.

And we have also seen, these profiles give Christians a greater confidence in sharing Jesus their way. Having completed the quiz, each profile has some attributes to celebrate and some ideas to help us all stretch ourselves.

You can take the online quiz here:  
[sharejesusinternational.com/sj-quiz](http://sharejesusinternational.com/sj-quiz)

...and you might like to reflect on these questions afterwards:

- Do you agree with the Faith Sharing Profile you received?
- How does it make you feel?
- What might you do having taken this quiz and seen your results?
- What do you want to keep doing and what you might you want to tweak?

And if you wanted to do the quiz as a local church, SJI can create a bespoke QR code for your congregation. You can then invite the congregation to do the test online (even during a service). With a unique QR code, we can then give you the profile of your church. This will help you to see not who got which result, but the overall shape of your congregation.

Our hope and prayer is that this resource may help us all share the good news of Jesus faithfully and powerfully.



*Andy Frost is the director of Share Jesus International, the chair of the London Mission Collective and joint CEO of the Gather Movement. He has an MA in Applied Theology, has authored a number of books and presented the Jesus Series.*

