



Break the Ice

- 1. Become a terrific tipper.**

Christians are known for tiny tips. As a Christian, whether you had awful service or not, never skimp on a tip, especially if you discuss God/church at dinner or if you've just come from church.
- 2. Smile.**

It's as easy as it sounds. Start by smiling at a couple of people at school each week. Let that natural light shine.
- 3. Be nice to someone who's having a bad day.**

Buy a soda for the kid who was bullied today. Invite a depressed friend to play Xbox. If you see another student crying, you don't have to ask what's wrong; just offer a tissue and a kind word. Try to notice and acknowledge others' hurts.
- 4. Listen.**

Sometimes your friends need a sympathetic ear. You don't need a shining response to everything; simply listen. Then if you have a couple words of comfort, share them. Just keep it short.
- 5. Use your talents.**

Enter school/local talent contests, and do your best on a drama/song/painting/speech about God. Practice! You're pointing attention to Him, but if you give a half-effort, your audience will turn into Simon Cowell—and the attention will be on you. (Fine Arts Festival can help you out!)
- 6. Be a tutor, smarty pants.**

Nothing reaches across social lines faster than connecting with a student who's struggling.
- 7. Start a campus Bible club.**

Log on to www.yausa.com for tips, or get a Start a Campus Club packet. Got a Bible club? Ask the leadership how you can help.
- 8. Try doing random acts of kindness.**

Talk to your youth pastor about organizing a free car wash, just because. Be sure your location is near a hot hangout. Then tell everybody.
- 9. Be ready.**

Talk about Jesus, and someone will eventually challenge you. It's not always convenient to carry a large, black, leather-bound Bible, so keep it in your head. Figure out why you believe what you believe, and your friends' questions won't leave you stumped. You'll have answers.
- 10. Use the backpack tag or lanyard.**

It says everything for you: Ask Me About Jesus. (Be sure you do point No. 9 first.)
- 11. Take your old On Course magazines and leave them in waiting rooms.**

Finished with your On Course magazines? Have extras lying around? Next time you visit the orthodontist, dermatologist, the salon, or your favorite coffeehouse, leave OC behind. Have your youth pastor order the free special edition created just for waiting rooms!
- 12. Offer to pick up someone who doesn't have a ride to school.**

Sometimes anything's better than the bus. Presto! You have a captive audience.
- 13. Be quick to apologize when you make a mistake.**

Acting "perfect" is not cool. Own up to your goofs, apologize when you're wrong and move on. Honesty and manners speak volumes.
- 14. Let someone see you at the pole.**

Show up for the annual See You at the Pole, which is usually held the fourth Wednesday in September, even if you're the only one.



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- 15. Have a little mercy.**
If you slam someone's clothes, social status, or bad choices, you're being immature and rude, even if they "deserve" it. And don't call people names. (Yes, celebrities count.)
- 16. Watch how you dress.**
Men, using any excuse to strip off your shirt to show your royal buff-ness is tacky, as is asking out the most scantily-clad girls at church. Ladies, dressing sexy provokes competition and gives men an excuse to view you as cheap. Ladies and gents, show mercy by covering your gorgeous selves. How do you want the person hanging with your soul mate right now to act? Behave accordingly. Your conduct with the opposite sex can make or break your witness.
- 17. Talk about it.**
Is God changing you? Do you feel His influence? If it's on your mind, it will come out of your mouth. Let it.
- 18. Invite a friend to a church event.**
Talk to your youth leader about bringing in an improvisational group for a comedy night, having a Super Bowl party, hosting a picnic, or going to camp. Bring friends!
- 19. Talk to everyone who walks into your youth group.**
It doesn't matter if he looks like Marilyn Manson and his head does a 360 when you say "Jesus." It makes no difference if she's white, black, Hispanic, or Native American—or if he wears a rainbow shirt and skips to the pew. Welcome them.
- 20. Remember special events.**
Mother's/Father's Day: In addition to sending a card or buying a gift for your mother or father, send a card to or call a friend who has lost a parent. Birthdays: Spend \$3 on your friend's favorite candy and leave a mound of it in his/her locker. Or treat your bud to a burrito.
- 21. Share.**
At a parade or hayride or any cold outdoor event, make a thermos of cappuccino or hot chocolate. Stash paper coffee cups in your coat. Offer it to any anybody who looks cold.
- 22. Fill in for a sick co-worker at a moment's notice.**
And don't complain. Your attitude will rock his/her world.
- 23. Reach out.**
Sporty? Help a struggling team member work on his/her game. Musical? Get off your first-chair pedestal and help that tone-deaf, last-chair guy.
- 24. Get a dog.**
Dogs inspire random conversations like nothing else.
- 25. Go on a missions trip.**
Take pictures. When you get back, everyone will want to know about your adventure. Show the pictures and talk about God.

Don't feel like a failure if your friends don't run to the altar the minute you tell them about Jesus. You have moved them one step closer. Keep praying. God is on your side.