

2 Timothy 2:2 Discipleship

The purpose of “2 Timothy 2:2 discipleship” classes is to equip Christians with

- 1) knowledge and skills to apply biblical truth personally
- 2) the experience to train others so they can apply biblical truth to their lives as well

² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

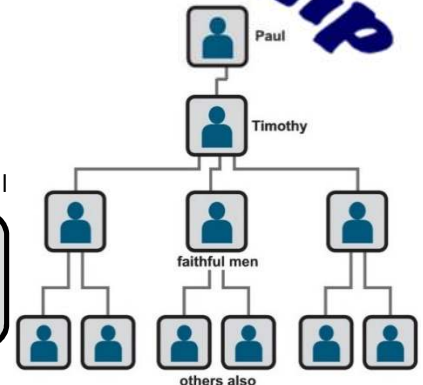


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These notes belong to:

People need to grow into spiritual maturity. The question is how?

It has become fashionable these days for churches to preach “disciple making.” Everyone is for it. Everyone claims it as a priority. The words, however, often exceed the reality.

A tragic personal experience made the need for disciple making a passion with me.

Several of my relatives attend the same church and had been trying for years to get my aunt involved. After much patient influence, she and her husband finally agreed to attend.

Following a couple of visits, the church leaders began sending people to their home each week on evangelistic visits. My aunt and her husband were impressed with people’s concern; eventually they made decisions to follow Christ and to become church members.

The tragedy: never again did anyone from the church contact them about spiritual things. As a result, they dropped out within a couple of years because they felt ignored. From their perspective, the church was concerned only with adding two more names to the membership rolls.

Churches cannot assume the job is done once someone makes a “decision” for Christ. We must fully incorporate each individual into the life of the church. And that job never ends.

In fact, author Lyie Schaller goes so far as to say, “It is un-Christian for a congregation to seek new members unless it is also willing and able to accept them into that called-out community.”

Most Christians would agree with the need to help people grow into spiritual maturity. The question is how? ¹

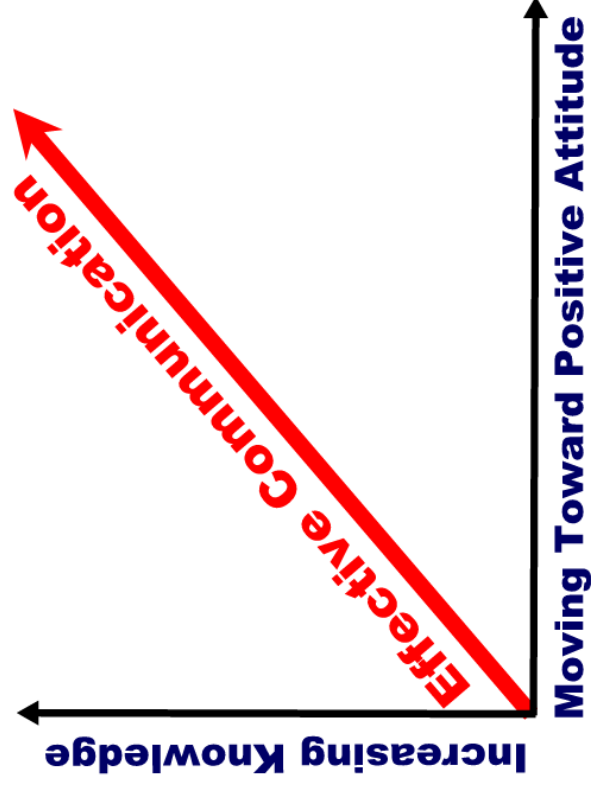
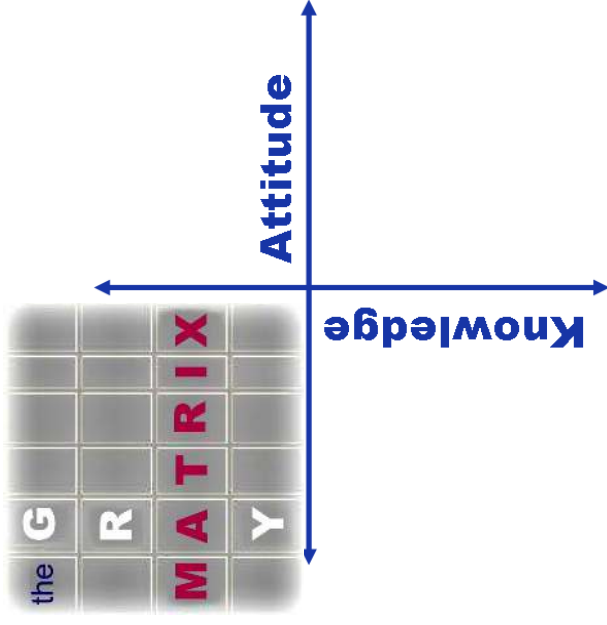
by Gary Olsby, minister of Christian education. West Valley Christian Church, Canoga Park, California

¹ *Fresh ideas for discipleship & nurture*. 1984 (D. Merrill & M. Shelley, Ed.) (13–14). Carol Stream, IL; Waco, TX: Christianity Today; Word Books.

The **Gray Matrix** addresses the crucial issue of finding the appropriate level of Gospel communication for our audience – wherever they may be. In reality it is no different from finding appropriate things to talk about with our neighbors or those we may meet in the market.

No matter what kind of Christian ministry we are engaged in the **Matrix** provides help in the following ways:

- It helps us understand visually where people are at in their spiritual pilgrimage.
- It reminds us that imparting spiritual knowledge alone is not sufficient. We need to pay attention to building relationships, to feelings, sensitivities and attitudes.
- It helps us better understand the kinds of things we need to be talking about in order to engage their interest and understanding.
- It provides a tool that helps us evaluate the extent to which our own ministries can be effective in communicating the message (whatever that message may be, i.e., acts of kindness, gospel, dealing with sin in a Christian's life, how to be Spirit-filled...).



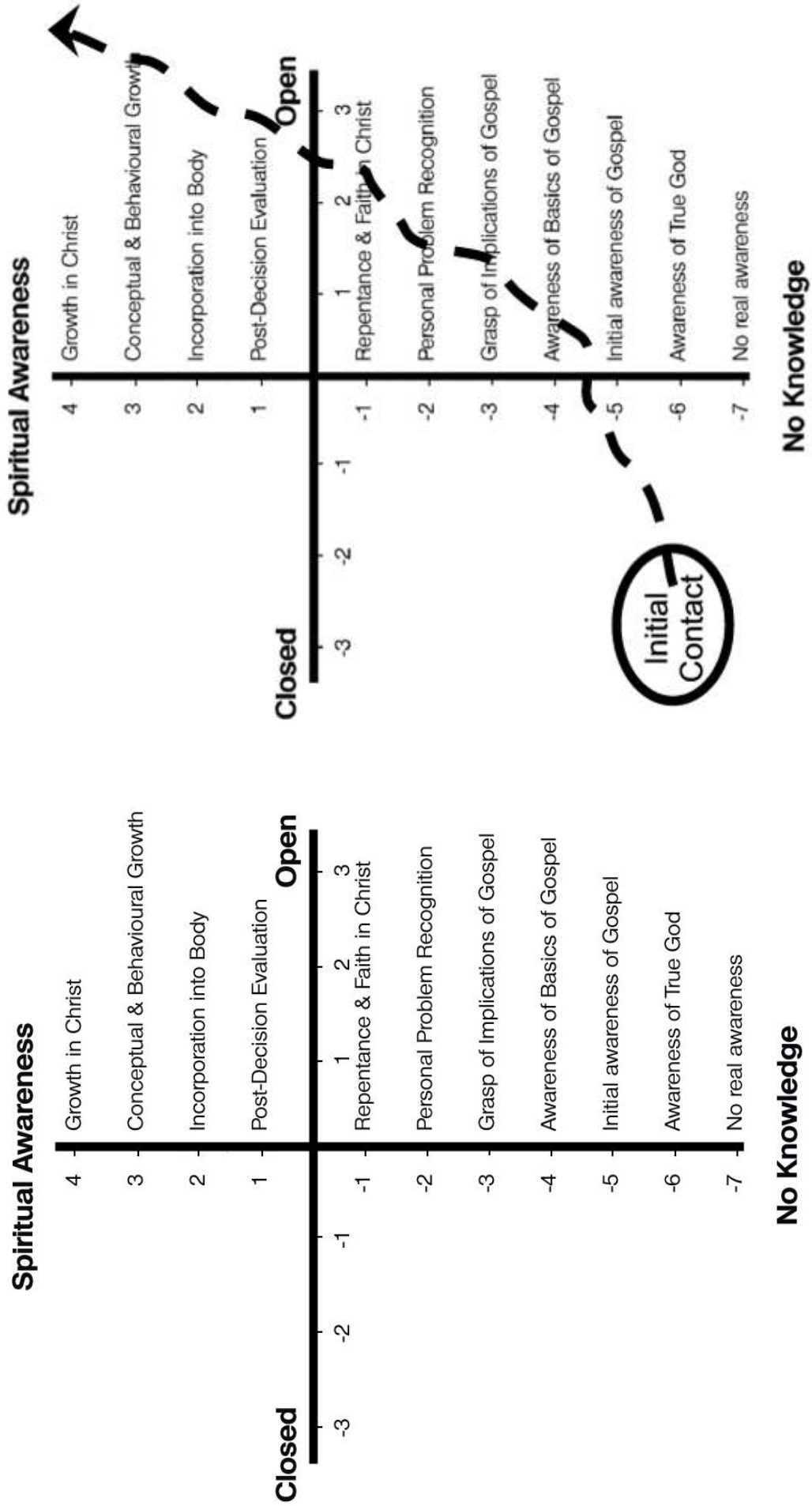
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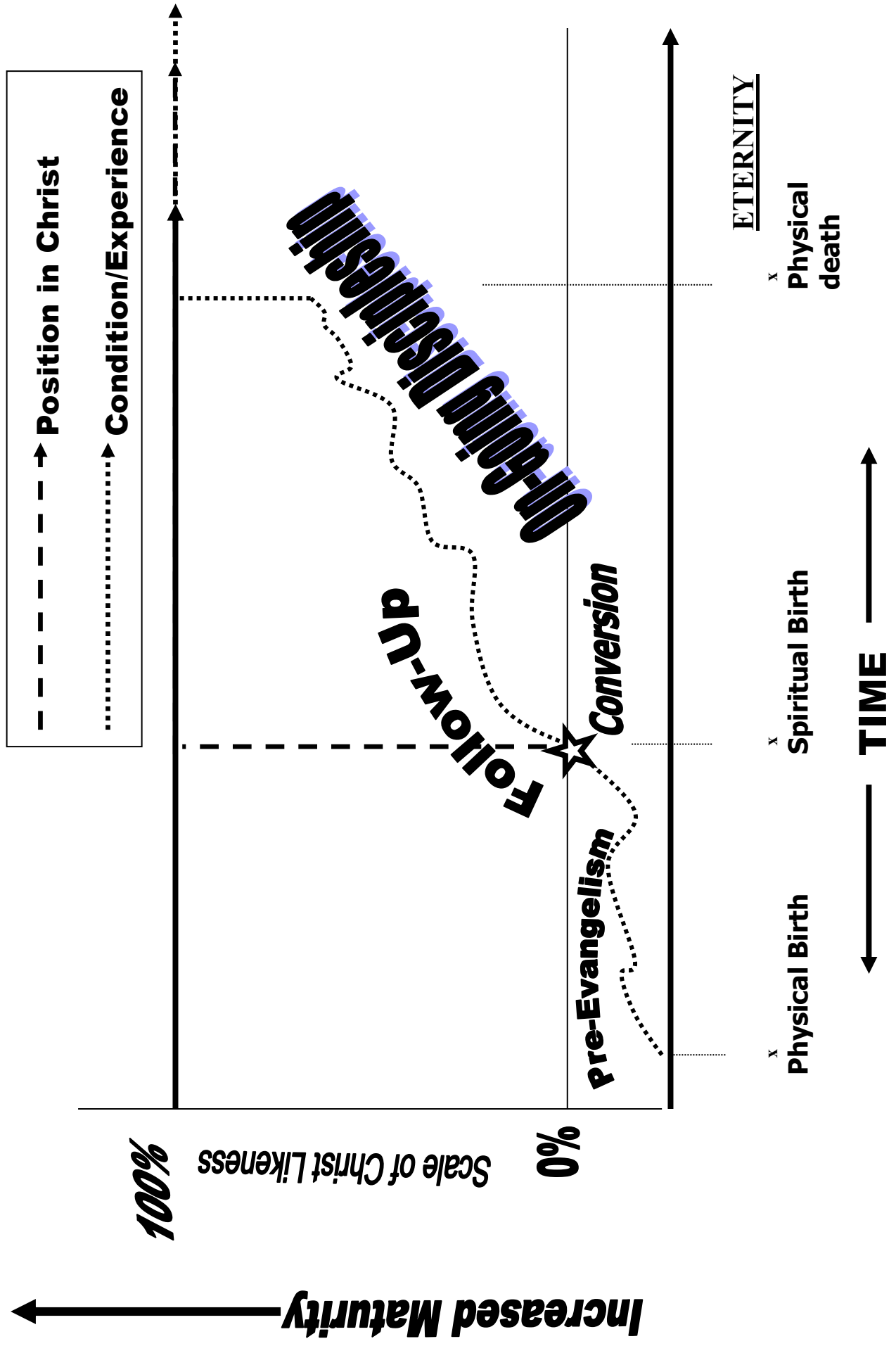
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The Process of Becoming Like Christ



“Follow-Up” of a Christian

Cru Inner City - Bakersfield

Discipleship

We believe we are in a time of unprecedented growth of the Christian church. We also see one of the greatest weaknesses in the Body of Christ in America today is in the area of “Follow-Up.” The “Follow-Up” period is that critical time when the believer bridges new birth in Christ to Christian maturity and further discipleship. The Great Commission of Jesus Christ recorded by the apostle Matthew states: *“¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”* (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV) The Great Commission of Jesus Christ was not to make **decisions**, but to make **disciples**. We all agree that a person must come to the point in his spiritual development when he makes a choice/decision to place his faith in Jesus Christ; that Jesus is God, (John 8:24) and that Jesus died for his sins (1 Corinthians 15:2, 3). This process of becoming a Christian and going on to spiritual maturity can be expressed in four steps:

1. **Hearing** and receiving the truth of the Gospel.
2. **Belief** in Jesus and acceptance of His death for forgiveness of sins.
3. Receive **Follow-Up**, the next step from decision to a basic understanding of the change that has taken place.
4. On-going **Discipleship** in the faith, and sanctification by the Holy Spirit.

“Follow-Up” is both rationale (knowledge/truth) and relational (friendships). The Apostle Paul describes his method of bringing people to maturity in this way: *“¹We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*” (1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV)

A good metaphor of “Follow-Up” is newborn care for an infant. The type and intensity of the care given to a newborn is markedly different than the care given to a young child or to an adolescent. If this specialized care is not given the child may well not make it to adulthood. Like the apostle Paul our goal is to present every man and woman complete (mature) in Christ (Colossians 1:28, 29). But without “Follow-Up” the new Christian may not be able to have the foundation from which to build to maturity.

The bible teaches the ultimate goal of evangelism or any Target Area Outreach is **not to make converts**, but **to make disciples**.

Scripture

*“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am** [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins.”*
John 8:24 NIV

“By this gospel you are saved... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures”.
1 Cor. 15:2, 3 NIV

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me”.
Colossians 1:28, 29

Five Common Issues New Believers Will Face:

1. They are **UNCERTAIN**, that is, they have a lot of questions about what has happened in their lives. “Did I do it right? Did Christ really come into my life? Can I lose this?”
2. Over time, they see themselves failing to live the Christian life as they think they should, and they begin to feel **UNWORTHY**.
3. They sincerely desire to live the Christian life but at times get frustrated because they feel **UNABLE** to do it.
4. Often they are **UNPREPARED** for the struggles they begin to experience.
5. Of course, they are spiritually **UNDEVELOPED**.

These five needs are common to virtually all new believers and the New Testament addresses each one. “**FOLLOW-UP**” lays the foundation to address these needs and prepares new believers for a life of growth and maturity.

Essentials of the First Follow-up/Discipleship Meeting:

1. Be **relaxed**.
2. Be **yourself**.
3. Have **fellowship** – talking about life in general.
4. Be **clear** and **intentional** about the objectives of follow-up:
 - a. To provide an opportunity to answers questions that will come up.
 - b. To help lay a solid foundation to grow in their new relationship with God.
 - c. To help new believers learn about the Bible and how to read and study it for life application.
 - d. To teach (and model) new believers about prayer.
 - e. To provide fellowship with other believers.
 - f. To demonstrate to new believers that we care about them as people, i.e., don’t be lesson driven!
5. Review gospels (**Four Spiritual Laws**) with new believers; especially if you did not lead them to the Lord yourself. If you had recently lead them to the Lord use your discernment about what to review. (A possible suggestion: Looking up the verses in the back of the **Four Spiritual Laws** booklet about “GROWTH”).
6. Show how to use **table of contents in THEIR Bible**. (Explain Old/New Testaments)
7. **Set up next time to get together – time, place, date, etc.**
8. Exchange **contact information** – address, phone #'s, e-mail addresses.
9. **Give first assignment to do before next time together**, i.e., complete lesson 1 and read John chapters 1-3.

Six Myths of Discipleship

COLIN MARSHALL APRIL 11, 2016 CRAIG'S BLOG

Myth 1: *Discipleship is a second stage of Christian experience after conversion. You can be a Christian but not a disciple.*

Many people think of discipleship as what happens after conversion. They think that it is only after someone becomes Christian that they 'disciple' them, by training in the disciplines of the Christian life. In a similar way, they might think it's possible to have church members who have been Christian for years, but never 'discipled'.

However, the truth is that all Christians are disciples—disciples of Jesus Christ. As such, we are always on dangerous ground when we imply that there are two classes of Christians.

Myth 2: *Discipleship is only for the super Christian.*

This is similar to the first myth. It says discipleship is only for the super committed Christians, and not for the normal, everyday Christian. Again, it implies there are two membership levels in the church: a small group of dedicated followers of Jesus and a vast crowd of ordinary believers. Another version of this myth might imply that it's the ministers and/or missionaries who are true 'disciples'.

However, the truth is that we are all called to be disciples, wherever we are. And this myth runs the danger of teaching "cheap grace", of a salvation that has little impact on our daily lives.

Myth 3: *Discipleship is a ministry method or program.*

Discipleship is often understood as a ministry strategy, like one-to-one mentoring, small group ministry, or the 12-week discipleship program. Many pastors and writers talk about 'intentional discipleship' to refer to these kinds of strategies and programs, drawing on the way Jesus discipled a small band, so we are using his method.

However the truth is that genuine discipleship and disciple-making is the goal of all ministry as we proclaim the gospel of Jesus. If we reduce disciple-making to a particular method, then we wrongly assume that the other parts of our Christian life are not about making disciples.

Myth 4: *Discipleship is about personal accountability to a discipler.*

This myth says that discipleship is about the kind of trusted relationship where someone keeps us accountable about quiet times, church attendance or avoidance of particular sins, like pornography. While it is a blessing to be able to be open with each other about our sin and our struggles, there is a danger of pleasing the 'discipler' rather than Christ.

The truth is that we are already accountable to a life of devotion, repentance and discipleship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Myth 5: *Preaching is not really about discipling people.*

Preaching is often understood to be more about teaching and doctrine than discipleship. This myth says that preaching is not discipleship, because it is public and widespread, rather than private and one-to-one.

However, the truth is that making disciples happens in many ways, just as Jesus made disciples as he preached to the crowds that followed him. Discipleship is about what we proclaim in every setting.

Myth 6: *Making disciples is only for those with a certain gifting, temperament or ministry.*

Many of our church members feel that they are not personally called to obey the Great Commission. They think that it is the work of pastors and church leaders to make disciples, and 'ordinary Christians' only support the work in other ways.

However, the truth is that discipleship is the entire Christian life in the service of our Lord Jesus. Which means that everyone is called to make disciples, in their gifts, context and opportunities. Everyone is called to respond to the words of Jesus: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ..."

—Colin Marshall, CEO, Vinegrowers and co-author of *The Trellis and the Vine*

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Video presentation
of the Six Myths

LEVELS OF MATURITY				
	BABY	CHILD	ADOLESCENT	ADULT/PARENT
Disciple's	Need	Protection, Love, Basic Knowledge	Consistent, Strong Guidance	Strength, Experience, Responsibility
	Motivator	His Spiritual Vacuum	His Discipeler	Leadership Ability, Consistent, Self- Discipline, Spiritually Reproducing
Disciple Maker's	Role	MOTHER to Nourish and Cherish	TEACHER to Equip for Service	COACH to Help Him Develop Strength and Responsibility
				PEER to Motivate for the Long Haul

¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

CHRISTIAN'S GROWTH PERSONAL INVENTORY

² The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)

INTAKES			OUTPUTS			
WORD	PRAYER	FELLOWSHIP		MINISTRY	CHARACTER	FAITH
My mind and attitudes are controlled by Word, i.e., the Word is relevant to every area and event in my life.	I consider prayer essential to God working in and through me and I pray accordingly.	I live an open honest life, blameless in relationships (no bitterness or offenses).	 PARENT	I share Christ as a way of life and am involved in building other Christians. I'm gaining a vision for the world.	Serving stage. I give of myself without expecting anything in return.	I'm living a life of rest in God as expressed in Hebrews 4:1-11.
I am developing my own convictions and my own reasons for what I believe.	My prayers center on praising God.	I am closely associated with at least one other person and receive direction for my life.	 YOUNG ADULT	I'm doing some initial follow-up, i.e., helping a Christian to become grounded in his new faith.	Sharing stage. I give of myself to others but expect to get some of my desires met if I abide by the rules.	I trust God's sovereignty in all issues of life.
I meditate on the Word and feed myself from it.	I pray in faith praying specifically and believing God for big things.	I am involved in spiritual activities with other Christians. I'm being helped on a personal level.		I have led one person to Christ and am concerned for his growth.	I surrender on issues as God puts His finger on them (i.e., conviction from Word).	I'm claiming specific promises from the Word.
I have a regular intake of the Word and apply it to my life.	I have a daily prayer time.	I prefer Christians as my primary influence.	 CHILD	I'm able to share the Gospel and I am doing it among some friends.	I cleanse my life from "sin" primarily according to the dictates of my Christian culture.	I believe in God's good character and in His power and might.
I read the Word occasionally & have an appreciation for it.	I pray when problems, concerns and worries arise.	I attend church or other Christian gatherings.		I can share my testimony.	I live respectably by the world's standard.	I have assurance of salvation.
I have respect for the Bible and for Jesus' words.	I have thanked God for salvation.	I like being around some Christians.	 INFANT	I have shared the fact that I had received with at least one other person.	I'm repentant and sorrowful for past sins.	I accept Jesus as my Savior and believe I'm saved.

Discipling FAT People

Chris Adsit, Associate National Director of Discipleship, Military Ministry

In these days of heightened sensitivity, never refer to someone as "fat". The "politically correct" term is "horizontally gifted". But when it comes to deciding who to invest your time in as a disciplemaker, forget protocol and look for FAT people; that is, **F**aithful, **A**vailable and **T**eachable.

Your time is valuable! You have a limited number of hours in a day, and how you invest those hours is crucial. As you ponder who to give your time to, look for these three qualities:

Faithful. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul admonished Timothy, "The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Draw a bead on those who are faithful to God and faithful to the commitments they make. Look for those who are eager to "Come to Me...take My yoke upon you and learn from Me..." (Matt. 11:28, 29).

Available. Look for people who will either have or make time to be disciplined. As Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." Little can be done with someone who is already working eighteen hours a day and can't even find time for his family or for the Lord. If a person is unwilling or unable to alter his priorities or adjust his schedule to spend time with you, why should you bother?

Teachable. Most of us are poverty-stricken when it comes to time. It's a foolish extravagance to squander precious time teaching a person something he will never apply or pass on! It's pearls before swine. As Mark Twain once said, "Never undertake to instruct a pig to sing. You'll only frustrate yourself and annoy the pig."

There are two notable exceptions to the FAT criteria: those you lead to the Lord and those the Lord clearly directs you to disciple despite their gauntness. In the former, it is vital to remember that newborn babies need time to develop the FAT qualities. Your role with them is to be the "mother". A mother will expend great energy to be sure her child is fed - regardless how ugly or irresponsible that child might be. She exhibits unconditional love and acceptance, and her need-meeting is on *their* terms, not hers. Eventually, they need to begin growing FAT, but the good mother will give them some time.

In the second exception, your initial assessment of a person may produce a strong, "Naaaaah." But be sure to consult the Lord. He might see something you don't, something not on the surface but in the heart, and He might overrule you. There are many "diamonds in the rough" out there that our sovereign Lord knows all about. With a little chipping, splitting and polishing, they could be dazzling. I can think of eleven terrific examples found in the four Gospels. In fact, two of them *wrote* Gospels!

Allow your commitment level to parallel those you minister to. If someone exhibits only a casual interest, don't immediately dive into a consuming one-to-one discipling relationship. Better to involve them in a low-commitment weekly group study first. Gauge their faithfulness to that, and gradually focus in on them as they sharpen their focus on the Lord and demonstrate their spiritual obesity.

Though it may sound harsh, it needs to be said: don't waste your time on the uncommitted. John the Baptist said that Jesus was going to do some winnowing; the wheat He would put in His barn, but the chaff He would burn up (**Matt. 2:12**). Focus on the wheat. The chaff will do nothing but drain you physically, emotionally and spiritually. There may come a time when you have to confront an un-FAT-ful disciple and say, "Look, make a decision: be wheat or be chaff. Get serious or get out." This measure will either blow some debilitating chaff out of your life, or it will score the hull of that wheat grain just enough to stimulate some germination!

Would God say, "There's more to love with the FAT ones"? Adsit might, but not God! Every child of God is on the receiving end of 100% of God's love; it's not performance-based, and neither should our's be. But when it comes to the strategic decision of who I should invest my time in, I'm keeping my eye peeled for the FATties!

For more information on Disciplemakers International, email us at disciplemakers@ccci.org, write us at **Disciplemakers International, P.O. Box 2212, Eugene, OR 97402-0044, USA**, call us locally at (541) 3453458 or toll-free at (866) **MAKE-DISCIPLES (866-625-3347)**, or visit our website at www.disciplemakersinternational.org

Note to disciple maker:

▫ What am I doing to deepen my fellowship with God?

Regarding those to whom I invest (minister)

▫ What stage are they in?

▫ What do they need to know and apply to proceed to the next stage?

▫ What can I do to nourish their growth?

▫ What environment can I provide for them to grow?

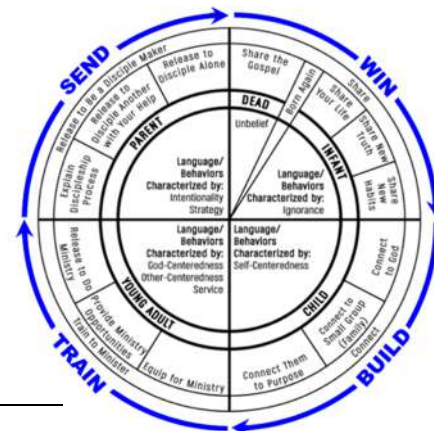
Spiritual Development Assessment

For Mentors and Leaders investing in the lives of others (mentees).

Date: ____/____/____

Name of Leader/Mentor

Name of Leader/Mentor



How long & well do I know this person _____

On the faith journey continuum below, indicate the current location of the mentee:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No interest in God	Talks about God w/o connection	Desires/initiates Jesus conversation	Has made decision for Jesus	Has connected to a church	Actively Involved in Discipleship	Maintains abiding faith	Desires to be equipped to disciple others	Is reproducing spiritually

What signs or benchmarks impact your opinion to mentor this person?

What roadblocks stand between the mentee and his spiritual maturity?

ROADBLOCKS

Which roadblocks might you impact?

IMPACTS

As you pray for your mentee, what is God asking you to do to spiritually – to encourage/equip this person?

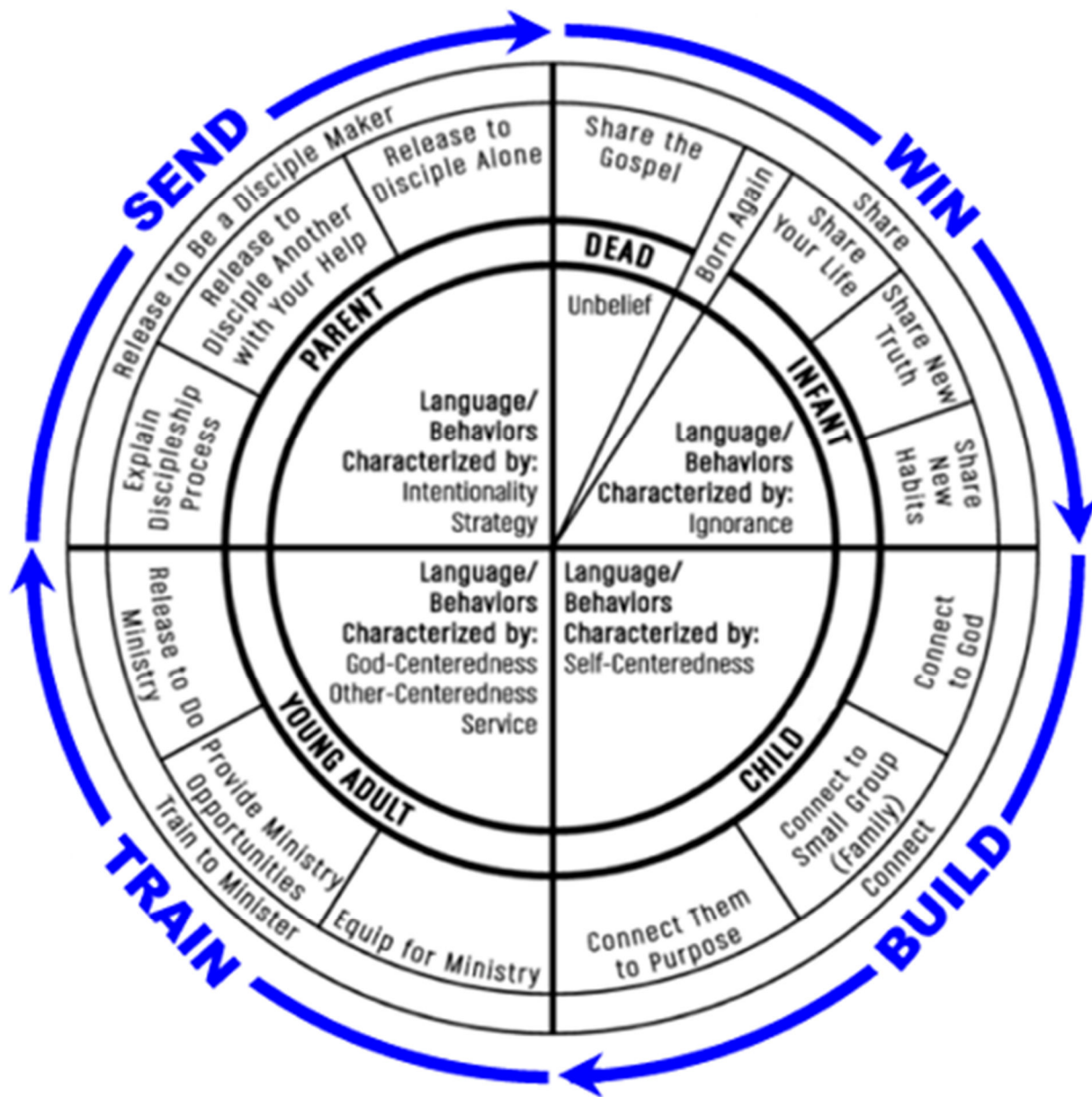
What practical, measurable actions might you take to encourage/equip this person to spiritual maturity?

ACTION

DATE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What resources/tools/support might your mentor &/or the church provide as you move in this direction?



Real-Life Discipleship Model



Action Steps

On a scale of 1—10 please indicate the level your ministry is actively involved in the following areas.

1. Members consistently living out “The Great Commandment”

LOW 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 HIGH

2. Members making spiritually reproducing disciples (“The Great Commission”)

LOW 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 HIGH

3. Movement would describe our ministry.

LOW 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 HIGH

4. Do you desire growth in any of these three areas?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Would you like to meet with one of the staff of Cru Inner City?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

VISION STATEMENT

(why we do what we do)

Believing that followers of Christ are called to care for the needy...

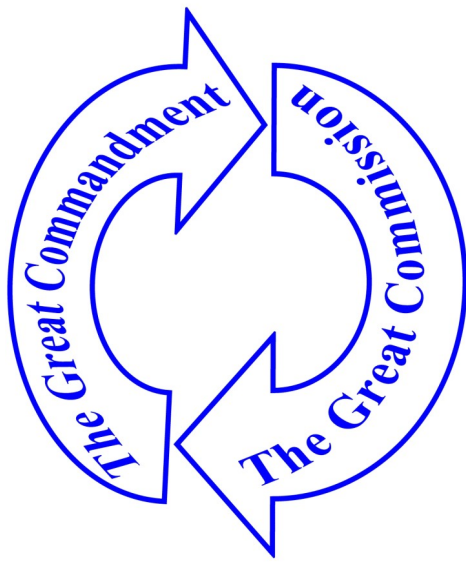
We envision cities transformed through hope and justice of the gospel.

In light of this vision, a major thrust for Cru Inner City is: To see churches mobilize their people so that every Christian becomes a multiplying follower of Jesus Christ who is engaged in meeting the needs of the poor.

MISSIONS STATEMENT

(what we do, and how we do it)

We serve and mobilize the Church to live out God's heart for the poor, so all can grow in Christ to build spiritual movements everywhere.



Our Ministries will ultimately be evaluated based upon our lordship of Jesus Christ and how we live out ...

“The Great Commandment”

³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matt. 22:36-40 NIV)

&

“The Great Commission”

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20 NIV)



One who loves the Lord and others

As a disciple of Jesus Christ matures his love for Christ and others grows!

¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

As we take on the character of Christ we will...

- Seek the lost
- Love our neighbors as we seek to meet their felt needs (physical, emotional, social, mental & spiritual)
- Seek justice for those in our society who have been marginalized

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' ³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:29-37 (NIV)

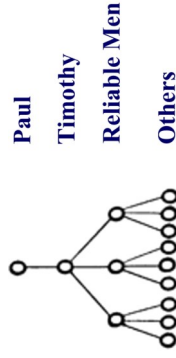


One who is making disciples

As a disciple maker of Jesus Christ we will invest in the lives of others so that they will mature and reproduce spiritually!

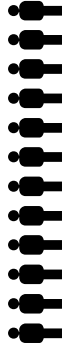
² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)



As we make disciples we will...

- Invest our lives in reliable men
 - Faithful
 - Available
 - Teachable
- Develop the process of...
 - WIN - winning people to Christ (evangelism)
 - BUILD - building Christians in their faith (follow-up)
 - TRAIN - equipping Christians with the tools to reproduce spiritually
 - SEND - Sending Christians out to WIN—BUILD—TRAIN—SEND
- Nurture and model "The Great Commandment"
- Seek justice for those in our society who have been marginalized



A Movement of Reproducing Disciples

A Discipleship Movement is a group of believers that are committed to each other, to growing in Christ and to the making of disciples as a lifestyle.

Their purpose is...

- To live out the Great Commandment in their lives and the lives of those whom they disciple.
- To see the Great Commission fulfilled in their own community.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

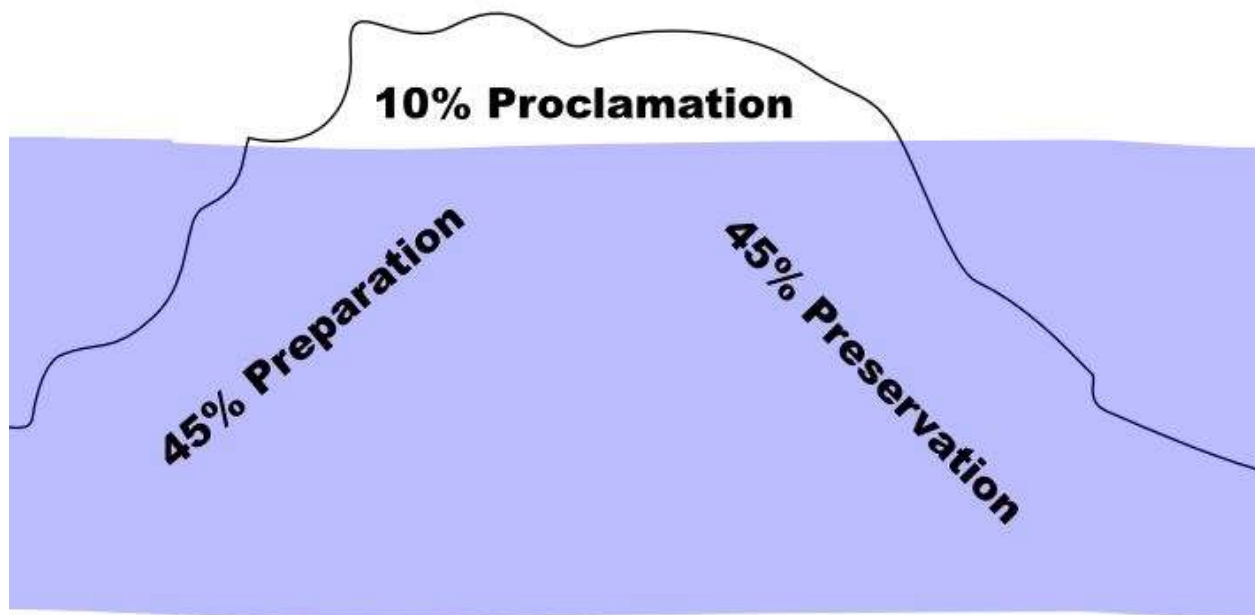
Philippians 1:27 (NIV)

For example: Assume in one year you were to lead someone to Christ, built him in the faith and train him how to reproduce. If then the 2 of you did the same process the next year, there would be 4 disciples. If the method were to continue for 33 years more than 8 billion would have not only heard the gospel, but would have been disciplined as well.

No one person can reach 8 billion people in 33 years. This would only be possible if we spiritually reproduce ourselves!

In “Going Public with the Gospel,”ⁱⁱ Mark Anderson Director of YWAM writes that “the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has organized evangelistic campaigns using three phases: **preparation, proclamation, and preservation**. They estimate that in their campaigns, 45 percent of the efforts are in preparation, 45 percent in preservation, and 10 percent in the event, or the proclamation phase. Mark reflects that “this is similar to a pattern the Lord opened up to me as I studied the ministry of Jesus and the early apostles.” As much hard work as we put into our events, we need to realize that much of the work begins after it has ended.

ⁱⁱ Allison, Lon and Anderson, Mark. Going Public with the Gospel. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003

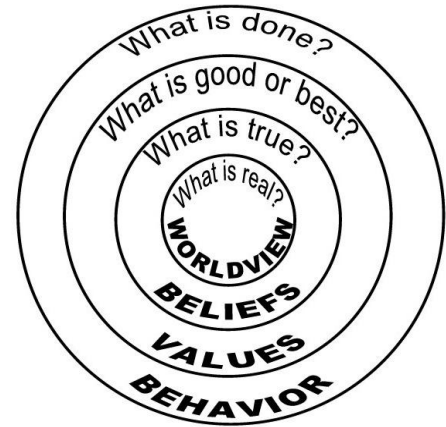


Outreach events are like a icebergs. The bulk of the iceberg is not seen (it is below the surface of the water). The bulk of our energies should be in preparation & preservation.

Principles & Methods of Equipping

Purpose of Teaching

To change or affirm one's attitudes and behavior



Understanding Culture by Dr. Lloyd E. Kwest

Biblical References to Teaching

Ezra 7:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

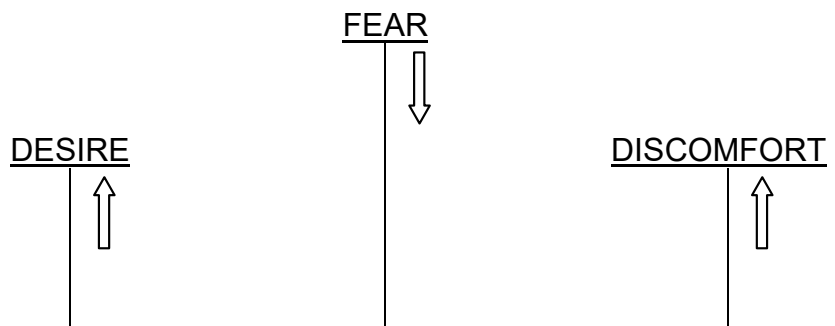
² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Teaching Process

1. **Tell** them what you want them...
2. **Show** them how to do it...
3. **Watch** them do...
4. **Praise** what they do correctly...
5. **Correct** what they do incorrectly, i.e., make suggestions for improvement ☺...
6. **Repeat** until they can implement the new skill consistently at the level needed...

Overcoming Fear

1. Increase Discomfort
2. Increase Desire
3. Decrease Fear



Process for Building Multiplying Disciples¹				
	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
PRINCIPLE	Win	Build	Train	Send
METHOD				
MATERIALS				
TRAINING LEVEL				

¹ Modified chart from: Bright, B. (1997). *5 steps to making disciples: Leader's guide* (4–5). Orlando, FL: NewLife Publications.

Process for Building Multiplying Disciples ²				
	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
PRINCIPLE	Win	Build	Train	Send
METHOD	<p>Present the gospel, evangelism. This can be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-On-One • Small Groups • Large Groups <p>Multiple exposures to the gospel</p>	<p>Follow-up appointments and Christian growth</p> <p>Bible study: new Christians learn assurance of salvation and walking in power of Holy Spirit, how to feed themselves from the bible</p>	<p>Discipleship groups: members learn to witness and ground new believers in their faith</p>	<p>Multiplication groups: members start their own groups</p>
MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Spiritual Laws • The Bridge illustration • The Romans Road • "Jesus" video • Good News bracelet • Personal Salvation Testimony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book of Hope: "Knowing God Personally" • New Life in Christ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Who is Jesus" ◦ Level 1" • Follow-Up Guides 1 – 4 	<p>New Life in Christ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels 1 • Levels 2 • Levels 3 	<p>Five Steps to Making Disciples Bible Study</p>
TRAINING LEVEL	Basic training	Intermediate training	Advanced training	Leadership training

² Modified chart from: Bright, B. (1997). *5 steps to making disciples: Leader's guide* (4–5). Orlando, FL: NewLife Publications.

Personal Action Steps in Developing Win – Build – Train – Send ³

Win	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>"Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God." Dr. Bill Bright</p> </div> <p>The people I have introduced to Christ are:</p> <p>The plans I have for witnessing in the next few weeks are:</p>
Build	<p>New Christian(s) I am following up are:</p> <p>The materials I will use are:</p>
Train	<p>New Christians or older Christians I can take with me witnessing are:</p> <p>New Christians or older Christians who will assist me/observe as I disciple others, i.e., modeling:</p>
Send	Released to disciple others (2 Timothy 2:2):
My Part	<p>I feel God is leading me to participate in a 2 Timothy 2:2 discipleship ministry.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> _____ Signature </div>

³ Modified chart from: Bright, B. (1997). *5 steps to making disciples: Leader's guide* (110–111). Orlando, FL: NewLife Publications.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST series

Who is Jesus Christ?

Teacher's Guide	4
Step 1 Jesus, the Author of Life	6
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Step 4 Lie: It's impossible	14
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Step 6 Lie: I'm afraid	18
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Step 9 Lie: God won't forgive someone like me	24
Step 10 Lie: I can't take it. Why do we suffer?	26
Step 11 Lie: If only I had more money	28
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TIME MANAGEMENT

Based on JIM LEWIS' outline



Fact #1 – Everyone has 24 in his day!

Fact #2 – Everyone has 7 days in his week!

Question: Why do some people seem to be able to get so much accomplished and yet seem relaxed – while others seem never to be able to catch up?

Differentials (variables): Be aware of your unique circumstances.

1. Amount of sleep you need (hours)
2. Household responsibilities you have (hourly)
3. Your job responsibilities (hourly)

DO THIS EXERCISE: List the hours in each week that you do the following activities.

Hours	Activity
	Job (include travel time & prep time before/after work)
	Sleeping & Eating
	Household – including shopping, washing, cleaning, etc.
	Other activities – church, classes, hobbies, quit time, exercise, etc.
	Total - Compare with 168 hours/week

1. This will help you see your actual available hours. How did you do?
2. How is your balance? – Spiritual, Physical, Social, & Mental.

NOW YOU NEED TO PRIORITIZE YOUR TIME

Scripture - Eph. 5:16 *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

DO THESE ACTION STEPS

1. Make a schedule
2. Keep a daily log for one week (for one month for greater accuracy)
3. Set appointments in your schedule
4. Prioritize involvement
5. Keep close watch to what you plan (schedule) & what you actually do
6. Re-do steps 1 – 5 at least annually
7. Prioritize whole week – time like finances are limited...
You can't do everything
8. Budget in personal fun time
9. Plan ahead and don't be afraid to say "no" to requests of your time
10. Re-evaluate weekly – call and cancel (make appropriate adjustments)
11. Leave a buffer zone in your schedule
12. Others?

TIME	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM							
7:00 AM							
8:00 AM							
9:00 AM							
10:00 AM							
11:00 AM							
12:00 PM							
1:00 PM							
2:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
4:00 PM							
5:00 PM							
6:00 PM							
7:00 PM							
8:00 PM							
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							
12:00 PM							
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							

I. The Desperate Need for Personal Bible Study

- A. Most Christians do not know the Bible because they never study it personally.
- B. Most Christians only know what they have been told by significant others.
- C. Most Christians like it that way because then Christianity can be a ticket to heaven or an insurance policy instead of a daily relationship of obedience and service.

II. Why Christians Neglect Personal Bible Study

- A. Frustration
 - 1. They want instantaneous results (modern western consumerism).
 - 2. They do not see it as their responsibility (the unbiblical clergy-laity dichotomy).
 - 3. Our cultural trend toward specialists (ex. medical doctors).
 - 4. The confusion caused by so many conflicting interpretations (denominationalism and post-modernism).
- B. Dogmatism
 - 1. They learn a close-minded attitude toward religious truth. "I think it unwise to dogmatize about the meaning of any Scripture. Where the meaning of Scripture is self-evident, we need not dogmatize; and where it is not self-evident, we should not dogmatize. All that the interpreter of Scripture is called upon to say is: 'This is how I understand it, and these are my reasons for understanding it so.' Indeed, you will commonly find in ordinary life that it is the more doubtful statements that are most dogmatically affirmed." (taken from F. F. Bruce, *Answers to Questions*, p. 76)
 - 2. They are indoctrinated by their denomination.
 - 3. They are overly influenced by their own existential circumstances.
 - a. Personality type
 - b. Personal experience
 - c. Spiritual gift
 - 4. Be careful of:
 - a. If it happened to me, it ought to happen to you.
 - b. If it has not happened to me, it cannot or should not happen to you.
- C. Four Sources of Authority
 - 1. Revelation (inspiration)
 - 2. Reason (illumination)
 - 3. Experience
 - 4. Tradition/culture
 - 5. Authority is the key question!
 - Revelation vs. human reason (rationalism)
 - Revelation vs. human experience (existentialism)
 - Revelation vs. human traditions (denominations)God created us in His image, so our mind and experiences are significant but not ultimate. This is also true of our traditions/culture.
- D. A personal price must be paid to know the Bible for ourselves:
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. Persistence
 - 3. Training
 - 4. Regular study
 - 5. Personal application²

² Utley, R. J. D. (1996). *You Can Understand the Bible!* (7–8). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

“Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.”

(Phrase developed by CRU)

Suggestions in sharing your faith:

- Talk about Jesus and Him crucified. Keep focus on Jesus while answering questions. Keep the message simple.

The Apostle Paul tells us... ³ **For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.** 1 Cor. 15:1–5 (ESV)

Jesus tells us... ²⁴ **“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”** John 8:24 (NASB95) [Notice “He” is italicized. “He” is not in the Greek text.] Therefore Jesus said, “...unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins. Jesus is making reference to God as stated in Exodus 3:12-14. **A person needs to believe that Jesus is God in order to have his sins forgiven.**

The Apostle John tells us... ³¹ **but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.** John 20:31 (ESV)

- Be filled with Holy Spirit – It is His work that enables us to listen well and be discerning, and He is the one who opens people’s understanding, bringing them to faith in Christ.
- Leave the results to God. If a person is not ready, you planted seeds of understanding. Continue to pray for them.

5 Questions that may help you to understand what a person is already thinking, before you talk to them about the Gospel.

“Share Jesus Without Fear”, by William Fay

- 1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?**
- 2. To you, who is Jesus?**
- 3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?**
- 4. If you died, where would you go?**
- 5. If what you were believing is not true, would you want to know?**
 - If the answer to #5 is “NO”, thank them for answering the questions. You can tell them that you will be praying for them. You have not failed. You have been obedient to share the Gospel; the results belong to God.
 - If the answer to #5 is “YES”, then ask, “May I share some Scriptures with you?” Share “Four Spiritual Laws” or Scripture with them.

The Four Spiritual Laws

- ♦ God **loves** you and offers a wonderful **plan** for your life.
[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (**John 10:10**).
- ♦ Man is **sinful** and **separated** from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**).
- ♦ Jesus Christ is God's **only** provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
"I am the way, the truth and the life...no one comes to the Father except through me" (**John 14:6**).
- ♦ We must individually **receive** Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.
"But as many as received Him, to them He has given the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name". (**John 1:12**).

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

*In the booklet of the **Four Spiritual Laws**, there is a place where an invitation is given to trust Christ as personal savior. In the case of the **Roman Road**, the evangelist must present this opportunity for the hearer. This could be after the Romans 10:10 passage for instance. Whichever is used, the opportunity to profess/express faith is key to conversion.*

The Romans Road

- ♦ "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (**Romans 3:23**)
- ♦ "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (**Romans 5:8**)
- ♦ "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (**Romans 6:23**)
- ♦ "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (**Romans 10:9**)
- ♦ "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (**Romans 10:10**)
- ♦ "As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'" (**Romans 10:11**)

Your Personal Salvation Testimony

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. RECOGNIZE GOD'S PLAN – PEACE AND LIFE

God loves you and wants you to experience His peace and life. **The BIBLE says...** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." **John 3:16**

2. REALIZE OUR PROBLEM – SEPARATION

People choose to disobey God and go their own way. This results in separation from God.
The BIBLE says... "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." **Romans 3:23**

3. RESPOND TO GOD'S REMEDY – THE CROSS

God sent His Son to bridge the gap. Christ did this by paying the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross and rose from the grave.
The BIBLE says... "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **Romans 5:8**

4. RECEIVE CHRIST – AS LORD AND SAVIOR

You cross the bridge into God's family when you prayerfully ask Christ to come into your life.
The BIBLE says... "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." **John 1:12**

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. **Admit your need** (I am a sinner).
2. **Be willing to turn from your sins** (repent).
3. **Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.**
4. **Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit** (receive Him as Lord and Savior).

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*This **BRIDGE** illustration is a modification of the card used during the Franklin Graham Festival held in Kern County, California in April of 2004.*

Sharing Christ with the Bridge Illustration

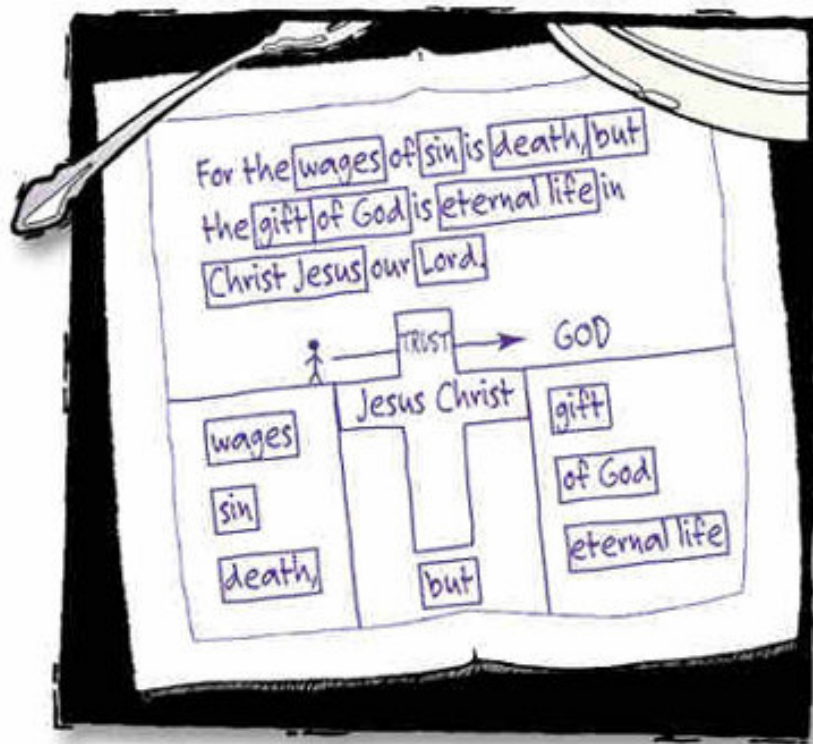
Successful evangelism is simply sharing the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. Techniques do not bring people to Christ, the Holy Spirit does. Pray that God would open their heart to His good news.

Use a kickoff question before you begin sharing the illustration:

- If you were to die today and you were standing before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into Heaven?" what would you say?
- If a friend at work asked you how to become a Christian, what would you tell him?
- On a scale of 0% to 100%, how sure are you about going to Heaven?

Smile, relax, and remember that what you are sharing is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. It's good news!

How to Share Christ's Love Conversationally & Visually, by Randy D. Raysbrook



Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism they must memorize a complex illustration and a multitude of verses. But the Gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism is also sensitive to peoples' busy schedules because it can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God's leading you to share the Gospel with a friend, Jeff. Write out *Romans 6:23* on a piece of paper or a napkin: **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (NIV). Then put your Bible away. Ask him/her if they would like to see a simple picture based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with people.

wages

Circle this word and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn wages from God for how we have lived our lives.

sin

Draw a circle around "sin," asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or merely excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," add that that's one of the things sin does-it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

death,

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation.

but

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in thought is coming. What we have just looked at is bad news; what follows is good news.

gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind your friend that someone must purchase every gift.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

eternal life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Christ Jesus

Draw these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that every gift has a giver, and only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

TRUST

Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that friends trust each other, and tell your friend that Jesus wants a trusting friendship with him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for the "sin" of either fighting or excluding God from his life. That is what trust means-trusting that Jesus wants to forgive us for rejecting Him from our lives. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him.



DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY

Personal Salvation Testimony - OVERVIEW

I. By Whom: Believers in Jesus Christ, i.e., saved!

II. Why

A. Scriptural Basis

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way” 1 Peter 3:15-17 (NLT)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (ESV)

- B. Relational: Because you are telling the story of what happened to you, your personal testimony will have universal appeal. It is always interesting to hear how changes take place in people's lives.
- C. The person(s) hearing the salvation testimony will know/understand how to apply the gospel to his/her/their live(s) to receive the benefits of eternal life, i.e., how to become a Christian, a member of God's family.
- D. Since it does not require any written material, it can oftentimes be handy when other forms of the gospel (i.e., Four Spiritual Laws, Bible, etc.) cannot be used.
- E. Your personal testimony is really your most personal apologetic (a defense for biblical Christianity).
- F. The process of writing the testimony without the use of Christian jargon will provide you with a deeper understanding of yourself, God & your relationship with Him.

III. What: 3-minute explanation of how you became a Christian

- A. A clear & concise presentation of the Gospel.
- B. A brief narrative of your life's story.
- C. An explanation of your fears, struggles, and consequences (economical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual...) in making the decision to trust and follow Jesus.

IV. When & Where

- A. Testimony is a model how a person can respond to the Gospel, thus becoming a Christian.
- B. Testimony can be “stand alone” without other gospel methods.
- C. Testimonies are versatile – they can be given in written or oral form and in formal and informal settings.
- D. Testimonies can integrate well with other ministry forms (gospel presentations, discipleship, etc.).
- E. Testimony can be shared before, in the middle or at the end of a gospel presentation.
- F. Testimony can be shared one-on-one or in a group setting.

V. To Whom

- A. Everyone to determine his level of interest and understanding of spiritual truths.
- B. Anyone you desire to share the gospel with.
- C. Family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.
- D. Strangers (waiting in lines, sitting next to, walking next to), outreach events (Boxes of Love, Easter bags, etc.) and many other settings.

VI. How

- A. Write according to the guidelines.
- B. Revise with help from a mentor.
- C. Practice with others who will provide feedback.
- D. Revise with help from a mentor.
- E. Memorize.

DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY

Writing Your Testimony – Do's & Don'ts

Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by careful organization. It should be our desire to present Christ in such a clear, attractive manner that those who hear will not only want to know Him, but they will also want to know "how" to know Him. Use the following points as you develop your testimony:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write.
2. Do not procrastinate.
3. Seek help from mentors and peers.
4. Follow a three-point outline:
 - a) Your life **before** knowing Christ.
 - b) **How** you heard the gospel & your initial response, what the Gospel means and your latter response.
 - c) Your life **after** you received Christ (Changes He has made, what He means to you now).

Realize everyone needs Jesus – not only those who have done evil against others, broken laws or committed immoral acts. Everyone needs Jesus!

FYI: If you became a Christian as a small child, you may not have a point "a", and will need to give an editorial of how you trusted in Jesus (re-affirming your early decision to trust in Jesus) emphasize point "c" in your three-point outline.



5. Develop your personal testimony around a theme that is contrasted in the "before" and "after" sections. (Examples: adequacy, freedom, freedom from religion, hope, peace, purpose, relationship, self-worth, stability, truth.).
6. Address every item in the guideline – do not leave any of it out.
7. Choose words & syntax that relate to the audience (but be true to who you are).
8. Don't overdo it but do give enough details to arouse interest.
9. Include one or two Scripture verses as appropriate, including one related to your theme and/or to the Gospel.

As you write your testimony, communication can be more effective by...

1. Do not procrastinate.
2. Do not use Christian jargon. Words such as, born-again, converted, convicted, faith, received Christ, repentance, salvation, saved, Savior & Lord and sin do not communicate clearly to the average non-Christian. FYI: When these words are used give a brief definition of the word or phrase.
3. Do not distract with unnecessary phrases (such as).
4. Do not beat around the bush – speak plainly and direct to the topic or issue.
5. Do not speak in glittering generalities (terrible, wonderful, glorious, etc.).
6. Do not mention church denominations - especially in a derogatory way.
7. Do not speak negatively about any other individual or group.
8. Do not give the impression that the Christian life is without problems (a "bed of roses").

DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY

GUIDELINE: QUESTIONS TO AID IN TESTIMONY PREPARATION

Note: 1) Using a 3-minute time limit will cause you to be more selective in choosing your content. This will result in an increase in quality. 2) Address every item in the Guideline to assure effective communication. 3) Write in a style that reflects your personality – a natural talking style.

I. What was my life like **before** I trusted Jesus Christ or totally committed my life to Him?

A. What about my life before Christ will relate most to the non-Christians I know?

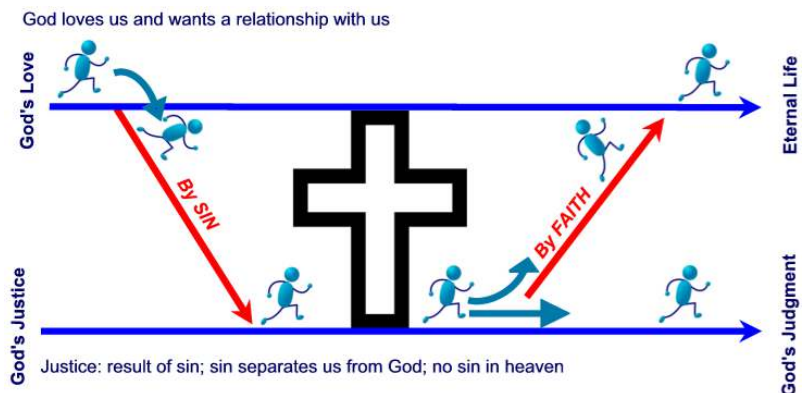
B. What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?

C. How did those things begin to let me down?

The Gospel

What someone must know and do to be in God's family (to be saved)

- **God's Love:** John 3:16 God sent His Son, Jesus Christ
- **Man's Problem:** Sin separates us from God, from spending eternity with Him: Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23
- **God's Solution:** God's Son Jesus Christ was punished in our place/for our sins, so that we could take on His righteousness: Rom. 5:8, 1 Pet. 3:18, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:3-7 Christ died, was buried, & rose. This is a gift that a person must accept.
- **Man's Response** to God's Solution: Believe Jesus is God, Son of God, and trust/accept/receive His gift of salvation/of having my sins forgiven so that I can take on His righteousness: John 1:12, Eph.2:8, 9



DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY

The Gospel

Explain the Gospel without using Christian jargon. Include 1) God's love, 2) Your Problem of Sin and 3) God's Solution (Jesus's death on the cross and His rising from the dead three days later).

II. **How** did I come to trust Christ? Be sure to include **How did I give Jesus complete control of my life?**

- A. Describe the time I heard and understood the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
- B. When and why did my perspective begin to change toward Christ? How and when I placed my faith in Jesus as my Savior?
- C. What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

III. What happened **after** I trusted Christ?

- A. How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control... Gal. 5:22–23a (ESV)

- B. What motivates me now? What do I live for?
- C. Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?

**Jean's Salvation Testimony from her son Don
(Aug. 4, 1921 – Feb. 28, 2014, 93 yrs. old)**

Before: She always attended church from a child. Don has her diary from 1940 noting how she attended church each week. She grew up in Elmira, New York during the Great Depression in poverty. She worked pulling weeds for the railroad and earned a scholarship to finance college.

How/Salvation:

Jean wrote: *"I always considered myself a Christian, especially since 1976 (55 yrs. old) when I renewed my vow to let Jesus Christ reign supreme in my heart and be my personal Lord and Savior."*

"I believe the Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross as the propitiation for my sins."

"He is my Savior and in dying for me made me acceptable to God as one of his sheep."

"This redemption makes me one with my Lord, whom I love and who loves me, and whom I serve, and whom I will see and join after my earthly death, according to his promise."

After accepting Jesus as her Savior:

Jean wrote: *"Since then I have realized that there is much more to being a follower of Christ than I had ever realized or attempted. Of late years, mainly through my son, through other godly people, and through good sermons, I have come to a fuller understanding. I realize how sinful I am and have been. How many times I have not obeyed the commandment to love my neighbor and how I've failed to bring others to Christ. The changes in my life have been, I believe, mainly in my inner life. I treasure the fact of Jesus Christ and the wonder of his sacrifice for us and his continuing holy presence in the world."*

Please read this testimony and determine ways to make the message more clear to a non-churched audience.

How would you rephrase these statements so that a non-Christian or unchurched individual would understand?

"I believe the Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross as the propitiation for my sins."

"He is my Savior and in dying for me made me acceptable to God as one of his sheep."

"This redemption makes me one with my Lord, whom I love and who loves me, and whom I serve, and whom I will see and join after my earthly death, according to his promise."

Example of revising one’s **Personal Salvation Testimony**

First Draft

My first encounter with God happened one day while I was at work. He spoke to me saying, “You cannot compare yourself to Me. You are no match for Me.” Before that encounter, my wife had been asking me to go to church with her. I would always tell her “NO”. I don’t want anything to do with God. After my encounter with God, I came home from work. I told my wife I will go to church with you once a month, just to see what it is all about.

The first time I went with her to church, nobody greeted me, no one acknowledged me, no one welcomed me. I felt that I didn’t belong there. I told my wife I wanted to leave. It didn’t interest me at all. Weeks later, she ask me to go with her to another church. It was a small congregation at a house; no more that 15 – 20 people. I said, “OK”, not because I wanted anything to do with God, but because I wanted to support my wife. That night after service, they had an altar call. I went to the front of the room with my wife and stood next to her. Like I just stated I wanted to support my wife. I wasn’t expecting anything to happen. When the pastor got around to me, he put his hands on me and began to pray for me. All of a sudden, I felt a cold tingling sensation all over my body. I began to cry. I fell to my knees; my hands went up in the air by themselves. I didn’t know what was happening to me. All I knew was I felt something leaving my body.

After this encounter, I felt different. I knew I was changed. On the way home, I threw away my cigarettes. And to this day, I haven’t smoked again. Once I got home, I sat there totally blown away at what had just happened. I felt new. I felt clean inside and I knew I was never going to be same. On September 24, 2014 I surrender to God and asked Jesus into my life and my heart.

Word count: 364; approximately: 2 minutes

Second Draft (applying training principles)

In my early years, I experienced parental abuse & abandonment. I ended up in group homes, foster care homes, gangs and eventually prison. My first encounter with God happened much later in my life. One day while I was at work, God spoke to me saying, “You cannot compare yourself to Me. You are no match for Me.” Before that encounter, my wife had been asking me to go to church with her. I would always tell her “NO”. I don’t want anything to do with God. After my encounter with God, I told my wife that I will go to church with her once a month; just to see what it is all about.

The first time I went with her to church, nobody greeted me, no one acknowledged me, no one welcomed me. I told my wife I wanted to leave. It didn’t interest me at all. Weeks later, she ask me to go with her to another church. It was there I heard that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” I realized that included me. The pastor also mentioned that Jesus is God and that he died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins – those attitudes, thoughts or behaviors that are displeasing to God. At the end of the service, the pastor ask people to come to the front for prayer. I went with my wife and stood next to her, to be her support. When the pastor got around to me, he put his hands on me and began to pray for me. At that moment, I also prayed, trusting that Jesus is God and that he had died in my place, on the cross for my sins. I sensed that God heard my prayer of trust in him and I felt a great relief. All of a sudden, I felt a cold tingling sensation all over my body. I began to cry. I fell to my knees; my hands went up in the air by themselves. At the time, I didn’t fully understand what was happening to me. All I knew was, I felt a burden lifted from my body.

That evening, I felt different. I knew I was changed. On the way home, I threw away my cigarettes. And to this day, I haven’t smoked again. At home, I sat there totally blown away at what had just happened. I felt new! I felt clean inside and I knew I was never going to be same. That was September 24, 2014. Since then I have seen God change my heart. I have become more keenly aware of the needs of others and I truly want to help them. Today I experience contentment and peace that I never thought I would or could experience. I now enjoy love from God and others. Love that I had missed in my youth. Now, I desire others to have a similar experience.

Word count: 491; approximately: 2 minutes, 42 seconds

QUESTIONS — The Primary Tool When Facilitating a Group Bible Study

Advantages of Asking Questions

- Good questions make people think. When people think, they learn.
- Questions help you know whether the group is grasping the content. Without feedback you'll never know what your group is learning.
- Questions keep the group interesting.
- Questions cause group members to learn more together than they would have on their own.
- Questions enable the leader to focus and direct the discussion.
- Group interaction helps relationships develop within the group, which in turn helps learning and application.

http://crupressgreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Asking_Good_Questions.pdf

Ask the Right Questions

A goal of your small group is that it be discussion oriented. The focus should not be on you as the leader but on the needs of the group. Give the members opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings and provide feedback on what they're learning. A primary way that you can foster a positive environment in a small group is by asking the right types of questions. Here are three types of questions:

1. **Open-Ended:** These are questions that allow group members to share any answer or relevant thoughts on the passage or subject being studied. These types of questions are very valuable for group discussion. Open-ended questions stimulate thought and discussion because there are no right or wrong answers. (*It is helpful to prepare questions in advance and write them down.*)

Examples: "What truths stand out to you in this passage?" "How does it make you feel when you think about what Jesus is saying here?"

2. **Closed:** These are questions that are obvious or imply the answer is expected by the leader.

Questions like this aren't valuable for discussion and can actually stifle group interaction.

Example: "Paul says we are to rejoice in everything doesn't he?"

3. **Limiting:** These are questions that aren't really valuable for open discussion, but they are useful to summarize a point or get back on track.

Examples: "What three motivations does Paul mention in this passage?"

"In Matthew 28, what was the last thing that Jesus said to His disciples?"

Ask Questions that Help You Apply Scripture

1. What personal application or idea has God given you for this study?
2. What reasons for praising God does this passage offer?
3. What personal need or issue has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study?
4. What aspects of this study encourage you most? Why?
5. What truth(s) from this lesson can you illustrate from personal experience?
6. What part of this study convicts you? Why?
7. What "I never thought of that before" insight did you gain? (Aha moments)
8. What unresolved questions on this subject still bother you?
9. Did any aspect of this lesson bring a role model to mind? Who? Why?

Adaptions made from: <http://impactchapter.com/small-groups/8-keys-to-leading-a-successful-small-group>

Small Group Lesson Template

Determine the learning objectives in response to the following questions:

What do I want them to understand and believe?

What do I want them to experience?

How do I want them to respond to Christ? (Be sure your application is aimed at heart-resistance to Christ.)

Launch

Connect the study to where they live

ELEMENTS

Ask a question that will cultivate interest in your study by raising a problem or issue that your passage addresses. (At this stage, your link to the "fallen condition" your passage addresses may only be implicit.)

Explore

Lead them to investigate the Word

ELEMENTS

Survey the Big Picture:

Give them a brief overview of the context they need in order to understand your passage.

Explore the passage:

Ask exploratory questions to help them discover what God said. You can group your questions following the divisions of your textual outline (e.g., Eph 4:1-6, 7-16). You will use the following types of questions:

"What does it say?"
(observation questions)

"What does it mean?"
(interpretation questions)

"Why does it matter?"
(significance questions)

Discover the Big Idea:

Ask a question to help them catch the main point of the passage.

Apply

Lead them to a heart-level response to Christ

ELEMENTS

Remember that your teaching will be most effective when it is aligned with God's redemptive purposes. Through Scripture God intends "to restore aspects of our brokenness to spiritual wholeness" so that we might reflect and enjoy His glory. As fallen creatures living in a fallen world, we are dependent on God's redemptive work not only for our conversion but also for the process of growing to maturity. (Bryan Chapell, Christ-Centered Preaching, 269-70).

Ask a couple questions that help them envision what it would look like practically to live out this passage.

Ask a couple questions that expose heart-resistance to Christ. Help them see how they experience the "fallen condition" this passage reveals (i.e., some aspect of their brokenness that requires the redemptive work of Christ).

Ask a couple questions that point them to Christ. What aspect of God's redemptive work do they need to believe and embrace in order to reflect and enjoy God's glory?

Suggestions / Hints

Facilitating a Group Study

- **Methods to get quieter people to share in the study (want input from all):**
 - Hand out slips of paper with numbers corresponding to the numbered questions in the Bible study. The person with the number is responsible to read and answer that question. By giving out the numbers at the beginning of the session, each person has time to prepare and collect his thoughts prior to speaking.
 - Toss a ball; whoever has the ball has the floor.
 - Have each person share his answers with his neighbor. The neighbor can then summarize what the person had said.
 - If you have a large class, you can break into smaller groups of four or five, or by tables...
- **When the facilitator is not sure of an answer:**
 - Ask others, "Does anyone else want to answer that question?" "What do you all think?"
 - Ask if someone in the group would like to research the answer to the question and be ready to share what he had learned with the group at the next meeting.
 - I will get back to you next week after I do research on the question.
- **Regaining control of conversation: When there is a lot of discussion, need to pray for wisdom from Holy Spirit as to whether the discussion...**
 - Needs to come to an end: Take control of the discussion by...
 - Asking, "Are we in agreement? Let's move on to the next question."
 - Tying the discussion back to the previous question or to the next question.
 - Stating something like: "This is a great discussion." Ask the group how they are doing: "For the sake of time should we move on to the next question or do we want to continue with the current discussion?"
 - Needs to continue because it is a felt need by many to know more about the topic being discussed.
- **Review previous lessons (this will put the current lesson into the broader context)**
- **At the close of the study, give group something to look forward to in the next meeting (where are we going)**

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,"

(2 Corinthians 3:5, NASB95)

- **Prepare:**
 - Pray; be a cleansed vessel; be filled (controlled & empowered) by the Holy Spirit.
 - Make people feel welcome.
 - Introduce the topic (be creative).
 - Look up definitions of words that may be new to the people in your group.
 - Write down the questions you plan to use (Launch, Explore, Apply, open ended questions; Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?).
 - Be creative. Good Illustrations will give visual examples or word pictures. Bring visuals/hands-on objects/internet videos, music (i.e. mustard seed and a photo of a mustard tree).
 - Prepare several days in advance (that gives the Holy Spirit opportunity to bring to your mind additional ideas & illustrations that can be used).
 - Flow of the class/study: encourage the participants to fill in the blanks on the Bible study handouts. This will help the participants to keep on track/stay focused.
 - By being prepared you will know what comes next and can bring a discussion back to the topic.
- **Attitude:**
 - Cheerful.
 - Confident.
- **Give time for people to look up the verses**
 - (say “Amen” when you have the verse).
 - Use Table of Contents in their bible(s).
 - Assign verses to specific people to read during the study.
- **Note: the goal of the group is not the discovery of truth, but the personal application of truth.**
- **End on time.**
- **Clarity for next meeting; anything they need to know (time, date, what to bring or prepare for...).**

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

1. Observation – What does it say?

- a. Who?
- b. What?
- c. Where?
- d. Why?
- e. How?
- f. When?

2. Interpretation – What does it mean?

(What did the author intend for the passage/statement to mean?)

3. Application – What will I do?

"Knowledge that is self-discovered is stored in the deepest part of the mind and remains the longest in the memory. There is no jewel more precious than that which you have mined yourself."

Dr. Howard Hendricks

Facilitator's Name		Date	Topic
Items to Evaluate		Specific Comments on what/where/how facilitator did well and where/how an area could be improved	
Physical Arrangements (temperature of room, noise level, distractions, clock to keep on time, sitting arrangements, table to aid in writing, ...)			
People Felt Welcome (cheerful, warm, friendly, confident ...)			
Review previous lessons (helps bring current lesson into broader context)			
Introduction of Topic (asked a question/had an illustration to cultivate interest, connecting the study to where they live)			
Asked <u>Observation</u> questions – <u>What does it say?</u> (who, what, where, how, when, why, defines words)			
Asked <u>Interpretation</u> Questions – <u>What did the author intend for the passage/statement to mean?</u>			
Asked <u>Application</u> Questions – <u>What will I do?</u>			
Asked Open Ended Questions (contrast: closed or limiting questions)			
Sought Input from All (site examples)			
Controlled Conversation (gave people time to look up verses; affirms comments while bring conversation back to main topic; encouraged deeper conversation)			
Ended on Time			
Time for Prayer			
Gave Clarity for Next Meeting (next topic – where are we going; time, date, what to bring or prepare for ...)			

PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY EVALUATION FORM

____/____/____
Date

Person giving his/her salvation testimony

Person making the evaluation

**The
Gospel**

God's Love: John 3:16 God sent His Son, Jesus Christ

Man's Problem: Sin separates us from God, from spending eternity with Him: Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23

God's Solution: God's Son Jesus Christ was punished in our place so that we could take on His righteousness: Rom. 5:8, 1 Pet. 3:18, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:3-7 Christ died, was buried, & rose

Man's Response to God's Solution: Believe Jesus is God, Son of God, and trust/accept/receive His gift of having my sins forgiven so that I can take on His righteousness: John 1:12, Eph.2:8, 9

So that we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ be more effective in sharing their testimonies, please evaluate the testimony according to these questions. Please give detail, and offer both positive comments and constructive critique. Thanks for your input!

1. Did the testimony clearly communicate the gospel? How? Did it use church-lingo? What needs to change?

2. Did it communicate a theme and related life change; what the person was like before and after receiving Christ? How? What needs to change?

3. Did it interest the listener? Was the listener able to relate to the story? How? What needs to change?

4. Was the speaker enthusiastic? How? What needs to change?

5. Did it meet the 3-minute time guideline? If not, was it too long or too short?

always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you... 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

2 Timothy 2:2 Discipleship Training Class

Weekly Schedule		
Time	Length	Topic
6:30 PM	5 min	Prayer
6:35 PM	20 min	Review / Highlight / Questions & Answers
6:55 PM	8 min	3-Minute Testimony
7:03 PM	15 min	Evaluate / Feedback / Summarize Principles
7:18 PM	10 min	BREAK
7:28 PM	60 min	Facilitate Bible Study Lesson (Who Is Jesus)
8:28 PM	20 min	Evaluate / Feedback / Summarize Principles
8:48 PM	5 min	Announcements / Prep for coming week
8:53 PM		Dismissed

Note: student requirements

- Each student will write a 3-minute personal salvation testimony & give to instructor to receive feedback.
- Each student will give a 3-minute personal salvation testimony to the class.
- Each student will facilitate at least one bible study lesson to the class using the “Who Is Jesus?” curriculum.
- Each student will facilitate two bible study lessons outside of the class using the “Who Is Jesus?” curriculum.

Each student will receive a certificate when all assignments are completed.



Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactory completed all the lessons and course requirements

2 TIMOTHY 2:2 DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING CLASS

*“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

(2 Timothy 2:2, ESV)

Instructors

Date

GROUND RULES for Small Group Discussion

**Biblical Foundation
Inductive Bible Study**
I. Observation
II. Interpretation
III. Application

SAFE GROUP:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN:

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE:

Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE:

It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or questions being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK":

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING:

We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING:

When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING:

Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE:

Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them," "the church," "us," or "we," etc.

CONFLICT:

We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. If conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

25 QUESTIONS Transitions you can use to turn a conversation to spiritual things.

1. People invest time and energy into developing their career, their bodies and relationships, but often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How do you actively pursue spiritual growth?
2. Do you think much about spiritual things? (This usually leads to conversation about what "spiritual" means--i.e. religion vs. relationship.)
3. How has this experience affected the way you look at God?
4. We've never had a chance to talk about your religious background. Where would you say you are in your spiritual pilgrimage?
5. I'd like to tell you how I established a personal relationship with God. (Tell your personal testimony of how you became a Christian. Keep it to three minutes, using the following outline: Before--What characterized my life before I trusted Christ. During--How I came to trust Christ. After--How I am different now.)
6. What is your concept of God? Do you view Him positively or negatively?
7. Have you ever come to a point in your life where you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, or do you think that is something you're still moving toward? May I share with you how I came to that point?
8. Do you find that faith and spiritual values play a role in your (work) (day) (marriage) (perspective on life)?
9. If you could be sure there is a God, would you want to know Him? Or if you could know God personally, would you want to?
10. Bring a friend to your church or a Christian event, then ask:
 1. *What did you think of it?*
 2. *Did it make sense to you?*
 3. *Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing God personally?*
 4. *You'd like to, wouldn't you?*
11. Do you go to church? Why or why not?
12. I'd hate for you to come to my church and not understand what it's all about. Would you want to get together and discuss our basic beliefs?
13. We've been friends for quite some time now, and I've never really talked to you about the most important thing in my life. May I take a few moments and do so?
14. Is church something that has had an influence in your life? Are you at a point now that you want church to be a bigger part of your life? What prompted this? Would you want to hear our basic beliefs so you'll know if that fits in with what you're looking for?
15. How do you think someone becomes a Christian?
16. Can I share the thing I've found most important to me as a (dad), (mom), (boss)?
17. What do you think about when you go to sleep at night? (If anxiety or guilt rob them of sleep, introduce the peace found in a relationship with Christ).

18. Most people in America say they believe in God. What does believing in God mean to you?
19. Before I came to know Christ personally, God was a vague concept that I could not relate to or grasp. How would you describe your view of God? Jesus? Is He a reality to you or more of a vague concept?
20. If you were to die tonight are you sure you'd go to heaven? Has anyone ever explained how you can know for sure?

Once you've transitioned to the gospel, what do you actually tell your friend? Whatever approach you use, never argue or condemn the other person's beliefs. Focus on God's love for the person, Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, His resurrection, and the person's need to make a commitment to follow Christ. Invite the person to actually pray with you and commit his or her life to Christ.

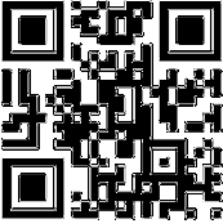
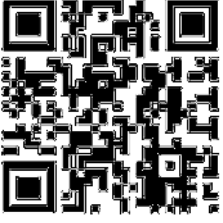

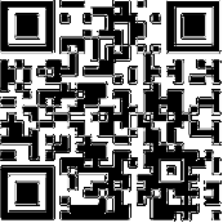

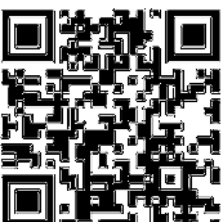
<http://www.wwc magazine.org/1998/transit.html>

Additional Questions...

21. Do you have a religious upbringing where you were taught about any kind of religious belief?
22. After listening to a concern: "Can I pray with you?" (If yes, say a prayer.) If appropriate, then you can ask, "Do you have any spiritual beliefs?" Can go through some or all of the five questions in #25.
23. This 9-volt battery could save your life! We are offering these batteries to you as a free gift from our church, ____ We have also received another free gift that has saved our lives – the gift of forgiveness of our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Would you be interested in hearing how you can have this free gift? (batteries given out in Oct. for smoke alarms)
24. This [box of food] is a free gift from our church (with no strings attached). But God has a much greater gift. May I share it with you?
25.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs? 2. To you, who is Jesus? 3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. If you died, where would you go? If heaven, why? 5. If what you believe is not true, would you want to know? <p>(from <i>Share Christ without Fear</i>, by William Fay)</p>
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Digital Bible Study Resources

Biblia.com Mobile App	50 translations Reina Valera Revisada (1960) La Biblia de las Américas	http://biblia.com 
BiblideStudyTools.com	20 translations La Biblia de las Américas (BLA) La Biblia Reina-Valera (RVR) Sagradas Escrituras (1569) (SEV) Commentaries Concordances Dictionaries Encyclopedias History Lexicons	http://www.biblestudytools.com/ 
BibleGateway.com mobile.biblegateway.com	Audio Bible translations 43 English Translations 14 Spanish Translations Commentaries Dictionaries	http://www.biblegateway.com/ 
Blue Letter Bible Mobile Apps	18 English Translations 30+ Commentaries Dictionaries Encyclopedias	http://www.blueletterbible.org/ 
eBible.com Mobile Apps	12 English Versions; Has nice app for smart phones and tablets	http://www.ebible.com/ministry 
YouVersion Mobile Apps	Audio bibles 100's of versions and languages	https://www.youversion.com/ 

BIBLE TRANSLATION CHART

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
AMP Amplified Bible	11	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	Those looking for more detailed shades of meaning in Scripture	"We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you."	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.
CEV Contemporary English Version	5.4	Thought-for-thought	Unchurched	"We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work."	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.
ESV English Standard Version	7.4	Word-for-word	Bible readers of all ages	"But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you."	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, seeks to produce word-for-word correspondence. Published in 2001.
God's Word Translation	4.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Christians and non-Christians; adults and children	"How can we brag about things that no one can evaluate? Instead, we will only brag about what God has given us to do—coming to [the city of Corinth] where you live."	Published in 1995, a meaning-based, contemporary translation utilizing the thought-for-thought translation philosophy.
HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible	7.5	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Bible readers of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but according to the measure of the area [of ministry] that God has assigned to us, [which] reaches even to you."	A translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. Published in 2004.
KJV King James Version	12	Word-for-word	Conservative Protestant	"But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published in 1611. Timeless Treasure.
The Message A Paraphrase	5.5–10 depending on the passage	Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages	Christians who want a fresh Bible-reading experience and seekers	"We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you."	This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader. Complete Bible published in 2002.
NAB New American Bible	6.6	Word-for-word	Catholic	"But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you."	Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.
NASB New American Standard Bible	11	Word-for-word	Conservative, evangelical Protestant	"But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you."	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.
NCV New Century Version	5.6	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Those who want a highly readable translation of the Bible in today's language	"But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us, and this includes our work with you."	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), it's a readable and simple translation using the thought-for-thought translation methodology. Published in 1991.
NIV NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	7.8	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Evangelical Christians of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you."	The bestselling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978. Most read. Most trusted.
NIRV New International Reader's Version	2.9	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	Children ages 10 and under	"But I won't brag more than I should. Instead, I will brag only about what I have done in the area God has given me. It is an area that reaches all the way to you."	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NIRV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998. The NIV for kids!
NKJV New King James Version	8	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	Those who want a readable translation of the Bible that is great for study but maintains the poetry of the KJV	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you."	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.
NLT New Living Translation	6.3	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought	Adults and children	"But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you."	Based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. These scholars and stylists went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest natural equivalent of the message in natural, contemporary English. Published in 1996.
NRSV New Revised Standard Version	8.1–10.4	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Mainline and interconfessional	"We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you."	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to make a good one better." Published in 1990. A Bible for all Christians.
TNIV TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	n.a.	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Today's generation of Bible readers looking for readability without sacrificing accuracy	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you."	Remaining faithful to the original texts while using up-to-date language of today's world, the TNIV is a highly readable and highly accurate translation. Complete Bible published in 2005. Timeless truth. Today's language.

Bible Translation Comparison



With so many different English translations, it may help to understand the basic differences between each.

- **WORD-FOR-WORD** (also known as *Formal Equivalence*) translations attempt to match the original language words with the closest English language counterpart.
- **THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT** (also known as *Dynamic Equivalence*) translations attempt to pair the ideas behind each phrase or sentence with a similar idea in the English language.
- **PARAPHRASE** (also known as *Free-Text Translation*) translations take the original language text and translates it into words that is super easy to understand. This type of translation provides the greatest freedom for translators to convert the original manuscripts into modern language.

Have you asked Jesus to come into your life/heart	Have you placed your trust and confidence in Jesus that He is God and that He died on the cross to pay for your sins.
Abundant Life	A life that is full and meaningful (full of peace, joy, and contentment) that comes from being dependent on Jesus Christ instead of circumstances or one's own resources.
Accept or Receive	A deliberate and ready reception of what is offered; Turning to God and being sorry for the wrong things you have done; To willingly agree; to believe in and take for oneself, Jesus' gift of payment for his/her sins (wrong things he/she has thought, said or done); to receive heartily or favorably to oneself.
Made Acceptable	Christ took on our sin, so that we could take on His righteousness. 2 Cor. 5:21
Believe	Be persuaded of, to place confidence in, to trust, signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence
Bible	The authoritative or official book for Christianity, inspired by God; it guides us in knowing God and how to live a life that is good and right
Born Again, New Birth	Made alive spiritually; Spiritual birth; the gracious act of God conferring upon those who believe the nature and disposition of "children" imparting to them spiritual life;
Confession/Confess	To admit, openly declare or tell about one's fault, crime, wrong doing; to speak the same thing, agree with, declare, admit oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction
Death	A result of sin is physical death someday, but we are born spiritually dead meaning we have no relationship with God; we are separated from God; the separation of the spirit from the body
Debt	That which is owed; Something that one person owes another
Disciple	A follower or student, especially one who believes what the leader teaches. Anyone who believes in Jesus is His disciple
Eternal/everlasting/eternal life	Without beginning or end; forever; timeless; God is eternal; spending life with God forever; will never perish (John 17:3)
Faith	Firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing; Belief and trust in God; knowing that God is real, even though we can't see Him
Fall short	No matter how hard a person tries, they will always come short of being perfect.
Faithful	Trustworthy, reliable; loyal; God is faithful; Can trust He will do what He promised
Forgive	To send away; To excuse or pardon; no longer to blame or be angry with someone who had done you wrong; complete removal of the cause of offense
Gospel	The good news that Jesus died for our sins and rose again; making it possible for us to take His righteousness and have eternal life (it denotes the good tidings of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His expiatory death, burial, resurrection, and ascension) (1 Cor. 15:3-6) (expiate: to extinguish the guilt incurred by)
Grace	Unmerited favor; Getting what we don't deserve; a relationship with God in His family forever; His Kindness and forgiveness;
Guilty	Having broken a law or commandment; deserving punishment
Heaven/Kingdom of Heaven/God	The eternal dwelling place of God; God's rule in the lives of His chosen people in His creation. Anyone who is born again by believing in Jesus enters this kingdom
Holy/sacred	Set apart for God; belonging to God; Pure; godly; (only God/Jesus Christ does everything right – what He thinks, says, and does is always right – set apart from His creation.)

Holy Spirit	God - the third person of the Trinity; the Spirit lives and works in our hearts and minds. Jesus promised his disciples that He would send His Spirit. Also called Comforter, Counselor
Jesus Christ	God - the Son of God, God's perfect son; He was born as a baby. He never sinned (never thought, said, or did anything that was wrong)
Law	God's rules, which help people to know what is right and wrong. The Ten Commandments are part of God's law.
Lord	Ruler, master; Inviting Jesus to be ruler, master, king, head over all of your life; supreme Lord and Sovereign over all of the universe; giving Him control of all areas of your life thereby doing what pleases Him – that which is good and right
Mercy	Not getting what we deserve; not being punished for the wrong things we have done
Penalty	Punishment for a wrong doing; Just doing one wrong thing resulted in physical death, but even worse it caused our relationship with God to be dead.
Perish	To die; To be destroyed or ruined
Propitiation	God, out of His great love for sinners, <u>provided the way by which His "wrath against sin" might be averted.</u> "Jesus blood satisfies God's wrath" without violating God's holiness. Man's sins can be removed/cleansed through faith in the blood of Jesus. It is not the nature of God who is changed, but the nature of man that is changed. God remains holy and righteous. God's wrath is averted because: man, who is unrighteous, becomes justified: the debt for his sins are paid, he is proclaimed not guilty and is reconciled to God. He takes on Jesus' righteousness. "The propitiation does not procure/obtain God's love or make him loving; it only renders it consistent for him to exercise his love towards sinners. " ^b
Prayer	Talking with Jesus/God, like talking to someone on a cell phone – you don't see them, but he or she can hear you.
Ransom	To obtain the release of (a captive) by paying the demanded price. (a means of freeing from sin)
Redemption	Deliverance on account of the ransom paid as spoken of the deliverance from the power and consequences of sin, which Christ obtained by laying down His life as a ransom for those who believe. "The debt against us is not viewed as simply cancelled, but is fully paid. Christ's blood or life, which he surrendered for them, is the "ransom" by which the deliverance of his people from the servitude of sin and from its penal consequences is secured." ^a
Repent	(verb) To change one's mind or purpose, always in the N.T., involving a change for the better. (a change or turning from sin or evil to God)
Resurrection	To raise from the dead; Jesus Christ came back to life again proving He was God and had the power to forgive our sins
Righteousness	Acting in a just, upright manner;
Sacrifice	To offer as a sacrifice; an offering given to God for the sins of the people. In the Old Testament animals was killed to pay for the people's sins. These sacrifices were pictures of Jesus' coming as a once-for-all sacrifice for sinners.
Salvation	Deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. By Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus brings deliverance/salvation to people who believe in Him. <u>This is a gift from God.</u> It is not something we deserve or earn by being good. Delivered or saved from the penalty of sin.

Save/saved	Rescue from harm; deliverance from danger; rescued from being separated from God forever; saved from the punishment of sin (things we have thought, said, and done that are wrong). Can be used in 3 ways: 1.) Receive Christ – saved from the <u>penalty</u> of sin 2.) Filled with the Holy Spirit – saved from the <u>power</u> of sin 3.) In heaven – saved from the <u>presence</u> of sin
Savior	A fireman saves/rescues people from the consequences of a fire. A lifeguard saves/rescues people from the consequences of drowning. Savior is a title for Jesus. It means that Jesus saves people from the consequences/penalty that are due them, because of the wrong things that they have thought, said, or done. Jesus paid the price by dying on the cross so that I could be saved/forgiven/cleansed/declared righteous.
Sin	To break the law of God; missing the mark of perfection /missed the bull's-eye; the act of <u>not</u> doing what God wants; it is anything we think, say, or do that isn't totally good and right. It is like saying "no" to God. <u>It is wanting our own way instead of God's way. Sin separates us or sets us apart from God, who has never sinned.</u> When God created humans, they could talk to Him and lived in a close relationship with God, like a family. But when man disobeyed God that closeness/relationship was broken. This disobedience is called sin. It put up an invisible wall between us and God.
Satan/devil	The leader of the fallen spirits (angels); the most powerful enemy of God and humans. Ruler of this world or prince/power of the world
Scripture/Bible	Writings that were accepted by Christians as authoritative and inspired by God
Soul/Spirit	Part of the body that is not physical/not material; the moral or emotional nature of man; life, will, thought
Trinity	The union of the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit in One Godhead; like the formula H ₂ O (water, steam, & ice)
Trust	Firm belief/confidence placed in one; firm belief in the honesty, reliability ... of another
Tomb	A burial place; in Bible they were either caves or were dug into stone cliffs
Wages	Payment for something done; the payment for our wrong doings is death; spiritual separation from God is what we deserve for the wrong things we have thought, said or done
Worship	To give praise, honor and respect to God

Definitions from a variety of places:

- Book of Hope (HLIC, © 2009 Press Edition & OneHope)
- Webster's New World Dictionary © 1987 by Simon & Schuster, Inc
- Bright Media Foundation, Discover God 4 Kids, © 2011
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Word
- The Complete Wordy Study Dictionary (N.T.) edited by Spiros Zodhiates, TH.D.

(a) (b) <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/>

Jesus claimed to be God

- Matthew 9:1–8
- Matt. 26:64–65

- Luke 22:69–71
- Mark 14:61–62

- John 5:16–18
- John 8:24

- John 8:53–59
- John 10:22–33

Matthew 9:1–8 (ESV)

¹ And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ² And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **“Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”** ³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, **“Why do you think evil in your hearts?”** ⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—**“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”** ⁷ And he rose and went home. ⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 26:64–65 (ESV)

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, **“You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”** ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

Luke 22:69–71 (ESV)

⁶⁹ **But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”** ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, **“You say that I am.”** ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

Mark 14:61–62 (ESV)

⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶² And Jesus said, **“I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”**

John 5:16–18 (ESV)

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, **“My Father is working until now, and I am working.”** ¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 8:24 (ESV)

²⁴ **I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am [he] you will die in your sins.”** [Exodus 3:13–14 (ESV): ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”]

Jesus claimed to be God

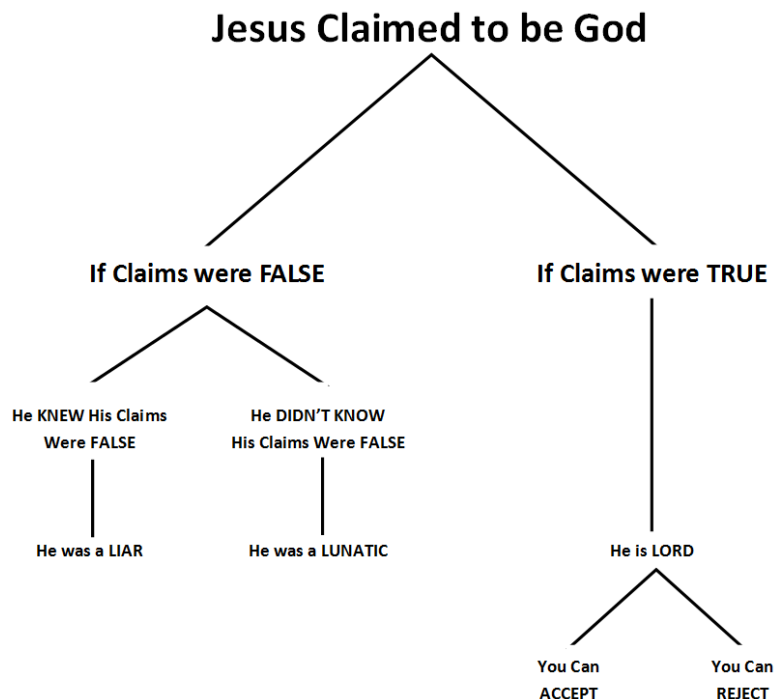
John 8:53–59 (ESV)

⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

John 10:22–33 (ESV)

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." [Leviticus 24:16 (ESV): ¹⁶ Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.]



George Wilson Refuses Pardon from Death Penalty

Posted on [April 6, 2012](#) by [kurt bennett](#)

Today, Good Friday, the day we commemorate the death of Christ on the cross, our pastor shared the story of George Wilson. He was charged with “robbing the mail and putting the life of the carrier in jeopardy.” ([United States v. Wilson, 7 pet. 150 1833](#)) And was sentenced to hang. But fortunately for George there was a saving grace. The U.S. President Andrew Jackson pardoned him.

Strangely though, George Wilson refused the pardon. Chief Justice John Marshall had to decide the case and found:

“A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered; and if it be rejected, we have discovered no power in a court to force it on him.” ([United States v. Wilson, 7 pet. 150 1833](#))

George Wilson, against the President’s will, was hanged.

You, and I, and every other living person on the planet find ourselves in the same position as George Wilson. God’s standard is perfection. If you have any doubt of that just read Christ’s teaching from the Sermon on the Mount. ([Matthew Ch 5](#)) With that unattainable standard in place, every one of us falls short, every one of us is found guilty.

But, fortunately, like the case of George Wilson, there’s a saving grace. Yes you and I are guilty, yes you and I are sentenced to hell for it, but, God has pardoned us. He’s provided the sacrifice of His Son in your place, and in my place, and in the place of every person on earth, to provide for us a pardon from our guilt.

You have only to accept it.

You can go to hell, God says. But if you do, you’ll have to do it over My dead body — over the dead body of Jesus Christ.

Rejecting His sacrifice on your behalf is like Wilson’s rejection of the President’s pardon.

[Accept His pardon.](#)

There’s just no reason to hang back.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. John 3:17–18 (NIV)

References:

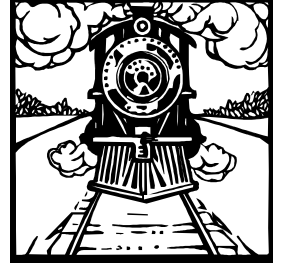
[Bible Gateway](#) | [United States v. Wilson, 7 pet. 150 1833](#) | [Jon Courson](#)

<http://godrunning.com/2012/04/06/george-wilson-refused-pardon/>

HOLY FRIDAY REFLECTION: The Train Bridge

Main point: God sacrificed His Only Son to save mankind.

I want to share with you a true story about a man named John Griffith. In the 1930's he worked as the controller of a huge railroad bridge across the Mississippi River. Every day at certain scheduled times the huge bridge was raised so that barges and other ships might make their way down the river. And according to a schedule, John would lower the bridge so that the freight and passenger trains could rush across.



In the summer of 1937, John Griffith took his then eight-year-old son with him to work for the first time. The boy was excited to watch the big railroad bridge and the trains & boats, and also to see the control house with all kinds of levers over which his daddy had absolute control.

His father took him to an observation deck so that he could watch the boats and trains go by. At noon John put the bridge up to let some ships go by since there would not be a train coming for awhile. He made his way to the observation deck where the two of them had lunch.

Just as John was telling a long story about the trains & boats, he was startled by the shrieking of a train whistle in the distance. He quickly looked at his watch and noticed that it was 1:07.

In the midst of his story telling he had forgotten that the passenger train - the express for Memphis with 400 passengers on board - would soon be roaring across that bridge.

Without panic but very quickly he leaped from the observation deck and ran back to the control tower. He placed his hand upon the massive iron controls and started to close the bridge. But before pulling the lever, he glanced down beneath the bridge to see if there were any ships beneath it.

There a sight caught his eye that made nearly made his heart stop.

His son had slipped from the observation deck and had fallen into the huge gears that operate the bridge. Though the boy was still alive and conscious, his left leg was caught in the cogs of the main gears! John knew that if he pulled that lever his son would be crushed.

His eyes filled with tears of panic, and his head was spinning. What he could do was to take a rope, rush to the observation tower, tie it and lower himself into the gear box, free his son, bring him back up to the observation deck, and make his way quickly back to the control tower to lower the bridge.

But no sooner had he thought it, than he knew there was no way he could do it in time for the train.

Again, closer than ever, the train whistle sounded. He could hear the wheels clicking over the tracks and the puffing of the engine.

But that was his son!

Yet there were 400 passengers on that train which was roaring toward the bridge. But John Griffith was a father and that was his boy!

.....He knew what he had to do..... so he buried his head in his left arm and pulled the master lever.

That massive bridge lowered into place just as the Memphis Express roared across the Mississippi.

When he lifted his head with his face smeared with tears, he looked into the passing windows of the train.

There were businessmen casually reading their afternoon papers, uniformed conductors looking at their large vest-pocket watches, well-dressed ladies in the dining car sipping coffee, and children pushing long spoons into the dishes of ice cream.

No one looked at the control house and no one looked at the great gear box.

With wrenching agony, John Griffith cried out at the train---- "I sacrificed my son for you! Don't you care?" But nobody heard. They never even looked up from their newspapers, watches, coffee and ice cream.

The Son of God has been sacrificed so that we might have eternal life.

Will we look up from our newspapers, watches, coffee and ice cream?

www.goarch.org/.../reflections/gl-Holy_Frid.

Main Point: Jesus is like a judge: righteousness must prevail and like a loving father: he paid the price; (the story about the judge and his daughter are on the second page)

How did God test Abraham? He asked Abraham to put his son on the altar. As they were going up the mountain, the son asked, "Where is the offering?" Abraham answered, "God will see to it. He will provide the offering." And God did provide a lamb, which Abraham then sacrificed to God.

Look at the consistent message God gives us.

God spares, he saves the son of Abraham with one lamb.

Then in Exodus, we see the importance of a lamb again. In Exodus, God warns his people in Egypt that he is going to strike the Egyptians. If those who believe in God will put the blood of a lamb on their doorpost, God would have the angel of death go past them, saving them from death. A nation of believers were saved by one lamb.

Then we see a lamb again in Leviticus. Every year the priest is told to take one lamb out of the city and sacrifice it for the sins of those people who believe in God. Each year, one people saved again by one lamb.

Then we hear John the Baptist addressing a crowd, saying this about Jesus: "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"¹⁰ One lamb, who will save the whole world, for all who will believe in him.

What would have happened if Abraham had not listened to the voice of God, or had not believed that God was speaking to him? That's right, his son would have been killed!

What if the people did not believe God and did not put the blood of the lamb on their doorpost?

So now is the question. Some 2,000 years ago, Jesus, the Lamb of God, hung on a cross, and gave his life for you. We are clearly told, "God shows his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."¹¹

What if you said, "No, they did not crucify him. He was not killed." This Lamb of God was sacrificed to pay for your sins, and the sin of all the world. What if you say that he was not killed, that this Lamb of God did not die for your sin, for your forgiveness?

On the cross, Jesus paid for our sin and removed the barrier that stood between us and him. Because of his death, we can be at peace with God. Though we were guilty, the justice of God was fully met by Jesus, the Lamb of God who suffered for us. And the love of God was fully expressed in that Jesus willingly laid down his life for us.

You may say, "That's not fair." And you're right. We don't deserve Jesus' dying for us. But this was God's solution for us. Do we tell God how it must be?

Jesus paid our penalty of death, so that we would not need to die for our sins. He wants us to come into relationship with him, to know his love, and to have eternal life.

One more story. A true story, to help you understand what Jesus did for us.

There was a righteous judge who would not take bribes. He was just. Honest. A lady was caught and brought before him. The penalty she might have to pay was a life sentence or a huge sum of money which she did not have.

The judge asked her, "Are you guilty or not?"

And she cried out, "Your honor, I cannot pay the sentence. I cannot pay the money. Please have mercy on me."

The judge said, "I am asking you, 'Are you guilty or not? Do you confess?'"

Finally the young lady said, "Your honor, yes, I am guilty."

He said, "Then you pay the price. Life sentence or the sum of money." And he closed the case.



She starts screaming and wailing, and they dragged her out of the courtroom to prison. The judge took off the robe, and walked out of the court. He then walked to the treasury. And right there at the treasury, he paid all the money he had and paid the ransom for that girl. Why? Because he loved the girl very much. She was his daughter. And he redeemed his daughter himself, with everything he had.

When the judge took off his robe, he became like any other man. And that's exactly what Jesus did. He left heaven, took off the robe of glory, and became like any other man. And he died for us, so our sins would no longer condemn us and keep us eternally separated from God.

All the prophets said that Jesus would come and die for the sins of the world. Jesus is the only hope for mankind to have eternal life.

<http://www.everystudent.com/wires/jesusislam.html>

Riding in God's Wheelbarrow

(good to illustrate the difference between intellectually knowing something is true and applying it to one's life.)

Published by [Kathy](#) at 7:18 am under [General](#)

When I was working at the temple switchboard last week, I read a terrific speech that was given by Brent Mendenhall at BYU-Idaho this year. "[Prove Me Herewith](#)" contained a terrific story about The Great Blondin, a French aerial artist who thrilled crowds long before Abraham Lincoln was president.

Blondin's claim to fame consisted of a series of feats he performed 160 feet above Niagara Falls, on a three-inch tightrope. Anything you can do on a tightrope was done by Blondin over Niagara Falls. He took a chair to the middle of the Falls and balanced it on one leg. Then he sat on the chair and read a book.

He crossed Niagara Falls blindfolded. He crossed Niagara Falls with his hands and his feet shackled. He went to the center of Niagara Falls and cooked an omelet (and then consumed it). He cooked an omelet and passed it down to the people on the Maid of the Mist so *they* could consume it. He crossed Niagara Falls in a sack.

As you can imagine, the Great Blondin had a huge following. Whenever he was supposed to cross the Falls, all the locals came out to see what he would do this time. This was long before the days of television or stuntmen, and Blondin's escapades had to look like miracles to the people who watched him.

One day, Blondin arrived at Niagara Falls with a wheelbarrow. Before he trundled the wheelbarrow across the Falls, he asked the crowd, "Do you think I can roll this wheelbarrow across Niagara Falls?"

The crowd thundered, "Yes!"

He asked again, "Are you *sure* I can do this?"

Everyone yelled, "Yes!"

Then he asked, "Do you think I'm going to fall?"

The crowd yelled, "No! You're not going to fall! You *never* fall!"

Finally Blondin singled a man out of the crowd and asked him the same questions. The man was adamant. Blondin was going to take that wheelbarrow all the way across Niagara Falls and back. He wasn't going to fall. He had never fallen before! Everything was going to be just fine.

"Great!" said Blondin. "Then get in the wheelbarrow."

Despite all his professions of faith, the man did not get in the wheelbarrow. Nobody got in the wheelbarrow that day, and the Great Blondin had to roll an empty wheelbarrow across Niagara Falls. Later on, however, he crossed Niagara Falls with his manager on his back.



The Great Blondin wheels his wheelbarrow over the Falls as faithless onlookers watch from above.

The point of the story is that God is like The Great Blondin. He has His own tightrope over the equivalent of Niagara Falls. All He asks is that we get in the wheelbarrow. He never falls. We *know* He never falls, because we've seen what He can do. Nevertheless, it's the hardest thing in the world even to get in the wheelbarrow, much less to ride in it with the faith we need to understand that He isn't going to drop us to a watery death.

There are days when I can hop right in that wheelbarrow. In fact, *most* days I can hop right in that wheelbarrow. But all God has to do is to turn that wheelbarrow toward Niagara Falls, and I panic. In these instances, I find I am all too human.

At least I am not alone. We all know the story of the Apostle Peter, who saw the Savior walking on water and jumped out of the boat to emulate Him. All went well until Peter realized that he was walking on water. As soon as he second-guessed himself, he sank like a rock.

<http://planetkathy.com/blog/?p=1803>



Blondin's manager earns his paycheck by riding across Niagara Falls on Blondin's back.

RELATIONSHIP POSTIONAL	FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENTIAL
Begins When We Receive Christ	Begins When We Receive Christ
Is Eternal	Is Moment By Moment
Never Changes	Changes When We Sin
Maintained By Christ	Maintained By Us Confessing Our Sin(s)

Begins When We Receive Christ

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John 1:12 (ESV)

Begins When We Receive Christ

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6 (ESV)

Is Eternal

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV)

Is Moment By Moment

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* Psalm 32:3–5 (ESV)

Never Changes

⁵ ...for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5b (ESV)

Changes When We Sin

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18 (ESV)

Maintained By Christ

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. John 10:27–29 (ESV)

Maintained By Us – Confessing Our Sins

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Additional Verses:

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:12 (ESV)

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:34 (ESV)

²⁵ “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)

¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

Hebrews 8:12 (ESV)

¹⁷ then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

Hebrews 10:17 (ESV)

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:9 (ESV)

¹⁹ But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” ²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:19–21 (ESV)

Sin’s Result/Impact/Consequences & Solution

Person	Result / Impact / Consequences	Solution
Non-Christian	<u>No relationship</u> with God; pending judgment & hell (God’s wrath)	Get saved: ❶ Hear Gospel (realize he is a sinner separated from God, that Jesus is God and paid the penalty for his sin); ❷ place trust and dependency upon Christ, i.e., that Jesus is God and that He died to pay the penalty of our sin and provide forgiveness for us.
Christian	<u>Broken fellowship</u> with God, hindered prayer life, will experience the discipline of the Lord	Restore fellowship through confession (ὁμολογέω HOMOLOGEŌ – “agree with”): Confess our sins to God. ❶ agree that I have sinned. ❷ agree that all my sins have already been forgiven by God because of Jesus’s death on the cross. ❸ agree with God’s view of my sin (attitudes/thoughts/behaviors) so that I turn away from doing the sin(s) again.

Spirit-Filled Life Demonstration

1. Natural Person
(One who has not trusted in Christ)



2. Spiritual Person
(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)



3. Worldly (Carnal) Person
(One who has trusted Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)



¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. ¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:3 (ESV)

Supplies: three clear glasses, milk, chocolate syrup, spoon

First Glass of Milk		Second Glass of Milk	Third Glass of Milk	(Fourth Glass of Milk)
Natural Person		Spiritual Person	Worldly Person	Confess sins / filled again
Filled 2/3's with white milk		Filled 2/3's with white milk and chocolate poured into the glass of milk and stirred.	Filled 2/3's with white milk and chocolate poured into the base of the glass of milk.	Filled 2/3's with white milk and chocolate poured into the base of the glass of milk.
Represents the non-believer: Holy Spirit is <u>not</u> indwelling or is not living in the person		Represents the person who has trusted in Jesus as his/her Savior. Holy Spirit is indwelling or living in the Person. Holy Spirit is in control of the person. Self is submitting to God's will	Represents the person who has trusted in Jesus as his/her Savior. Holy Spirit is indwelling or in the person. Holy Spirit is not in control, Self in in control	Represents the person who has trusted in Jesus as his/her Savior. Holy Spirit is indwelling or in the person. Holy Spirit is not in control, Self in in control
Looks, thinks, acts like the World		Looks, thinks, acts according to God's will	Looks, thinks, acts like the World	Stir the chocolate in this glass to demonstrate confessing one's sins (exhaling), repenting, and trusting the Holy Spirit to be in control of your life.

Restoration to a Right Relationship to God

Genesis 1:31

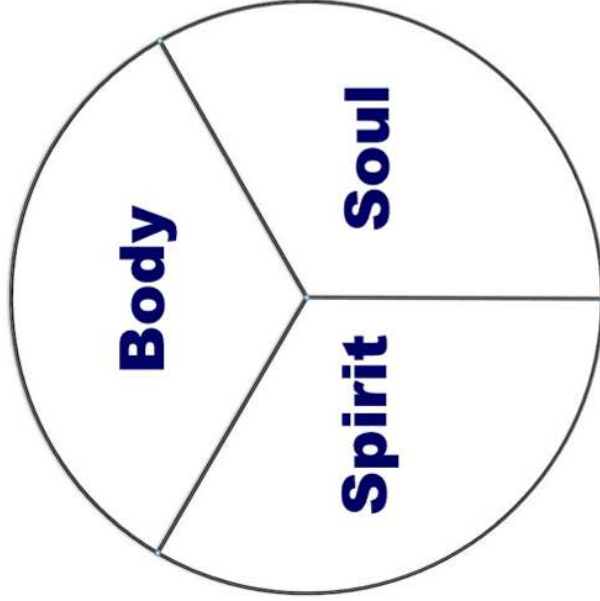
God saw **ALL** that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

Genesis 2:17; 3:7, 17-19-24

The day that you eat from the tree ... you shall surely die. consequences

John 1:12-13; 3:3, 3:16 17:3

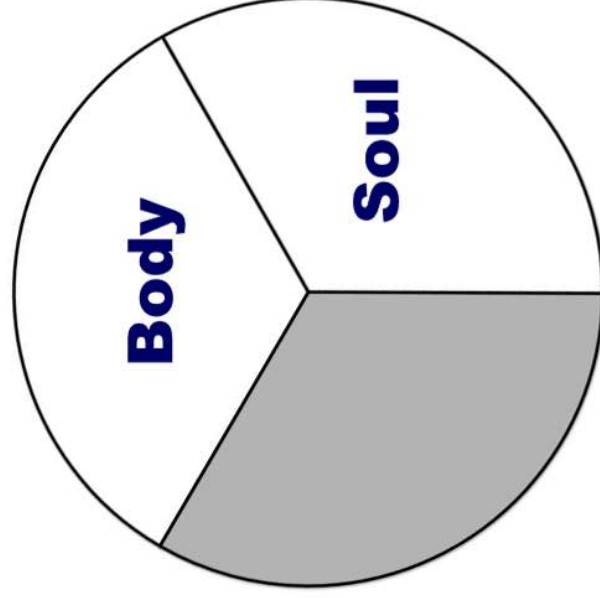
Must be born again; believe in & receive Jesus Christ to become a child of God



Creation

Perfect World

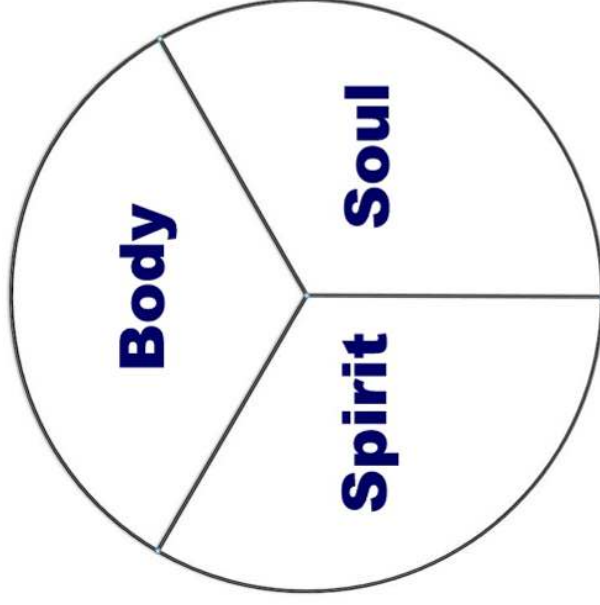
Perfect Relationship between God and mankind.



Born Physically

Imperfect World

Imperfect people –separated from God



Born Again Spiritually

Imperfect World

Born Spiritually – Restored to a right relationship;
Become a child of God (obtain Christ's righteousness);

Eternal Life is knowing Christ

I Corinthians 15:20 - 22: “²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.”

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Challenge Bible study participant(s) to the next level

Parable of the Sower –

Which Soil Do You Want to Become?



“And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:3–8, ESV)

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” Matthew 13:19–23 (ESV)

Which soil do you want to become?

To what extent are you willing to invest time and effort to become the **good soil**?

[If the person(s) is/are willing to be developed to become the good soil explain your plan – what he/she/they can expect from you and what you will expect from him/her/them.]

FYI: Bathe the whole process in prayer – whom to challenge and what content and activities to participate with those with whom you will disciple.

At the Conclusion of “Who Is Jesus?” series...

- Summarize the series: a) Jesus, the Author of Life; b) Jesus, the Lamb of God; 3) Jesus, the Good Shepherd; 4) He’s Alive?; 5) Christ, my Lawyer; 6) Christ, the King
- Explain how Christians live & grow (see below: “**Welcome to the family of God**”)
- Ask participant what is his/her plan to grow and flourish as a Christian
- Pre-thought what you are willing & able to invest in the participant’s growth & development. With that, have a specific challenge in mind to share with participant.

Page 5 - Volume 1, Basic steps of the Christian life of New Life In Christ series.

Welcome to the family of God

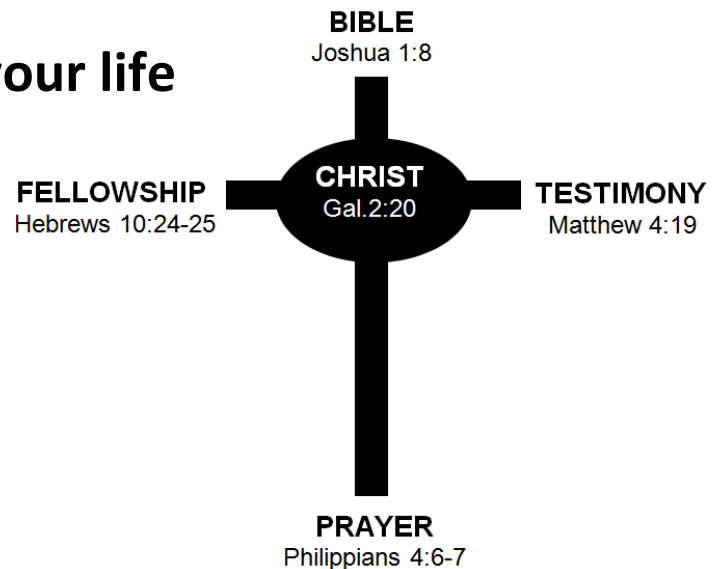
When you trusted in Christ, you began a new life, an adventure with Christ. The aim of this book is to make you familiar with what the Bible says about the Christian life. Growth in Christ is a process. Every day we need to be fed and to walk with Christ. As we dedicate time to our new relationship with Him, we will progress toward maturity.

Walking with Christ every day

1. Read the Bible every day in order to know Christ better.
2. Talk with God every day through prayer.
3. Allow God to control your life, submitting yourself to His will.
4. Talk with others about Christ.
5. Seek out fellowship with other believers in a church where Christ is preached.
6. Look for one or two believers with whom you can pray and speak regularly about your successes and failures.
7. Demonstrate your new life through your love and interest in others.

Make Christ the center of your life

The Christian life may be represented by this picture of a cross. Christ is the center of our new life. We live in submission to Him. The vertical line represents our relationship with God through the Bible and prayer. The horizontal line represents our relationships with others. We seek fellowship with believers in the church. As for those who are not believers, we should tell them about Christ.



Christ is Central

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, ESV)

Relationship with God (vertical)

Bible

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1:8, ESV)

Prayer

"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6–7, ESV)

Relationship with Others (horizontal)

Fellowship

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24–25, ESV)

Testimony (Witness)

"And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" (Matthew 4:19, ESV)

If you would like more information
regarding 2 Timothy 2:2 Discipleship
Training contact CRU



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