

COJOURNERS 10+ LIST

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Transferable Concept & Devotional

By: Keith Davy

Adapted for Summer Connect

Everyone is on a spiritual journey. We can't help it. God created us that way. Granted, some are moving toward God and others are moving away from Him.

Some pursue gods who aren't God at all. Others are stuck in a spiritual quagmire and are not going anywhere. There are those who are spiritually open, while others are closed. Some are spiritually involved; some are not. But in each and every case, they are on a spiritual journey

Here is a second fact you can count on—God is already at work in people's lives, whether they ever glance heavenward or not. He is not a passive observer or a shut-in desperately hoping for visitors. No, he is an active and almighty participant: the Lord of the Harvest who sends workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38); the God who created all people and nations determining “the times set for them and the exact places where they should live...that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him” (Acts 17:26-27). His Spirit is at work in the lives of people today (John 16:7-11) and he's given us the privilege of being his “fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9) by entering the spiritual journeys of others and helping them come to Jesus.

There is one more foundational insight—people like to travel together. It's true on road trips and on cross-country flights. Even climbing Mt. Everest, you want to take a Sherpa or two along. And I'm convinced it's true on spiritual journeys as well. Now, obviously most people don't think of spiritual journeys as a social endeavor. We've been raised to obey the eleventh commandment, “Keep thy religious views to thyself—thank you very much.” But here's the key—while spiritual journeys are personal, they're not private. We are designed as spiritual and relational beings. That means even a spiritual journey will be enhanced in relationship. Always has been, always will be—ducks quack, dogs bark, people talk. The inescapable correlative of all this is rather simple: people need people in their spiritual journeys. There is also a surprise in this. Listen carefully—despite public opinion, relationships can often be enhanced by spiritual conversation.

Let's put it all together: Everyone is on a spiritual journey and God is already at work. We are given the privilege of entering into those journeys and becoming a part of what God is doing. People not only need us, many will want us to join them—if we do so appropriately. And that, my friends, is why it is important that we become CoJourners. “Hey, wait,” you say, “that's not a word.” Right you are. But it is a compound expressing what no single English word adequately conveys. The prefix “co” means “with” and “journer”—well, that's obvious. Put them together and you get the idea that we are joining others in their spiritual journeys, CoJourners. It could be with someone you've known for a long time or someone you've just met. The context may be students on a campus or adults in a community. Or it may involve moving from one culture to another. It doesn't matter. The principles of being a CoJourneyer always remain the same— anybody, anytime, anywhere.

CoJourners is not an evangelism strategy. It is an equipping paradigm. A CoJourner is one who joins others in their spiritual journey to help them come to Christ. Life has been viewed as a journey by all cultures throughout history. It is a universal concept. Viewing witness through the lens of our journey provides insight into our relationships with those we influence and our responsibilities to them. Imagine engaging in significant conversations to explore spiritual journeys and talk about Jesus. That is the CoJourney experience. There are four primary roles we can play in another person's spiritual journey:

The Explorer: An explorer is one who journeys into unknown territory to learn and understand. Spiritually we enter into people's lives, or into deeper levels of their lives, to learn and understand their spiritual journey. We explore primarily through listening and asking questions, with genuine interest and concern. Listening enables the explorer to hear unmet needs and traces of the Spirit's work in others' lives. Questions help the explorer discover where others have been in their spiritual journey, where they are now and where they are going.

The Guide: A guide is someone who shows another the way on a journey. As we enter into the spiritual journey of others, we seek the privilege of showing them the way to Jesus. This implies a level of openness on their part and trust in us as a guide. An effective context to help others journey toward Jesus is to help them connect to a believing community. Often the guidance occurs within personal conversations. Our own spiritual journey can play a role in spurring interest, establishing trust and revealing gospel truth. But the gospel itself is the most powerful tool. The guide must understand gospel truth, growing in the ability to communicate it clearly and relevantly.

The Builder: When a person encounters an obstacle such as a river on a journey, they need a bridge to continue. Spiritually many people encounter obstacles that keep them from moving toward Christ. They, too, need bridges to continue going forward. Their obstacles may be intellectual objections, emotional baggage, or a host of other issues. The builder builds bridges over the obstacles with prayer and gentle persuasion. Prayer is most important, as the issues are ultimately spiritual in nature. But the builder will also come alongside those who are stuck, and with understanding and affirmation, use gentle persuasion to provide a bridge.

The Mentor: Spiritual journeys do not end when people come to Jesus. In fact, that is just the beginning. What do people that have come to Jesus need most? Their two greatest needs are to connect with a community of believers that will help them grow and to learn the foundational truths of following Christ. A mentor helps a person make connections and learn key concepts. The mentor encourages, guides and instructs the younger believer along the way.

The role you play at any given time depends upon the relationship and the spiritual journey of the other person.

10 + List

Prayer is the launching point for all that follows. Evangelism is always first and foremost a work of God. He is the Lord of the Harvest. Therefore the place to begin an evangelism initiative is always with prayer.

Take 15 minutes to reflect, record and pray through the questions and prayer suggestions that follow. Use the 10 + List throughout your Mission Summer experience, praying for people and requests and adding to it as God leads.

Throughout your summer, ask God for opportunities to enter into the spiritual journeys of others. Begin by praying for those God brings to mind, writing their names on your 10 + List. Add additional names in the days ahead. While you may begin with less, with time you will want to maintain a prayer list of ten or more for whom you are praying to come to Christ.

Pray for three different kinds of relational experiences.

1. Natural Connections: Pray For People You Know

Ask God who you should have on your 10 + List for prayer. Add friends and acquaintances he brings to mind with whom you desire the privilege of sharing Christ. Pray consistently for three requests.

- Pray that God would prepare their hearts to believe the gospel (Romans 10:1).
- Pray that God would open doors for significant spiritual conversations with you (Colossians 4:3).
- Pray that God would give you the words to speak clearly as you engage with them in spiritual conversations (Colossians 4:4).

2. Divine Appointments: Pray For Those God Brings to You

God will bring us unplanned opportunities to engage in spiritual conversations with people in whom he is already at work. Add the names of these “divine appointments” to your prayer list as God provides them.

- Ask God to help you make the most of these opportunities (Colossians 4:5).
- Ask God to enable you to respond to their need and interest with grace and truth (Colossians 4:6).

3. Outreach Ministry: Pray For Others Beyond Your Natural Relationships

Beyond the people already on your prayer list – your natural connections and divine appointments – there are others who need to hear about Christ. God desires his people to take the initiative to reach them. Add to your list any group you sense him leading you to help reach for Christ.

- Pray that God would give you the eyes to see the needs of others and the opportunities to influence them (John 4:35).
- Pray that God would send you as a worker in his harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).
- Pray that God would guide you to the specific individuals with whom he desires for you to initiate spiritual conversations (Acts 8:26-35).

Thanksgiving: Give God the Glory

Thank God daily for what he has done, is doing and will do in answer to your prayers. He is the Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:38).

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