

Women's Impact Network

Discipleship Manual



Presented by:
Evangelism Resources
in collaboration with
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Discipleship Advancement (**AIDA**)



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WIN DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

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This manual is the text for the Women's Impact Network (WIN), which challenges women to establish/re-establish their own commitment to be Christ's true disciples; and then mobilizes and equips them through literature and practical strategies to impact other women with dynamic, biblical spiritual formation—to lead the unbelieving to Christ, and mentor believers for committed discipleship.

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Dedication

Thelma "Mama" Braun went to be with the Lord on August 13, 2009, just a month before what would have been her 90th birthday. She began to serve the Lord at the age of 13 as a pastor for three churches, and after college, served as a missionary in Africa with her husband, Dr. Willys K. Braun for about 45 years.

Mama Braun started AIDA Women's Conferences in India. Although suffering from pancreatic cancer in the last three years of her life, she traveled to different states of India as well as Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar to equip church women for the work of witnessing and evangelism. Her very presence on the dais was a great inspiration and message.

These comments reveal how her life impacted others:

"I have learned that if Mama Braun can serve the Lord at this age, I should be able to serve the Lord at any time, anywhere, in any circumstances, in any age." (Rev. Jane Thomas, Himachal Pradesh)

"I have decided that if Mama Braun can come across the seven seas and work for the Lord, we too should keep working in the Church." (Roshani Phillips, Varanasi, U. P.)

"Seeing Mama Braun sitting throughout the day, adjusting well with all of us, encouraged me so much to carry on the gospel work." (Caroline Akbar, Nagpur, Maharashtra)

Mama Braun's words in her last message were, **"The job of evangelism isn't finished. It's still waiting to be done. The greatest task for us on this earth is to spread the message of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether to Peru or West Bengal, or any of the countries waiting to hear about the Lord. Remember, the task is not finished. God bless you as you do all you can to spread the Good News."**

Indeed, the job of evangelism isn't yet finished! Every disciple of Jesus Christ must be His witness. It is an essential characteristic of a true disciple that he or she leads others to Christ. We pray that, by God's gracious enabling, every WIN-ner becomes a soul-winner—to bear much fruit for Him (John 15:1-2, 6).

1

The Mandate for Discipleship

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:19

*"Though I am free and belong to no one,
I have made myself a slave to everyone,
to win as many as possible."*



Introduction

1. Jesus' final mandate to His disciples was, "...go and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matt. 28:18-20).
2. The word *disciple* means *learners*: those who are taught.
 - a. In some translations of the Bible the verse says, "Go..., and *teach* all nations..."
 - b. Verse 20 makes the purpose of this teaching crystal clear: "...teaching them to *obey* everything I have commanded you."
3. Disciples of Jesus Christ are those who not only learn His teachings but also obey them.
4. Since His teachings include the Great Commission, true disciples are those who ultimately disciple others and teach them to obey all He commanded.
5. The Great Commission has its foundation in the Greatest Commandment: to love God and love others (Matt. 22:37-40). Our love for God compels us to love people and share the gospel with them (2 Cor. 4:5-7).

Jesus' Early Disciples

1. During Jesus' earthly ministry, many followed Him.
 - a. Crowds gathered around Him for healings (Matt. 8:16).
 - b. Multitudes followed Him because they saw His miracles (John 6:2).
2. Many who said they wanted to be His disciples eventually deserted Him (John 6:66).
3. Jesus' true disciples were those who left everything and followed Him until the end of His earthly life, even to the end of their own (Mark 10:28).
 - a. They followed and lived with Him intimately (Luke 8:1-3).
 - b. They learned profound truth from Him (Mark 4:34).
 - c. They became "fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).

Disciple: A Definition

1. According to the *American Tract Society Dictionary*, a disciple of Christ is "one who:
 - a. believes His doctrine,
 - b. rests upon His sacrifice,
 - c. imbibes His Spirit,
 - d. imitates His example, and
 - e. lives to do His work."
2. Discipleship is what happens when we walk with Christ; salvation is just the beginning of the process.
 - a. Salvation is a gift from God, through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).
 - b. While we can do *nothing* to save ourselves, we must do *something* as the Holy Spirit empowers

us to be disciples – to obey what the Word of God teaches us.

- c. Discipleship is a partnership between the believer and God, through the Holy Spirit, which results in a life that pleases God (John 14:26; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor. 12:3b). The Holy Spirit teaches and reminds us God’s Word—we are the ones who obey it. For example, when the Holy Spirit reminds *me* that the Lord wants His disciple to deny *herself*, and carry *her* cross, it is *I* who must deny *myself* and carry *my* cross (Mark 8:34).
 - d. Discipleship is living according to Christ’s design—the lifestyle described in Scripture (Eph. 4:17-32).
 - e. Discipleship requires discipline, determination and dedication on the part of the believer.
 - f. Discipleship involves both teaching and learning.
3. Discipleship molds our lives, according to the example and commands of Jesus, to serve Him faithfully until death transports us into His presence.

True Disciples Make Disciples

1. Jesus taught His disciples constantly, making them into disciple-makers.
2. When they became Apostles, they disciplined new believers with what they had learned from Jesus, and made them disciple-makers as well (Acts 2:42; Acts 8:4).
3. This repeating pattern is the life-blood of the Church. Making disciples is a cycle that is meant to happen over and over (2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 2:1-6).

The Need for True Disciples

1. God is working mightily in the world today, and vast numbers of people are coming to faith in Christ.
2. Many of these new believers are women.
3. Studies show that though new Christians often grow in their understanding of the goodness of God, many lack focused teaching to understand the Word of God and exhortation to obey it.
4. When trials and testing come, believers who have not been taught to be true disciples often abandon their faith.
5. When believers become true disciples, they are able to be mobilized for the kingdom of God, becoming witnesses and disciple-makers.
6. Women have great value in God's kingdom as laborers, especially since they have enhanced opportunities to reach other women, children, teenagers and the elderly.

The Challenge Before Us Today

1. According to the organization *Global Research*¹ in 2015, more than 56% of the people groups in the world have less than 2% evangelical² Christians among them.
 - a. More than 10 million people have *no* evangelical Christians or churches and *no* access to Bibles or printed Christian literature.

¹ http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Documents/GSECOverviews/2015-01_GSEC_Overview.pdf

² An Evangelical Christian is a person who believes that Jesus Christ is the sole source of salvation through faith in Him, has personal faith and conversion with regeneration by the Holy Spirit, recognizes the inspired word of God as the only basis for faith and Christian living, and is committed to biblical preaching and evangelism that brings others to faith in Jesus Christ.

- b. Almost 900 million people live in groups with less than 2% evangelical Christians among them, and there are no active church planting efforts to reach them with the gospel.
 - c. 1.95 billion people live in groups with less than 2% evangelical Christians among them, but there have been some localized efforts to plant churches among them.
2. The summary statement is shocking: ***more than half of the world's 11,000 people groups, representing almost 3 BILLION people, have little to no access to the gospel.***
3. Even within the borders of highly Christianized nations like the United States, there are entire cities or regions in which the percentage of evangelical Christians is less than 2%.
 - a. The Great Commission is not only a world-wide call, it is also a call to local action.
 - b. Acts 1:8 reveals a strategy for evangelism.
 - The disciple is commanded to witness in her "Jerusalem," her neighborhood or city.
 - Next, the disciple is commanded to witness in her "Judea and Samaria," her own state, region or country.
 - Finally, the disciple is commanded to witness to the "ends of the earth."
4. A *true* disciple must respond to the spiritual needs of *all* people, whether they live in her own community or in a nation far away.

Your Response to be a True Disciple

1. Prayerfully evaluate and re-dedicate your life to be Christ's true disciple (John 8:31).
2. Commit yourself to be a passionate witness and disciple-maker.
3. Ask God, by His Holy Spirit, to empower you for the task of fulfilling the Great Commission (Acts 1:8).

WIN and the True Disciple

1. WIN is a program *by women for women*.
2. Its purpose is to challenge women to become *true* disciples:
 - a. To inspire them to enter into dynamic spiritual formation in small groups;
 - b. To inspire disciples to become empowered disciple-makers.

WIN envisions Christian women, challenged for deeper discipleship, resolved to undertake dynamic, spiritual formation with other women, who in turn will become empowered disciple-makers.

Let us be "WIN-ners!"



2

The Characteristics of a Disciple

Key Verse: Colossians 1:10

*"... walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing,
bearing fruit in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God..."*



Introduction

1. Many believe in Jesus, but a disciple is one who loves and follows Him closely.
 - a. The crowds followed Jesus for food, miracles, healing, deliverance, and political freedom. Were they disciples of Jesus (John 6:14-15)?
 - b. The twelve Apostles gave up their personal lives to live with and follow Jesus. Were they disciples (Matt. 4:19-20)?
2. This lesson teaches the characteristics of a true disciple of Jesus Christ and how to be one.



Characteristics of a True Disciple of Jesus Christ

1. A true disciple **loves God more than all other loves** (Luke 14:25-26).
 - a. Love for God is the dominant characteristic of a disciple's life. No other love should compete with our love for Jesus Christ. Our love for Jesus should supersede even our love for ourselves; we should love Him more than our own desires and dreams, our hobbies and habits, and our leisure and pleasure.
 - b. In comparison with a disciple's love for Jesus, all other loves are like hate.
 - We know that we are not actually to hate our families. For example, Peter brought his wife with him in ministry (1 Cor. 9:5).
 - We know we are to take care of our family and relatives. The Bible says that those who don't are "worse than unbelievers" (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - Proverbs 31:10-31 exhorts women to be virtuous and God-fearing, and to take good care of their households. New Testament passages 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:1-6 are short forms of this Old Testament exhortation.
 - The word *hate* in Luke 14:26 means simply to *love less*. We are to love family and relatives less than we love Christ.
 - We must balance ministry and family life according to scriptural principles. We should not use family responsibilities as an excuse to shirk ministry to which God has called us.

- This requires seeking God for daily direction in the allocation of our time. He will direct us how to do His work without bringing harm to relationships.
 - Full submission to God as His disciple means that we must accept His leadership in every area of living.
- c. Jesus emphasized this truth with a literary exaggeration in Matthew 10:37. This verse should be understood that Christ must be loved supremely. If not, we are not worthy to be His disciples.
 - d. The disciple who puts Jesus first in her life will be rewarded (Matt. 6:33, Mark 10:28-30).
2. A true disciple **takes up her cross** (Luke 9:23, Mark 8:34-35).
 - a. The cross symbolizes the death of Christ. If a woman resolves to be a disciple of Jesus, she must take up her cross every day.
 - b. A disciple should have an attitude like Paul: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). She must be ready to lose even her life for the sake of Christ and His work.
 - c. She must deny herself in order to control the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17). The follower of Jesus Christ must not crave worldly pleasures or prosperity, but be disciplined. She should practice self-denial and be willing to sacrifice everything, even earthly comforts and enjoyments, for Christ's sake.

- d. She must bear boldly and joyfully whatever burden God lays upon her for Christian service, as well as bearing the load of her family responsibilities.
 - In doing so, it is important that the disciple understands the difference between God-placed burdens and burdens imposed by sinful acts of the self or others (i.e. abuse).
 - A disciple is in the yoke with Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:30). When a burden seems too heavy, the disciple needs to pray for wisdom and help from Christ to throw off burdens caused by sin, and be strengthened to carry well those burdens He helps her to bear.
3. A true disciple **follows Christ** (Luke 14:27).
 - a. Following Christ means *obeying His commands*. Anyone who loves Christ will obey His teaching. And whoever obeys His commands remains in His love (John 14:23; John 15:10).
 - b. Following Christ means *imitating His example*. A true disciple continually meditates upon Christ's life and teachings. She is in the habit of daily correcting and reforming her life according to the rule and pattern of His example (Phil. 2:5).
 - c. Following Christ means *completely surrendering oneself for His purpose*. Again, Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

- d. Following Christ means *being faithful to Him unto death*. A disciple stands firm in her faith in Christ, resolving that she will never forsake Him. It is not the one who merely begins, but the one who finishes the race who receives the reward (Phil. 3:11-14; Rev. 2:10).
4. A true disciple ***is willing to give up her possessions*** (Luke 14:33).
- a. Disciples do not own even their very lives; they are merely stewards of them (1 Cor. 6:19).
 - b. Mary of Bethany poured very costly ointment of spikenard—her most precious possession—to anoint the feet of Jesus (John 12:3).
 - c. The rich young ruler lacked one thing: he loved his possessions more than he loved Jesus. Therefore, he would not follow Him (Mark 10:21-22).
5. A true disciple ***knows and grows in the Word of God*** (2 Tim 2:15).
- a. Many who followed Christ first believed in Him, but later went away (John 6:66). Jesus declared that a disciple is the one who continues in His Word. A genuine test of our love for Christ is continued faith in His Word and increased obedience.
 - b. A disciple desires the Word of God just as a newborn babe hungers for milk (1 Pet. 2:2).

- c. A disciple needs to feed on God's Word to live—to grow spiritually and to be able to defeat Satan. Through feeding on the Word of God we feed on Christ (Matt. 4:4; John 6:35).
 - d. A disciple of Christ takes up His yoke and learns from Him both how to obey His commands and how to fulfill His will revealed in His Word (Matt. 11:29-30).
6. A true disciple ***seeks to please God by living a holy life*** (1 Pet. 1:15).
- a. God has called disciples of Christ to the life of holiness (1 Thess. 4:7).
 - b. At our salvation, we are made holy in Christ Jesus and are called to continuous sanctification (1 Cor. 1:2).
 - c. The word "holy" means we are separated from the lifestyles of unbelievers around us, and are devoted to God and His cause (2 Cor. 6:17). A disciple must be different from those who are not disciples; she is committed to the living, holy God.
 - d. Holiness is the evidence of God's salvation and His presence in the disciples' life (1 John 3:6-9).
7. A true disciple ***loves other disciples*** (John 13:34-35).
- a. Brotherly love was such a distinguishing characteristic of the first century Christians that a historian, while describing them, said, "They love before they know each other." This is their witness that they are Christ's followers.

- b. Disciples love each other because they have recognized the great love of God expressed in, and by, Jesus (1 John 4:19).
 - c. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves His children, too (1 John 5:1).
 - d. The Greek word for “love” used in 1 John, “agápe,” means selfless love. Disciples are to love one another with God’s selfless love (1 John 3:16-18). This leads to true fellowship, producing a sense of security.
8. A true disciple **bears much fruit** (John 15:5).
- a. God is the vineyard keeper, Jesus is the vine, and disciples are the branches intended to produce fruit. The one who does not produce fruit is cut off and will be burned. Bearing fruit for God is the true test of Christian discipleship (John 15:1-2, 6).
 - b. “Bear much fruit” means being fruitful in good works, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Our faith, our conversion, and our eternal salvation are not of human works. They are free gifts of God’s grace. However, by our new birth, God created us in Christ Jesus to do good works which He prepared for us in advance (Eph. 2:10).
 - c. The disciple manifests the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25).
 - d. Disciples *bear* disciples—lead others to Christ and teach them to obey all the things He has commanded (Matt. 28:18-20).

Conclusion

1. Jesus calls us to *be* His disciples—and to *make* disciples. Sadly, not all people who call themselves Christians are disciples.
2. The disciple is disciplined; this means the believer does what her Master wants, not just what she wants.
3. The disciple knows that she has been bought with a price and that her life is not her own, but God's.
4. Jesus is the Lord of the disciple, that is, the owner and sole possessor of her life.

Prayer

Dear Father, help me to be a true disciple of Christ my Lord, so that I love Him supremely and deny myself completely to follow Him wholeheartedly. May I always be willing to sacrifice everything for Christ's sake, even my life, and remain in Your Word to bear much fruit for You. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. A true disciple loves God above all other loves. What things in life might be tempting for a disciple to love more than God?
2. What things are you doing for other people that demonstrate that you love God? What are you doing to demonstrate your love for others?
3. Are you now actively bearing fruit by discipling someone? Have you witnessed to someone and won them to Christ within the last month? If not, why not?

3

Mary of Bethany: A Good Disciple

Key Verse: John 12:3

"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment."



Scriptures that mention Mary of Bethany: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45; John 12:1-8.

Scriptures thought to refer to Mary of Bethany without naming her: Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9.

Seven ways Mary of Bethany showed us how to be good disciples:

1. **Mary had a personal friendship with Jesus.**
 - a. Mary, her sister Martha, and their brother Lazarus, welcomed Jesus into their home (Luke 10:38-39).
 - b. Mary had confidence in Jesus. She believed Jesus was a true friend who wanted to help them. She was sure He would have helped them in the time of her brother's death (John 11:32).

- c. Mary believed Jesus had great power, even enough power to prevent her brother's death (John 11:32). The first requirement of being a disciple is to know Jesus in a personal way. We need to repent of our sins and welcome Jesus into our lives. The second requirement is to trust Him.
2. **Mary took her position at Jesus' feet.**
- a. Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He taught. The disciple studies God's word, the Bible, prays and listens for God's instruction (Luke 10:39).
 - b. In humility Mary fell at Jesus' feet when she met Him at her brother Lazarus' tomb. Mary believed God had all power and humbly asked for God's help. A disciple comes to Jesus' feet for every need (John 11:32).
 - c. Mary anointed Jesus and knelt to wipe the perfume from Jesus' feet with her hair. The disciple worships Jesus (John 12:3).
3. **Mary lived out her faith in daily life.**
- a. Mary was a member of a family, living for Jesus in the routine of everyday life (Luke 10:38-42).
 - b. Being a true follower of Jesus did not keep Mary from being unfairly accused by a member of her own family (Luke 10:38-40).
 - c. Being a true follower of Jesus did not protect Mary from the troubles of life (see the story of Lazarus, John 11:1-44).
 - d. Being a disciple did not protect her from harsh public criticism (Matt. 26:8-9; Mark 14:4-5; John 12:4-6). The disciple denies

herself and accepts God's will in her daily life with complete faith in Him.

4. **Mary was known by her actions.**
 - a. When Mary heard Jesus was calling for her, she immediately went to Him. The disciple obeys as soon as she knows Jesus' desire and will for her (John 11:28-29).
 - b. Mary gave Jesus her very best, most expensive gift. Jesus has done so much for us; He deserves our very best work and efforts (John 12:3).
 - c. Offering to Jesus the large amount of very expensive perfume lifted Mary out of herself into a new level of dedication to Jesus' service. Disciples give themselves. Our lives are like precious perfume, to be poured out in love, devotion, and service to Jesus (John 12:3).
 - d. Mary broke the box and poured out the perfume for Jesus. Like Mary, disciples open their lives and pour themselves out for Jesus (Mark 14:3).
5. **Mary was known by her fruitful life.**
 - a. Mary's friends came to visit her and met Jesus. When they saw what Jesus did, they believed in Him. A disciple is a soul-winner (John 11:45).
 - b. When Mary poured the perfume on Jesus, the sweet smell filled the whole house (John 12:3). A disciple's lifestyle shows the sweet fruit of God's Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

6. **Mary was known by Jesus' response to her.**

- a. When Mary's sister, Martha, criticized her, Jesus supported Mary (Luke 10:42).
- b. When Jesus reached Bethany after her brother Lazarus' death, He asked to see her (John 11:28).
- c. When Jesus saw Mary's grief, He was sympathetic. He cried with her (John 11:33, 35).
- d. When Mary and her family were broken by the death of Lazarus, Jesus comforted them by restoring him to life (John 11:38-44).
- e. When Mary was criticized for pouring so much expensive perfume on Jesus, He defended her (John 12:7-8).
- f. When Mary and her sister Martha opened their home to Jesus, He gladly accepted (Luke 10:38-39).
 - Jesus accepts our gifts graciously (John 12:2).
 - Jesus accepts our gifts of service, thanking us with His presence and blessing upon us (Mark 14:8, Matt. 25:40).
 - Jesus seeks the company of His disciples (John 11:28).
 - Jesus wants to have fellowship with those who love Him (Luke 10:38).

7. **Mary was known by Jesus' faithfulness in her life.**
- a. Mary's act of worship was misunderstood and she was harshly condemned. Jesus saw what was happening and defended her (Mark 14:4-9).
 - b. Jesus' words predicting that Mary would be honored have come true. The Holy Spirit caused both Matthew and Mark to include Mary's story and Jesus' prediction in their gospels. All who read the Bible learn of what Mary did and of Jesus' approval of her action (Matt. 26:13; Mark 14:9). Deliverance from evil or reward for our work may not come quickly. It may be delayed until heaven. But Jesus will help and honor His disciple (Matt. 19:29).



Prayer

Heavenly Father, my dear Lord Jesus is not here in person so that I can give Him a gift we can smell and touch as Mary did. Teach me how to better show the humility and fruitfulness my life should display as His disciple. Show me how to live so that those around me will see His presence reflected in me. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is it necessary to repent of sins and have a personal relationship with Jesus in order to be a good disciple? What things can I learn about Jesus only by walking in a daily, individual friendship with Him?
2. Mary of Bethany lived out her faith in daily life. Are there situations in my life that I can improve by stopping my attempt to control and committing them entirely to Jesus?
3. What specific actions can I take that will help people around me to see that I am a disciple of Jesus?

*May the
presence
of
Christ
be seen
in me!*

4

The Lifestyle of a Disciple

Key Verse: John 15:5

"I am the vine and you are the branches..."



Introduction

1. Every tree is known by its fruit. If a disciple of Jesus Christ is a branch of the true vine (Jesus) then we must produce the fruit of godly lives.
2. We are often tempted to adopt the trends and values of the world, imitating styles of clothing, hair, shoes, and jewelry in an attempt to match prevalent trends. We may also be tempted to talk and act as worldly people do, but God expects disciples of Christ to have a lifestyle which pleases Him in every way.
3. It is a good practice to ask ourselves on a regular basis questions that reveal whether we are pleasing God in our Christian walk. The lifestyle of a Christian disciple can be considered under four general headings.

The Disciple and Her Salvation

1. The Bible says, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose” (Phil. 2:12-13). What should be our response to this exhortation? We should:
 - a. **Trust in Christ alone.** The Bible clearly indicates that there is no salvation except through Christ, and that without Him there is no salvation (Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9). No faith should be put in healing, human works or human efforts to be saved. Baptism and confession with the mouth are the external marks of the inner faith of the heart (Mark 16:16; Rom. 10:10)
 - b. **Make Christ the Lord of your life.** Having received Christ Jesus as your Savior by faith, now you should give Him primary authority in your life and live wholly in obedience to His commandments (Col. 2:6). After all, it is she who obeys Christ’s commandments who is a true believer (Matthew 28:19-20).
2. Our salvation should be seen in the way we live on a daily basis (Eph. 5:8). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Use your time wisely.** Our commitment to Christ should be reflected in how we use our time and set our priorities (Eph. 5:15-16). We should not pursue worldly pleasures; instead we should use our time to fulfill God’s purposes (Matt. 6:33).

- b. Be holy.** The standard God has set is for us to be holy (1 Pet. 1:15-17).
- We should daily be filled with, and controlled by, the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
 - We should be filled with the Holy Spirit until He flows through us to touch the lives of others (Acts 13:52).
 - We should be holy in all our conduct—in everything we do (Heb. 12:14).
 - We should walk in the Holy Spirit so that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-26).
- c. Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.** Our mind should be like the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5).
- We should please Him with pure thoughts (Phil. 4:8-9).
 - We should hate sin (Psalm 119:104).
 - We should live with a clear conscience, knowing that we have not willfully wronged God or others (Acts 24:16).
 - We should have patience and joy even in times of hardship (James 1:2-3, 12).

The Disciple and Her Lord

1. To have a close relationship with God, we must spend time in prayer (Luke 18:1). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Be a woman of prayer.** Disciples need to fellowship with God in daily prayer that is fervent (James 5:16).

- b. **Pray without ceasing.** Our hearts should be in constant contact with God (1 Thess. 5:17).
 - c. **Pray with a pure heart.** Our prayer needs to be sincere (Matt. 6:5-7).
 - d. **Pray with a purpose.** We should be praying for all men, especially for the salvation of all (1 Tim. 2:1-4).
2. Disciples need to fellowship with God by spending time immersed in His Word, the Bible (1 Tim. 4:13). *Therefore,*
- a. **Read God's Word** (Rev. 1:3). God's Word is food for us to live (Matt. 4:4).
 - b. **Study God's Word** (2 Tim. 2:15). This will also enable us to teach the Word to others (2 Tim. 2:2).
 - c. **Meditate upon God's Word** (Psalm 1:2). God increases our faith when we spend time in the Word, reading and meditating upon it (Rom. 10:17).
 - d. **Memorize God's Word** (Psalm 119:11). Hiding God's Word in our hearts keeps us from sin.
 - e. **Quote God's Word** (Matt. 4:1-11). We should follow Christ's example of quoting God's Word (as when He said, "It is written") to affirm that we believe in its power and authority, especially when we are under trial or in temptation.
 - f. **Obey God's Word** (James 1:22). All Scripture is inspired of God, and like its author, is perfect and profitable to make perfect all who believe and obey it (2 Tim. 3:26).

The Disciple and Others

1. Disciples need to demonstrate God's love for all people (Mark 12:29-31). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Demonstrate love to your fellow believers.** Love one another as Christ has loved you. This is how others will know that you are a true disciple (John 13:34-35).
 - b. **Demonstrate love to your neighbors.** When we are kind toward our neighbors, it builds them up; they will notice that we are not as others in this world (Rom. 15:2).
 - c. **Demonstrate love to strangers.** Christians should be loving even to strangers, because we are sharing from the overflow of being accepted by Christ ourselves (Deut. 10:19).
 - d. **Demonstrate God's love even to your enemies.** Christians are to love and forgive even those who persecute them (Luke 6:27-31; Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:19-21).
2. Disciples need to fellowship with other believers (Hebrews 10:25). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Be diligent in attending church.** The Bible tells us not to forsake meeting together (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - b. **Be faithful in attending your mentoring group.** Part of WIN is establishing relationships with other women for the purpose of mutual edification (Titus 2:3-5).
 - c. **Practice hospitality.** Invite other Christians to your home for fellowship (1 Pet. 4:8-9).

3. Disciples need to demonstrate Christ-like attitudes in their relationships (Eph. 5:2).
Therefore,
 - a. **Be companionable and pleasant.** We should be joyful, happy people (Phil. 4:4-5). This should bring peace and happiness to our homes because our families find it easy to live with us (Eph. 4:31-32).
 - b. **Have a forgiving heart.** We should freely forgive those who have wronged us (Luke 17:3-4; Matt. 6:14-15).
 - c. **Avoid being bitter about anything.** Bitterness is meditating on all the wrongs that have been committed against us (James 3:14- 18; Heb. 12:15). We should reject thoughts that lead to bitterness.
 - d. **Have a servant's attitude.** We should be humble servants, like Christ (Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:5-8), demonstrating the love of Jesus through our service to others.

The Disciple and Disciple-Making

1. Disciples need to constantly share the gospel with others and give them opportunity to receive salvation.
 - a. **Be a Christian who gives her witness.** Our salvation testimony should be shared with others and confirmed by our holy lives (Matt. 5:16).
 - b. **Seek opportunities to share your faith.** No matter where you are or what you do, you should always look for opportunities to share your faith with others (Acts 1:8).

2. Disciples need to reproduce themselves constantly, making other disciples (John 15:8). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Be a winsome disciple-maker.** Our lives should inspire others to follow our example (1 Cor. 11:1).
 - b. **Obey the commandment of Christ to make disciples.** Our highest calling is to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).
3. Being a good disciple-maker requires that we be teachable, able to receive instruction and correction (Proverbs 18:15). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Be teachable.** Correction and teaching strengthens the body of Christ, and godly rebuke is a kindness to be received (Psalm 141:5).
 - b. **Be gentle in correcting others.** Correction is not to be harsh, but gentle and edifying (Gal. 6:1).
 - c. **Be humble in accepting correction.** If correction stirs up feelings of anger, the disciple must examine his/her heart for the sin of pride (Prov. 8:13).
4. Good disciples are linked together in bonds of love for ongoing growth and development in the deeper Christian life (John 13:34-35). *Therefore,*
 - a. **Grow up.** Christians are called to leave infancy where they drink only milk, and to move on to maturity (Heb. 5:12-14).

- b. **Discipline your habits to promote growth.** This growth comes as disciples devote themselves to study, teaching, and fellowship (Acts 2:42).
- c. **Be active in a mentoring group.** Regular mentoring is required for the proper growth of each disciple (1 Pet. 5:1-5). Participation in a small group for prayer, Bible study, service, outreach or missions will help a Christian be accountable.
- d. **Commit your life to ongoing discipleship.** Jesus prayed that the Church would be one with Him and with the Father. We become one as we work together to grow to maturity in Christ through dedicated discipleship (John 17:21).

Conclusion

The Bible tells us that man looks at the outward appearances but God looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). He sees who we really are. It does not matter to God whether we are tall or short, dark or light, good looking or plain. What matters to God is the condition of our hearts. This condition is revealed as we prayerfully examine our hearts and ask God to reveal to us how He sees us and whether we are pleasing Him.

Prayer

Lord God, as I prayerfully consider whether I am in obedience to Your Word and Your Holy Spirit, I ask You to reveal to me those areas in which I need to grow. Show me my sin, hear me as I repent, and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Amen.

Questions for Discussion / Personal reflection:

1. What activities consume most of my time? Are they activities that will lead to godliness?
2. How can I find more time to spend with God in prayer? Name specific strategies.
3. Do members of my family and church find me friendly and pleasant? Are there habits I need to change so that others are glad to be in my presence?
4. How long has it been since I shared my testimony? How long since I have led someone to Christ? If it's been too long, why?

Notes

Spiritual Inventory



Find a quiet place alone, and with an open Bible read the following passages and answer the accompanying questions. A check in ' Y' indicates "yes" and a check in ' N' indicates "no."

- Y N 1. Am I trusting in Christ alone for my salvation? (John 3:16, Eph. 2:8-9)
- Y N 2. Is Christ my Lord? (Luke 9:23; Luke 14:26)
- Y N 3. Do my priorities please God? (Matt. 6:33)
- Y N 4. Am I controlled by, and walking in, the Holy Spirit? (Gal. 5:16-26, Eph. 5:18)
- Y N 5. Is God pleased with my thought life? (Phil. 4:8-9)
- Y N 6. Do I really hate sin? (Psalm 119:104)
- Y N 7. Do I have a clear conscience? (Acts 24:16)
- Y N 8. Do I endure difficulties with an attitude of patience and joy? (James 1:12)

- Y N 9. Is God pleased with my prayer life? (Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1-4)
- Y N 10. Am I memorizing, studying and obeying God's Word? (2 Tim. 2:2, 2:15, 3:16)
- Y N 11. Do I love God and my neighbor as Christ has loved me? (Luke 10:27, John 13:34)
- Y N 12. Am I in regular fellowship with a body of Christian believers? (Heb. 10:25)
- Y N 13. Am I a happy person, i.e. easy to live with? (Eph. 4:31-32)
- Y N 14. Do I have a forgiving heart, accepting and giving it freely? (Matt. 6:14-15)
- Y N 15. Do I avoid harboring bitterness? (Heb. 12:15)
- Y N 16. Do I have a servant's attitude? (Matt. 20:28)
- Y N 17. Am I witnessing, giving testimony of Christ in my life? (Acts 1:8)
- Y N 18. Am I making disciples? (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Y N 19. Am I teachable? (Prov. 18:15)
- Y N 20. Am I being disciplined or mentored by anyone on a regular basis? (1 Pet. 5:1-5)

This inventory will accomplish little unless you are honest in answering these questions in the light of God's Word. If these passages and questions point out to you areas where you are weak in your commitment or areas of sin, write on one piece of paper the areas where improvement is needed, and on a second piece of paper where sin must be confessed and forgiven. After a time of prayer, confess the sins, repent of them, and recommit your life to Christ! Then write the words of 1 John 1:9 across the paper, claim His forgiveness and your victory over these sins. Finally, tear up the paper to symbolize the forgiveness that you have received from God. In areas where specific changes are needed, ask God to give you wisdom (James 1:5) to know how you can take these steps with courage and boldness. Then, avail yourself of every opportunity to reach out to those around you to evangelize and disciple them.

Notes

5

In Christ

An Object Lesson on Holy Living

Key Verse: 2 Cor. 5:17

*"Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*



Scripture References: Col. 2:9-12; Rom. 8:1-11.

Materials needed: 1 large glass bowl, 1 small glass, some rocks (large, small, and pretty ones that will fit into the glass), pinch of sand and dust.

Set up: Fill large bowl with enough water to cover glass.

Need of filling; futility of trying to live a holy life outside of Christ (Eph. 5:18)

1. I longed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, having heard about it and read about it in Scripture. I had my morning devotions **(dip glass to fill it)**, but by noon I felt only "half full" of the Spirit. **(Shake glass to spill out water.)** As difficulties or temptations came, I became more and more empty. **(Continue spilling water from the glass.)**

In Christ:
fullness,
protection;
character of
Christ's life
(Gal. 2:20)

Sin displaces
the Holy Spirit;
the glass is
overflowing,
but not full
only of water.
(Heb. 12:1)

2. Ephesians 1 instructs us to be IN CHRIST. (**Place glass into the large bowl, submerged in the water.**) Now the water fills the glass and the glass is in the water. This illustrates my relationship with Christ—I am in Him, and He is in me. (**Ask someone to come touch the glass without touching the water.**) When we are in Christ, Satan cannot touch us without the permission of God. (**Have the person pick up the glass and turn it upside down, keeping it under the water.**) Does it empty? (**Have them shake the glass in the water.**) Before, when the glass was out of the water and we shook it, it became empty, but now it remains full!
3. (**Take out the glass out of water and fill it with large rocks [to represent visible, pre-conversion sins] See Rom. 5:6-8.**) Ask: Is the glass full? Yes, it is full of water, but no, because the rocks are *displacing* the water. Some people have sins (rocks) that keep them from being filled with the Spirit. (**Add**

some small rocks to the glass.) Some sins are small, hidden sins unknown and unseen by others (1 John 1:8, 10; Luke 11:24-26). **(Add some pretty, glass marbles.)** Some sins are "pretty sins," habits I enjoy and don't want to give up (1 Cor. 9:12). Some sins are "hindering sins." These can be good things, like money, time, or entertainment. But if we love them excessively and use them improperly, they keep us from maturing in Christ (Heb. 12:1-2). The water may reach the brim of this glass, but the glass is only half full because of the rocks. What is in your heart that takes the place of the Holy Spirit? What fills you, sin (rocks) or Christ?

4. **(Remove rocks and refill the glass. Place a pinch of dirt in the water. Ask someone to drink it.)** Even though the dirt or sin is small, it pollutes the whole. God tells us to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48).

James 2:10
1 John 1:9

What is inside
comes out.
James 3:9-12

5. **(Keep the glass in the water and try to spill some water out of it.)** As I keep the glass in the water and then spill some, what comes out? Water, of course. If someone makes you angry, what spills from your mouth, curses or blessings? From Christ it is blessings. "Father, forgive them." Is that always my response to my upset spouse, my demanding children, the belligerent shopkeeper, the inconsiderate driver? If I have sin in my heart, bitterness will come out, like sour vinegar. If I am filled with Christ, only Christ will come out, like sweet honey!

6. **(Hold the full glass next to someone and ask them to tap it. Make sure some of the water spills on them.)** In all relationships, the person with whom you are in contact should be influenced by the Holy Spirit in your life. They should feel blessed because they have been near you, even if they agitate you. What have you been spilling on others?

When we are
challenged,
others will be
blessed.
Gen. 12:1-3;
Col. 1:27;
Rom. 12:1-2

7. Imagine your life as this glass. Surrender yourself fully to Christ. **(Drop the glass gently in the water of the large bowl.)** Let Him fill you, surround you, embrace you, and dwell in you (John 17:1-26).

Consider these questions individually:

1. What are some “tiny sins” that are not visible to others but only to you and God?
2. What are some “pretty little sins” that are tempting to you?
3. What “spills out” of your life when someone bumps into you?

Prayer Points:

1. *Ask Christ to help you know what the rocks and pinches of dirt are in your life.*
2. *Confess your sins. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit in removing them.*

3. *Surrender yourself to His fullness. May Christ be in you—the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).*

reate in me
a pure heart, O God,
 and renew a
steadfast
spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10

Quotes from
He Married a Princess
by Thelma Braun

- A man and a woman who love Him (God) more than anything else in life, even than each other, and who study His Word and pray together will have His great power to withstand any attack by the enemy (Satan).
- If your general disposition shows a happy attitude, the home will be a sunny place.
- Practice complimenting your husband. Sarcasm is the cancer of marital communication.
- Never fall into the habit of putting each other down. Do all you can to build each other up.
- Uphold your husband. Love him. Nudge him ever closer to God, for he will never be more wholly yours than when he is wholly God's!
- When Christ commanded us to love one another, did He add, "except in-laws?"
- The family team, living with and for God, grows richer and happier as the decades roll by. And the key is abiding in God. With Him, there is nothing stronger than marriage. Without Him, there is nothing more fragile. The culmination of advice to any couple is, "Stay close to God."

6

The Disciple and Her Relationships

Key Verse: Rom. 12:18

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone."*



*"Be devoted
to one another
in love."*



*"Honor one another
above yourselves."
ROMANS 12:10*

Introduction

1. Even though it is difficult for us to understand, God is triune—three Persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—while at the same time one single God (Deut. 6:4).
2. The three Persons of the Trinity are in constant healthy relationship. Likewise, Christ's disciples are to live in healthy relationship with others.

Four Important Relationships the Disciple Must Nourish

- 1. A disciple must value and nourish her relationship with her husband (if she is married).**
 - a. Remember that the disciple's marriage—as with everything in the disciple's life—is to bring honor and glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31).

- b. The Bible instructs wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22-25).
- This submission is loving and joyful compliance with the command of God, choosing to respect and yield to the husband's authority in order to please God.
 - This submission is made easier when the wife remembers that her husband has the more difficult commandment – to love his wife as Christ loves the Church and sacrificed Himself for her (Eph. 5:25, 28).
 - If a husband commands a wife to do something sinful, she must obey God rather than her husband (Acts 5:29). She does not need to submit herself, or her children, to abuse.
- c. A disciple's conduct should be such that her Christ-like character has great influence on the unbelieving husband. Her holy and humble, God-fearing and loving conversation, seasoned with the fruit of the Spirit can win her husband's faith, not only in her, but also in her Lord. "Even if any obey not the Word, they may without the Word be gained by the behavior of their wives" (1 Pet. 3:1).
- d. A disciple can find her self-esteem in the beautiful purpose that God intends for a wife's role: "A help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). A good wife loves her husband (Titus 2:4) and "does him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:12).

- e. Christian marriage is an opportunity for disciples to minister God's grace and love to their spouses. Husband and wife, if both are believers, are also "joint-heirs of the grace of life" (1 Pet. 3:7). They are co-partners not only in temporal good things, but also in eternal life. They maintain their relationship in this spiritual harmony by avoiding any discord and discontent, or by solving it by forgiveness. This is necessary to have an unhindered prayer life (Mark 11:25).
- f. As important as anything else, we must spend time with our spouse, time in which we are fully engaged in deep, meaningful communication. This strong bond of togetherness is a safeguard against temptation (1 Cor. 7:3-5).
- g. A disciple must maintain her sexual purity, avoiding all activities and interests that would provoke her to sin in thought or deed (1 Thess. 5:22). She must avoid attracting the attention of other men through flirtatious words or appearance (Matt. 5:28).
- h. *God initiated the family: it is His concept, and He loves it. And Ephesians 5:22-23 shows us that the marriage relationship is an object lesson of Christ's love for the Church. He wants it to be a holy, beautiful institution, a shining picture to all the world of His pure and perfect love for His Bride.*
– Thelma Braun.

2. A disciple must value and nourish her relationships with her children.

- a. Ephesians 6:4 gives us a “do not” and a “do” for parents: *Do not* exasperate your children. *Do* bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- b. Parents can exasperate and provoke their children by being overly critical, overly strict, unnecessarily irritable, by favoring one child over others and even by being inconsistent (James 1:2-8).
- c. Parents should demonstrate the character of God in their relationships with their children (as with everyone else). We should be tender and compassionate, just as is our Father in heaven (Eph. 4:32).
- d. Just as God the Father disciplines us, His disciples, we must lovingly discipline our own children when necessary (Heb. 12:6).
- e. Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go...” The word for “train” is a word that implies teaching accompanied by correction and discipline.
- f. We need to *restrain* (the original word means instruct, correct and confront) our



children when they sin. In 1 Samuel 2:34-35 we read that Eli did not restrain his sons, and God allowed them to be destroyed by their enemies.

- g. As important as anything else, we must spend time with our children—time in which we are fully engaged in deep, meaningful communication with them (Luke 1:17).

3. A disciple must value and nurture her relationships with others in her family.

- a. A disciple maintains a loving relationship with her parents, whether she is married or not. This makes her wise in the eyes of God (Prov. 15:20). She welcomes them in her life (Prov. 15:20), honors them (Prov. 19:26, 20:20), and heeds their counsel (Prov. 23:22, Eph. 6:1-3).
- b. A disciple has cordial and caring relationship with her in-laws, if she is married. Ruth is an ideal example for this. She loved her mother-in-law even in difficult conditions—even when she had an opportunity to be free from her. She did not think only of her own good, but also cared for her mother-in-law. She was enabled to care for Naomi because she believed in and feared the living God (Ruth 1:16-17; 2:14,18).
- c. A disciple takes good care of her family and any who serve in her household. She rises in the morning to fulfill her family responsibilities, and is awake till late at night when required. She works hard. She is concerned even about the conduct of her household (Prov. 31:15-27).

- d. A disciple maintains a relationship as an example and mentor of good things to the women younger than her (Titus 2:3). For this, she avoids being a slanderer—that means she controls her tongue (James 3:5-6, 8). She is self-controlled and reverent in her behavior with all.
- e. A disciple learns from God’s Word to develop godly character (1 Pet. 1:5-6). This character will be shown in all her relationships.

4. A disciple must value and be careful about her relationship with others outside her family.

- a. She should behave wisely with unbelievers (Col. 4:5). Her conduct among them should be decent, full of integrity so that they have no reason to reproach Christianity. This will give her opportunities to share the gospel with them.
- b. She should be hospitable—habituated to provide for the needs of others, especially of those laboring and suffering for Christ (Rom. 12:13).
- c. She should be charitable to the poor and needy, especially to those who are members of the Church (1 John 3:17; James 2:15).
- d. She should honor the authority in the Church of God, obeying the teachings and warnings of ministers of the Word who faithfully preach the whole counsel of God for her spiritual welfare (Heb. 13:17).
- e. If she should have a secular job, she should respect and obey those who are over her.

She should be faithful in her duties as though she were doing it unto the Lord (Eph. 6:5-8). She should obey only the things which are not contrary to Christian faith and the Word.

5. A disciple must live in harmony with others as instructed in God's Word (see the "one anothers" on the next page).

Prayer

Dear God, enable me, by Your grace, to maintain good and right relationship with others as Your Word instructs. May I value each relationship according to its significance and glorify You through my every dealing with others. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. How should a Christian woman "nourish" her relationship with her husband?
2. What qualities does God reveal in His character as a Father that are important for Christians to model for their children?
3. How can a Christian woman show love to her in-laws?

Here are some of the 'one anothers' in the New Testament that tell us how to relate to each other in a way that pleases God:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

- 1] 1 John 4:7 - Love one another
- 2] 1 Pet. 4:8 - Love each other deeply
- 3] 1 Pet. 1:22 - Love one another deeply, from the heart
- 4] 1 Pet. 3:8 - Live in harmony with one another
- 5] Rom. 12:10a - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love
- 6] Gal. 5:13 - Serve one another in love

HONOR ONE ANOTHER:

- 7] John 13:14 - You also should wash one another's feet
- 8] 1 Pet. 5:5 - Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another
- 9] Phil. 2:3 - Let each esteem others better than themselves
- 10] Eph. 4:2 - Be patient, bearing with one another in love
- 11] Rom. 15:7 - Accept one another just as Christ accepted you
- 12] Rom. 12:10 - Honor one another (v. 10b)
- 13] Eph. 5:21 - Submit to one another
- 14] Phil. 2:4 - Look to the interests of others
- 15] Mark 9:50 - Be at peace with each other

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER:

- 16] Rom. 14:13 - Stop passing judgment on one another
- 17] Eph. 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other
- 18] Col. 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another
- 19] Ro. 12:14-16 - Bless, rejoice, mourn, live in harmony

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER:

- 20] 1 Thes. 5:11 - Encourage one another
- 21] 1 Thes. 5:11- Build each other up
- 22] Rom. 14:19 - One may edify another
- 23] Gal. 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens
- 24] Col. 3:16 - Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
- 25] Heb. 10:24 - Spur one another on toward love & good deeds
- 26] 1 Pet. 4:10 - Minister one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God
- 27] Heb. 3:13 - Encourage one another daily
- 28] Phil 1:4 - Pray for one another

"DON'T" :

- 29] James 4:11 - Slander one another
- 30] Gal. 5:15 - Bite and devour each other
- 31] Gal. 5:26 - Be conceited, provoking and envying each other
- 32] James 5:9 - Grumble against each other
- 33] Col. 3:9 - Lie to each other
- 34] Rom. 14:13 - Put any stumbling block in your brother's way



The Disciple and Soul-Winning

Key Verse: Proverbs 11:30 (KJV)

"He that winneth souls is wise."



Introduction

Few are called to be preachers, but every born-again Christian is called to be a soul-winner. Lead your disciples into the joy of soul-winning!

Reasons for Being a Soul-winner

1. God places great value on every soul (Mark 8:35-37).
2. Human life is meaningless without God (1 Pet. 1:24-25).
3. Hell is a real place, and some people will go there (Luke 12:4-5).
4. Heaven is a glorious place (John 14:2-3).
5. Everyone should desire to have their family circle complete in heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
6. Everyone must know Christ has suffered on the cross for each sinner (1 Pet. 3:18).
7. We do not want Christ to be ashamed of us (Mark 8:38).
8. God has promised personal rewards to faithful soul-winners. (Dan. 12:3).

Methods of Soul-winning

1. Your Personal Testimony

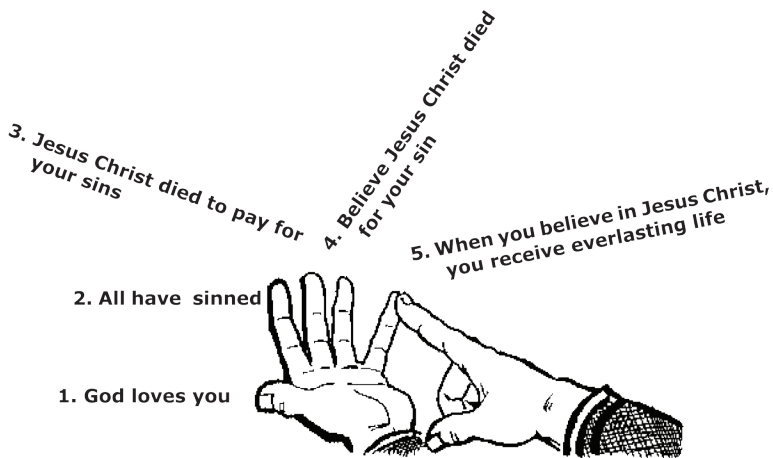
- a. One of the most powerful witnessing tools is your testimony of personal salvation and how it has affected your life.
- b. The Samaritan woman testified to Jesus by saying, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:29).
- c. Some people may object to Scripture, desiring to argue doctrine or points of view, but it is hard to refute the testimony of a Christ-changed life.
- d. Components of your personal testimony:
 - **Tell about your life before you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior.** Describe your life before coming to Christ, with particular attention to feelings of emptiness and hopelessness, both of which are common to unbelievers. Be sure not to place too much emphasis on particular sins, so as not to glorify a sinful life.
 - **Describe when and where you heard about Jesus, and why you made the decision to accept Him as your Savior.** As you describe the conviction that came upon you, pray that the Holy Spirit will also work in the life of the one to whom you are witnessing, bringing a spirit of repentance and sorrow for sin.

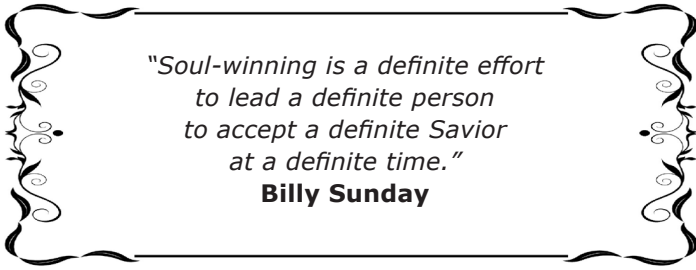
- **Tell how your life has changed since becoming a Christian.** Share about the joy and peace that are yours as a saved and transformed person. Be specific about the ways God has changed your life.
- **Use Bible verses that inspire you to trust in Christ.**
- **Assignment** -*Write a brief paragraph on each of the above points. Ask the Lord to show you how to make your testimony clear and effective.*

2. Five-finger Evangelism - This simple method of evangelism requires no special equipment or books. Using the fingers of one hand, the plan of salvation is explained. This method requires that you memorize the verses, but is very practical in that you will always be prepared to share the gospel. If the hearer seems willing, and it seems appropriate to do so, you may hold his or her hand and point to each finger as you share what it means.

- First Finger – God loves you (John 3:16).** *"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."*
- Second Finger – All have sinned (Rom. 3:23).** *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

- c. **Third Finger – Christ died to pay the penalty for your sin (1 Cor. 15:3-4).**
"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
- d. **Fourth Finger – Believe Christ died for your sin (John 1:12).** *"All who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."*
- e. **Fifth Finger – When you believe, you receive everlasting life (Rom. 6:23).**
*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Encourage the hearer to make a decision and pray for salvation.***



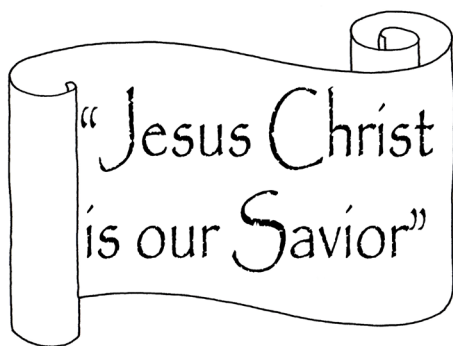


3. The Roman Road to Salvation - The path to salvation can be explained using verses from the Book of Romans. The road should be followed in order, and it would be helpful to mark the verses in your Bible. The main advantage of this method of witnessing is that all verses are located in only one book, making it easy to find them. After you present the fourth point, be sure to follow through by asking the hearer if he or she would like to pray to receive Christ as Savior.

- a. Man's need (Rom. 3:23).** All have sinned and need forgiveness. *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- b. Sin's penalty (Rom. 6:23).** The penalty for sin is death. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- c. God's provision (Rom. 5:8).** God provided a way to pay the penalty through the death of Jesus. *"God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- d. Man's response (Rom. 10:9).** Confess sin, believe in Christ, and receive forgiveness. *"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."*

4. **The Wordless Book** - You can tell the message of salvation to anyone with your Bible and this wonderful little book with five colors! Allow the person to interact with you. Scripture references in parentheses are for your study. A few verses are quoted for use while witnessing. Begin your conversation by introducing yourself and finding out the person's name so you may call him/her by name throughout your presentation. Be sure to tell this story enthusiastically. It is the way of salvation for your listener!*
- a. **The Gold Page.** Tell the person about the glories of heaven and Christ's desire for you to be with Him there (John 14:2-4). Emphasize that it is a happy place because of the presence of God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 21:4-23).
 - b. **The Dark Page.** Tell the person about sin – what it is and how it separates us from God and prevents us from going to heaven. Emphasize that all people have sinned (Rom. 3:23). Tell the person that God has said sin must be punished, and the punishment is death and separation from God forever (Rom. 6:23).
 - c. **The Red Page.** Emphasize that God is loving and does not want anyone to be separated from Him (2 Pet. 3:9). Explain that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin, and that he paid the penalty for our sins and the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

**See Appendix B, p. 93. for expanded instructions.*



- d. The Clear Page.** Tell the person that everyone is invited to receive this gift of God's grace through faith (Eph. 2:8) by deciding to believe in Jesus as his/her personal Savior. When a person confesses their sins and believes in Jesus, He cleanses them from their sins (Psalm 51:7). At the end of your explanation, invite the listener to pray to receive Christ as his/her Savior.
- e. The Green Page.** Emphasize that after someone receives salvation, they become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); then they should grow in a special way—to learn more about God and His commandments and receive the power to keep from sinning (Psalm 119:11). To learn more about God, new Christians should:
- Talk to God in prayer (1 Thess. 5:17).
 - Listen to what God says in His Word, the Bible (Psalm 119:11).
 - Talk for God by witnessing to others (Mark 16:15).
 - Worship God by going to church or Christian fellowships (Heb. 10:25).

5. **Other Methods** – Other methods/resources are listed here for you to explore on your own. Visit the website listed for more information.

- a. **The Four Spiritual Laws** - <http://crustore.org/four-laws-english/>
- b. **Evangelism Explosion** - <http://evangelismexplosion.org/>
- c. **The Gospel Cube (EvangeCube)** - <http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2008/evangecube-gospel-script/>
- d. **The Bridge** - <http://www.navigators.org/Tools/Evangelism%20Resources/Tools/The%20Bridge%20to%20Life>
- e. **A Marked New Testament** - <http://www.wmu.com/index.php?q=children/royal-ambassadors/mark-new-testament>
- f. **Gospel Videos or Recordings** – search YouTube or the internet for videos and recordings in your language that clearly tell the gospel story. Watch with the person to whom you are witnessing, then discuss the content and pray with them at the end.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLDrNCVW9Vc> A video using the Bridge method to explain salvation.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgH4meAZdV8> A video emphasizing the love of God and using the Bridge method.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcgSBYbaiWc> An animated version of the gospel (with no words) which you can use to begin a conversation about salvation.

8

Prepared to Witness

Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:15b

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."



Introduction

1. God wants every person have the opportunity to hear the gospel and receive forgiveness for sin (2 Pet. 3:9b).
2. Every believer needs to be prepared in advance to give witness when God grants the opportunity (1 Pet. 3:15b-16a).
3. Disciple-makers should be active soul-winners, expecting God to use any situation to provide an opportunity to witness (John 15:5).

"Musts" for a Soul-winner

1. She must be saved herself and sure of her salvation (2 Pet. 1:10-11; Rom. 5:9-11).
2. She must make every effort to live a holy life (2 Pet. 3:14).
3. She must work in a spirit of love (1 Pet. 1:22-23).
4. She must have a working knowledge of the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15).

5. She must be a person of prayer (Eph. 6:18).
6. She must be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
7. She must have compassion for lost souls (Jude 23).

How to Witness

1. Your testimony

- a. Tell the simple story of your conversion and the change in your life (2 Cor. 5:17).
- b. Tell about answers to prayer you have received (Psalm 50:15).
- c. Tell how Christ meets your heartfelt needs (Psalm 107:8-9).
- d. Tell about personal victory over sin and temptations (1 John 5:4-5).
- e. Tell about your favorite verses in the Bible and how God spoke to you recently from a particular passage of Scripture (1 Cor. 2:12-13).

2. The Gospel

- a. Share with your friends the gospel of Christ. Tell them about Him (Rom. 1:16).
- b. Invite them to confess their sin, ask forgiveness, and receive salvation in Christ (1 John 1:9).
- c. Encourage new believers to become true disciples (John 8:31-32; 2 Tim. 2:15).

Hindrances to Witnessing

1. **Some are ashamed of not being perfect in their Christian life.**
 - a. Remember that you are not testifying to your own goodness, but to the goodness and perfect life of Christ (Romans 7; 2 Cor. 12:9).
 - b. You have been saved by grace, not because you earned or deserved it (Eph. 2:8-9).
 - c. We are not condemned, therefore we should not to be ashamed (Rom. 8:1).
 - d. Witnessing is a commandment for all believers (Matt. 28:18-20). There are no exceptions.

2. **Some are fearful of rejection, especially that the hearer will become angry or accusatory.**
 - a. Remember that fear is not from God (2 Tim. 1:7; Prov. 29:25).
 - b. When the disciple remembers the love of God, fear is relieved (1 John 4:18).
 - c. God has promised to give strength to overcome fear (Phil. 4:13).
 - d. Persecution is to be expected, and God will reward those who endure and remain faithful (Matt. 5:10-12).

3. **Some think witnessing is only the job of pastors or Sunday school teachers.**
 - a. Clergy make up less than 1% of all believers. Should we leave this important task only to them?

- b. God makes no distinction in the scripture between clergy and lay people. That separation is man-made.
 - c. All believers belong to the “priesthood” (2 Pet. 2:4-10).
 - d. The lay people were the first to be sent to witness in Judea and Samaria; the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1, 4).
4. **Some feel inadequate to answer questions or objections.***
- a. Disciples are instructed to be prepared (1 Pet. 3:15-16).
 - b. Disciples must not merely *read* God’s Word; we are commanded to *study* it (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - c. We need to examine God’s Word to know that it is true (Acts 17:11).
 - d. A witness doesn’t need to have all the answers (1 Cor. 1:26-27; Col. 4:5).
 - It is acceptable to seek an answer from someone wiser.
 - Be faithful to return to the person with an answer.

Conclusion

1. The primary task of every Christian is to make disciples.
2. To be a disciple, one must first receive salvation in Jesus Christ.

**See Appendix A, p. 89 for answers to common objections.*

3. True disciples should be prepared in every situation to testify of their faith in Christ and invite others to believe in Him.
4. Through His Holy Spirit, God will empower His true disciples to become bold and effective witnesses.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do many Christians shy away from witnessing?
2. What other answers to common objections should Christians be prepared to give?
3. How can I find answers to common objections?

Internet Resources:

Responses to common objections:

<http://christiananswers.net/evangelism/responses/home.html>

<https://carm.org/objections-and-answers>

Resources for apologists (those who defend the gospel from people who object):

<http://www.apologetics315.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/oneminuteapologist> (youtube channel)

Video conversation starters

Video: "Is God Good?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rfd_1UAjeIA&feature=youtu.be

Video: "What Happens After I Die" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4zuTz1nMCo&feature=youtu.be>

Jesus fulfills prophecy:

[http://www.accordingtothescriptures.org/
prophecy/353prophecies.html](http://www.accordingtothescriptures.org/prophecy/353prophecies.html)

Historical accuracy of the Bible:

[http://rickwarren.org/devotional/english/the-
bible-is-historically-accurate_101](http://rickwarren.org/devotional/english/the-bible-is-historically-accurate_101)

Notes

9

The Samaritan Woman: A Soul-Winner/Witness

Key Verse: Romans 1:16a

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."



Scriptures about the Samaritan Woman: John 4:4-42

Introduction

1. Jesus was compelled by the Holy Spirit to go through Samaria for a divine appointment.
2. Jewish travelers normally went around Samaria (a six-day journey), avoiding any kind of contact with the Samaritans, whom they considered to be inferior people because they were not pure Jews. They had intermarried with Gentiles.



3. Jesus and His disciples walked 42 miles to have a life-changing encounter with one woman. This reveals the great value Jesus placed on the lives of women.

Characteristics of a soul-winner, derived from the life of the Samaritan Woman

1. ***A soul-winner is just a sinner who has found salvation in Christ (Acts 4:12).***
 - a. The Samaritan Woman represents all of us; scripture does not even reveal her name.
 - b. She faced several types of barriers:
 - **Racial/ethnic**—she was a Samaritan (v. 9)
 - **Social**—she was a fornicator (v. 18).
 - **Religious**—she belonged to a group (Samaritans) who worshipped differently than the Jews (v. 21-23).
 - Jesus ignored the barriers when He spoke to her (v. 7).
 - c. She faced serious moral problems (v. 16-18).
 - She was a miserable slave to sin.
 - Her relationships failed to satisfy the deep longings of her soul (Psalm 38:4).
 - d. One encounter with Jesus Christ changed her life forever.
 - Jesus patiently answered all her questions (v. 12-26).

- Jesus brought her to the truth (v. 24).
 - Jesus met her need for a Savior (v. 26).
- e. Jesus came to give her the one thing she needed most: salvation—a new life! In His approach to the Samaritan woman, Jesus was an example of an effective soul-winner.
- Jesus changed her **existence**—she overcame all barriers, going to evangelize the very ones who had made her an outcast (v. 28-29).
 - Jesus changed her **mission**—now her primary purpose was to be a witness (v. 39).
 - Jesus changed her **environment**—her entire village became believers (v. 42).
 - Ultimately, Jesus gives believers His very presence (Ex.33:14; Matt. 1:23), and that makes them soul-winners.
2. ***A soul-winner is a believer satisfied in Jesus, the Living Water (John 4:10-15).***
- a. Believers find true satisfaction in Jesus because He Himself is the gift of God given to save them from eternal death (v. 10; also see John 3:16; 2 Cor. 9:15). The one who receives this satisfaction is eager to share its good news with others (v. 28-29).

b. Water is essential to life. About 70% of the human body and the earth are filled with water. Jesus used the illustration of the well water to explain the satisfaction the believer receives in Him through the salvation He gives. Jesus gives full satisfaction because He is:

- **Living Water (v. 10).** Jesus brings eternal life (v. 14).
- **Fulfilling Water (v. 13).** Our spiritual thirst is met only by Jesus Christ. She that comes to Him shall never be spiritually hungry; and she that believes on Him shall never be spiritually thirsty (John 6:35).
- **Cleansing, Life-changing Water (v. 16-19).** The Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus changed her completely, cleansing her from her sin. The change can be seen because, although she was not accepted socially, (having to come to the well alone at an odd time of the day), she went to share the news of Christ with the whole village (v. 28-29). Even today, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our sins and makes us a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- **Overflowing Water (v. 14).** The water (satisfaction) that Jesus gives becomes a fountain of water in the believer that overflows (John 7:37-39). When a believer receives the Holy Spirit, Jesus becomes a constant, life-giving source in them.

- c. Like the Samaritan woman, a soul-winner's life should demonstrate that she has drunk the Water of Life (she has salvation in Jesus Christ). The overflow should bubble over to everyone and cause her to reach out to more and more people with the gospel.

- 3. **A soul-winner is the one who has the Message (John 4:29).** A soul-winner, being saved by Jesus and constantly satisfied in Him, has, like the Samaritan woman, a message to share:
 - a. The Message of **Truth:** "Come, ...see a man, which told me all things that ever I did" (v. 29). She knew very well that Jesus told the truth. We have the message of Jesus who *is* the Truth (John 14:6).
 - b. The Message of **Hope:** "...could this be the Messiah?" (v. 29, NIV). She had good news of the Messiah coming to their village. In fact the Samaritans, who were under spiritual darkness, law and regulations, were eagerly waiting for the Messiah. She brought to them the message of hope: He can be the Messiah! Indeed, He is (v. 26)!
 - c. The Message of **Challenge:** "...could this be the Messiah?" (v. 29, NIV). She was stirring their curiosity to think and act.
 - d. The Message of **Invitation:** "Come and see a man..." (v. 29). She, with her message of truth, hope and challenge gave them invitation to come and personally experience Jesus.

4. **A soul-winner is an eager witness (John 4:28).** She is:
- a. **Joyful (v. 28)** The Samaritan woman had so much joy she left her water jar behind! She had received the Living Water (Jesus) and was cleansed, fulfilled, and overflowing with the joy of eternal gain.
 - b. **Courageous (v. 28)** She went back to her own town, even though her reputation there was a bad one. She went to the very ones who had made her an outcast.
 - c. **Bold (v. 29)** She challenged them, “come and see.” She proclaimed that Jesus could be the Christ and counted on their curiosity to bring them to Him.
 - d. **Unashamed (v. 29)** She said, “He told me everything I did.” In this she acknowledged the things she had done, which would have been embarrassing to her before Jesus cleansed her. She was unashamed to tell the testimony of her transformation.
 - e. **Enthusiastic (v. 29)** She witnessed right away. She did not waste time. She did not consult any one. She did not fear the consequences of her boldness. She did it in the right time—Jesus was on His way to another town.
 - f. **Fruitful (v. 39-42)** Because of her testimony, many of the Samaritans from her village believed and came to Jesus. He disciplined them Himself briefly, so that their faith was personal. Their faith was in *Christ*, not in *her*. This is one mark of a good witness—she brings people to personal, saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Lord, make me a fruitful soul-winner. Help me to be full of joy, and to boldly and courageously tell everyone I know about Jesus, who is the Living Water. Help me then to be a disciple-maker and help those whom I disciple to grow until they also bear good fruit. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. The Samaritan Woman faced judgment from her community because of her sinful lifestyle. Jesus overcame that barrier to witness to her. How can you overcome barriers created by culture in your attempts to share the gospel?
2. What are six qualities of a person who, like the Samaritan Woman, is an eager witness? Are you an eager witness? Why or why not?



10

Naomi and Ruth: Mentoring for Good Discipleship

Key Verse: Titus 2:3-4a

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women..."



Scriptures: The Book of Ruth

Introduction

1. The principle of discipleship was modeled by Jesus. He chose twelve disciples, but then chose three of them for closer discipling (Peter, James and John). They were together for only a short time, but it was *quality* time.
2. The goal of a disciple-maker is to encourage the growth of potential leaders and equip them for ministry (2 Tim. 4:1-2). Another name for a disciple-maker is a mentor, defined as "a wise or trusted teacher or counselor." The one whom a mentor teaches is called a "mentee."
3. This principle is illustrated by looking in the Bible book of Ruth (a mentee) and studying her relationship with Naomi (her mentor).

Characteristics of a Good Mentor

1. Good mentors ***disregard cultural/social barriers (1:3-4)***. Naomi was a Jew, Ruth was a Moabite.
 - a. Racial, social and cultural barriers are a part of our world, but they should not be a part of God's Kingdom.
 - b. The law of God's Kingdom is love. Love compels us to reach out, even to those who are not like us.
 - c. When seeking someone to mentor we should have eyes like God, who is blind to barriers of culture or race (2 Pet. 3:9).
2. Good mentors ***have a vision/goal (1:6-7)***. Naomi knew where she was going—she was returning to Judah.
 - a. Mentors need to have a destination in mind. What is the desired final outcome of the relationship (Prov. 29:18)?
 - b. Discipleship is more than self-improvement; it is teaching someone to become like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).
3. Good mentors ***allow self-determination (1:8-9)***. Naomi allowed Orpah and Ruth to choose what they would do.
 - a. God gave humans the right to choose what they will do (Deut. 30:19).
 - b. It is never the role of a mentor to choose a path of action and force it upon the one being mentored.

- c. Good mentors offer the right path clearly and allow the mentee to determine to choose or reject it.
 - d. Mentors should be affirming and loving, even if the mentee makes a mistake.
- 4. Good mentors ***exercise godly oversight (2:19)***. Naomi encouraged Ruth to be accountable.
 - a. Mentors keep in touch with mentees and gently advise against unwise actions.
 - b. Accountability is not for the purpose of control, but for teaching and nurture.
- 5. Good mentors ***share their knowledge and wisdom (2:20)***. Naomi knew the culture and practices of Jews—Ruth did not. Naomi taught Ruth this information and led her to take proper steps.
 - a. Mentors need to further their own knowledge and skills to help the mentee adjust wisely in the new life that follows.
 - b. Wisdom comes from knowing the Word and spending time with God, who will give insight into every aspect of life and ministry.
 - c. Good mentors aim at ultimately making the mentee dependent on God’s knowledge and wisdom and not their own.
- 6. Good mentors ***give godly counsel (2:22, 3:3-4)***. Naomi used her wisdom to give Ruth good advice.
 - a. Godly counsel will only come from God’s Word. In discipling, advice should not be given based only on human wisdom or observation (Prov. 2:6).

- b. Counsel involves not only telling, but listening (James 1:19).
 - c. The mentor's godly life helps the mentee to respond positively to her authority.
7. Good mentors ***have caring hearts (3:1)***.
Naomi was concerned for Ruth's welfare.
- a. Mentors should remember that they are a representative and channel of God's love for those whom they mentor.
 - b. Compassion and tenderness, mingled with fearless admonition against sin, will strike the right balance (Eph. 4:32).

Characteristics of a Good Mentee

1. Good mentees ***show devotion to their mentors (1:14-17)***. Ruth was devoted to Naomi, showing love, concern and respect.
 - a. She was willing to abandon a lifetime of pagan worship to devote herself to Naomi's God (Prov. 28:13; Acts 3:19).
 - b. Ruth's love was revealed in her desire not to go back to her mother's house, but to choose to be with Naomi (1 Pet. 1:22).
2. Good mentees ***are obedient (3:5)***. When given instruction by Naomi, Ruth did exactly what she was told to do.
 - a. An obedient heart is also a humble heart, and is a key to a successful discipling relationship (Psalm 51:10-12).
 - b. Those who come to God must come with their hearts and not merely their thoughts (John 4:24).

3. Good mentees ***have ideas of their own (2:2)***. Ruth asked Naomi if she could go to the fields to glean grain.
 - a. Mentees should think creatively and have new ideas, even if they have never been tried before (Isaiah 43:19).
 - b. Trying something new, even if it seems to fail, is one way that disciples learn and grow.
4. Good mentees ***give an honest and thorough report (2:19-22)***.
 - a. Ruth answered Naomi's questions without feeling threatened.
 - b. She answered honestly and completely, giving Naomi the information she needed to give good direction (1 Pet. 3:15).

Blessings of the Mentoring Relationship

1. Mentors and mentees both ***share in the blessings of God (3:16-18; 4:14-16)***. Naomi shared in Ruth's blessing.
 - a. The ultimate goal of mentoring relationships is benefit to the Kingdom of God, and all partake of this blessing together.
 - b. The success of the mentee should be celebrated by the mentor, and should never be a cause of jealousy (1 Pet. 2:1).
 - c. The blessings should then be passed on, as the mentee takes on the role of becoming a mentor herself.

2. Mentors and mentees together ***bring blessing to others and to the Kingdom of God (4:18-22)***.
 - a. Through the relationship of Naomi and Ruth, and then the marriage of Ruth and Boaz, a new family unit was established, bringing them all great blessing and joy.
 - b. When God's people work together in harmony, His Kingdom is blessed (Psalm 133:1).
 - c. Through Jesus, a descendant of Ruth and Boaz, the whole world was blessed (1 Cor. 15:22).

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to be a good mentor, showing kindness and love, and sharing with others the wisdom You have given me. Please show me who I can mentor, and help me to be a good and faithful mentee to the ones who are teaching me Your ways. May the world be blessed through the mentoring relationships in which I participate for good discipleship. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the important qualities of a good mentor? Do you have those qualities? Which one is hardest for you to demonstrate, and why?
2. What are the important qualities of a good mentee? Do you have those qualities? Which one is hardest for you to demonstrate, and why?

11

Priscilla: A Disciple-Maker

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

"Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, encourage with great patience and careful instruction."



Scriptures that mention Priscilla: Acts 18:1-4, 18-22, 24-26; Rom. 16:3-4; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19

Introduction

1. Aquila, a Jew from Pontus, Italy came and settled at Corinth with his wife Priscilla (Acts 18:2). They were exiled by an edict in 52 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Claudius that all the Jews had to leave Rome. Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned six times in the New Testament. (See scriptures above.)
2. They are always named as a couple, never individually.
3. In four places, Priscilla is mentioned first. This was unique recognition for a woman in a male-dominated society.
4. The six characteristics listed below show how the ministry of Priscilla and Aquila teaches us to be hard-working disciple-makers.

Six Characteristics of a Disciple-Maker (as seen in the life of Priscilla)

1. A disciple-maker should *learn the Word of God and continue studying it (Acts 18:1-11, 26)*.

- a. It is clear that both Priscilla and Aquila were committed Christians.
- b. God, in His providence, used their tent-making trade to connect them with Paul. During his 18-month stay at their house in Corinth, Paul instructed them in God's Word.
- c. Afterward, the two of them taught Apollos. Thus, Priscilla the disciple became Priscilla the teacher, or disciple-maker.
- d. Priscilla's ministry is an indication that she continued in Christ's Word and was His disciple indeed (John 8:31). A disciple-maker is a disciple herself and a life-long student of the Word.
- e. A husband and wife who learn the Word of God together and live according to its teachings can make a good disciple-making team.

2. A disciple-maker should be *hospitable (Acts 18:3; 18:26; 1 Cor. 16:19)*.

- a. Priscilla was hospitable.
- b. *To Paul:* Despite the fact that they were themselves refugees in Corinth, they gave shelter to Paul during his first missionary journey.

- c. *To the Church:* When they traveled with Paul to Ephesus, they opened their house to be used as a Christian place of worship and discipling believers.
- d. *To Apollos:* They were hospitable to Apollos when they felt the urgency of instructing him more correctly in the way of God (Acts 18:26).
- e. Hospitality is an important part of Christian charity (Rom. 12:13).
- f. Hospitality is more than simple kindness. It means welcoming into fellowship the last, the least, the lowest, and the lost to communicate the great love of God (Matt. 25:40).
- g. Hospitality is centered on fulfilling the Great Commission through worship and mentoring disciples. The home is a valuable tool for evangelism and disciple-making.

3. A disciple-maker should be *discerning* (Acts 18:24-26).

- a. Priscilla and Aquila were able to discern errors in Apollos' teaching.
- b. Apollos was a bold man who taught passionately and accurately about Jesus, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they detected a serious flaw in his teaching: He knew only the baptism of John.
- c. They took him to their home and brought him to a fuller knowledge of the truth.
- d. Many false teachers and teachings will come, but the disciple must know the Word in order to discern errors and explain the truth (Matt. 24:11-14).

- e. Discernment is more than observation; it is revelation from God through the Holy Spirit, giving truth and wisdom (John 16:13).

4. A disciple-maker should be ready to *sacrifice time* (Acts 18:24-26).

- a. After learning from Paul, Priscilla and Aquila became his fellow missionaries. This must have demanded much of their time, which otherwise they would have used in their trade.
- b. When they met Apollos, they were willing to spend their time to teach him God's way more correctly.
- c. When they went with Paul to Ephesus, they opened their house to be a church. This too must have required their time.
- d. Disciples are to reproduce disciples. Our reproduction has three aspects: We *win* people to Christ, *build* them in God's Word, and *send* them to disciple others. All this requires a good deal of time, which disciples should be ready to give, sacrificing their time for the sake of Christ (Mark 10:28-30).

5. A disciple-maker should be ready to *endure hardship* (Rom. 16:3; Acts 18:2).

- a. Persecution and the Roman emperor's cruel order had driven Priscilla and Aquila out of Rome, but it only served to broaden their influence. They moved at least three times (from Rome to Corinth, Corinth to Ephesus, Ephesus to Rome). Every time, they were responsive to the perceived needs of individuals and cities, answering God's call for change (Matt. 16:24-25).

- b. Priscilla and her husband, while involved in disciple-making ministry, supported themselves by tent-making. Today we also need “tent-makers”—Christians who support themselves by some trade or profession and serve as evangelists and disciple-makers. One can be a disciple-maker even without being supported financially by others (Phil. 4:19).
- c. It appears that in Rome, as Paul’s fellow workers, they exposed themselves to great danger to save him, risking their own lives. In saving Paul, they had saved the life of the Apostle to the Gentiles. Therefore, as Paul said, all the Gentile Christians were grateful to them.
- d. Disciples should expect hardship—it will certainly come. Spiritual preparation for hardship is essential for surviving in the ministry (2 Cor. 1:9-10).

6. A disciple-maker should be ready to *partner with others in the ministry* (Rom. 16:3-4).

- a. Priscilla and Aquila worked with each other, with Paul, with Apollos, and with Timothy. They were selfless in exercising their own authority. Note that Priscilla worked easily in partnership with men, especially her husband. Their strong marriage and partnership in business was a good example to all Christians.

- b. Priscilla and Aquila mentored Apollos, who then became very successful in ministry for Christ. Disciple-makers should have an open heart to nurture and mentor new leaders, and should not be jealous of their success (Gal. 5:20-21).
- c. A wife's role is in partnership with her husband or other men in authority, never trying to snatch authority from them, but enhancing and benefiting their ministry. A woman in ministry should never be publicly critical of others in leadership, especially men (1 Tim. 2:11-12).
- d. Cooperation and partnership with one another is a way of demonstrating the love of God, revealing the Church as the body of Christ. Paul emphasized that we are fellow-workers, even fellow-workers with God (1 Cor. 3:5-9).

Prayer

Lord God, help me to be a good disciple-maker! Help me to love Your Word, cultivate good relationships with others, and make the sacrifices of time necessary to invest in the ministry development of new leaders.

Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. A good disciple-maker practices hospitality. What ways can you find in order to be hospitable, even if you might not have a beautiful home or lots of money?
2. A good disciple-maker has to sacrifice time in order to fulfill the Great Commission. What tasks can you do in a different way to give you more time for disciple-making?

12

WIN and the WIN-ners

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 2:2

"And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall also be able to teach others."



Introduction and Vision

1. WIN is the 'Women's Impact Network.'

- a. The WIN movement challenges Christian women to gather together weekly for the purpose of discipleship.
- b. *WIN envisions Christian women, challenged for deeper discipleship, resolved to undertake dynamic, spiritual formation with other women, who in turn will become empowered disciple-makers.*
- c. Each woman who participates in mentoring other women following the guidelines of WIN will be called a "WIN-ner."

- d. WIN will impact selected women in WIN Summits to establish/re-establish their own commitment to be Christ's true disciples.
- e. They will then be mobilized and equipped through literature and practical strategies to impact other women with dynamic, biblical spiritual formation*—to lead them to Christ, and mentor them for committed discipleship.
- f. All WIN-ners will be included in a database connecting them to resources for ongoing discipleship.
- g. WIN is an international ministry, active in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

2. Curriculum

The *WIN Discipleship Manual* (DM), a guidebook with lessons on discipleship, disciple-making, evangelism, team building, and mentoring skills, will serve as the curriculum for WIN summits; it will also be used by WIN-ners to mentor their teams.

3. Strategy

- a. WIN summits train women who are recommended for leadership in the movement.
- b. Summits impact and instruct the attendees

**Spiritual formation is the process that a disciple undergoes as he or she focuses intentionally on allowing the Holy Spirit to strengthen obedience for committed discipleship by practicing the spiritual disciplines (daily meditation on God's Word, prayer, fasting, worship, etc.) and demonstrating the love of Christ in all interpersonal relationships.*

for personal discipleship using the *WIN Discipleship Manual*.

- c. Summits will challenge attendees to impact the lives of women in their church and community with the vision of disciple-making by establishing WIN groups with three disciples.

4. WIN-ners' 3x3 Campaign – A WIN Mentoring Chain

- a. Each WIN-ner will mentor a team of least three new women, and cultivate the same vision in them (i.e. winning and mentoring three others for Christ).
- b. The chain of mentoring will be continued through all WIN-ners to add exponential growth to their churches and, ultimately, to the kingdom of God.

How to Lead a WIN Group

1. **Choose a location and a regular time to meet every week.**
 - a. If possible, meet in your home; remember, hospitality is one of the methods Priscilla used to be a disciple-maker (Acts 18:26).
 - b. Never miss a meeting except in case of an emergency. Tell your group that they should guard that time against other activities, and protect it as being very valuable (Eph. 5:16). Model faithfulness.

- c. If you must change the time and place, be sure everyone is contacted in advance, if possible.
 - d. Try to make everyone comfortable so physical concerns are not distracting; try to be close enough that everyone can converse easily.
 - e. Make arrangements to keep other distractions to a minimum. It may be necessary to provide care for children or other family members during the time of the meeting.
2. **Be prepared.**
- a. Study in advance the lesson of the *Discipleship Manual* that you will be teaching (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - b. Mark pertinent scriptures in your Bible so you can find them quickly.
 - c. Make any notes you need to teach well.
 - d. Schedule time just before the WIN group meets to review your materials.
 - e. Be a good example; when you are prepared, it will help your mentees to know that they also need to prepare well for the meeting (2 Tim. 4:2).
3. **Begin and end the meeting with prayer.**
- a. This sets a good tone for the meeting and helps mentees to focus on Jesus (Heb. 12:2).
 - b. Do remember this is *not* a prayer meeting. In your WIN group, prayer should be focused on blessing for learning the lesson

and, through that, for growth in committed discipleship. Pray for removing the things that hinder progress in true discipleship, and for each woman to be effective in her Christian life.

- c. If someone seems to have an urgent prayer request, set a time following the meeting to pray with her.
 - d. During your closing prayer, remember to bless the ladies as they go and ask God for fruit as they witness and make disciples.
 - e. Remember to pray throughout the week for those in your WIN group and for their special requests and needs (Eph. 6:18). Encourage them to also pray for you and for each other.
4. **Begin each teaching with a review of the material from the previous lesson.**
- a. Repetition is a key to learning.
 - b. See if ladies can tell you what they learned the previous week; if not, you may need to improve/change your teaching methods.
 - c. Give opportunity for mentees to tell the group how they put into practice that which they learned. Celebrate victories; show concern for challenges (Rom. 12:15).
5. **Remember to be a teacher, not a preacher.**
- a. You will teach from the *WIN Discipleship Manual*, but it should not be an uninterrupted sermon.
 - b. Make time for questions and for mentees to say what they are thinking. Ask for opinions and thoughts.

- c. Try to respect ideas even if they need to be gently corrected (Heb. 5:2).
 - d. Never mock or make a mentee feel embarrassed (Phil. 2:3).
6. **Stay on the topic—don't wander.**
- a. When participation is encouraged, it's easy to begin discussing things that don't apply to the lesson.
 - b. If this happens, guide the group back to the topic—remember you need to remain focused on the topics of the *WIN Discipleship Manual*.
 - c. If something being discussed seems important, try to talk with the concerned person after the lesson is over.
 - d. Be careful not to let one person dominate the conversation. Interrupt gently if you need to do so to be sure that everyone gets a chance to participate (Rom. 12:10).

Conclusion

Your commitment to the WIN-ners 3x3 Campaign is vital to the success of this ministry. Fulfilling this role is a sober, but joyful responsibility before the Lord. He will equip you with the gifts you need to be successful. Those whom God has called to this ministry He will certainly enable to fulfill His purposes.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the definition of “spiritual formation?”
2. How are you currently involved in spiritual formation, and how will your involvement in WIN make a difference?
3. Explain in your own words what “WIN-ners 3x3” means.
4. Why is reviewing material from a previous meeting important for learning?
5. What are some things you can do as a leader to help keep the WIN group “on topic” in your study time?

Prayer

Lord, I believe that you have called me to make disciples, and to become a WIN group leader. Help me now to have the knowledge, patience, sensitivity, and enthusiasm to be an effective mentor. Help us all to grow in wisdom as we dedicate ourselves to the task of discipleship. Amen.

Commitment

WIN-NERS 3x3 CAMPAIGN

To: the dedicated disciple of Christ who resolves to undertake dynamic spiritual formation with three other women, the following suggestions are offered:



1. Take time in prayer to seek God's guidance in choosing the three women whom you will mentor for deeper discipleship, so that they will also become empowered disciple-makers.
2. Pray for each of them every day throughout the week, for God to

3. prepare their hearts for meaningful discipleship.
4. Meet them individually so that you, with godly concern and holy boldness, may explain to them the necessity of discipleship.
5. Pray with each one and get their agreement to learn with you and two others from the *Discipleship Manual*.
6. Call all three together for a time of prayer and commitment for weekly discipleship in your WIN group.
7. Prayerfully complete the teaching from the *WIN Discipleship Manual* so that all three will also become dedicated disciples, and each will resolve to begin WIN discipleship groups with three others.

LORD, I AM CONVINCED...

1. That You died on the cross for my sins, and for the sins of my neighbors ("*While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.*" Rom. 5:8).
2. That You saved me when I turned to You in faith, and that You will also save my neighbors when they turn to You ("*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in.*" Rev. 3:20).
3. That because You saved me, I must be Your witness to bring my neighbors to You for salvation ("*I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit.*" John 15:16).
4. That I will be Your true disciple if I continue in Your Word ("*If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples.*" John 8:31).
5. That Your Great Commission for me is to make disciples ("*...go and make disciples of all nations...*" Matt. 28:19).
6. That You want me to undertake the responsibility of spiritual formation with three other women who in turn will become dedicated disciple-makers and begin

7. WIN groups with another three ("*Wherefore exhort one another, and build each other up.*" 1 Thess. 5:11).
8. That I must begin at once to pray and carry out both responsibilities of the Great Commission: to win the lost and to make disciples ("*The night cometh, when no man can work.*" John 9:4).
9. That I should solemnly make a covenant right now, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, that I will be a faithful WIN-ner, accountable to You and to this ministry. To this I set my hand as an act of intention.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The three women whom I want to mentor to be Christ's disciples are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Appendix A

Answers to Common Objections

1. ***"The Bible is just a collection of myths—it is not all true."***
 - a. The Bible has numerous fulfilled prophecies, spoken hundreds of years before the events happened (Luke 24:44).
 - b. The Bible has integrity through time and history, verified by other historians and archeological discoveries.
 - c. The Bible is unique in its structure – 66 books were written over 1,600 years, but it has one clear theme.
2. ***"Science is more reliable than religion."***
 - a. The Bible is scientifically accurate, containing facts which were not known by scientists until centuries later (ex. the water cycle in Ecclesiastes 1:7; round earth, expanding universe in Is. 40:22).
 - b. Scientific discoveries are still being made, some "accepted science" is later disproved (ex: the earth is round, not flat).
 - c. Science does not have answers to philosophical questions (i.e. "what is the meaning of life?").
 - d. Science does not prove there is a God, nor does it disprove His existence. Belief in God or belief in science –both are positions of faith.

3. ***"If God is good, why do people suffer?"***
- a. God allows man to make choices. If that is so, the freedom to choose to do evil must be allowed (Joshua 24:15).
 - b. Suffering is the result of human sin. It is not the order that God created (Rom. 5:12-21).
 - c. Suffering/sin reveals to us our need of salvation (Gal. 3:23-25).
 - d. One day God will restore the order He created—sin/suffering will not be allowed (Rev. 21:27; Is. 25:7-8).
 - e. See YouTube video "Is God Good?" (link on p. 59)
4. ***"There are too many hypocrites in church."***
- a. Church is a good place for sinners of all kinds; they need redemption (Mark 2:17).
 - b. Truth seekers must ask the right question: Not "are Christians who they say they are?" But, "Is Jesus who He said He is?" (John 14:6).
 - c. It is not the opinion or acceptance of any person that determines eternal destiny—it is God who decides (James 4:12; Matt. 7:21).
5. ***"Christians are too judgmental. They hate people when they are supposed to love."***
- a. God is the judge, and Christians believe they will be judged first (James 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:16-18).
 - b. Christians also believe that everyone will be judged by God for sin, and punished for it if there is no repentance (Rom. 2:11-12; Rom. 6:23).

- c. True Christians agree with what the Bible says about sin (John 14:15; John 15:10).
- d. A Christian demonstrates love by warning a person if they are actively sinning. That warning is sometimes mistaken for judgment (Ezekiel 3:18-21).
- e. So-called Christians who act hatefully toward sinners are not true disciples; Christians are commanded to love (Mark 12:31).

6. "I'm a good person."

- a. You won't be judged by your own standard—what you think (2 Cor. 5:10).
- b. Since God created the world, He gets to set the standard—and it is perfection (Matt. 5:48).
- c. The Bible says no one can be good enough to get to heaven (Rom. 3:10-12).
- d. If we can be good enough on our own, then Christ would not have needed to die (Gal. 2:21).
- e. In His mercy, knowing we could never be perfect, God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin (Rom. 5:6-10; 1 Cor. 15:21-22).

7. "All religions are basically the same."

- a. There are too many contradictions among religions for all to be true. (Ex: Buddhism "there is no personal god"; Hinduism "there are millions of gods"; Islam "Jesus was just a prophet.")
- b. Christianity is unique in that it is the only religion in which God is reaching out to man; in all other religions, man is trying to reach (or please) gods (Rev. 3:20).

- c. Christianity is unique in that salvation is accomplished by God; in other religions salvation is by works (Eph. 2:8-9).

Notes

Appendix B



Expanded Instructions for the Wordless Book

You can tell the message of salvation to anyone with your Bible and this wonderful little book! Allow the person to interact with you. Scripture references in parentheses are for your study. A few verses are quoted for use while witnessing. Begin your conversation by introducing yourself and finding out the person's name so you may call him by name throughout your presentation. Be sure to tell this story enthusiastically. It is the way of salvation for your listener!

The Story

Have you ever seen a book without words or pictures? (*Fan the pages showing colors.*) This book of colored pages tells a wonderful story from the Bible about the true and living God who made the world. I call my book a *Wordless Book*. Each color reminds me of part of the story. Would you like to hear it? (*Wait for a response.*)

Go to the GOLD page

(Experience has proven it is wise to begin with the gold page, stressing the love of God.)

The gold page reminds me of Heaven. Do you know what Heaven is? (*Wait for a response.*) Heaven is God's

home. The Bible tells us that in Heaven, the street of the city is pure, clear glass—like gold (Rev. 21:21). God tells us many other things about His home. No one is ever sick there. No one ever dies. There is no night there. Every person in Heaven will be perfectly happy—always (Rev. 21:4-23). The most wonderful thing about Heaven is that God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus, are there.

God made everything. He made you, too, and He loves you very much. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16). This means He loves each person—including you and me. Because God made you and loves you, He wants you to be part of His family and to be with Him in Heaven someday (John 14:2). What a special place Heaven is! It is perfect because God is perfect. But there is one thing that can never be in Heaven.

Go to the DARK page

(Use this page to stress the spiritual need of the listener. As you talk about sin, pray that the Holy Spirit will bring conviction.)

That one thing is sin. This dark page reminds me of sin. Because you and I are sinners we want to have our own way instead of God’s way. Wanting our own way is sin. Doing, or saying, or thinking bad things is sin. Sin is disobeying the rules God has given in His book, the Bible. Sin causes sadness in our world. Can you think of some things that are sin? *(Wait for a response.)* Do you know that you are a sinner? God’s Word says, “For all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). **All** means every one of us, including you and me. Sin separates you and me from God because He is perfectly right—without any sin at all. God cannot allow sin where He is.

God has said sin must be punished. The punishment for sin is death—to be separated from God forever

(Rom. 6:23). God knew there was nothing you could do to get rid of your sin. He knew you could not be good enough to please Him. But He loves you and wants you to be His child. So He made a way for you to be forgiven.

Go to the RED page

(Use this page to stress the way of salvation through the death of Christ.)

The red page shows the way. God loves you so much. He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth from Heaven. He was born as a tiny baby. He grew up and became a man. Jesus was different from any other person who lived on the earth. He never did even one wrong thing. He is perfect.

But one day wicked men put a crown of thorns on His head and nailed the Lord Jesus to a cross. The Bible says while He hung there, God put all our sins on Him (Isaiah 53:6). All your anger, all your lies and your meanness—all your sin was put on the Son of God.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, what came from His hands and His feet? (Blood.) The Bible says that without giving of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22). Jesus took your punishment of death for sin. He suffered so much. Then He cried with a loud voice, "It is finished." The Lord Jesus came to earth to take our punishment for sin. And He finished the work when He died on that cross. The Bible says, "Christ died for our sins ... and was buried" (1 Cor. 15:3). But after three days the most wonderful thing happened; God gave Him life again. He raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is a living Savior (1 Cor. 15:4). He wants to be your Savior—to save you from your sin.

(Ask for a decision and invite him/her to pray to receive Christ.)

Go to the CLEAN page

(Use this page to stress the listener's part—to believe on the Lord Jesus as his or her personal Savior.)

This page reminds me that you can be made clean from sin (Psalm 51:7). God tells us about it in the Bible. *(Let the person read the whole verse with you.)* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Yes, God loves you. God says if you believe in Jesus you will not perish—you will not be separated from God forever. He will forgive your sins and make you clean in the eyes of God. God says, "Whoever believes." We could put your name in the place of "whoever." If you believe in Jesus as Savior, He will give you everlasting life. That's the kind of life you need to live in Heaven with God.

If you believe on the Lord Jesus as your Savior, He will forgive your sin. And He will be with you always and give you power to obey God. You can tell Jesus today that you have sinned and that you believe He died for you. The Bible says that if you repent (that means turn away) from your sin, it will be wiped clean (Acts 3:19). It also says that if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved (Acts 16:31). Would you like to do that with me now? *(If the answer is yes, pray with the listener to receive Christ as his or her Savior.)*

Go to the GREEN page

(Stress spiritual growth on this page.)

The color green reminds me of things which are growing, like leaves, grass, flowers and trees. This page reminds me of the new life, the everlasting life, you have received from God. When you believe on the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin, you are like a newborn baby in God's family. God wants you to grow in a special way. The Bible

tells you to “grow in .. .the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).

As you learn more about Jesus from the Bible you will learn how to keep from sinning (Psalm 119:11). Ask Him each day to help you obey Him. When you do sin, tell God you have sinned. He will forgive you right away. The Bible says, “If we confess our sin, e is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Ask Him to help you not to do that wrong thing again.

(Lead the person in thanking God for His promise to help.)

1. Talk to God—Pray (1 Thess. 5:17). The Bible says to pray continually.
2. Listen to God—Learn God’s Word by reading and memorizing it (Psalm 119:11).
3. Talk for God—Witness or tell others—about Him (Mark 16:15).
4. Worship God—Go to Sunday school, church, and small groups (Heb. 10:25).

Before the person leaves,

1. Give him/her a tract or correspondence course.
2. Have him/her say a “thank you” prayer for what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for him or her.
3. Pray for the new believer, with him/her, and have him/her pray.
4. Request his/her name and address for follow-up.

[Wordless Book instructions courtesy of
Child Evangelism Fellowship.]

