

CHRISTIAN LIFE & WITNESS

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Christian Life and Witness was originally prepared by Charlie Riggs, director of Counseling and Follow-Up for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association from 1957 to 1989.

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PREFACE

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) has taught *Christian Life and Witness* all over the world in preparation for evangelistic outreaches. As a result, thousands of Christians have been renewed in their relationship with Jesus Christ and equipped to effectively share their faith with others both in daily life and as volunteers during the event.

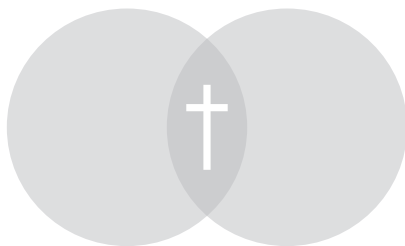
The Christian Life and Witness Course helps Christians reaffirm key Biblical principles that form a solid foundation for their faith. Using Scripture to answer common questions, these materials show how to build a victorious Christian life and share the abundance of that life with others.

Completion of the Christian Life and Witness Course and submission of an acceptable application qualifies people to serve as counselors* at a BGEA outreach. Many will have the joy of leading someone to Christ for the first time.

*The term “counselor” does not identify or designate a person as a licensed professional counselor or as someone offering psychological or medical diagnosis or treatment. Rather, “counselor” simply means a person who is prepared to pray and share their faith with others, purposed solely on leading them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Christian Life and Witness Course. Before you begin, it will be helpful to answer a few basic questions.

> Who is the Christian Life and Witness Course for?

It is for every Christian who wants to know Jesus Christ better and wants to share Him with others—and it's designed to encourage and strengthen you in doing both.

> How can I get the most from the course?

We realize that in a few short lessons it isn't possible to help every person become a mature, fully equipped worker. Therefore, the course objective is to give each participant a solid foundation for faith and some good, practical, basic principles upon which to build an effective Christian life and witness. Here are a few suggestions to make the learning experience more effective:

- Be prepared to take notes.
- Fill in the question and answer sections, in class or at home. Writing in the answers will help you remember more of what you learn.
- Think of how you might apply each lesson to your own life and then pass on the truths, principles, suggestions, or materials that you receive to other people.

LESSON ONE



THE **EFFECTIVE**
CHRISTIAN LIFE



Every Christian is responsible for living a life that glorifies God and points others to Him. But how can believers do that? Where do we start? What is involved in being used by God? Perhaps the best answer is found in the life of Philip, who introduced an Ethiopian official to Jesus Christ (see Acts 8:26–38).

1

GOD'S PRESENCE

First, Philip's life witnessed to Christ. He was chosen as a worker in the early church because of his character (Acts 6:3-5). God's presence in his life became the source for His character and a powerful witness to the world. Our lives should demonstrate that we know Him.

2

GOD'S SPIRIT

Second, the Holy Spirit was vitally involved in Philip's life and ministry—*"Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake this [man's] chariot'"* (Acts 8:29). The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, our Guide, and the One who makes our lives attractive (Galatians 5:22-23) and gives us the boldness and courage to witness. Our responsibility is to be yielded to all the wonderful resources He gives. When Philip was led to the Ethiopian official, the man had already been prepared by the Holy Spirit.

GOD'S WORD

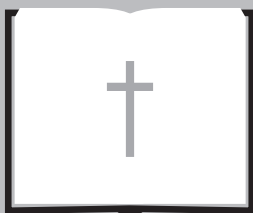
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Third, notice the important part Scripture itself plays in this account. The official was in the middle of reading Isaiah 53 and asked Philip to explain the passage. Philip took the chapter, which prophesies Jesus' crucifixion, and "*told him the Good News about Jesus*" (Acts 8:35, ESV).

4

GOD'S POWER

Fourth, there is another factor in this story—God's sovereignty. God saw to it that the official had a copy of Isaiah 53 and that Philip was there at just the right time to explain the passage. Not only does God work out details like these, He enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things.



Our responsibility is to place our faith in God and trust Him to use us. The Bible—from cover to cover—is a record of God working mightily in and through the lives of regular people like Philip.

How does God want to use you?

1

GOD'S PRESENCE

With God's presence in our lives—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—we will see evidence of this in many ways:

- _____,

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." —Galatians 5:16

- _____,

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." —Acts 1:8

- _____,

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." —Galatians 5:22-23

2

GOD'S SPIRIT

As Christians, we seek to allow God's Spirit to have full control. How do we do this?

- _____,

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

—Ephesians 5:18

- _____,

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." —1 John 1:9

- _____,

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

—Ephesians 5:15, 18

- _____,

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand." —Psalm 37:23-24

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

—Galatians 5:25

3

GOD'S WORD

To be effective in God's work, you must allow God's Word to change your life so that you become someone He can use, and to fill your mind so you will know what to say. Knowing His Word takes discipline to:

- _____,

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." —Romans 10:17

- _____,

"And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes." —Deuteronomy 17:19

- _____,

"My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

—Proverbs 2:1-6

● _____,

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ... Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

—Psalm 119:9, 11

● _____,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” —Joshua 1:8

4

GOD'S POWER

No one can be an effective witness unless Christ is at work in them. He gives you the power and ability to speak of His continuing work in you. It is God at work in us—and not our own power—that gives us the boldness to share Him with others.

● _____,

"Then said I: 'Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.' But the Lord said to me: 'Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,' says the Lord. Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.'"

—Jeremiah 1:6-9

● _____,

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." —Philippians 2:13

● _____,

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

—Ephesians 5:18

● _____,

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” —Ephesians 6:17

● _____,

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

—Hebrews 11:6

The Spirit-Filled Life

When Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives, He provides the direction, wisdom, strength, and the peace and joy. When we faithfully meet Him in Bible study and prayer, He rearranges our priorities and helps us live a balanced life.

Prayer

Matthew 7:7

Fellowship
Hebrews 10:24-25

Jesus Christ
Gal. 2:20

Witness
Matthew 4:19

Word

2 Timothy 3:15-17



"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." —Galatians 2:20

- ---

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
—Matthew 7:7

- ---

"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" —Matthew 4:19

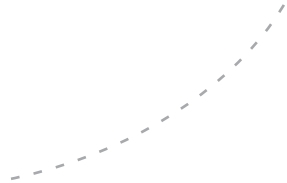
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"From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." —2 Timothy 3:15-17

- ---

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." —Hebrews 10:24-25

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." —Romans 12:2

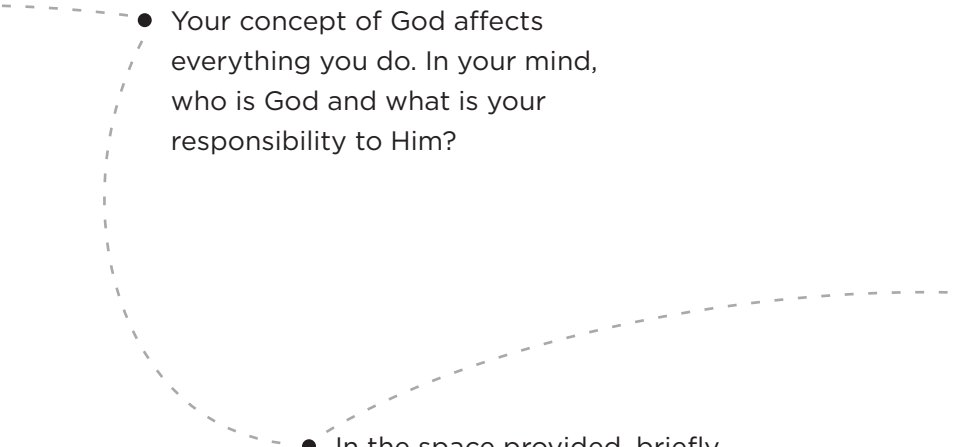




REFLECTION AND **APPLICATION**

Trusting God

The word *confidence* is taken from two words meaning “with faith.” In other words, we put our confidence in God when we trust Him to meet our needs and use us in His service. It’s thrilling to see how God uses people—even though we’re inadequate—for His purposes!

- 
- Your concept of God affects everything you do. In your mind, who is God and what is your responsibility to Him?

- In the space provided, briefly summarize the key thought in the following verses:

- Isaiah 41:10

- 1 Corinthians 1:26–29

› Philippians 4:13

- Review “3—God’s Word” on pages 16–17. What ways can you apply these verses?
- Rewrite Joshua 1:8 in your own words.

- Review “4—God’s Power” on pages 18–19 and answer the following questions:
 - How can you experience more of God’s power?

- What is the secret of walking in and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Why is it so important to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit?

The Victorious Christian Life

God's Word clearly speaks of a plan and purpose for our lives. To walk consistently along God's pathway to victorious living takes dedication and surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord of our daily lives.

- Why do some believers grow in Christ to become mature, well-balanced, fruitful Christians, while others spend much of their lives defeated, frustrated, and unproductive?

- Jesus told His followers that in this life they would have trouble (John 16:33).
What is your attitude toward adversity?

- Review Galatians 5:16, 22-23. Based on this text, what can we experience when walking God's pathway?

› 1 John 1:9

› Proverbs 28:13

› Psalm 32:5

Love in Action

Love, the fruit of the Spirit, is clearly defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. The effectiveness of our witness for Christ will be greatly determined by our love for others.

- List the different aspects of love found in the passage above.

- Meditate on the various aspects of love and list the areas of your life where you are weak or fall short in your relationships with others.

- Write down what you can do to show more love to others.

Memorize verses 1 and 2 at the back of the book.

LESSON TWO



THE **CHRISTIAN**
WITNESS



So far, we've stressed personal preparation for a close walk with God. Let's review some questions.

Do you have faith in the power and sovereignty of God?

Do you believe that the Holy Spirit will guide you, making you courageous, helping you in your work, and moving in the lives of those you speak to?

Do you believe that *“the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12)?

Do you believe that *“the gospel of Christ ... is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16)—in other words, *“the battle is not yours, but God’s”* (2 Chronicles 20:15)?

If you can respond positively to those questions, then witnessing can be relatively easy. Here are some things to keep in mind.

1

First, remember your own life is a great part of your witness. You don't need to be perfect or mature before God can use you, but our witness is more effective when we obey the leading of the Holy Spirit and our lives are pleasing to Him.

2

Second, pray for open doors to share the message of Christ. We need to become intentional in sharing the Good News and praying daily for an opening to share Jesus is a good place to start.

3

Third, remember that you aren't presenting a formula but a person, Jesus Christ. As you share Him, use Scripture thoughtfully and be sensitive to the needs of the individual person you're talking with.

4

Fourth, stress the love of God rather than the fact that we're sinners. Although we have to admit our sinfulness before we see our need for a Savior, the conversation doesn't have to start there.

5

Fifth, keep it simple. Don't make the mistake of thinking you need to offer an intellectual or philosophical argument in order to impress people. The Apostle Paul didn't let people get him off track—he stuck with the simplicity of the Gospel and saw results (1 Corinthians 1:22-24; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

6

Finally, earn the right to be heard by sincerely listening to others. Jesus was a friend of sinners and often sat with them. Simply being a good listener can open doors.

The simplest answer to people seeking the ultimate truth is, *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’”* (John 14:6).

For those who are trying to make it by works or earn God’s favor through their own efforts, share this verse: *“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Praying, Listening, Sharing

For many believers, sharing the Gospel (the Good News) of Jesus Christ can be a rather intimidating experience. According to studies, only 1 percent of believers claim to have the gift of evangelism. Where does that leave the 99 percent who do not have the gift? Some think that because they don't have the gift, they are relieved of the responsibility of sharing Christ with others. Every believer's mission in life should be to actively share Christ with those people God places in his or her life.

Jesus gave us His personal mission statement:

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." —Luke 19:10

Jesus is asking each of us to join Him in the rescuing of the lost and spiritually dying people we know.

The priority of Paul's life was to share the Gospel with everyone he could. Every believer is appointed as an ambassador of Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:20). As Christ's representative, our

mission is to share the Gospel with a needy world. Paul requested prayer for his efforts in sharing the Gospel. This request for prayer expresses the challenges every believer faces in sharing the message of hope:

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” —Colossians 4:3–6, ESV



As we pray, we should focus on doors that are open.

Pray for Open Doors to Share the Message of Christ.

Doors are often revealed as we are sensitive to the needs of others around us. Each day we should pray the “3-open prayer”:

- “Lord, open a _____.”

A door is a **natural opportunity** to bring up your relationship with Jesus. Often that will be something going on in your life, their life, or the world.

- “Lord, open their _____.”

Ask God to prepare their heart so they can understand what He has asked you to share with them.

- “Lord, open my _____.”

Trust God to give you the courage, the words, and the approach.

If you consistently pray this kind of prayer for someone close to you, **God will answer it!**

Listen to People: Open Doors often Come Through Needs.

People often do not see their need for Christ. They don't understand that He is the answer to the emptiness they feel. They think their real need is something they can identify, such as:

- A. Broken and disappointing relationships;
- B. Guilt over the wrong things they've done;
- C. Loneliness;
- D. Stress;
- E. Life without meaning;
- F. Inability to overcome their dark side;
- G. Pain of the present or the past.

We know that a relationship with Jesus is the answer to the deepest needs that people have. Our greatest need is to find forgiveness by receiving Christ as Lord and Savior, but many today don't know they need Christ or forgiveness of sin. They think their need may be to

restore a troubled marriage, to get rid of loneliness, or to find meaning in life. These needs are symptoms of a greater problem—a missing relationship with God. There needs to be a linking from the need the person is feeling because of sin to the real problem, and to the solution found only in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We begin with the _____ they can see (loneliness, guilt, disappointing relationships) ... then move to the _____ they can't see (sin) ... and finally to the _____ Jesus brought through the cross. By listening as a friend, we see their needs, identify with their problems, and know how to share the difference Jesus can make where they are. Then we can share about the ultimate solution to our broken relationship with God.

_____ to Jesus and the Good News

God created us to have a relationship with Him. When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God and run their own lives, sin came into the world. Now each person is born without the relationship God made us to have with Him. Because of this missing relationship with God, we experience all sorts of symptoms in our life. These symptoms are a constant reminder that something—actually **Someone**—is missing. Augustine said: “You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” The believer has the opportunity to bridge from the symptom the lost friend is feeling, to the real problem of sin, and on to the solution—a relationship with Jesus through His death on the cross. The following questions help us determine how to best share Christ with our friend:

- A. What need is this person feeling?
- B. What difference does Jesus make with that need?
- C. How can I introduce the difference Jesus makes?
- D. What faith story do I have that shows what Jesus can do with this need?

BASIC WITNESSING METHODS

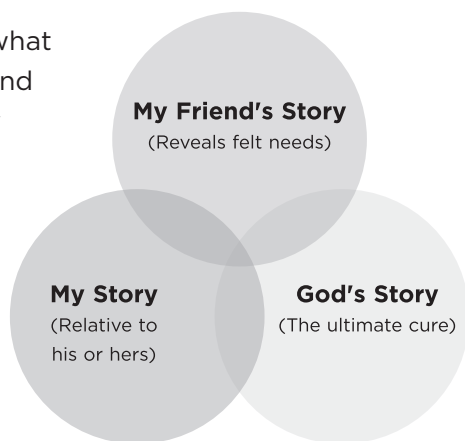
Three Stories

Ultimately, you will want to draw from these stories that will help you communicate Christ to your friend:

_____ **STORY**—As you share, draw from their story, the felt needs, and the “open doors” that we’ve been discussing.

_____ **STORY**—Your personal “faith story” is a powerful tool. Nobody can discount how Jesus has transformed your life.

_____ **STORY**—Tell what Jesus did for you and me on the cross by paying the death penalty that we deserve. Explain how **His** story changed **your** story—and can change **their** story.



How To Share The Message (L-I-S-T-E-N)

- - - - - **L**isten to his or her story and understand the need.
- - - - - **I**dentify the difference Jesus can make with his or her need.
- - - - - **S**hare your story and the difference Jesus made in your life.
- - - - - **T**ake your friend to the cross and the empty tomb.
- - - - - **E**ncourage him or her to receive Christ.
- - - - - **N**urture your friend in this new relationship with Jesus.

Outline for Your Faith Story

1. Your life before Christ (related to your friend's need):

2. How you began your relationship with Christ:

- How did you hear about Jesus?
- What did you hear about Jesus?

- How did you respond to Jesus?

3. Your life after beginning your relationship with Christ (the difference He made):

Answer this key question: What difference does Jesus make in your life ... as a teen? a friend? a worker? in your dark times? in your hard times? in your stressful times? in your lonely times?

Steps to Peace With God

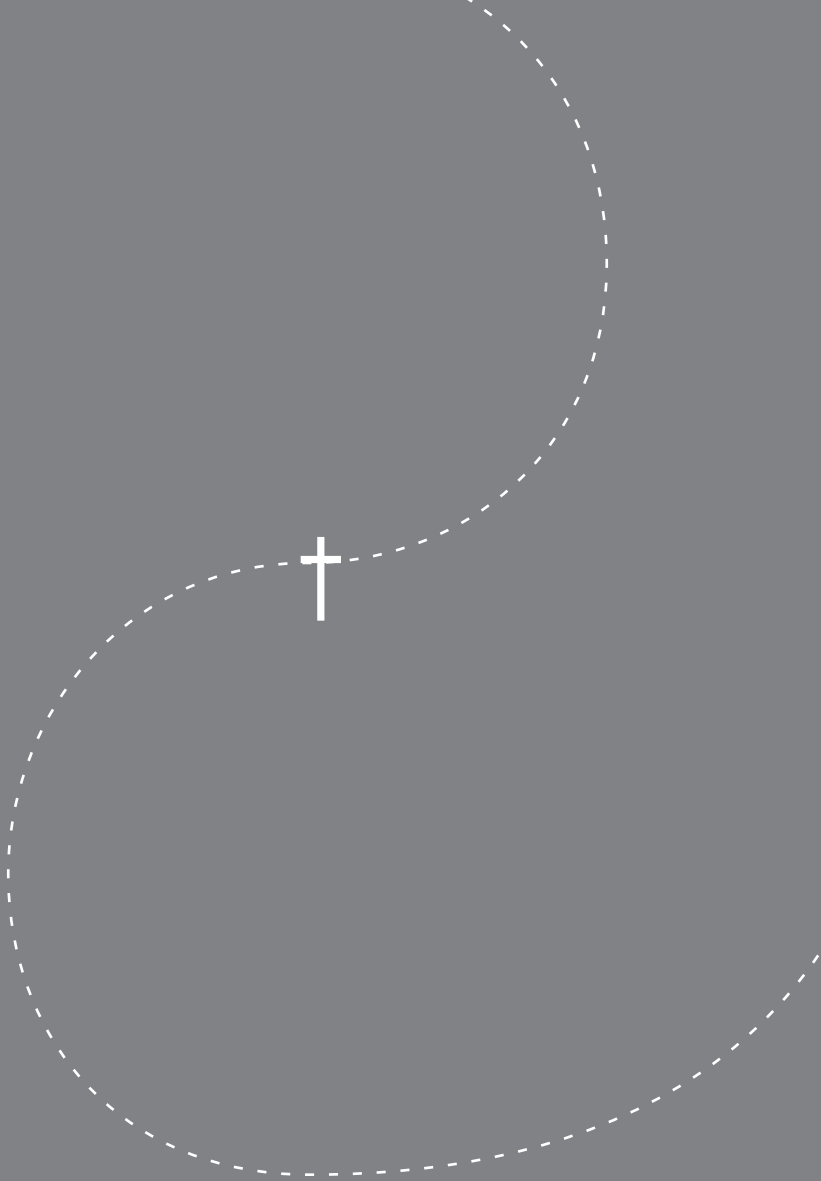
You can easily share your faith in Christ using “Steps to Peace With God,” a tract that briefly outlines the Gospel. Tracts like this are effective because the content is provided for us, so they keep us on track—in other words, they help us efficiently share our faith without rambling. And the message lasts, because we can leave a printed copy of what we’ve just shared with the individual.

“Steps to Peace With God” was developed as a simple, straightforward approach to illustrate the key concepts of:

- God’s Purpose
- Our Problem
- God’s Remedy
- Our Response

You can use the “Bridge to Life” to share these concepts.





Bridge to Life

SHARE FACTS

INVITE

PRAY

CONFIRM

God's Purpose:

Our Problem:

God's Remedy:

Our Response:

The form consists of two identical, side-by-side rectangular boxes. Each box is defined by a horizontal line at the top and a vertical line on the left side, leaving the right and bottom sides open. These lines serve as guides for writing the responses to the prompts above.

REMEMBER

- Share the facts of the Gospel
- Illustrate it from your own experience
- Give opportunity for questions and discussion
- Invite a response and say a prayer
- Give assurance when necessary

REFLECTION AND **APPLICATION**

The Christian's Witness

Review the “Steps to Peace With God” booklet and answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
- 2. What power does the Gospel possess? Romans 1:16**
- 3. What is our basic Scriptural problem? Why do we need salvation? Romans 3:23; 6:23**

- 4. According to Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 2:8-9, what was God's remedy for our problem? What did Jesus Christ do for sinners?**

- 5. How must we respond? How does a person become a Christian—a child of God? Acts 3:19; John 1:12**

- 6. According to John 3:1-16, what does it mean to be “born again”?**

- 7. In His witness to the woman of Samaria and to Nicodemus, Jesus varied His approach. How was it different? John 3:1-8; John 4:1-15**

Bring a Friend

The first chapter of John's gospel recounts how Andrew learned who Jesus was—and then immediately found his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to meet the Son of God. Today, you can do the same by praying for family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who don't know Jesus and then sharing His Gospel with them.

“One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.” —John 1:40–42

1 _____ **ON THE URGENCY**—The first step is to focus on those around us who don't know Jesus Christ. He is their only hope.

2 _____ **FOR YOUR FRIENDS**—Write down the names of your friends who need Christ and pray for them every day with urgency.

3 _____ **FOR CHRIST**—Your friends are watching you. They know you are a Christian. It is important that you live for Christ so they can see the difference He is making in your life. This will validate the words you share about what He has done for you. Look for ways to spend time with them and show that you care for them.

4 _____ **YOUR FRIENDS**—The Gospel will be presented in a clear way at the upcoming event. This is an incredible opportunity to see your friends respond and take hold of Jesus Christ as their only hope of rescue. Don't just invite them, bring them!

5 **HELP THEM** _____—Those who respond to Christ or show interest in His message of hope need your encouragement. Continue to pray for those who respond to the Gospel and those who do not.

Through the personal ministry of the “Bring a Friend” initiative and the faithful presentation of the Gospel, many people will find new life in Christ.

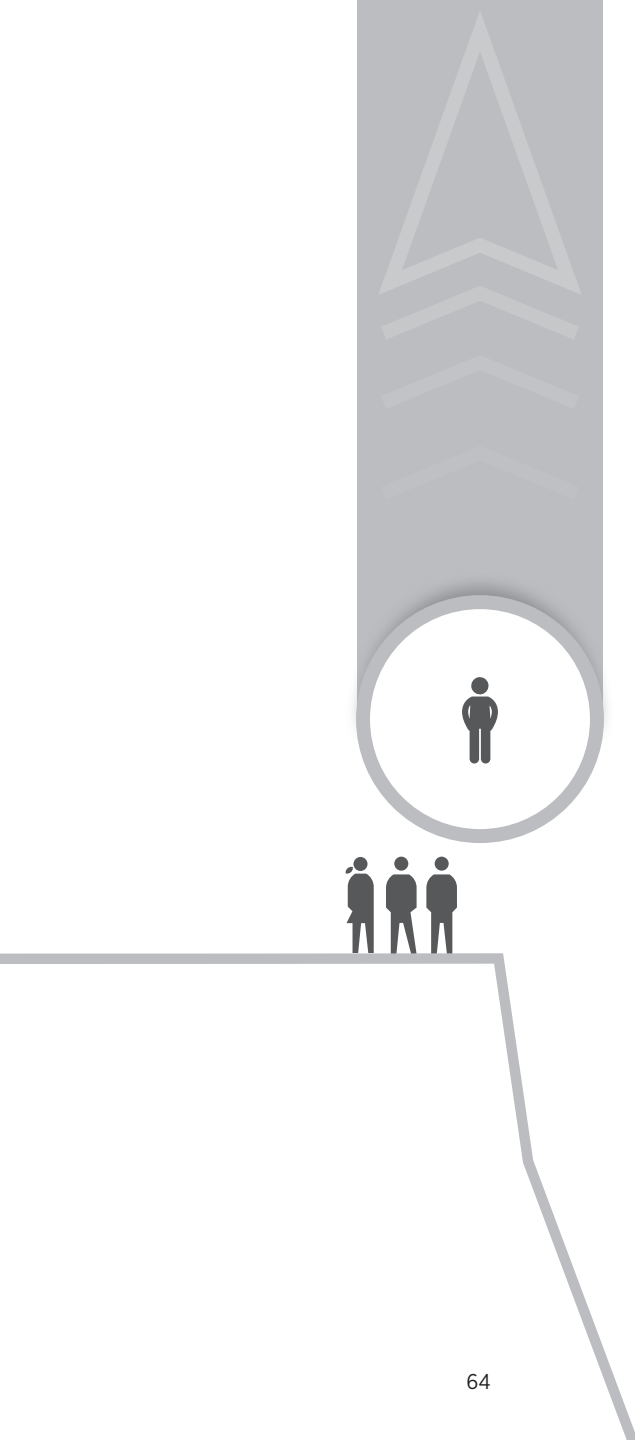
Memorize verses 3 and 4 at the back of the book.

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LESSON THREE



FOLLOW-UP



Before we realize it, the opportunity to share the Gospel and pray with new believers will be upon us. We pray that through the faithful presentation of the Gospel, countless people will find new life in Jesus Christ—and we must consider what will happen to these men and women afterward. The Parable of the Sower in Mark 4 indicates that there will be some disappointing results but we can also expect lasting commitments.

In other words, the decisions these people make are just the beginning. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as you pray and care for these new believers. God can use you as He equips them to be effective, mature Christians.

Follow-up has been defined as the process of giving continued attention to a new Christian until he or she is integrated into the church, discovers a place of service, develops his or her potential for Jesus, and helps build Christ's church.



The Apostle Paul can be considered our pacesetter—his strategies were effective in his time and still work today.

STRATEGY 1: Paul _____

Though it was very costly in every way—emotionally, financially, in time, in travel, in study, in writing, in criticism from others—Paul was delighted to give it all to see men and women come to faith in Christ and go on with Him. The greatest obstacle to evangelism is often our unwillingness to give ourselves and become involved with other people.

“Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” —1 Thessalonians 2:6–8

STRATEGY 2: Paul _____

His prayer was earnest and persistent. Again and again in Paul's writing, he tells the new believers how frequently he prayed. See also 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2:13.

"We pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith." —1 Thessalonians 3:10, ESV

STRATEGY 3: Paul _____

When he couldn't do all he wanted to personally, he sent others he had trained to strengthen and encourage new believers.

"[We] sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith."
—1 Thessalonians 3:2

STRATEGY 4: Paul _____

All of Paul's writings in the New Testament are in the form of "follow-up" letters—answering questions, encouraging, instructing, correcting.

"For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things."

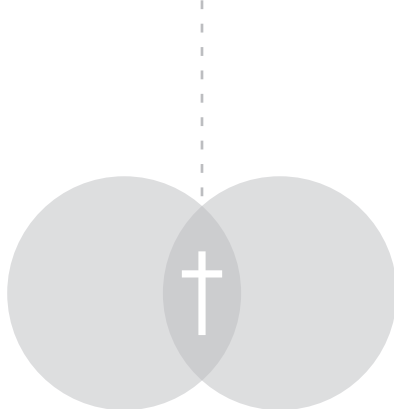
—2 Corinthians 2:9

STRATEGY 5: Paul _____

When he wrote to the Thessalonians, Paul asked them to pray with him that he would have opportunity to return. Frequently on his missionary journeys, Paul stopped not only to preach the Gospel to those who had never heard but also to teach and encourage new Christians.

Paul's primary concern overall was the growth and spiritual development of new Christians. His goal was their maturity.

"Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.'" —Acts 15:36



The precedent is clear—new Christians need care. That care should come from a fellow believer, preferably the one who shared Christ with him or her in the first place. The Holy Spirit ministers to new Christians, and the Bible provides food for growth, but it's vital that a believer is available to encourage good devotional habits and help provide for regular church attendance where the new Christian will be nurtured.

NEEDS OF A **NEW** CHRISTIAN



_____, 1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

Living in Christ, based on the gospel of John, is designed for new believers. Those who have recently committed or recommitted their lives to Christ can read it on their own, but it's even better if they can first look through the book alongside a mature Christian. Take time to encourage the new believer by showing him or her how to use *Living in Christ*, and be prepared to answer questions.



_____, 1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

The new believer will find that he or she has a new enemy. The evil one will seek to bring doubt and discouragement and prevent them from experiencing all that this new life in Christ offers. Therefore, it is important that older believers encourage the new believer with their friendship, prayers, sharing the Word of God, and fellowship. You play an important role in helping them stand firm when you take time to walk them through the second and third lessons in *Living in Christ* (“Growing in Christ” and “Obeying Christ”).



_____, **Colossians 2:6-7**

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

One of the most important parts of discipling a new Christian is helping him or her learn to tell others about Christ. “Witnessing for Christ”—the fourth section in *Living in Christ*—guides new believers through witnessing and clearly explains how to help others understand the Gospel, whether with tracts or by sharing their personal testimonies.

Keys to Effective Follow-Up

Consider the following questions and then read the provided verses.

What does God want _____?

Ability

or

Availability?

- Isaiah 6:8
- Acts 9:6

Who is in _____ of your life?

Christ

or

Self?

- Philippians 1:21
- Philippians 2:21

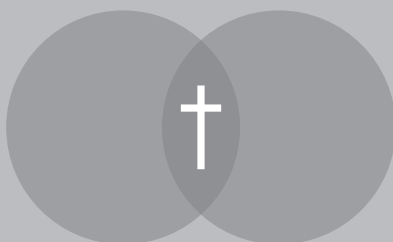
What Should You Do with _____ _____?

Multiply, Matthew 28:19

Offer your time and life to others,
Mark 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:2

Start with one, 1 Samuel 1:27

Team up, Colossians 1:28



REFLECTION AND **APPLICATION**

Follow-Up

- The Apostle Paul saw fruitful ministry in Thessalonica. Reference 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 and briefly summarize what took place.

- What was the secret to the growth of the church there?

- Why is follow-up so important?

Practical Principles in Follow-Up

Jesus Christ, our master Teacher, introduced a principle we can all practice. Although His ministry was largely a public one, He also set aside time to spend with just a few people—*“He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach”* (Mark 3:14). Throughout the gospels, there are accounts of Jesus and the 12 disciples, or some of the 12, meeting by themselves. Jesus used this time to share His life with them and to challenge them with the preaching of His Word.

Closely related to this principle is another—investing your life in another person. That was the challenge Paul left to Timothy: “*The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2). In other words, invest in others by passing on what you’ve learned.

- Briefly think through and list the principles that were used by Jesus and Paul.
- Using the multiplication principle on page 75, explain how you can maximize your impact for Christ.

You cannot take the place of a pastor, but with the enabling of the Holy Spirit and prayer, and through faithful, consistent efforts, you can help individuals grow spiritually and become involved in church. Whenever possible, take the opportunity to invite the new believer in your life to Bible studies, conferences, church services, or get-togethers with fellow Christians. Consider teaching a class or leading a small group to share your life with others and invest in them.

- How can you be part of feeding, protecting, and training new believers? Think of three ways you plan to help.

Don't forget to memorize verses 5 and 6 at the back of the book.

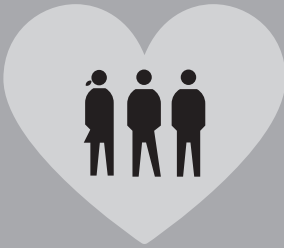
Congratulations on completing the *Christian Life and Witness* training. We are grateful for you and your partnership, and we pray that God will use this training as He makes “*you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever*” (Hebrews 13:21). May the Lord bless your work for His kingdom!

BRIDGE TO LIFE

1

God's Purpose: Peace and Life

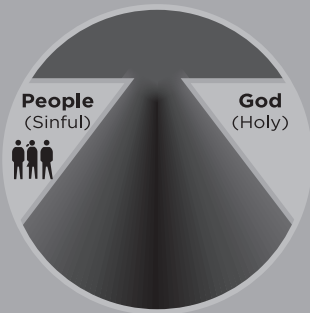
(John 3:16)



2

Our Problem: Sin Separates Us

(Romans 3:23; 6:23)



Separation from God

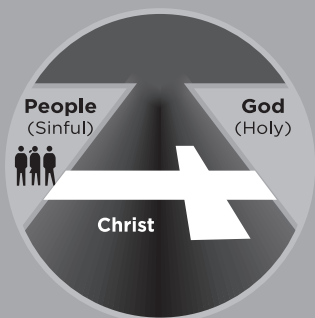


All our attempts
cannot reach God

3

God's Remedy: The Cross

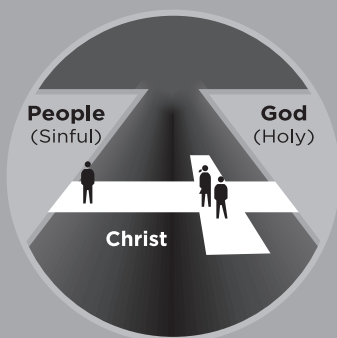
(Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9)



4

Our Response: Receive Christ

(Revelation 3:20; John 1:12)



**Take time at home to prepare
for the outreach:**

- Complete and review the questions found in this booklet.
- Memorize important verses. Read more about memorization in the next section.
- Practice using “Steps to Peace With God.”

ANSWERS

Lesson 1: The Effective Christian Life

- (Pg. 14) God's Presence
 - Victory
 - Power
 - Love

- (Pg. 15) God's Spirit
 - Surrender daily
 - Confess daily
 - Obey daily
 - Practice daily

- (Pg. 16-17) God's Word
 - Hear
 - Read
 - Study
 - Memorize
 - Meditate

- (Pg. 18–19) God's Power
 - Sovereignty
 - Life
 - Holy Spirit
 - Scriptures
 - Faith

- (Pg. 22–23) The Spirit-Filled Life
 - Jesus
 - Prayer
 - Witness
 - Word
 - Fellowship

Lesson 2: The Christian Witness

- (Pg. 39)
 - Your Life

- (Pg. 40)
 - Prayer
 - Relationship

- (Pg. 41)
 - › God's Love
 - › Simplicity
- (Pg. 42)
 - › Friendship
- (Pg. 46)
 - › Door
 - › Heart
 - › Mouth
- (Pg. 48)
 - › Symptom
 - › Disease
 - › Cure
- (Pg. 49)
 - › Bridge
- (Pg. 50) Three Stories
 - › Their
 - › Your
 - › His

- (Pg. 56) Bridge to Life
 - Share Facts, Romans 1:16
 - Invite, John 1:12
 - Pray, Romans 10:13
 - Confirm, 1 John 5:11-12

 - God's Purpose: Peace and Life
 - Our Problem: Sin Separates Us
 - God's Remedy: The Cross
 - Our Response: Receive Christ

- (Pg. 61) Bring a Friend
 - Focus
 - Pray
 - Live
 - Bring
 - Grow

Lesson 3: Follow Up

- (Pg. 67) STRATEGY 1: Paul **gave himself**
- (Pg. 68) STRATEGY 2: Paul **prayed for them**
- (Pg. 68) STRATEGY 3: Paul **sent others**
- (Pg. 69) STRATEGY 4: Paul **wrote letters**
- (Pg. 69) STRATEGY 5: Paul **returned personally**
- (Pg. 71) **Feeding**, 1 Peter 2:2
- (Pg. 72) **Protecting**, 1 Peter 5:8
- (Pg. 73) **Training**, Colossians 2:6-7
- (Pg. 74) What does God want **from my life**?
- (Pg. 74) Who is in **control** of your life?
- (Pg. 75) What should you do with **your life**?

MEMORIZING **SCRIPTURE**

1. Repeat the verse in this order: the topic, the reference, the verse itself, and then the reference again. The reference is often more difficult to remember than the verse, so it's important to repeat it twice. The reference is like a handle on a suitcase, enabling you to lift a complete portion from the Bible whenever needed.
2. The real secret of Scripture memory is review, review, review—use it or lose it.
3. Quote the verse aloud and pray over it, asking God to make the meaning clear and applicable to you. Memorize one phrase at a time, adding phrase by phrase until the entire passage—with reference—is committed to memory.

WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

1. To follow the example of Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)—When tempted, He replied “It is written,” and quoted from the book of Deuteronomy.
2. To control the thought life—*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word. ... I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”*
(Psalm 119:9, 11, ESV)
3. To be equipped for service—*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*
(2 Timothy 3:16–17, ESV)

See “Memorizing Scripture” on page 126.

IMPORTANT VERSES FOR **WITNESSING**

5

CHRIST AT THE DOOR

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Revelation 3:20, NKJV

6

WE MUST RECEIVE HIM

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

John 1:12, NKJV

3

CHRIST PAID THE PENALTY

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8, NKJV

4

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9, NKJV

1

MAN IS SINFUL

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23, NKJV

2

SIN HAS A PENALTY

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23, NKJV



6

WE MUST RECEIVE HIM

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:12, ESV

5

CHRIST AT THE DOOR

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

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GRAHAM**
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Always Good News.