



Winning Friends for Christ

Prayer Power



Opening Prayer

Key Points From Last Week - *Plan Ahead*

All people need faith in Jesus Christ to be saved. What is God's plan to get the news to everyone?

John 20:21

Do we need to be prepared with sermons to spout off when we recognize opportunities?

Acts 1:8a

How large is the harvest field? What help do we have in this endeavor?

Matthew 28:19-20a

How are we to systematically make disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8

What is our world? Where is our Jerusalem?

Luke 5:27-32

How should we consider the relationships we have with unchurched people?

Esther 4:14b

How do we respond to our calling as God's way for our friends to hear His saving message?

Acts 4:20

Gallup Poll of US population:

12% actively involved; 28% just members; 44% dechurched; 16% unchurched

Jerusalem - Family and close friends

Judea - Regular acquaintances

Samaria - Under the rug

Ends of the Earth - Within your heart

Buyer's Remorse

Have you committed yourself to Win Friends for Christ? If so, have you been wondering:

What have I done?

Why have I agreed to do this?

How can I do this?

Can I back out?

You may have a _____.

Have you thought up any excuses like:

I'm too busy.

I don't know enough about religion.

No one would listen to me.

I'm not a good talker.

I don't know who to choose.

I hate to get involved.

Someone else could do it better.

I wouldn't know what to say.

I'll think about it now and do it later.

Maybe I should go to a different class.

If you have had any of these feelings, good. You are taking this seriously.

You are preparing by _____.

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Common Reluctance

Has anyone else ever been as unresponsive to the importance of the gospel as you may feel?

Mark 16:9-14

Did Jesus decide that He needed to find someone better for His Great Commission?

Mark 16:15-16

Did the disciples take their calling more seriously than we have?

John 21:3, 12, 15

Did the disciples ever take their calling seriously?

Mark 16:20

Paul's Confidence

Who gives us one of the best examples of seriously and boldly sharing the gospel of Christ?

Acts 28:30-31

Why did he do this?

Acts 22:14-15

Surely it was easy for Paul. He was a top orator and full of self-confidence. Right?

Ephesians 3:7-9

How did Paul look for God's power to enable him to fulfill his calling to be a witness?

Ephesians 6:18-20

Did Paul count on a yearly, monthly, weekly or daily prayer to receive this power?

Ephesians 6:18

Did Paul rely on his own prayer life to call on God's power?

Ephesians 6:19a

Flap Those Lips

WHEN did Paul feel he needed God's power and help that comes through prayer?

Ephesians 6:19b

How did Paul, and how can we, get help opening his mouth?

Psalms 51:15

Let It Out

HOW did Paul look for God's power whenever he opened his mouth?

Ephesians 6:19c

Can you be prepared with the right words for every opportunity you may have to witness?

A police car brings your neighbor's son home in the middle of the night.

Your co-worker's medical tests show a suspicious shadow on her lung.

Your barber asks, "Just what goes on in that church of yours, anyway?"

How do you usually respond to situations like this?

Looking back, do you ever think of better ways you could have responded?

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Be Careful What You Let Out

Mark made a thoughtless comment when he read an article about AIDS to his colleague, Fred, in the lunchroom, "Those people get what they deserve." Later he found out that Fred's brother had died of an AIDS-related illness.

Mark was tempted to let the matter rest and chalk it up to experience, but later he saw Fred sitting alone and joined him.

"I'm sorry for the remark I made the other day," he began. "I never meant to hurt you; it was really insensitive of me. You must miss him a lot."

Fred began to talk about his brother and the pain his illness and death had caused his family. God used Mark's initial blunder to open the door to further intimacy. Mark's acknowledgement of his own fault allowed Fred to speak of his own mixed feelings and fears.

Mark became a trusted confidante who later had earned the right to speak about God's unconditional love for Fred and his family.

Have you found yourself guilty of blunders like this?

Have you experienced God opening doors as you later own up to your blunders?

What are some examples we have of blunders by Jesus' original called witnesses?

Mark 10:13-14

Mark 14:29-30

Luke 9:54-55

John 11:21-23

God's plan prevailed despite the disciples' blunders. What should we remember in our blunders?

Genesis 50:20

What is the only way we can be prepared with the right words at the right time?

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

No Fear

HOW did Paul want to be able to respond to the opportunities God gave him to witness?

Ephesians 6:19d

We hesitate because we are afraid how others will respond to our witness. Was this Paul's fear?

2 Corinthians 11:23b-28

How can prayer help conquer our fears?

Philippians 4:6-7

Don't Be Mysterious With The Mystery

WHAT would God's power help Paul witness about?

Ephesians 6:19e

What is this mystery of the gospel?

Ephesians 3:4-6

If this great news was kept a mystery for many years, how are people to learn of it now?

Ephesians 3:8-9

What does this mean about the words we choose when we share the gospel with others?

Matthew 11:25

Think of the friend you chose in Lesson 1. Would they really understand these words?

Justification

Sanctification

Redemption

Salvation

Sin

Grace

Faith

Resurrection

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Don't Be Mysterious With The Mystery

WHO did Paul consider himself to be in his witnessing?

Ephesians 6:20a

What is an ambassador?

Funk & Wagnalls

As God's ambassadors, are we to give our opinions, ideas or feelings in our witness?

2 Corinthians 5:20a

What to Pray For

Paul's request for prayers included a lot. What was his main desire for the prayers?

Ephesians 6:20b

Besides praying for God's help in witnessing, for what else should we pray?

1 Timothy 2:1-2

How will God respond as we pray for those around us who need to hear God's saving message?

1 Timothy 2:3/4

Another View on Prayer

What does Paul tell the Christians in Colossae is the first step to reaching out?

Colossians 4:2a

As we communicate with God, we will see His opportunities to witness. How do we respond?

Colossians 4:2b

What To Pray For

Are we to pray only for opportunities for ourselves?

Colossians 4:3a

What are we to ask God to do?

Colossians 4:3b

What else should we pray for besides opportunities to witness?

Colossians 4:3c

How can prayer further help us as we respond to opportunities to witness?

Colossians 4:4

What practical pointers did Paul give to help us become effective witnesses?

Colossians 4:5a

Colossians 4:5b

Colossians 4:6a

Colossians 4:6b

Homework

Read Chapter 2 and answer the questions at the end of it