



Winning Friends for Christ

Person to Person



Opening Prayer

Key Points From First 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 = He sent US to spread the good news - He has NO OTHER PLAN

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

Acts 1:8a = No, just be witnesses - Give honest testimony of what we know to be true

How are we to systematically make disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8 = Trust in Spirit's power; Work from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends

Where is our Jerusalem?

John 1:35-36, 41, 45 = Where we live. People around us - family, friends, coworkers

Key Points From Last Week - *Prayer Power*

Paul boldly shared the gospel of Christ. Was he just a natural orator and self-confident person?

Ephesians 3:7-8 = No, he felt he was the least of all, Relied on God's power

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

Ephesians 6:19a = He prayed and he counted on others to pray for him also

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

Ephesians 6:19b = WHENEVER I open my mouth - he still needed to open his mouth

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

Ephesians 6:19c = For words to be GIVEN to him - What to say and what NOT to say

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

Ephesians 6:19d = Fearlessly - God sends His peace that passes all understanding

WHAT would God's power help Paul witness about? = Don't make the mystery mysterious

Ephesians 6:19e = The MYSTERY of the gospel - We are to make the mystery plain

WHO did Paul consider himself to be in his witnessing? = We give His message

Ephesians 6:20a = God's AMBASSADOR - His personal representative / messenger

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

Ephesians 6:20b = That he would witness without fear - God would make it effective

Person to Person

People don't care what you believe if they don't _____ that you _____ = believe, care

Enhance your relationship with another so that they know that you _____ = care

Allows you, as a _____, to share _____ = true friend, faith in Jesus
the most important aspect of your life - _____

Don't try to _____ = act like a friend

_____ = Be a friend - Cultivate a genuine relationship

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A True Friend

How does being a friend show someone that you care? Or, does it help you look like you care?

Proverbs 17:17 = A friend loves at all times - True love & care, not just show

How did Jesus summarize God's moral laws in two "easy" commands? = Be a loving friend

Luke 10:27 = Love the Lord your God... and Love your neighbor as yourself

What must we share with another before we can share our faith and the hope God has given us?

1 Corinthians 13:13 = Love

How did Jesus illustrate that friendship without love and care is no friendship at all?

Luke 10:29-37 = The parable of the Good Samaritan

Scenario 1

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves who robbed him of all that he had and left him lying by the side of the road. Before long a member of the church came by and saw the man lying there.

Chuck: Hello there! I'm Charlie and I'm a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Fred (*injured man*): Mmmmmm. (*Groans*)

Chuck: Speak up, man. God helps those who help themselves, you know. You look very ... dirty. If you'd clean up a bit you could come to my church. We have a parish nurse program that could be of some real help. How does that sound?

Fred: Well, I could use some help all right, but I don't think I could ...

Chuck: Of course you could. Just set your mind to it. That's what I do. Once I was injured worse than you and I turned out okay.

Fred: Good for you. It's just that I can't seem to get my legs moving.

Chuck: What were you doing on this road, anyway? Everybody knows you're a target for trouble along here. Did they get all your money? I only travel with bare necessities, and I leave my credit cards at home. Next time you should, too.

Fred: Uh, yeah. (*He tries to move.*) Ow!

Chuck: When I'm having trouble, I pray about it. You know how to pray, don't you? You know ... confession, supplication, intercession, and all that? Didn't your mother ever teach you what's important? The Bible says, "Bring up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." It's pretty obvious *somebody* didn't get brought up in the way he should go. I guess you could just go to the Bible bookstore when you get to Jericho and look in the prayer section.

Fred: I don't *want* to go to the Bible bookstore. I don't *want* to read a prayer. And I don't *want* any part of your church or your God! I can take care of *myself*! (*He limps away.*)

Chuck (*Calls after him*): Hey, wait a minute. Here's a tract! Call the pastor if you need anything. (*To himself*) I guess you just can't help some people. That's the last time I try to share my faith!

Scenario 2

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves who robbed him of all that he had and left him lying by the side of the road. Before long a member of the church came by and saw the man lying there.

Charlie (*rushes to his side*): Are you okay? Should I call 911?

Fred: I'm not sure. Just give me a minute to get my bearings.

Charlie: What happened? (He takes off his coat and puts pressure on a cut.)

Fred: I guess I should have known better. I know this route is dangerous; it's just that I was in such a hurry to get home.

Charlie: It's important for you to get home right away?

Fred: Yes, my wife called from the hospital. Our little girl was running a high fever so she took her in. I wanted to be there.

Charlie: I'll help you get going as fast as you can. Let's see. It looks like the bleeding has stopped. Did they get all your cash?

Fred: Every penny - and my credit cards.

Charlie: Where do you live?

Fred: Jericho - the Sycamore Creek section.

Charlie: I can go that way. Come on. Do you want to see a doctor first?

Fred: I just want to get home. Do you have any kids?

Charlie: Just one. In fact, I'm on my way to pick her up from a youth night at my church. I'll call from the hospital to tell her I'll be late. She'll be fine.

Fred: She'll probably worry.

Charlie: She knows she's in good hands until I get there. Say, I bet your daughter is pretty scared. Would it be all right if I prayed for her - and for you and your wife?

Fred: Pray? Sure. I guess it can't hurt. It's been a long time since I prayed about anything. Thanks. By the way, my name is Fred. I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't come along. Where in Jericho do you live? Maybe we could get together sometime.

Which of these was a friend to the man in trouble?
Which had an effective opportunity to witness?
Which made an effective witness? Why?

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Witnessing as a Friend

Did Charlie recognize an opportunity to witness? = Yes

Did Charlie seize the opportunity and try to share the whole gospel story and it benefits? = No

How did Charlie respond to the opportunity? = He saw a need and tried to help the direct need.

What was key to enabling Charlie to build this opportunity to befriend and share? = He listened
= He heard the meanings behind the words - Further learned Fred's needs

What are ways Chuck and Charlie differed that affected their befriending and witness?

Tone = Didn't preach about what Fred should have done different

Language = No church words

Actions = Provided practical help directly to the need

Focus = Asked, didn't tell - Used open questions to learn more

Witness = Asked permission to pray, Shared out of care rather than "checking a box"

Dale Carnegie's Six Ways to Making Friends

1. Become genuinely interested in other people. = People get interested in us when we're interested in them
2. Smile. = Your smile will brighten yourself and others
3. Remember that a person's name is to them the sweetest and most important sound. = Use it
4. Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves. = They enjoy it & you learn
5. Talk in terms of the other person's interest. = Show your care for them and what they care about
6. Make the other person feel important - and do it sincerely. = They are important. Show them.

Your Relationship

Rate your relationship with the person you have chosen. (1 - mere acquaintance, 10 - close family member)

Ideas - If 5 or lower

1. Observe and listen to discover that person's special interests, hobbies and activities. How and where does that person spend time?
2. Which of these interests and activities do you have in common?
3. Strike up a conversation about those interests.
4. Make plans to participate together in enjoying them at a particular date or time. Think about when you first noticed your future spouse. How did you go about getting acquainted? Use the same techniques.
5. Pray for that person regularly. Ask that God would give you opportunities to develop a friendship and that He would provide ways in which you could share your faith.
6. Have fun together!

Ideas - If & when 6 or higher

1. Send a card on special occasions or just a humorous card for no reason at all which speaks to a common interest.
2. Invite your friend to your own family events. Get to know each other's spouses, friends and children.
3. Go to lunch together.
4. Help when needed with big and small needs.
5. Ask for help with your needs.
6. Talk about feelings and concerns.

Why are you doing this?

Are you manipulating someone in order to witness?

You are building: = a friendship of genuine care

Why has God instructed us to care for those around us and to share our faith with them?

1 Corinthians 12:12, 18, 27 = We are Christ's arms & heart - how He reaches others

Why did Paul try to befriend and please people?

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 = For their good - so that they may be saved

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Listening Skills

The most important tool for developing a caring relationship is: = ability to listen in open ways

Listening Pointers:

Look the person in the eye, avoid distractions, pay attention = listen with your eyes

Pay attention to facial expressions & body language = discern hidden meanings

Reflect back the feelings behind what you heard & ask building questions

Use open-ended questions = What did you think about the book I gave you?

Use questions that clarify = What makes you feel so good today?

Stop and think about words before quickly responding = Shared silence can say a lot

Respect and keep confidentiality = When you earn trust, keep it

Listening Traps to Avoid:

Sending a quick-fix solution = Empathize. Often enough to acknowledge the feeling

Evaluating and judging = Model Jesus' unconditional love. Being critical can be a barrier

Withdrawing = Once you commit to a relationship, carry it through. Stay a friend

One-upping = Sharing common experiences shows empathy, but too much is frustrating

Diagnosing, analyzing & labeling = You are not a psychoanalyst, you're a friend. Listen

Showing Your Love

Besides being a good listener, how else can we show our love and concern to our friends?

1 John 3:18 = *with actions and in truth* - live out your love

How did Jesus explain this? = *I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*

John 15:9, 12-14, 16-17 = Show our love to others as He has shown His love to us

People are especially open to the Gospel message during times of _____ = transition

death of a spouse

divorce

marital separation

jail term

death of a close family member

personal illness or injury

marriage

loss of employment

marital reconciliation

retirement

pregnancy

sexual difficulties

change in financial status

death of a close friend

change in residence

son or daughter leaving home

holidays

Witnessing to Friends

Barna: ____ % of people come to Christ because they were invited by a friend or relative = 44

People don't care what you believe if they don't _____ that you _____ = believe, care

Corollary: = care, believe

When people believe that you care, they _____ what you _____

Closing Prayer

Homework - Read Chapter 3 and answer the questions on pages 49-50