



# Winning Friends for Christ

## *Gathering Two or Three*



### Opening Prayer

### Key Points From First Week - *Plan Ahead*

What command did Jesus give to EACH of us before ascending into heaven?

Matthew 28:19-20 = The Great Commission - *Go and make disciples of all nations*

What is the only way we can successfully go and make disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8 = Use Spirit's power, Be WITNESSES (tell what we know), Start in Jerusalem

Where is our Jerusalem?

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

### Key Points From Second Week - *Prayer Power*

How was Paul able to witness as boldly and effectively as he did?

Ephesians 6:19-20 = Prayed for God's ready help with words, fearlessness & effectiveness

What are some of the specific needs in witnessing where Paul especially needed God's help?

Colossians 4:2-4 = That God will open a door, we walk thru it & effectively tell His Story

What are ways we should be prepared to be effective witnesses when God opens doors?

Colossians 4:5-6 = Watch for open doors, don't ruin an oppty, be prepared to answer

### Key Points from Third Week - *Person to Person*

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

1 Corinthians 13:13 = Love

People don't care what you believe if they don't believe that you care

Corollary: When people believe that you care, they care what you believe

Strengthen your relationship with others so that they know that you care

Don't try to act like a friend, Be a friend - Allows you to share God's love through Christ

### Key Points from Last Week - *Tell Me*

How do we even begin when we recognize an opportunity to share our faith?

Acts 17:16, 22-23 = Begin with the topic of the opportunity and move into your witness

What is the most effective way to share the gospel? = Be a witness - tell what you've seen & know

Acts 26:9, 12-13, 15 = Tell your own story, What your faith means to you

What effect did Paul have on King Agrippa when he told his own story?

Acts 26:28-29 = Agrippa felt the Spirit working on him

Prepare what you want to express. Write down your own story. = Materialize it.

Make your story: *simple, yours, real, short, discussed (no speech), ready, Gospel-based*

Familiarize yourself with a lot of approaches. Use discernment on what to use when.

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### Barna Stats on Ways That Christians Share Their Faith

- \_\_\_ % promote the benefits of being a Christian - spiritual gifts, peace, heaven = 79
- \_\_\_ % involve the other person by asking questions about their beliefs & experiences = 75
- \_\_\_ % tell the story of how they first came to know Christ as their Savior = 59
- \_\_\_ % quote passages from the Bible to make their case = 58
- \_\_\_ % pray before getting with someone to discuss spiritual truths = 54

### Chefs in the Kitchen

What natural assumption and tendency do we usually make about leading others to Christ?

Exodus 18:13-16 = Trying to do it all on our own

Is this God's plan for His workers?

Exodus 18:17-18 = No, the task is too big and we are too limited alone

What is God's intention for us as we do His work?

Exodus 18:21-23 = Christians are to work together

How has God made this an integral part of His plan?

1 Corinthians 12:12, 21, 27 = We're gifted individually to allow the body to be effective

Who is another example of someone in the Bible who looked to others for help in ministry?

Mark 3:13-14 = Jesus - called 12 of his disciples to be apostles

### Recipes for the Un/Dechurched

Barna Stats for Today: Concerns of unchurched and dechurched people:

\_\_\_ % - Primarily concerned about their own health = 91

\_\_\_ % - Seeking close, personal friendships = 74

\_\_\_ % - Strive to maintain a comfortable lifestyle = 71

\_\_\_ % - Search for a clear purpose for living = 71

\_\_\_ % - Important to be a part of a local church = 15

With this information, how effective would you expect the following invitations to be?

*You should visit our church. Pastor preaches terrific sermons!* = May come for your sake

*We're having a picnic with some friends. Can you join us?* = Introduce Christian friends

Introducing Christian friends into a relationship \_\_\_\_\_ your effectiveness = multiplies

### Ways to Add Christians to the Mix

Use natural \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ = interests and needs - health club, sports, kids, activities

People respond to common bonds with others in similar circumstances

People seek a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ = sense of belonging - esp. when new to the area

People pleasantly learn that Christians are regular people with interests, talents, humor

People have a need to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ = do something worthwhile

The church has countless opportunities to channel those needs = work among Christians

People often get together just for the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ = fun of it

Include other Christians when sharing a meal, movie, party...

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### Preparing the Christians to Be Mixed

To increase the effectiveness of Christians introduced to the mix, prepare them by:

Let your Christians friends \_\_\_\_\_ = know ahead of time

Enlist \_\_\_\_\_ support = prayer (see Week 2)

Share any particular \_\_\_\_\_ that may be helpful = facts

Don't betray \_\_\_\_\_ = confidences

### How to Mix in Other Christians

1. They must be made to \_\_\_\_\_ = feel welcome

The first meeting must be \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ = cordial & non-threatening

Introduce with names & a bit of info = Helps them feel included

2. They must feel that they are \_\_\_\_\_ = accepted - Accent on the FEEL, Include them

It is important that people feel \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ = valued & appreciated

These interactions are \_\_\_\_\_ = informal

They are genuine outgrowths of friendship, not a pyramid scheme to brainwash or entrap

### Calling In Other Cooks

Sometimes another Christian can more directly meet your friend's need.

Okay to pass them to another \_\_\_\_\_ = circle of care - but keep connected

Recognize your friend's needs and identify others in the body who can help.

How did Paul do this when he returned to Ephesus at the end of his second journey?

Acts 18:18-20 = He left Priscilla and Aquila to pastor them when he left

Sometimes another Christian has gifts that are needed to compliment your gifts.

Identify a close Christian cohort. Work together, Strategize, Pray for each other.

How did Moses do this when God called him to go to Pharaoh and release the Israelites?

Exodus 4:10-16 = God had him use Aaron to help with the speaking

Usually other Christians are needed to help with the farming.

People who become active Christians hear the gospel \_\_\_\_\_ different times = 5.8

People who join a church and become inactive hear the gospel \_\_\_\_\_ times = 2

How did Paul recognize and explain that multiple witnesses are needed at multiple times?

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 = Sometimes we plant, ... water, cultivate, harvest ...

We need to enlist others in the process for accountability and support.

How did the following support Paul in his ministry in Corinth?

Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:1-4) = A home & livelihood to enable him to witness

Silas & Timothy (Acts 18:5) = Freed him to witness full-time

Titius Justus (Acts 18:6-7) = Gave him a web of influence to focus on Gentiles

Crispus (Acts 18:8) = Significant support for some effectiveness among Jews

Others (Acts 18:9-11) = Many others protected & supported for long ministry

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### Reasons to Enlist Others

What does Jesus promise that should encourage us to enlist other Christians as we reach out?

Matthew 18:19-20 = *Where two or three come together in My name, there I am*

How did Solomon explain the value of working together in ministry?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 = *Two are better than one...a cord of 3 strands is not quickly broken*

If you are the only Christian your friend has ever experienced, they will have a limited view

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 = The body has many parts, we are purposefully not all the same

### Christian Friends NOT to Enlist

Sanctimonious holier-than-thous = Intimidating to non-Christians, turn them off, wrong view

Romans 12:3 = Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought

Blatant backsliders = Openly and intentionally live a lifestyle that mocks God's commands

James 1:22-25 = Don't just listen to the word, live it

Doubters of their own salvation = Give a confident witness

James 1:6-8 = Trust in God's promises, don't doubt

### Christian Friends TO Enlist

Sinful people redeemed by Christ

1 John 1:8-10 = If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves

People who live by God's power in His grace

2 Timothy 1:8-9 = God has called us to a holy life in His grace and by His power

People with problems who depend on God to help them

2 Timothy 4:17-18 = The Lord will rescue me ... to proclaim the message

People active in Christ's body, the church

Ephesians 4:11-12 = The church is intended to build us up and prepare us for His work

### What About You?

Are you a Christian friend who can be enlisted to assist others in their ministry?

1 Corinthians 15:10 = Only by the grace of God

### Homework for the Week

Read Chapter 5 and answer the questions at its end

### Closing Prayer