



# Winning Friends for Christ

## *Welcome to the Family*



### 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

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

Acts 1:8

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

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

Ephesians 6:19-20

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

Colossians 4:2-4

#### 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

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

Strengthen your relationship with others so that they know that you care – Be a friend

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

What is the most effective way to share the gospel?

Acts 15:12

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

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

#### Key Points from Last Week - *Gathering Two or Three*

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

Exodus 18:14, 17-18, 21-23

Sometimes another Christian can more directly meet your friend's need – Pass them on

Sometimes another Christian has gifts that are needed to compliment your gifts – Work together

Enlist other Christians to help with the farming – People need to hear gospel 6 different times

John 4:37-38

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

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### Impressions at Church

Two things that typically have a positive impact on a person's likelihood of attending a church

- 1.
- 2.

When your friend joins you at church, you will wonder:

What kind of impression will they get of the church?

Will they feel comfortable and familiar, or will they feel alien?

Is your church committed to making guests feel welcome?

Unchurched people who attend a church for the first time have four common concerns:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Unchurched people who attend a church for the first time typically don't care about:

How many members a church has

Sermon topic, pastor's qualifications, child care

Unchurched people who attend a church for the first time typically want:

To be treated like everyone else

To blend in and observe

To be greeted informally by church members

To have information about the church readily available for review on their own terms

About \_\_\_ % of the nonchurched will sample a church each year

The best way for a good impression & prospective return:

### Now What?

You've identified someone you care for in your Jerusalem.

You've prayed for opportunities to witness and God's help to make your witness effective.

You've cultivated a friendship.

You've shared your story about your relationship with Christ.

You've introduced your friend to fellow Christians.

You've invited your friend to join you in worship at your church.

Now What? Is your job done?

Matthew 28:19

What is the goal God intends for the disciples we make?

Hebrews 5:13-6:1

What is God's plan to help baby Christians grow into mature disciples?

Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-13

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### Making Disciples

Your friend joins your church. How can the Body support & nourish their spiritual growth?

1 Peter 1:12

Why is it important that your friend gets integrated into the Body instead of just joining a church?

Flavil Yeakley study of 100 people six months after joining a church:

Friends in the Church	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	+
Still Active	0	0	0	1	2	2	8	13	12	1	2
Dropped Out	8	13	14	8	4	2	1	0	0	0	0

90% of those still active after 6 months had \_\_\_\_ or more friends in the congregation

98% of those who dropped out within 6 months had fewer than \_\_\_\_ friends in the church

Do you intentionally reach out in friendship to new Christians? Their soul may depend on it.

Six friends may be better than one friend, but never underestimate the effectiveness of one

Two main avenues through which new members can become integrated into a congregation:

1. Joining a \_\_\_\_\_ before or immediately after membership
2. Getting involved in a \_\_\_\_\_

### Spiritual Multiplication

What does God intend for your friend to do after accepting His faith?

Mark 5:18-20

This was Jesus' first trip to Gadara and He only spent a few hours there.

How did Jesus' return to Gadara 6 weeks later show God's power in the demoniac's witness?

Mark 8:6, 9a

How did Jesus describe the power of Spiritual Multiplication in the parable of the sower?

Matthew 13:23

### Spiritual Multiplication Object Lesson

A museum in Chicago had a fascinating display that demonstrated the power of spiritual multiplication. It showed a checkerboard with 1 grain of wheat on the first square, 2 on the second, 4 on the third, then 8, 16, 32, 64 and so on until they could no longer fit the seeds on the square. Then it asked the question, "At this rate of doubling each successive square, how much would you have on the checkerboard by the 64<sup>th</sup> square?"

You could punch a button at the bottom of the display to find out.

The answer?

If each of us leads just one person to Christ each year, and each of those persons leads one to Christ each year, the harvest would soon be enormous. It's happening in some parts of the world. It can happen here.

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### The Early Church

Why is the Early Church a good example for us today?

Acts 9:31

What kinds of things did the Early Church do that made them effective in reaching out?

Acts 2:42-47

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was preached there
2. \_\_\_\_\_ were present
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ were administered
4. It was a place of \_\_\_\_\_
5. God's presence was experienced with \_\_\_\_\_
6. God's \_\_\_\_\_ was evident
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was expressed, unselfishly
8. They met regularly in the \_\_\_\_\_
9. They got together \_\_\_\_\_
10. They accepted \_\_\_\_\_ into their fellowship

### Why Do We Do This?

What should be our motivation for reaching out to our friends with our witness?

John 15:12-17

### Closing Prayer