



# 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 = 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

#### 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

#### 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

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? = Be a witness - tell what you've seen & know

Acts 15:12 = Tell your own story, What God has done for you, What your faith means

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*

#### 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 = Trying to do it on our own, Christians to work together

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 = *One sows and another reaps*

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. = Being invited by a trusted friend
2. = Attending interesting high-quality church sponsored events

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. \_\_\_\_\_ = Doctrine & beliefs – Don't want a cult
2. \_\_\_\_\_ = Denominational affiliation – could be pos or neg
3. \_\_\_\_\_ = Location - Easy to find, Easy to know where to go, don't get lost
4. \_\_\_\_\_ = Schedule - Get there not too early nor too late (don't stand out)

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

How many members a church has = They care if a particular person they know is there

Sermon topic, pastor's qualifications, child care = They expect high quality

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

To be treated like everyone else

To blend in and observe = No name tags nor identification during service

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 = 7%

The best way for a good impression & prospective return: = Thank you from inviter

### 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 = No, we are to make disciples

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

Hebrews 5:13-6:1 = Maturity in faith

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

Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-13 = By support from varied gifts in Christ's body - the Church

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### Making Disciples

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

1 Peter 1:12 = The Holy Spirit works through the church as we support each other

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 = 6

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 = small group
2. Getting involved in a \_\_\_\_\_ = significant ministry - office, task

### Spiritual Multiplication

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

Mark 5:18-20 = To go and tell others about the great things He has done

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 = Thousands came to see Jesus - Spread thru Spiritual Multiplication

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

Matthew 13:23 = The faithful will produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times what was sown

### 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? = Nine sextillion - enough to cover the entire subcontinent of India 50 feet deep!

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 = The Holy Spirit worked through its members and it grew fast & strong

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

Acts 2:42-47 = Ten things that are still God's methods today

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was preached there = Word of God - the apostles' teaching
2. \_\_\_\_\_ were present = Friends - the fellowship, heart-to-heart love and care
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ were administered = Sacraments - Holy Spirit works thru Word & Sac.
4. It was a place of \_\_\_\_\_ = Prayer - regularly, openly, with thanksgiving
5. God's presence was experienced with \_\_\_\_\_ = Awe - No empty rituals or mindless repetition
6. God's \_\_\_\_\_ was evident = Power - Miracles happened, sick - well, sad - joy
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was expressed, unselfishly = Love - All were welcome, rich or poor - All shared
8. They met regularly in the \_\_\_\_\_ = Temple - Same God, Witnessed to other faithful Jews
9. They got together \_\_\_\_\_ = Socially - The first potlucks, enjoyed each other
10. They accepted \_\_\_\_\_ into their fellowship = Newcomers - God brought them

### Why Do We Do This?

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

John 15:12-17 = Our love for those God has given to us, Love as Christ loved us

### Closing Prayer