

# HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST

## **God is looking for someone to :**

### Ezekiel 34:16

1. Seek the lost
2. Bring back those who have strayed
3. Bandage the hurt and the crippled
4. Strengthen the weak and the sick

## **God has equipped us to:**

### Isaiah 61

1. We are filled with the same Spirit
2. We are anointed and qualified
  - \* To preach the Gospel
  - \* To bind up and heal the brokenhearted
  - \* To proclaim liberty to the captives
  - \* To comfort those who mourn
  - \* God's plan for mankind:
  - \* **Revelation 1:5 - 6**
3. Give mankind the gift of redemption
4. Form them into a kingdom
5. A royal race of kings and priests to His God and Father

### Revelation 5:9-10

1. We were purchased by the Blood of Jesus
2. We were made a kingdom -a royal race-priests to our God
3. We shall reign as kings over the Earth!

## **Our part to play in this Master plan:**

### Mark 16:15

Tells us to go into all the world and preach openly the good news-the Gospel-to every creature of the whole human race.

### Matthew 28:18-20

1. Jesus gave this command: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.
2. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days, to the very close and consummation of the age. Amen, and so let it be.
3. First, let's recognize a basic fact. Every Christian is a missionary.
4. Any person who has been born into the family of God through faith and trust in Jesus Christ automatically receives the Lord's commission to go and share their faith.

## **Paul informed the Corinthians, “We are ambassadors for Christ.”**

### **2 Corinthians 5:20**

1. God makes His appeal to the world through you and me.
2. Have you ever really considered this--that you are all some people will ever know of Jesus Christ?
3. Tremendous responsibility and infinite privileges are entrusted to us as representatives of Christ.
4. Every Christian will more easily share the Gospel in a particular way based on how God has shaped them
5. Every non-Christian is more receptive to a particular way based on their shape.

From our Lord's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well near Sychar, we discover some practical, basic principles to follow as we try to represent Him in realistic and natural ways.

### **John 4:6-26**

#### **1. Contact others socially.**

- \* “There came a woman of Samaria to draw water.”
- \* We must have social contact with non-Christians.
- \* When the Lord called Simon and Andrew, He said, “Follow Me and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)
- \* Among other things, He was teaching them that to catch fish, one must go where the fish are.
- \* We need to understand that withdrawal from those who do not know Jesus Christ is out-right disobedience to the will of the Lord.
- \* Much of our difficulty in this area stems from falsely equating separation with isolation from non-Christians.
- \* We need to discover how we can initiate and develop friendships with non-Christians.
- \* To be a friend may involve listening to a neighbor's or co-worker's troubles or participating with them in activities that are of mutual interest.
- \* It means actively seeking opportunities to show love by running errands, baby-sitting and performing any other mundane but practical service that will demonstrate the love of Christ.
- \* If you discover an absence of vital contact with non-Christians, ask God to show you one person whom He wants you to befriend, pray for, love and eventually bring to the Savior.
- \* He will show you that one.

#### **2. Establish common interest.**

“Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

- \* Jesus began by referring to something in which she was obviously interested in.
- \* She'd come to draw water.
- \* Gradually, He directed the conversation away from the known interest to

a spiritual reality which she knew nothing about.

- \* As instruments in God's hands, we must work patiently to establish mutual interest with others.
- \* Beginning first where their interests lie.
- \* Later on we can profitably discuss spiritual matters together.
- \* When we listen long enough, we not only begin to know an individual, we also gain their gratitude and their willingness to listen to the Gospel.

### **3. Arouse interest.**

- \* It is fascinating to see this woman's curiosity kindled as our Lord draws her out.
- \* First, Jesus came to where she was.
- \* Second, He showed an interest in her concerns.
- \* Now He is using His actions and His words to arouse a positive response to Himself and His message of truth.
- \* We cannot create spiritual interest in the life of anyone. Only the Holy Spirit can do this.
- \* However, God can use us to uncover the interest that He has put there.
- \* To arouse curiosity, we might begin asking him or her a leading question, as our Lord did.
- \* Today's headlines can be openers for a discussion of spiritual things.
- \* Be alert for opportunities to share your spiritual experience.
- \* A question relating to church can be directed into a conversation on spiritual matters, if handled properly.
- \* Often a Gospel tract or a timely book can stimulate further consideration of spiritual matters and reinforce your witness.

### **You can use the following questions to see where they are at:**

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died right now, where to you think you would go and why?
5. If what you believe was not true, would you want to know it?
6. If they answer anything other than "yes" to question #5, they are not yet ready for the full Gospel.
7. If they answer "yes" to question #5, you can share the Gospel with them.
  - \* People are more likely to listen to what you have to say after you have listened to them talk.
  - \* After you get answers to the above questions, ask the person what each of these verses means to them:
    - \* **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
    - \* **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
    - \* **John 3:3** In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."
    - \* **John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No

one comes to the Father except through Me.”

\* Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

#### **4. Know when to stop.**

\* The moment we detect a faint glimmer of interest in a non-Christian many of us want to rush right in and rattle off the whole gospel without coming up for air or waiting to sense audience response.

\* By relying on the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can gain poise.

\* The non-Christian needs gentle coaxing when he’s just beginning to show interest.

\* Give a person only as much of the message as they are ready for.

#### **5. Don’t condemn.**

\* In their conversation, our Lord did not condemn the Samaritan woman.

\* As she answered Him about her husband, her sin itself condemned her.

\* Most of us are quick to condemn.

\* Criticism is far more natural to our lips and to the lips of the world than praise.

\* When a non-Christian offers us a cigarette, invites us to join them for a drink, or suggests some other activity we consider out of bounds, our reply may have devastating effects.

\* The key is to recognize the compliment and generosity implicit in their offer and to decline on a personal basis so the person doesn’t feel condemned or rejected.

\* One possibility is to suggest an alternative activity.

#### **6. Stick with the main issue.**

\* In His conversation with the Samaritan woman, our Lord did not allow any secondary questions to sidetrack Him from the main issue.

\* In declaring that He was the Messiah, our Lord reached the crucial point of the Gospel.

\* We must eventually cross this bridge and bring the non-Christian into a direct confrontation with the Lord Jesus.

\* The people to whom we witness will fall into one of two categories initially.

\* The first group includes those who lack the necessary information about Jesus Christ.

\* Be alert to discover the misunderstandings and gaps in their knowledge and seize each opportunity to explain more of the facts.

\* The second group are already informed about the gospel but haven’t acted on their information yet.

\* Continued cramming of the same information down their throats is more

apt to alienate than to win them.

- \* Pray earnestly and daily for them
- \* Love them into the Kingdom of God.

Once we begin to grasp these six principles and move out in faith, life becomes a daily adventure.

Watch with anticipation for the opportunities God will give you to bear witness as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and to discover how He is working in the lives of others, through you.