

It will be helpful for you to become familiar with certain basic Scripture verses that you can use to back up the point you want to make when you feel it would be appropriate. Here are a few (there are many others):

**We have all sinned.** "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23

**Sin has terrible consequences.** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:23

**The promise of forgiveness.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 Jn. 1:9

**Christ died for us.** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8

**By receiving Christ we become sons of God.** "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Jn. 1:12

**God loves us and wants to give us eternal life.** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jn. 3:16

**Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost.** "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Lk. 19:10

**Salvation is a gift from God.** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8

**Everyone is invited to salvation.** "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Rev. 22:17

## Lesson One

# Sharing Your Faith

### The Purpose of This Lesson

Now that you have discovered the joy of sins forgiven and new life in Christ, you will no doubt want your friends and family who are not Christians to experience what you have discovered.

In this lesson, we want to give you some guidelines and suggestions that will help you give your testimony and share with others the steps that lead to heaven. What is given here are general ideas. You will eventually want to develop your own style. It is better to remember the general principles and put them in your own words than to memorize them.

**A Responsibility:** It is sobering to think that other people will make it to heaven as a result of your influence. You will certainly want to do the best you can to help them make it.

**A Great Joy:** One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is to lead another person to Christ. It is a cause for real rejoicing to have had a part in the eternal salvation of another person.

### **EIGHT STEPS FOR LEADING A PERSON TO CHRIST**

**Step #1: Pray daily for the person to whom you wish to witness.**

Ask God to prepare the heart of that person, to give you wisdom and guidance as you speak, and to open the door for an opportunity to do it.

**Step #2: Start by giving your personal testimony.** You might begin by saying something like: "Something wonderful has happened to me recently that I want to share with you. I put my faith in Jesus Christ to forgive my sins. He has transformed my life completely. I now have the confidence that when I die I will go to heaven. It is a great joy to know that."

**Step #3: Talk about the need of a Savior.** A person must recognize that he/she is a sinner before feeling the need to be saved. You will need to explain that everybody is accountable to God for the sins he/she has committed, and that sin separates us from God. Point out that God loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him in heaven, but our sins must be forgiven before we can go there. Only Jesus can forgive sins.

**Step #4: Explain the conditions to be met in order to be forgiven.**

- (1) **Repentance.** Repentance means to be sincerely sorry for the sins a person has committed — sorry enough to strongly resolve to quit sinning. It includes the specific sins that a person remembers, but also means a change of attitude towards all sins (acts of disobedience to God).
- (2) **Faith.** Salvation is a free gift. You cannot earn it or deserve it. You can only have it by putting your faith or trust in Christ. He has already paid the penalty for your sins. He offers forgiveness to all who turn from sin and believe in Him.

**Step #5: Talk about the blessings of being a child of God.** You may mention the joys of freedom from guilt, of communion with God, the assurance of heaven, the privilege of prayer, purpose in life, etc.

**Step #6. Lead the person in the “Sinner’s Prayer.”** First, inquire if the person would like to experience what you have talked about. If the response is positive, offer to pray with him/her immediately. If the response is negative, suggest that he/she think about it, and that you can talk about it more on a future occasion.

**A Sinner’s Prayer:** What follows is a model for a sinner’s prayer of repentance.

“Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I am very sorry for all the bad things I have done. I ask you to please forgive me. I promise to do my best to obey the laws of God for the rest of my life. Right now I put my trust (faith) completely in you to forgive my sins, to guide my life, and to take me to heaven when I die. I really mean it, Lord. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen.”

You may ask the person to repeat the prayer after you, or simply to guide him/her in the general contents of the prayer. Such as, “Tell God you are sorry for your sins, and ask Him to forgive you. Promise Him that with His help, you will not do wrong things again. Now, put your complete trust (faith) in Christ to do what He promised.” Feel free to use your own words, but try to include each part of the model prayer above.

**Step #7: Confirm the decision.** Ask if the person believes that the prayer has been heard and answered. Inquire if the person has peace in his/her heart. If there are doubts, you may need to determine the reason and then continue to pray some more.

**Step #8: Give thanks to God.** When the person assures you that his/her sins have been forgiven, you may suggest that together you offer a brief prayer of thanks to God for His grace and mercy. Also, ask God to help the person in the days ahead to be strong and faithful.

**FOLLOWING THE CONVERSION**

Accepting Christ as Savior is only the beginning. The new Christian will need instruction and guidance in the days ahead. Start immediately to provide this help. Here are some things you can do:

1. **Offer to start the series of discipleship lessons.** You have studied these same lessons recently and should be able to go over them with the new convert. If you feel unsure of yourself at first, ask another competent teacher to help you.
2. **Encourage the person to attend church with you.** An important function of the church is to care for new Christians and to help them grow.
3. **Alert other Christians who may have something in common with the new convert to befriend them.**

**SOME GENERAL ADVICE**

During the entire process, avoid arguments and controversy. Keep focused on the simple essentials, and emphasize the testimony of your own experience.

Depend on the Holy Spirit. He alone can work in the heart of a person. Nothing will happen apart from His help.

Be patient. In some cases there may be an immediate response. In others, it may take a period of time. Always be positive and leave the door open for another occasion.

If you do not feel comfortable doing this by yourself, you might invite a mature Christian to accompany you at first.

The suggestions in this lesson are only intended to help get you started. As you get more experience, feel free to develop your own style.

Try to keep the conversation relaxed and natural.

Try to communicate your love for the person with whom you are dealing. Help him/her feel that you really care about him/her.