



SHARE YOUR FAITH

Pt. 4 - Notes

Social Media

-Jesus went where the people are, so should we.

- 1 – Be an example...Assume Jesus will see your post.
- 2 – Look for opportunities to share a Bible line, Bible verse, sermon, encouraging picture etc...
- 3 – Invite to church and other events.
- 4 – Do not argue, disrespect other churches etc... If it becomes an argument, you've lost them.
- 5 – Let Christ shine through you. Be a light in the darkness of social media.
- 6 – Get to know people personally. BE SAFE AND USE COMMON SENSE!!!!!!
- 7 – Pray for people and for timing, tact, right words, etc...
- 8 – Share your testimony

Distractions and Avoiding Common Mistakes

Distractions

Children - One of the most distracting things in a Bible study is little children. Schedule the study for a time that is more conducive for the parent.

- Take a partner – Entertain child in adjacent room – Coloring books, Bible story, books, Bible videos, etc.
- Otherwise study with parent when child is napping or at school.

Television - TURN IT OFF. It is a distraction to student and teacher.

-“Is this your favorite program?” – “Would it be ok to turn the television off?” – “May I turn the volume down?” – The devil will use this as a distraction.

Unexpected visitors - Usually it is right at a crucial point when this happens, sometimes it may be too advanced in the studies to invite this person in.

-“Would you like to continue studying now or would it be better if I come back later?” – If the student did not initiate asking the visitor to come back then you have to initiate it.

-If it is not too far into the studies you can invite the visitor to join the study.

Sometimes people will want to feed you - This can prematurely raise issues.

-Try to avoid the snacks and meals

-Sometime people just want to spend time with you by inviting you to a meal.

-This can diminish the impact of conviction from the study. You want to leave with the Holy Spirit speaking to them.

-You can say “Thank you but I ate recently.” – Drink – “Thank you very much; a glass of water would be perfect.”

Avoiding 13 Common Mistakes

- 1 – Too many Bible texts – It is better to leave them wanting more than giving too much.
- 2 – Do not try to proof text every point – 15 texts are more effective than 30.
- 3 – Things sometimes need to be left unsaid. Avoid facts found only in the Spirit of Prophecy (i.e. women caught in adultery is Mary Magdalene). Sometime you can say, I must have read that somewhere I'll go look it up.
- 4 – Study delivery person – don't drop off studies without building a relationship. We win people by reaching their heart.

5 – Uncompleted lessons. Usually the most important question is the last one, and decision question. Uncompleted lessons may indicate a learning disability, lack of interest, unwillingness to commit, lack of self-discipline, laziness. “I enjoy studying the Bible with you, but I don’t want you to feel obligated. I’ve noticed you’ve not been making our appointments and I wonder if you still want to continue the lessons.” **For every student who is not genuinely interested, there is another person who is receptive who is being neglected because you don’t have time for them.**

6 – Social visits, sometimes lonely, elderly, or disabled people may have more of an interest in you company than you studies.

7 – Late or cancelled appointments, never be late, never cancel.

8 – Getting into controversial subjects too soon.

9 – Getting ahead of the studies.

10 – Giving full message books too soon. See Proverbs 4:18

11 – Over zealous people – some people are trying to convert you. See Psalm 86:11

12 – Being pushy instead of positive.

13 – Staying longer than an hour.

Studies on Steroids – Qualifying – Get ‘em to Church

Studies on Steroids:

-You can’t do anything right until you pray

-Sometimes, people with Sabbath conflicts we need to pray that God will give them more of a love for Him than for other things.

We need to pray specifically for people. Pray around their issues.

One might be able to present the letter of the Word of God, he might be familiar with all its commands and promises; but unless the Holy Spirit sets home the truth, no souls will fall on the Rock and be broken. [Desire of Ages, p. 672]

-We must pray, pray, pray, pray that the Holy Spirit leads. **Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. [Evangelism, p. 342]**

-The Lord wants us to wrestle with Him and struggle with Him in prayer for others. **Unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan. [Christ Object Lessons, p. 408, 409]**

Spending Time with Qualified People:

Some of the nice large berries had fallen to the ground, and were half consumed by worms and insects. ‘O!’ thought I, ‘if this field had only been entered before, all this precious fruit might have been saved. But it is too late now.’ [Gospel Workers, p. 328, 329]

12 Characteristics of ‘Ripe Fruit’

1 – Manifest an earnest desire to seek and find Bible truth.

2 – Accept Bible studies and complete courses.

3 – Lonely unhappy and dissatisfied people.

4 – People who visit or attend church regularly.

5 – Speak favorably of your church and its services.

6 – Accept major doctrines and make positive decisions.

7 – Display signs they are under conviction.

8 – Dissatisfied with their own church.

- 9 – Don't belong to a church or are backsliders.
- 10 – Have made lifestyle changes as they've learned truth.
- 11 – Demonstrate a desire to share with others what they've learned.
- 12 – Dependents who show signs of conversion.

How To Get Friends To Come To Church:

-Win the right to speak to the heart

1. Studies are coordinated to an evangelistic meeting.

-Develop a friendship and win confidence.

-Lead the student to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

-Lay a foundation for testing truth. When close to an evangelistic series lay the foundation for the Sabbath and let the evangelist do the same, let him then present the Sabbath.

-Make your student aware of the upcoming seminar

-introduce lessons to the seminar (mention this in the initial canvas or by the second lesson.

-Salt the oats in every study (you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink...but you can make him thirsty. (i.e. Dan. 2 to second coming, same with Dan. 3 with mark of the beast.)

INVITATION PLAN—4 weeks before meeting give dates for first five nights. Three weeks before "Let's sit together." Two weeks before bring an advertising handbill. One week before bring another handbill and arrange to sit together or drive together to the meetings. Day before meetings, call.

2. You do not have an evangelistic meeting planned.

-Start encouraging church attendance after Sabbath presentation. First visit is a not commitment to join only try it out.

-Special programs i.e. concert, guest speaker, special Bible study (make sure it is the right exposure to a new person).

-Arrange to preach, teach, sing, etc.

-Make sure it is safe to bring a guest! Call the speaker on his sermon topic; check the Sabbath school topic etc.

Assignment – Pray for God to lead you to and identify ripe fruit.

Lesson 12 – Overcoming Obstacles to a Decision

1. Bring people to Christ before introducing testing truths.

-Conversion comes with a test; this is especially true with lifestyle issues.

Conversion = epistrophe = reversion, that is, moral revolution (aka a 180 degree turn).

-Sometimes we take away all the tests for people and there is nothing for them to turn around on, therefore we strip them of the conversion experience.

-In order to break down barriers of prejudice and impenitence the love of Christ must have a part in every discourse. Make men to know how much Jesus loves them, and what evidences He has given them of His love. When the heart is filled with the love of Jesus, this can be presented to the people and it will affect hearts. [Evangelism p. 285].

There is no need to make the dress question the main point of your religion. There is something richer to speak of. Talk of Christ, and when the heart is converted, everything that is out of harmony with the Word of God will drop off. It is only labor in vain to pick leaves off a living tree. The leaves will reappear. The ax must be laid at the root of the tree, and then the leaves will fall off, never to return. [Evangelism, p. 272]

2. Frequently appeal to Christ.

“Christ crucified-talk it, pray it, sing it, and it will break and win hearts”. [Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 67]

3. Speak to the heart more than the intellect.

“Each one should be asked how he is going to take these things, if he is going to make a personal application of them.” [Evangelism, p. 285]

-Both the heart and the mind need to be moved to make a decision.

4. Make every appeal focus on Jesus.

Don't ask people to keep the Sabbath only because it is the right day. Invite them to follow Jesus and show their love for Him by keeping His Sabbath holy. (Jn. 14:15)

-Don't just ask people to join the church. Encourage them to heed the voice of the Shepherd and be gathered into one fold. (Jn. 10:16)

5. Ask diagnostic questions to surface objections.

-You don't want objections stacking up from one study to the next.

-What do you think about what we read from the Bible in this study? Do any questions on this topic come into your mind? Have you always understood what the Bible teaches about ...?

-Once objections come to light, patiently help people find Bible answers. As Bible truth is clearly understood, then you can ask an action question.

6. Ask decision questions at the end of EVERY lesson.

-The journey to baptism and discipleship is made one step at a time.

Begin with minor action.

-Would you like to tell Jesus that you look forward to His return? Is it your desire to be faithful to Jesus like Daniel was?

Progress to major action

-Is it your desire to follow Jesus and keep His Sabbath holy?

-Generally wait until the second Sabbath study before asking for a decision.

-After the second Sabbath study ask these questions in this order:

-Have you ever studied the Sabbath before or is this new to you? Do you have any questions on the Sabbath or is this clear to you that it is on our seventh-day of the week? What do you think about keeping the Sabbath? Does your job require you to work on Saturday?

-After this discussion end with – “_____, I know you love Jesus and if He were personally here to ask you to keep His Sabbath holy you would tell Him you want to keep it because you love Him, don't you? End discussion with - “Let's kneel and pray together and ask Him to show you from the Bible what He wants you to do. I know this is new to you, but if this is what the Bible teaches, I know you will want to do it. So let's pray and tell Jesus this, okay?”

-Some people will agree that the Sabbath is Saturday, but will not feel a need to keep it holy. This usually happens when Sabbath is presented out of its prophetic context.

-The Sabbath truth is processed in three phases. Understanding this will help you synchronize your appeals with where they are.

PHASE ONE –“That's interesting. I can see we need to keep one day as the Sabbath. I don't really do anything on Saturday anyway.”

-They've not made the connection they should be attending church on the Sabbath. Hold back on urging church attendance at this stage.

PHASE TWO – “Can I go to my church on Sunday and then keep the Sabbath at home?” or “Can I go to my church on Sunday and then to yours on Saturday?”

-Encourage Sabbath church attendance and assure them God will lead them. Refrain from advising a complete separation from their church at this point. This is left for the next phase.

PHASE THREE – Takes place after studying topics like the mark of the beast, the remnant, and Babylon. This is the time to encourage people to follow Jesus, keep His Sabbath, and become a part of God’s remnant.

-What if I lose my job? How will my family and friends react to my decision? I’m not sure I can do his.

THREE PHASES OF BIRTH LABOR

PHASE ONE – Latent (smiling) I’m uncomfortable.

PHASE TWO – Active (Frowning) I wish I could get out of this.

PHASE THREE – Transition (Panic) I can’t do this! I don’t know what to do!

7. Encourage student to exercise faith.

-As they act by faith, their faith will increase.

-Trust God and make a full surrender. He will provide. “Let’s give God the opportunity to be the Provider of our needs so we can watch Him work as we move forward by faith.”

-When the Jews left Egypt He led them the difficult way, south to the Red Sea. God led the, made provision for them to push on. They were trapped with an army behind, mountains on the sides and a sea in front of them. By faith Moses held up his rod and the sea parted and the Israelites pass through. 40 years later they were faced with the Jordan River that was at flood stage at this time. This time God did not part the waters until they stepped into the water, got wet and exercised their faith that God would come through for the.

-I don’t know how God is going to work this out for you. You may have a Red Sea experience or He may test you and give you a Jordan experience.

GOD ALWAYS HAS AND ALWAYS WILL DELIVER.

Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet. [The Ministry of Healing, p. 481]

Decision Signals – Steps to Victory – Organize – Go

Decision Signals

-There is a golden moment when people are ready to act. This is the time when you must ask for their decision.

TEN DECISION SIGNALS

1. I wish my husband were more agreeable to my being baptized.
2. I wonder if I would lose my job if I asked for the Sabbath off.
3. I have some tithe to give you.
4. Would I have to quit... (smoking, wearing jewelry, etc...)
5. What would I do all day Saturday?
6. What will my friends think of me?
7. How can I be sure the Lord will accept me?
8. How many Bible studies must I take before I am ready?
9. How long does it take to prepare for baptism?
10. I am not sure my faith is strong enough.

Decision Texts

1. The power to encourage and convict is found in the Word of God.
2. Have a reservoir of texts written in your Bible to use whenever you're visiting with someone who is contemplating a decision.

Ex. *This step will cost me too much.* – Matthew 16:24-27

Steps to Victory – Quit smoking etc...

1. Victory is a gift from God. – 1 Corinthians 15:57
2. Victory is ours for the asking. – Matthew 7:7-11
3. We can believe the victory is ours when we ask God in prayer. – 1 John 5:14
4. We can reckon the old man of sin dead and powerless. – Romans 6:11-13
5. Make no provision for the flesh. - Romans 13:14 (share this text after prayer)

How To Be An Effective Soul Winner

- Do you want to be used by God to win souls?

- Do you want to go out and give Bible studies?

-You may make mistakes, cry if you need to, apologize if you have to, but move on and keep pushing forward.

-Remember the **Law of Averages** and the **Learning Curve Principle**.

-Set aside an amount of time every week for giving Bible studies. If you start with 4 or 5 hours (about 1 hour/study) that will be 4 – 5 people and will sift down to 2 or 3. It doesn't take much more time to prepare for one study than 30. If you are preparing and studying you might as well use that for more people.

-Get started. If you're ever going to learn how to do Bible studies you need to get out there and get going. God can and will use you.

He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the while heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the Word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have.

[Christ Object Lessons, p. 354]

There is a message to take to the world, Jesus is coming soon, He died for you, He loves you. When you get to Heaven you will see the smiling faces of those who are there because of you.

Assignment – Go! (Matthew 28:19)