

10 Practical Steps in Following Jesus

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Step 10: Witnessing Disciples in Action

Tell others about the One who saved you

As Christians, we should tell others about Jesus and how they too can be born again by receiving Him into their lives. This is called witnessing.

Jesus said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”

(Matthew 28:18,19)

If you were drowning in a nearby lake and you couldn't swim, and I dived in, pulled you out and saved your life, you would think that I was the best person on earth! You would want all your friends to know about it and you wouldn't be ashamed to introduce them to me. Jesus has saved you from something far worse than physical death. He saved you from eternal separation from God in hell. We have a responsibility in God to reach out to other people and to tell them what God has done for us. Our friends, workmates and family, in fact, the whole world needs to know what is available to them in Jesus.

Jesus said,

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

(Mark 16:15)

Someone told you about Jesus and what He has done for you. Do not keep Him to yourself. Share Him with others.

What do I say?

Your life has been changed by Jesus. How would you explain this to somebody in simple easy to understand language? This is called giving your testimony. You also need to think about how to give a clear explanation of what you believe. The second study in this course will help you. It would be helpful to learn some relevant Bible verses. The following table gives a step by step pathway showing the way to salvation in Jesus.

God's love and salvation plan in Jesus	John 3:16
Man's sinfulness	Romans 3:23
The punishment for sin	Romans 6:23
Turning from sin (repentance)	Acts 3:19
Jesus is the answer	John 14:6
Receiving Christ	Romans 10:9,10
Assurance of salvation	John 5:24; I John 5:11,12

Review (ask them what they would tell a friend who wanted to become a Christian)

It is helpful to write the first Scripture in the front of your Bible so that you can find it and then underline the words in the text. Write the next Scripture in the pathway at the bottom of that page so that you will also know where it is found. You can then progress right through the pathway. However, the best method is to memorise either these Scriptures or find your own to memorise.

Peter wrote,

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

(I Peter 3:15)

As someone who has experienced God's saving love, you have much to share. Remember though, when you tell someone about Jesus, to keep it simple and avoid confusing the person. Stick to the basic facts by telling them about Jesus, His love and what He has done for you and them.

A pattern for witnessing

Jesus gave a good pattern for witnessing in John 4:7-26. He opened the conversation, written about in this Bible passage, with a subject familiar to the woman He was talking to. He then turned the conversation to spiritual things. He brought her to recognise the fact of her sin. He revealed Himself as the Christ and showed her that He was able to meet her need. We can use a similar approach but instead of pointing people to ourselves, we can point them to Jesus.

Pray

Another thing we can do is to pray to God for our family and friends, that God may reveal Himself to them also and convince them of their need to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. List the names of your friends and relatives and begin praying for them on a regular basis. You will be amazed at what God will do.

Be sensitive

There will be a time, a place and a way to witness for Jesus. Ask God to show you and to provide the opportunities. It is no good nagging someone into submission or making a continual nuisance of yourself. The best way to witness is to show others that Jesus has made a lasting consistent change in your life and let that speak for itself. Other people

with whom you are in contact will probably then come and ask you what has happened. Be ready with an explanation.

You may be mocked, so what!

You may be laughed at, called names or mocked for what you say, so what! Men did far worse to Jesus and He could have done something about it. He didn't retaliate because He came to die and to suffer for you and for me. We have got the greatest possession that anyone can have: friendship with God. It is far better to have God's favour and blessing by doing what He asks than the favour of other people who are one day going to fade away and perish.

Jesus said,

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”

(John 12:26)

Questions and tips:

1. What is necessary before people can call upon the Lord Jesus and believe in Him for their salvation? (Romans 10:13-15)
2. What responsibility have we for bringing men to Christ? (II Corinthians 5:18-21)
3. For what should we pray as we witness for Christ? (Acts 1:8; Acts 4:29-31; Colossians 4:3)
4. Why should we continue to witness fearlessly? (Romans 1:16)
5. Can we show Jesus to other people by our life? (Matthew 5:13-16)
6. When will Jesus acknowledge us before our Father in heaven? (Matthew 10:32)
7. Write down your testimony using no more than one page.

8. How would you answer the following points?
 - a. What more can God expect of me than doing good and helping others? (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5)
 - b. Don't all religions lead to the same place? (John 14:6)
 - c. I have never done anything very wrong! (John 3:3; Romans 3:23)
 - d. I intend to follow Jesus later in life. (II Corinthians 6:2; James 4:14)

Prayer

Almighty God, I thank you for all that you have already done for me in Jesus. You have given me your love and a hope and I praise you that you have accepted me as your child. Lord, help me to be a witness for you as I know I should be. Show me the people I need to pray for and those I should speak to about you. I want as many people as possible to know you as I do. Help me also to live a life that is pleasing to you so that other people can see you in me. Lord Jesus, you started the work and you commissioned us to go on and to complete it, making disciples of all nations. Lord I offer myself up for you to use in this task. Here I am Lord, send me. I ask this in Jesus' name and for His glory, Amen.