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Lifelines Outreach shares the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by making disciples in the greater Nashville area.

January 2017

I want to thank Tom Dooley for putting together the back page of the newsletter. We have used “Share Jesus Without Fear” by William Faye, as a primary tool for helping people to learn how to share the Gospel. One of the key elements of making disciples is they have the confidence and competence in sharing their relationship with Jesus. Most people can learn to share the Gospel. It is never based on their ability to learn and share, but on the desire to learn and share Jesus with others. May 2017 be the year you become bold in telling others about Jesus. Let each of us, “Provoke one another to love and good works,” as the writer of Hebrews tells us.

I have been meditating on the Great Commission over the holidays. As I was meditating, I began asking myself some questions about what words Jesus left out of His final message. He never said, “Go and *try* to make disciples.” Putting that word *try* in the Great Commission stimulated my thinking about why Jesus would have left that word out. Did Jesus not know that many would never become disciples? The answer is yes. Jesus knew how hard it was to make a mature disciple but He also knew that if they followed His plan that He taught them, there were guaranteed to have some success. It was all about following His instructions, His teaching, and His example.

Jesus said in Mark 3:14, that He ordained or called twelve that they might be with Him and He might send them forth to preach. These twelve were with Him for each day for three years. He assured them that to make disciples, they would have to have a personal relationship with Him each day. This was one of His requirements. This is so important if we attempt to carry out His will. We must be in that intimate relationship with Him each day to follow Him.

He also told them that they had to be trained to know how to make disciples and apply these principles in real life situations. Matthew 10:5 says that He sent the twelve out after instructing them. Chapter 10 of Matthew is a series of His instructions to them as they go out. We also see in Luke 10:1-11 Jesus instructing the seventy-two before He sent them out to practice what He had taught them. All of Jesus teachings found in the four Gospels point His followers to carry out the Great Commission. This is why, we should read some of the Gospels each day and apply His teachings to our lives.

Another thing that Jesus’ disciples knew is that rejection and failure were real possibilities. They saw failure in the life of Judas. Then John Chapter 6 says that Jesus was laying out the commitment that would be necessary to be a disciple. Many said that it was just too hard and they walked away. The disciples knew that not everyone that said yes would follow through. They knew that they would experience the same things that Jesus experienced. It’s all about obedience. Make this new year the most productive in your life in following Jesus and fishing for men. Thank you for praying and for your financial help! -Richard Gay.

The Timothy Initiative 2 Timothy 2:2 - The things which you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men, who will also be qualified to teach others.

Testimony - Give your testimony up to 3 minutes – focus on the big picture without a lot of detail but keep it interesting, e.g., “I found myself in an alley in Atlanta”; “I was raised in a two room shack.”

Remember the 3 parts to your story:

Your life before receiving Jesus Christ

Your salvation experience

Your life after salvation; describe how Jesus Christ has changed/transformed you

Then, don't ask for permission, move right into God's story using the seven verses.

Simply open your Bible and let God's word speak for itself. If you don't have a Bible, quote them from memory.

Invite your friend to read a verse aloud and then have him explain the verse to you. Take him through all the verses listed above. If your friend interprets a passage incorrectly, don't argue or offer your interpretation, but politely ask him to read it again, and then explain it a second time. Misinterpretation should not be much of a problem if you use the Bible verses listed above.

Even if your friend mentions that he doesn't believe in or agree with the Bible, it is best not to argue. You can state that you simply want him to understand what the Bible says about eternity. Isn't it wonderful to know that it's not our responsibility to convict? (John 16:8) Conviction is God's job. All we can do is share. Once we have shared, we have done God's will. Witnessing for Christ is a no-lose activity.

New American Standard Version

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 10:9-11 “That if you confess ‘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. As the scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.’”

2 Corinthians 5:15 And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

Closing Questions:

According to what we just read or heard, would you say we are sinners?

Are you willing to turn from your sin and accept God's forgiveness, from your sin?

Do you believe by faith that Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead?

Are you ready now to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life? We do that by praying (give them the option to say their own prayer).

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