

Opportunities

Daily ask God for opportunities to enter into others' spiritual journeys of:

- People You Know: Priority Connections*

Intentionally engage friends and acquaintances in spiritual conversations.

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- People God Brings to You: Divine Appointments*

Be prepared to make the most of natural opportunities.

- People You Go To Reach: Strategic Outreach*

Who can you reach out to who won't otherwise hear?

Other CoJourney Resources

- *The CoJourners Equipment Pack—For Small Groups*
- *The CoJourney Adventure—Coming soon.*



Joining Others in Spiritual Journey



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**Campus
Crusade
for Christ**



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№ 5.0

Everyone is on a spiritual journey.

Our role is to help them come to Jesus.

As you enter into others' spiritual journeys, you will find many already know Christ, but are struggling in their relationship with Christ. They need someone who will help them get turned around. One tool that will help is:

Satisfied? Living by the Spirit

When an individual comes to Christ, we continue to play a vital role in their spiritual journey. As a mentor, we encourage them to continue following Christ. We do this by helping ensure they have a good environment for growth. There are two essentials:

Life Connections: Two Out of Three

- Someone to help them grow, most likely you. (One-on-one)
- A group of friends to grow with. (A small group)
- A community to be involved with. (A large group)

Life Concepts: Five Foundational Truths

There are five spiritual truths that provide a firm foundation for a Christian growth. They are:

- Assurance of salvation
- God's love and forgiveness
- The filling of the Holy Spirit
- Walking in the Spirit
- Principles of Growth

Life Concepts have been designed to help you communicate these truths to others. You can download them at: <http://www.godsquad.com/Squadroom/Discipleship/lifeconcepts.htm>

Or you can order printed versions (nice paper, colored ink, worth the price) from Campus Crusade for Christ: 800-827-2788. You will also want the leaders guide.





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Connect the two

Gentle persuasion is helping them think differently about the issue. Jesus, of course, was the master at this, and you should learn from him. Four of the most powerful bridges to help someone think differently about an issue are:

- **Personal Experience** – Can you relate your personal experience as it addresses this issue? What has helped you?
- **Questions** – Is there a way you can frame the issue differently by asking a different set of questions?
- **Stories** – Is there a story or an illustration that will help them see this differently?
- **The Bible** – Do you know a verse that speaks to this issue? If so, it's often best to let them read it and observe what it says (as opposed to you explaining what it means.) “What does this verse say? How does that address this issue?”

A 21-Day Challenge

The Word of God has power to breakthrough obstacles. Challenge them to evidence themselves by reading the book of John, one chapter a day. Since there are 21 chapters it will take about 10 minutes a day for 3 weeks. Show them (or tell them) why John wrote it: “These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). As they read it, encourage them to pray, “God, if you are real and you have sent Jesus to earth for me, show me through these writings. Show me how to know you personally.”

Getting to the Heart of Witness: Becoming Unstoppable**1. When Christ's purpose becomes our purpose.**

John 17:1-5

2. When Christ's passion becomes our passion.

Matthew 9:35-38

3. When Christ's plan becomes our plan.

Matthew 28:18-20

4. When Christ's power becomes our power.

Acts 1:8



There are four primary roles that we can play in another person's spiritual journey. We can be..

- An Explorer**

- A Guide**

- A Bridge Builder**

- A Mentor**

The Art of Building Bridges

The Beginning Point: Understand their issue.

You have to begin a bridge from where you are. That means you need to understand the issue. There are three parts to a good beginning.

- ***You need to understand the issue.***

Ask good questions. Seek to understand what they mean and why it is important to them.

- ***They need to know you understand.***

Express understanding of the issue so that they know you have heard them. "What I hear you saying is..."

Affirm the significance of the issue. "That is a real issue and I don't want to minimize it by my response. But I think there is another way to look at this."

The Ending Point: This is about Jesus.

You have to know where you are going to build a useful bridge. Ultimately, you want to lead them to Jesus. So you want the conversation to lead to Jesus after you deal with the issue. That is important, because how you respond could lead you into discussions of all sorts of peripheral issues.





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Many people get stopped in their spiritual journeys by obstacles that stand in the way. They could be intellectual, emotional or volitional. We shouldn't disengage when we see an obstacle in another person's life. Rather, we need to build a bridge for them.

A bridge, of course, is a structure that is built over an obstacle to enable journeys to continue. How do we do this spiritually?

Through **prayer** and **gentle persuasion**.

Prayer is essential because they are ultimately spiritual obstacles (2 Corinthians 10:4,5).

Gentle persuasion is a relational apologetic (Colossians 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:25).

If we are going to help people on their spiritual journey, we have to find out where they are.

Explore your friends spiritual journey through...

1. Listening to Their Story

An explorer learns the value of listening. Listening is an art that is often neglected in our culture. In the 90's, a book on witnessing was published, *How Will They Hear if We Don't Listen?* (Ron Johnson,). It's a great question. It points to the need we have to learn to listen.

- Listen for **"Windows to the Soul"** - they allow you to see into their life.
- Listen for **"Unmet Needs"** - they often unlock closed doors.
- Listen for **"Traces of the Spirit"** - they are evidence of where God is at work.

2. Asking Probing Questions

Conversations are revealing. Yet , conversations often tend to drift. An explorer learns the value of questions (as they develop the skill of listening). Questions give conversations direction. Their power can be unleashed in an informal discussion or a more formal interview.

Questions, Questions & More Questions

- What was your religious background as a child?
- Was your experience positive, negative, or neutral?
- Where are you now in your spiritual journey?
- What words would you use to describe your life spiritually?



- Have you ever been involved with a vital community of believers?
- Have you ever been burned or turned off by religious people? If so, how?
- Who has had the greatest impact on your life spiritually? Why?
- Do you have a spiritual belief of any kind?
- What don't you believe?
- How would you describe your belief in God?
- Has anything dramatic happened in your life that has convinced you that God is real?
- Who is Jesus to you?
- Where would you say you are at with God?
- Do you find yourself moving toward God, away from God or staying about the same?
- Are you satisfied with where you are at or do you desire more?
- What would you say is your greatest need spiritually at this time?
- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- If God could ask you one question, what do you think he might ask?
- If a friend asked you how to become a Christian, what would you tell them?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your desire to know God personally?
- What is most important to you? Why?
- What do you think is most important to God? Why?
- Do you believe in a heaven and a hell?
- If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you would enjoy eternal life, that is, a never-ending relationship with God? Why?
- If you were wrong about what you believe, would you want to know?

5. Explain the Gospel Outline

One of the simplest and clearest ways to share the gospel is to read through an outline, like *The Four Spiritual Laws* or *Would You Like to Know God Personally?*

The simplest way to share an outline is to simply read through it conversationally.

- Make sure they can see the booklet so that you can read it together.
- It is helpful to point to where you are to help focus their attention.
- Ask clarifying questions as you go along. "Is this making sense?" "What do you think this verse means?" Or, "Why do you think Jesus had to die?"
- As you come to questions in the outline, be sure to let them reflect on them and answer.
- If they desire the Christ-centered Life (the circle on the right), simply read through the prayer on the following page and ask if it expresses what they truly desire. If it does, encourage them to pray the prayer, asking Christ to enter their life, forgive their sins and take control.
- If they don't desire the Christ-centered Life (or are unsure), simply explain to them what it means to receive Christ and encourage them to consider it. You might have the opportunity to share your own experience.



4. Share the Essence of the Gospel

An easy way to share the gospel is with a single verse of scripture. One of the best to use is Romans 6:23. And its easy to introduce.

Can I show you a verse (or statement) from the Bible that has really helped me understand the essence of its message? I'd love to see what you think of it?

Memorize Romans 6:23.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Notice that there are three phrases with three key ideas in each phrase. Use the God/Man diagram from *The Four Spiritual Laws* (Points 2 & 3) to draw out this verse.

- "The wages of sin is death..."

What is a wage?

What is sin?

What does it mean by death?

- "...the gift of God is eternal life..."

What is eternal life?

Why can only God give eternal life?

What is the difference between a

wage and a gift?

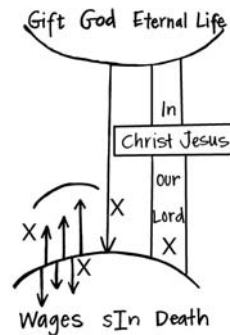
- "...in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Gifts often come in packages. When you get the package, you get the gift.

What does eternal life come in?

What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ?

How does he become our Savior and Lord?



3. Helping Others Tell Their Story

Where they've been

- What was your religious background growing up?
- Was it positive, neutral or negative?

Where they are

- What words would you use to describe your spiritual life right now?
- Who is Jesus to you?

Where they are going

- Do you think you are moving toward God, away from God or staying about the same? Why?
- 1-10, how would you rate your desire to know God personally?

You can more fully explore each aspect of their spiritual journey by asking more follow-up questions.

4. Offering to Pray

You might simply say...

I have been praying for people I know. I was wondering, is there anything that you would like prayer for? It could be something with school, relationships, or whatever.

5. Using QuEST

www.godsquad.com/quest



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A guide is someone who shows others the way while they travel together.

As we discover where a person is on their spiritual journey, we can be a guide who will bring them to Jesus, or at least show them the way.

Do you remember these guides:

- Andrew brought his brother, Simon, to Jesus – John 1:40, 41
- Philip, found his friend Nathaniel, and brought him to Jesus – John 1:43-45
- The Samaritan woman brought her villagers to meet Jesus – John 4:28-30
- A group of friends brought the paralytic to Jesus – Mark 2:1-5

1. Invite them into Christian community.

Most people like to travel spiritually with others. They already know you. But there are two other important relational connections you will want to try to help them make.

1. Introduce them to **some friends** who are seeking to follow Jesus.

2. Bring them into **a community of believers**, excited about Jesus.
 - They experience the love of God through the body and the truth of the gospel through his word.
 - They form the relational connections that will be important to them, if and when they come to Christ.

2. Ask Permission.

- Can I tell you a little of my story?
- Can I show you what has really helped me understand...?

Set-up future conversations:

- **Sometime**, can I show you something that has really helped me understand...?

3. Share Your Journey

- **In an inviting sentence – John 4:29**

In John 4:29, after the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well, she shared her story in an intriguing and inviting way, “Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” As a result, the whole village was interested in checking out Jesus (4:30) and many believed because of her experience (4:39). Take some time to think about how you could share your experience with Jesus in one or two sentences. Is it intriguing and inviting?

- **In an amazing list – Mark 5:19, 20**

- **In a brief story – Acts 26:1-32**

