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# **Witnessing to Others**



**Pastoral Leader Training Booklet**

# **32**

**Train & Multiply™**



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# SEVEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

Witness for Christ:

- Together with other believers.
- To your family and friends first.
- With faith.
- With the power of the Holy Spirit.
- With the focus on Jesus Christ.
- With love.
- To make obedient disciples of Christ.

- If necessary, limit the number of weekly meetings so that new members have time to witness in homes.

- Write the names of at least three persons who receive Christ through your testimony or the testimony of those who accompany you:

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- Write your plans to mobilize your people, for witnessing:

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Notes:

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**In obedience to Christ, a new believer begins immediately to witness to his family and friends.**

## **PRACTICAL WORK**

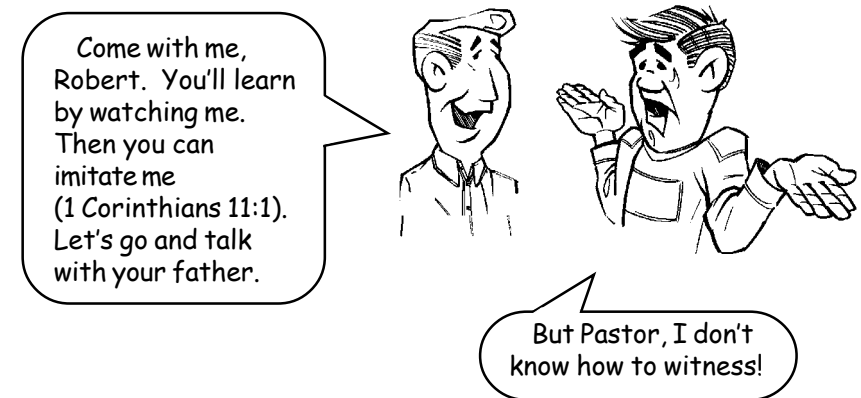
- Read and meditate on Acts 16:11-34.
- Pray that every believer in your church will be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Teach all new converts to pray fervently for the conversion of others, and to cultivate love for their family and friends.
- Show them how to witness, taking them with you. (Use the course “2 Best News,” and “15 Jesus Calls You,” or some other simple method.)
- Inform your church or group of the good efforts of those who visit and witness; this will encourage others to join them.

## **WITNESS TOGETHER WITH OTHER BELIEVERS**

Witnessing means speaking to others about the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the commands of Christ is to witness for Him. This is why we teach all believers to visit and present Christ. (Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8)

Simply to give classes on personal evangelism does not get it done. Evangelism is learned by practice. Take those you teach with you to win their own friends and relatives to Christ. (Matthew 4:19)

Churches become stagnant when they stop evangelizing. Often this happens when a new church begins public services. Do not let your church neglect personal evangelism.



To witness is the daily work of:

- ☐ the pastor only.
- ☐ every believer.

The Lord Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs. (Mark 6:7) The Apostles never traveled alone, except as prisoners.

When we go by twos or in small groups, a more experienced witness can show the less experienced believers how to do it. It also makes a greater impact on people.

If you have no one to accompany you, do not enter a house where there is a person of the opposite sex alone.

It is best to witness:

- ☐ alone.
- ☐ with someone else.

9. Practical love and sincere words penetrate the hardest heart.

But we should focus on:

- ☐ our religion and how it changed us.
- ☐ Jesus Christ and how He saved us.

10. The most important thing to explain about Jesus is the wonder of His:

- ☐ physical appearance.
- ☐ death, resurrection and forgiveness of our sins.

11. After explaining the Lord's saving death, resurrection and forgiveness, the apostles confirmed the faith of new believers:

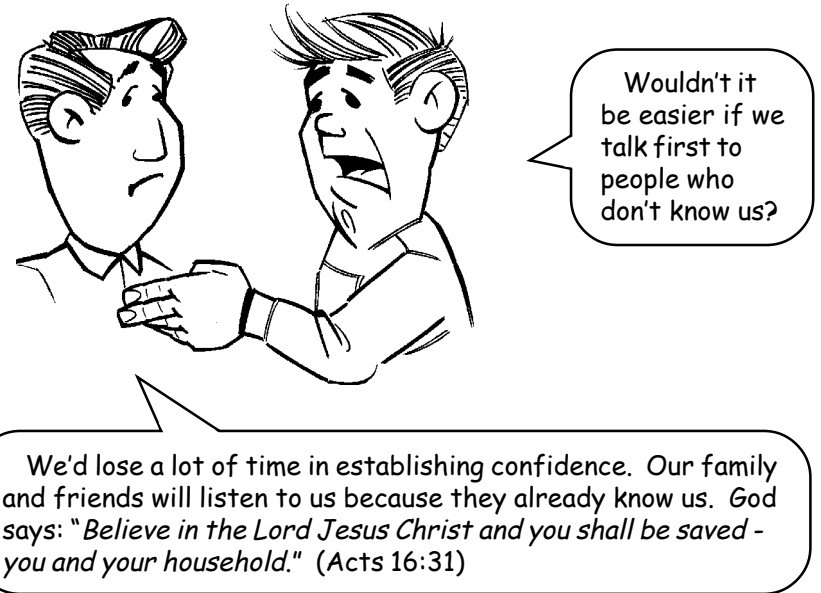
- ☐ by baptism.
- ☐ by inviting them to go forward in a worship service.

12. Starting with baptism, the new believer learns to obey all that is commanded by Christ. In order to learn to be an effective witness, he should:

- ☐ immediately go with others to evangelize his friends.
- ☐ stay at home until he is more prepared.

5. When we tell a repentant sinner that Christ forgives him, we are using:
- ☐ the keys to the Kingdom.
  - ☐ our intelligence in presenting the truth.
6. The keys of the gospel open the door of salvation to the sinner, through the power of:
- ☐ the Holy Spirit.
  - ☐ a totally consecrated believer.
7. The Spirit of God convinces us. (John 16:8) He makes us feel the presence of Christ. His power is expressed in:
- ☐ a humble testimony.
  - ☐ strong, forceful words.
8. A sinner is convinced by the humblest testimony, provided it presents Christ in:
- ☐ a beautiful church.
  - ☐ an attitude of love.

## WITNESS TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FIRST



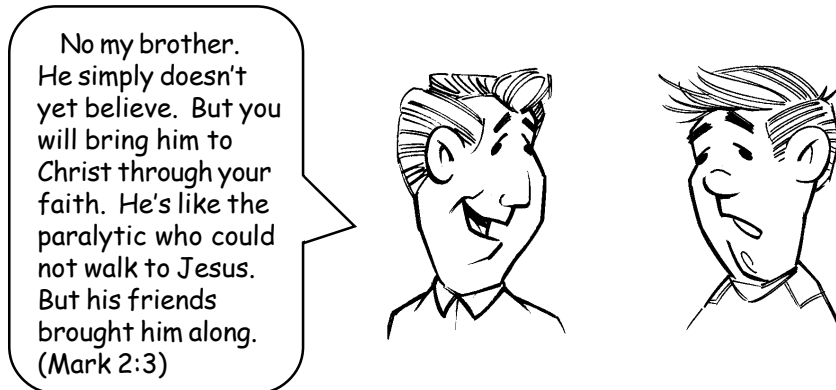
Often in the book of Acts God saved the entire families of new Christians who witnessed to them (or enabled another Christian to do so). (Acts 10:24-44, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16: 30-34, Acts 18:8)

We will bear more fruit if we witness first to:

- ☐ strangers.
- ☐ relatives.

## WITNESS WITH FAITH

The saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ is so great that He can forgive and receive the worst sinner. (1 Timothy 1:12-15) We are saved by means of our faith in the Lord. We also seek the salvation of others with this same faith. (Matthew 8:13)



## SUMMARY TEST

1. The most effective key to the growth of a church is to:
  - ☐ visit with other believers to witness.
  - ☐ have special meetings.
  
2. The best way to teach new believers to witness is by our:
  - ☐ study of many books on evangelism.
  - ☐ practical example.
  
3. New believers imitate their instructors. We should witness first to:
  - ☐ strangers.
  - ☐ relatives.
  
4. It is easier to win our friends than strangers. But we must trust in the convincing power of our:
  - ☐ strong personality.
  - ☐ witness for Christ.

My brother, the angels in heaven are singing with joy because you have repented. (Luke 15:10) I'm going to baptize you. Your son, Robert, will teach you the Lord's other commands.



Robert learns to witness by his pastor's example. Then he takes his father to witness to their friends.

When someone receives Christ, we teach him to witness to others and also to obey Jesus' other commands, which are liberating and build healthy relationships.

I've come to talk to you about the gospel.

Great! I wanted to know what made you change. You've stopped getting drunk and falling out with the neighbors.



Our faith brings salvation nearer to our families. (Acts 16:31) God helps each believer to develop his own faith; but in the beginning the unconverted person is convinced by our faith.

Remember, an unbeliever is spiritually dead in sin; he cannot raise himself!

Generally, to awaken an unbeliever, God uses the faith of:

- ☐ strangers.
- ☐ close friends and relatives.

## WITNESS WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ promises in Acts 1:8...

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

This power is to witness. We pray fervently that God will anoint us with His Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses. The Holy Spirit causes our stumbling words to penetrate right into people's hearts.



**They pray; Robert's father repeats each phrase...**



Our testimony for Christ is effective when it is made with:

- ☐ a strong voice.
- ☐ practical love.

## **WITNESS TO MAKE OBEDIENT DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

We assure the new believers of their eternal salvation (1 John 5:13) and teach them to obey all the things that Christ commands. (Matthew 28:18-20)



The central theme of our testimony is:

- ☐ the change in our lives.
- ☐ the work of Christ for us.

We testify about how the death and resurrection of Jesus brought about our salvation; the change in our life is a result of that and is important but secondary to Christ himself.

## WITNESS WITH LOVE

To witness without love is worth nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1) Love convinces people. (That is, practical love shown with actions!)

1 John 3:18 says: *“Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*

You Christians are different. When I got sick the deacons from your church helped me. And your members pay me what they owe without having to keep reminding them. I'd like to become a Christian too.



Our witness for Christ carries the authority of Almighty God. If you glorify Jesus, your stumbling words can break the hardest heart. (Jeremiah 23:29)



I know. My cousin Charles won all his family and me to Christ. He doesn't talk very eloquently! He lacks a few front teeth! But he convinced me that I was a sinner and that I needed Jesus' forgiveness.



Exactly. The humblest, stammering testimony is very powerful when it has the anointing of the Spirit. Only God can bring life to the heart of one who is dead in transgressions and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)



Only God forgives sins; but we declare forgiveness to the sinner when he repents. This is what it means to use the keys of the kingdom.  
(Matthew 16:19, Matthew 18:18)

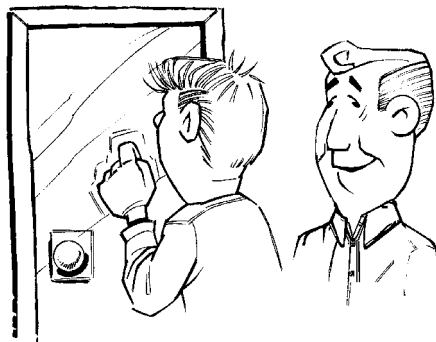
These keys were promised first to Peter. They were given also to other disciples.

- Compare Matthew 16:15-19 with Matthew 18:18 and John 20:22-23.
- God gives this same power to all who witness for Christ.  
(Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2 Timothy 4:5)

## WITNESS WITH THE FOCUS ON JESUS CHRIST

(Luke 24:46-48)

The Holy Spirit helps us to witness. I believe my Dad will repent. I will talk to him about Jesus.



That's right. We are witnesses of Jesus. We don't just talk about how bad we used to be and how good we are now. This alone will never awaken faith in Christ. We tell him about Christ the Son of God, His miracles, His love, His death for our sins, His resurrection, His forgiveness and His presence in us.



## The new believer talks with his father...

Jesus is God. He healed the blind. He forgave everyone who had done wrong. He died on the cross to forgive our sins. He rose from the dead and went up to heaven. He sent the Holy Spirit who makes us feel His presence. He's here now, in this room.



Here? Christ? Now?