

Leading a Person to Christ

Purpose: To enable you to effectively close the Four Spiritual Laws from the prayer.

Objectives: By the end of this session you will be able to:

1. Respond to various responses to the request to receive Christ.
2. Use key questions to determine if the new believer understands assurance.
3. Discuss Bible verses with new believers to reinforce their assurance of salvation.

Key Verse: Matthew 16:15

I. Introduction

In the last session we covered how to share the Four Spiritual Laws through the circles. In this session we are going to practice handling various responses to the request to receive Christ and explain what to do with those who do receive Christ.

II. How to lead someone through the prayer.

Read page 10, then read about the different responses to the question "Does This Prayer Express the Desire of Your Heart?"

A. "Yes" response.

When a person responds "yes" to the question, "Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?" ask, "What would happen to a person if they sincerely prayed this prayer?" **Wait for a response.** From their response you can discern what is driving them to say yes. If you need to correct anything, do so at this time. If you don't need to correct anything, then read the last sentence on page 10 and lead him in the prayer, phrase by phrase, aloud. You could also ask, "Why do you want to pray this prayer?" to see if the person understands the gospel and their need for Christ.

B. "No" response.

If the person responds "no" to the question, say, "Let me show you what will happen when you do invite Christ into your life." Then, turn to page 13 and read the five points, putting them in the future tense. When finished, ask "Now that you know these things, would you like to invite Christ into your life?"

This is the best way to handle a "no" answer. Often, people are not ready to receive Christ simply because they do not understand all that you're talking about. Page 13 often clarifies for them what is going on.

If he then answers “yes” turn back to page 10 and lead him in prayer, phrase by phrase, aloud.

If he still says “No” after going through page 13, attempt to share your personal testimony. You could also ask, “Why?” or “Why would you not want to trust Christ?” Conclude with, “Thank you for your time. Please keep the booklet to read later. I am available to meet in the future, if you wish to discuss these things further.” Sign your name and phone number on the back.

III. How to take someone through the remainder of the booklet.

Read Mark 4:3,4 and 14,15. As you share the gospel, some will pray the prayer. You may think that a decision for Christ has just occurred. Maybe it has - maybe it hasn't. We don't know, only God knows people's hearts.

After someone has prayed the prayer, we may be excited, and forget to go through the rest of the booklet. However, it is critical that we share the rest of the booklet since this may be when they understand clearly and become Christians, not when they prayed the prayer.

Simply read through the booklet.

A. How to Know That Christ Is in Your Life.

1. Read the paragraph with the questions. If the person does not understand where Christ is, ask these additional questions:
 - a. "What does the door represent?"
 - b. "What does Christ want us to do here?"
 - c. "What does Christ promise to do here?"
 - d. "Were you sincere when you invited Christ to come into your life?"
 - e. "Then where is Christ right now in relation to you?"
2. The Bible Promises Eternal Life to All Who Receive Christ. (I John 5:11-13) After reading the verses, ask:
 - a. "What has God given us?"
 - b. "Where is this life found?"
 - c. "Do you have the Son?"
 - d. "If you have the Son, what else do you have?"
 - e. Emphasize the words "has" and "know." You could also mention that these verses don't say "hope for," "guess," etc.

B. Thank God Often that Christ Is in Your Life. Read Hebrews 13:5 in your Bible, then ask:

1. "After you receive Christ personally, will He ever leave you?"

2. "Because Christ will never leave you, how many times do you need to invite Him to come into your life?"

C. Do Not Depend Upon Feelings.

Read or ask the new believer to read the first paragraph. **Be careful here, some people do not like to read in front of others. Don't force them to read!** Ask the new believer to describe the diagram in their own words. Respond positively to the explanation, but communicate positively any necessary corrections.

You could mention something like, "If I place the coal into the engine, what happens to the train? It moves. If I place the coal into the caboose, what happens? I get a dirty caboose. In the same way, when we place our faith in the promises of God's word, we move forward. But if we place our faith in our feelings, well, we get a dirty caboose."

1. Will God's Word ever deceive you? Will your feelings ever deceive you? Will God's Word ever change? Will your feelings ever change?
2. The only way the caboose could pull the train is if it's going backwards or downhill. This is how your life will be if you trust your feelings.

Read the second paragraph. Use a transition like the following: "Here are some promises from God's Word that you can put your faith in..."

D. Now That You Have Received Christ.

Simply read the statements, making reference to the verses. If you have time, you can look up each one of these verses.

1. Ask the person to read Colossians 1:27. You could also refer back to Revelation 3:20.
2. On point two ask the person to read the verse aloud. Then ask:
 - a. "What did God do with your sins?"
 - b. "How many of your sins did He forgive?" (Colossians 2:13,14)
3. On point three turn to page 8 and ask the person to read John 1:12 aloud. Then ask: "What does this verse say you have become?"
4. At point four read John 5:24 and ask:
 - a. "When does eternal life begin?"
 - b. Point out that it says "has," not "will have."
5. On point five ask the person to read these verses aloud.
6. Ask the two questions at the bottom of page 13 and allow the person to answer.

After reading the questions, say, "By thanking God you demonstrate faith. I will pray and thank Him for coming into my heart _____ years ago and for forgiving my sins. Then would you like to thank Him for coming into your heart today and for the forgiveness of your sins?" Be sure to pray a short prayer using simple language. Be sensitive - if they want to pray later, encourage them to do so.

E. Conclusion.

1. Read through pages 14 and 15. If time permits, read some of the verses.
2. Stress the importance of faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

What is faith? It's simply putting our trust in something or someone. When we live by faith spiritually, we are simply putting our trust in God and the promises of His word.

IV. Final pointers

- A. Be sure people understand that Christ comes into their lives and forgives their sins by faith. If they merely say the words of the prayer in the Four Spiritual Laws without believing that Christ will forgive their sins, nothing will happen.
- B. Be sensitive to the person who wants to pray the prayer silently. Invite them to pray aloud, but don't force them if they do not want to do so.
- C. When a person does not receive Christ during your first time together, be available to talk at a later time.
 1. Make another appointment if there is interest; if available, give a "Jesus and the Intellectual," "How to Be Sure You're a Christian," Van Dusen letter or a Gospel of John.
 2. Pray for him. When you meet again, ask if he has thought more about your discussion or has any questions.

Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to apply this in your target area and in your world!

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you respond to various responses to the request to receive Christ?
2. What key questions can be used to determine if the new believer understands assurance?
3. What Bible verses can be used with new believers to reinforce their assurance of salvation?