

Transformational Leadership Movement

Tools for the Church



Prayer



Care



Share

Prayer, Care, Share

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Prayer, Care, Share Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to teach individual disciples how to reach people far from God in their personal circles of relationships for Christ through a ministry of Prayer, Care, and Share. This strategy is being used in countries around the world to help Christians become effective in evangelism, which is relational and gentle, based entirely upon the love of God. This course teaches how to do each aspect of this ministry. Church leaders can use this strategy to equip disciples to do ministry as they go about their daily life and to reach an area or a target group for Christ.

Course Objectives

By the completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Explain the Great Commandment and the Great Commission
- Share the vision for a disciple
- Explain the strategy of Prayer, Care, Share ministries
- Start a ministry of Prayer with people in your circles of relationships
- Supplement your ministry of Prayer by using the demonstration of Care
- Write out and share your own Personal Story (testimony)
- Think of various ways to expose people to the gospel and to other Christians
- Share the gospel with someone and lead him to Christ
- Take a new believer through one-on-one follow up
- Train other disciples in your church how to reach people through Prayer, Care, Share.

Class Sessions

1. Christ's Great Commands
2. Praying for Your Neighbors
3. Caring and Sharing
4. Preparing to Share Your Personal Story
5. Sharing the Gospel
6. Helping a New Believer Grow

Appendix A: Instructions For PCS Trainers and Coaches
Before the training.

Attachment: Four Spiritual Laws Presentation

Session 1

Christ's Great Commands

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Give the two major parts of the Great Commandment and explain the relationship between the two parts and the logic for their order
- Explain why Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan
- Tell someone what the Great Commission is and what are its major elements
- Explain the basic strategy of Prayer, Care, Share
- Identify people in your life who are far from God
- Make an initial list of people to whom you will be ministering using Prayer, Care, Share.

Introduction

Pastor Rick Warren has said, “A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission makes a great church.” But what is the Great Commandment? And what is the Great Commission?

I. The Great Commandment

A. Have you ever wondered what God wants you to do as His disciple?

1. One day Jesus was asked the question, “Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?”
2. Jesus did not hesitate. This was His answer: “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

B. Discussion: Why do you think Jesus put these two commands together?

1. Why is the first one first?
2. Why did He put the second one with it when He was only asked for one?

C. If you want to know what God wants you to do, the answer is this:

1. Love God with all your being.
2. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

D. Who is my neighbor?

1. A young man asked Jesus, in light of these two commands, “Who is my neighbor?” In answer to the question, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.
2. Read Luke 10:29-37
 - a. Why was the Samaritan seen as the neighbor to the man?
 - b. Who are your neighbors?
 - c. Who needs your help?

II. The Great Commission

A. What is the Great Commission?

1. Jesus, after He rose from the dead and appeared many times to people, gave His disciples the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as His final instruction to His followers.
2. Jesus told His disciples—and through them He tells us—what He wants His disciples to do. Read Matthew 28:18-20.

B. Elements found in the Great Commission

1. Proclamation (Luke 24:45-49). We are to proclaim the gospel, the message of salvation in Christ: “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” in His name, to all people in all nations. (including every ethnic group), starting where we are (the disciples were in Jerusalem).
2. Discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20). We are to make disciples (learners becoming obedient and disciplined followers) of all who believe, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded.
3. Empowerment (Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8). We are to do this in the supreme authority of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in and works through us.
4. The Extent (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19)
 - a. We begin right where we are with people we know (they were in the city of Jerusalem).
 - b. We reach out to people in our surrounding area (Judea was the larger region).
 - c. We reach out to people of different racial, social, economic, cultural, political, and moral backgrounds and groupings, just as Jesus reached out to tax collectors and sinners (Luke 15:1).
 - d. Some go to the uttermost parts of the earth to bring the gospel to people who need Jesus.

C. Reasons for the lack of fulfillment

1. We have not followed Jesus’ instructions very well.
2. We have not disciplined believers.
3. We have made it a specialized task for a specialized class of people. We seem to believe that it is the job of only professional ministers to proclaim the gospel and bring people to Christ.
 - a. Most Christians think that gospel proclamation is supposed to happen in church meetings or at large gatherings.
 - b. Most Christians now consider “evangelism” to be accomplished by inviting people to come to church.
4. We have not trained disciples how to accomplish the task. Without training or a strategy, people do not obey this command.

III. Our Strategy: Prayer, Care, Share

A. Why?

1. We have found that as followers of Jesus learn how to pray for others, how to love and care for others, and how to share Christ with them, those people are often eager to receive Christ.
2. This strategy has been highly successful around the world.
3. Believers who learn this method usually find that it becomes natural and even easy to do this, and as a result they reach many people they know who have been far from God.

B. Prayer Overview

1. You go to people you know who are far from God and explain to them that you pray for people, and ask if you can be praying for specific things in their lives.
2. You pray regularly and faithfully for them and for their needs.
3. You check back periodically to see how God is answering your prayers and to see if they have other prayer requests.

C. Care Overview

1. As you hear about their needs, you listen for ways to care for them by doing various acts of kindness.
2. You might also do things with them to help you develop a personal friendship.
3. You learn about them by asking appropriate questions about themselves.

D. Share Overview

1. As you continue praying and caring for people by performing acts of kindness, they will want to know why you are doing these things. They will invite you to share your story (1 Peter 3:15).
2. You will get to share both your personal story of faith in Christ and the message of the gospel which can lead them to Christ.
3. They may ask you questions about your faith that you will seek to answer.
4. You will be able to share the gospel in a simple, understandable way.
5. You will be able to guide people who respond to the gospel into a basic discipleship program and a small group where they can begin their own Prayer, Care, Share ministry.

E. Personal Experience

The instructor will share a story from his Prayer, Care, Share ministry that illustrates the strategy.

IV. What we are going to do

A. In this class

1. By God's grace we are going to train you and other disciples of Jesus to obey both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, loving God and loving your neighbors by practicing Prayer, Care, Share in your daily life.
2. Our process is not simply teaching, but training. Teaching is about educating people with information. Training combines teaching with development through practice and coaching.
3. This training will give you both ability and confidence. You will be able to lead people to Christ in a relational, peaceful way.

B. In the world

1. In the following weeks, you will contact people you know who are far from God and practice the Prayer, Care, Share ministry with them.
2. In the weeks ahead, you will work together with coaches and other trainees to build your skill and proficiency using Prayer, Care, Share. You will meet together for encouragement. You will rejoice to see people you know enjoying a brand new life in Christ.

V. Getting Started

A. Who do I know who needs Christ?

1. Every person has circles of relationships. These are your "neighbors"—people whom you know in different areas of your life. Every believer has a unique set of people whom he is in a position to reach, different from that of any other person. These are the people whom you will personally seek to bring to Christ by practicing Prayer, Care, Share.
2. On a separate sheet, make a Master List (it might be long) of people who, as far as you know, are far from God. Consider people from each group in your following circles of relationships:
 - a. Your immediate family: mother, father, sisters, brothers, spouse, children
 - b. Your relatives whom you know personally: grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws
 - c. Your personal friends
 - d. Your fellow workers or fellow students—people you work with in your job or see at school and thus know personally
 - e. People who live near you in your neighborhood whom you have come to know personally
 - f. People you see regularly where you shop or eat, whom you have come to know personally.
3. We will now observe a discipline of silence for 10 minutes, during which you should pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring names to your mind for your list.

B. Narrowing the List

1. From your Master List, select an initial group of five or six people. Pray for God to give you wisdom to select the shorter list of people you will start with.
2. This will be an ongoing ministry, so it should be people with whom you can have repeated contact. Select people who live in the area somewhat near you, whom you can see regularly.
3. If you choose people outside your family, it is wise for men to pray for men, and women with women. Though we may have a concern for someone of the opposite sex, this prayer involvement could lead to temptation or improper relationships. Avoid this.

C. Maintaining your Active List

1. On the next page, write the names you have selected from your circles of relationships.
2. This will be your Active List of people with whom to start. Feel free to add, to change, and to remove names as things develop, but always have a group actively selected.
3. Some people have been believers for so long that they only have friends who also believe, and have few, if any, friends and contacts who are far from God. If this is your situation, you can begin making some new contacts in your neighborhood, at work, or at school.

VI. Personal Preparation

We will take about 10 minutes of silence, to allow you to work through the following steps, in preparation for the rest of our time together.

A. Thanksgiving

1. Realize that God loves you and wants what is best for you. Christ came that you might have an abundant life (John 10:10).
2. Thank God that He loves you and wants to use you.
3. Thank God that He lives in and through you, to have an impact on people you know who are far from God and Christ.

B. Confession

1. Confess any known sin or area of rebellion in your life, and turn toward God.
2. You may want to make a list of any sins that the Holy Spirit brings to your mind as you pray.
3. Then claim 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

C. Surrender

1. Surrender your life totally to Christ. Ask Him to take control of your life, to be your Lord and King (1 Peter 3:15; Romans 10:9).
2. Thank God that He has forgiven your sins based on the death of Christ for your sins. Thank Jesus that He is in control of your life.

D. Empowerment

1. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have been given the wonderful gift of God's Holy Spirit to live within you (Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:9-11).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit who indwells you to empower you to walk in His love (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. We need to keep being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) by faith, knowing that God always hears that prayer (1 John 5:14-15).
4. By being continually filled, we are able to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) and are continually strengthened to do His will (Ephesians 3:16; Philippians 4:13). This requires regular fillings and daily dependence, not just a one-time filling of the Spirit.
5. Decide now to start every day with a prayer to be filled with the Spirit, and remember to pray that prayer throughout the day. This is how you are able to live the Christian life.

Session 2

Praying for Your Neighbors

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Explain the steps in beginning a practice of prayer for people
- Start praying for people.

I. Removing Obstacles

A. Overcoming Fear

1. Often, the most awkward or difficult thing we face is starting something new. But after we start, whatever we feared disappears and the new action becomes perfectly natural.
2. The first time we come to someone to practice Prayer, Care, Share, we wonder how we will be received. But all over the world, those who have trusted God to love their neighbors in this way have found not only acceptance, but gratitude.
3. Remember, you are coming to bring people the most wonderful gift in the world, using a method that is loving and relational, seeking to meet their needs.
4. Trust God to be with you every step of the way.

B. “But I Don’t Know any People who Don’t Know Christ!”

1. It is quite common that within a year of becoming a Christian, a person develops new friendships within his community of faith and loses contact with his former friends in the world.
2. You might have had difficulty in the last session identifying people in your circles of relationship who are not following Jesus. In this case, there is an additional step of creating new relationships with people who are not following Christ.
3. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Lk 19:10). Where are some places you might go, in good conscience, to seek lost people? Share ideas in a class discussion right now.
4. Hopefully you now have some ideas about where to go. So now, what do you do?

C. Consider Your Friendliness

1. Are you skilled at developing relationships? If not, perhaps you know someone who does have that ability who would be willing to help you grow in that area.
2. Seek to show care and kindness toward people. Learn to listen to them, asking them questions.
3. Ask yourself the following questions and write the answers to evaluate your friendliness toward others.
 - a. What would your spouse, children, parents, friends, fellow workers or schoolmates, neighbors, even your enemies say about your friendliness in their relationship with you?
 - b. Why would they say this? In what areas would they say you are not a good friend?
 - c. What steps might you take to be a better friend?
 - d. How many friends do you have?
 - e. How many friends do you have who are far from God?
4. Take time to talk to people you regularly see at the market, on the street, at work or school.
5. Prayerfully write out a plan to build better relationships with people who are far from God. It may include activities that you enjoy, or might grow to enjoy, that would give you contact with people who are far from God but would not violate Christian values.

II. Planning Your Introduction

A. Begin with preparatory prayer

1. Ask God to prepare these people to receive you and your ministry to them. Bring your sincere desire to your Father.
2. Pray for yourself. Ask God to give you wisdom as you proceed, to help you to be faithful, to give you His strength, and to fill you with His Spirit and His love for these people.

B. Possible ways to introduce your prayer ministry to people

1. We will suggest several options that you may wish to choose from. You determine what sounds best and most natural to you.
2. There are potentially two parts to your introduction:
 - a. An opening statement, then asking for prayer requests
 - b. Offering suggestions for prayer

C. An opening statement, followed by asking for prayer requests

Pick one option that seems most comfortable for you, then practice saying it several times, using names on your list. Fill in the first blank with the person's name.

1. Option 1: “_____, I have been praying for people. Is there anything in your life that I may be praying for you this week?”
2. Option 2: “_____, I pray for people and their needs. Is there anything in your life that I could be praying for you this week?”
3. Option 3: “_____, I am a pastor (or worker) at _____ Church. I have a ministry of praying for people. Is there anything that I might pray for you this week?”
4. Option 4: (Write your own)

D. Suggestions for prayer

1. The person may respond with areas of concern for you to pray about, but if he seems to have difficulty determining what requests might be appropriate, then it is proper and helpful for you to suggest possible items for prayer.
2. If the person has previously shared with you a personal concern, problem, or need, you might say something like this:
 - a. “_____, you told me about your concern for your sick brother (or whatever the shared concern was); would you mind if I prayed for that this week?”
 - b. If the response is “yes,” you might add, “Is there anything else I could be praying about for you?”
3. If the person has not shared a concern with you, you might say something like this:
 - a. “Maybe you have a relative who is ill, or you are concerned for your kids in school, or for a problem at work, or things that are going on in our community.”
 - b. Adapt this as well as you can to the person's situation.
4. Or, think of your own way to suggest to someone possible areas for prayer, perhaps by sharing something from your life that others are praying about for you.

E. Practice the Introduction

1. Now, combine the elements of introduction you have chosen to be your approach. Write it out in full.
2. When you go home, write and practice your approach for each person, saying it aloud in imaginary conversations with each of your selected people. Practice until it seems right.
3. Then trust God as you actually do this with each person on your list.
4. If they seem hesitant, tell them that you will keep the prayer requests confidential. This will usually make them more willing to share.

III. Starting Your Ministry

A. What will it look like?

1. You may seek out the person with the purpose of asking them, or you may wait until you naturally see them.
2. If you seek a person out
 - a. You might visit his home and say something like: “_____, I have been praying more for people lately, and I have been thinking of you and your family. Is there anything in your life that I might pray for you this week? Maybe you have a relative that is sick, or you are concerned for your kids in school, or a situation at work.”
 - b. If he gives you a request:
 - 1) Thank him for telling you about it, and tell him you will be praying for the request.
 - 2) Then tell him you will see him later, and move on.
 - 3) **DO NOT** pray with him there (out loud or touching him)! You do not know what a person far from God may understand or think is really happening when you pray. Let him see the results of your praying first!
 - c. If he has no request, you might say, “_____, if you ever want me to pray for something that comes up, please let me know. I will be glad to pray for you. I will see you later.”
3. If you meet the person naturally
 - a. For example, Mary is talking to Sarah about school.
 - b. As they talk, Mary says, “I have been praying for others more lately. Do you have anything in your life that I might be praying for you this week? Maybe there is an illness in the family, or you may want me to pray for you, or perhaps for your classes at school?”
 - c. Sarah asks her to pray for an exam coming up in school.
 - d. Mary says, “Thanks, Sarah. I will do that.”
 - e. Then they continue their conversation, and Mary departs when they are finished.

B. Prayer is the Key!

1. During the week, maintain the kind of relationship you normally have with the person you are praying for, but pray consistently for him and for his need. Many times a Christian will say that he will pray about something, but then forgets or simply dismisses his promise.
2. Pray daily for the person. As a rule, **DO NOT** pray with him or in his presence. Develop a regular time to pray alone each day.
3. Pray earnestly for his requests. If a request is unreasonable, such as praying to win the national lottery, modify the request, such as praying for him to be better able to manage money, or however the Spirit might lead you to pray.

C. Keep a Prayer Journal

1. A Prayer Journal is a critical tool to keep track of the requests you are bringing to the Lord for others and for yourself. This will help make sure you actually pray for people and their requests so that God will move on their behalf.
2. **Do NOT** expect that God will move to meet these needs if you do **NOT** actually pray!
3. The Journal can be as simple as a sheet of paper, a multi-page notebook, or an app on a smartphone. Record names and requests with the date of each request and its answer. Keep it where you will see it every day and it will be easy to use.
4. Your Prayer Journal will become a guide for your daily prayers and also a reminder of God’s faithfulness and of the progress of your relationships with the people for whom you are praying.
5. Your instructor may show you his Prayer Journal now.

D. Prayer Walks

1. Many people have found that prayer walking contributes to the success of spiritual battles encountered during your outreach to the lost. Prayer walks can be done as an individual, in pairs, in small groups, or even in large groups.
2. Simply walk through the neighborhood, praying (with your eyes open) for the people as you walk past their homes, even if you don't know them by name. You can also do this at your workplace, or around your school.
3. Pray that God will be working in people's hearts and lives, that evil will be exposed and defeated in the area.
4. Pray that people's hearts will be opened and many will come to faith in Christ.
5. Pray that the area will be transformed by Christ.
6. You may go on prayer walks together with other believers, such as your encouragement partner, others in your small group, or fellow Christians at your workplace or school. Many people find it very encouraging to pray along with others, trusting God to work in a larger area.

E. The next Directed Conversation

1. After a few days, a week, or an appropriate time, seek out the person and initiate another conversation specifically about praying for his requests.
 - a. Practice until you are comfortable saying, "I have been praying for (his request). How is it going?"
 - b. This shows care and gives credibility that you have been doing what you said. It opens up the door for further communication and insight into the situation.
2. As he replies, respond appropriately. Rejoice when you hear that your prayers were answered. If the situation has not changed, tell him, "I will continue to pray for that" and keep praying.
3. At the conclusion, express your desire to continue praying for him. "Is there anything else you would like me to be praying for this week?" If he expresses another request, listen intently and assure him of your prayers.
4. Return at appropriate regular intervals for more prayer opportunities.

IV. Class Exercise

A. Practicing a First Encounter

1. Select a partner for practice in pairs. The instructor can be a partner if there is an uneven number in the class.
2. Take turns practicing your introduction. You may start by reading a sample introduction from the lesson, but keep repeating the exercise until you don't need to read it.
3. Listen carefully to one another. After you have gotten comfortable with giving your introductions, ask each other if there is anything you might do to improve. (Be gentle, and be humble.)

B. Practicing a Visit

1. When your instructor tells you, take turns role-playing an entire visit. One person comes to get prayer requests, the other portrays the person who is far from God.
2. Practice different scenarios:
 - a. The person is hesitant to share
 - b. The person shares inappropriate requests
 - c. The person cannot think of something to ask
3. If you have time, let one or two teams demonstrate what they have learned in front of the entire class. Encourage them heartily!

Session 3

Caring and Sharing

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Commit to care for the people for whom you have been praying
- Explain some of the steps involved in the caring aspect of your ministry
- Practice caring by employing listening skills
- Know when to share with others wisely.

Introduction

In giving the Great Commandment, Jesus made it clear that we are to love our neighbors. But love produces action. The ministry of prayer for your neighbors is just the beginning of care for them.

I. Be Consistent

A. Maintain Your Ministry of Prayer

1. Pray daily for the people on your list. This in itself is evidence of your care for them.
2. Keep your Prayer Journal current, recording requests and answers to prayer.
3. Pray daily for their requests and also for their salvation.

B. Build Your Relationship

1. Build your relationship with each person.
2. Don't come on too strong too early in your relationship with people. Come to them in gentleness and humility.
3. As a general rule, once you have initiated praying for them, let THEM initiate further levels of communication and interest about the gospel. Be ready, but be patient to truly sense God's leading, not your own.
4. Write a profile on each person in your Prayer Journal. List his likes, dislikes, hobbies, family background, goals, dreams, fears, hurts, joys, struggles, as you slowly learn these things about him. Discuss in class why you should do this.

II. Learn to Listen

A. Listening is caring

1. One of the greatest ways to show care for a person is to listen to him.
2. As you listen carefully, you will learn about things that are important to the person. Some of these may become vital keys to his heart when the time comes to share with him.

B. There are five basic stages to listening:

1. Anchor – Make sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit and that Christ is truly the center of your life in practice. Ask God to give you His love for the person, and good ears to hear what he is saying.
2. Focus – Listening must be intentional and planned.
 - a. Are you ready to listen? Are you eager to hear what he will say?
 - b. Is your body in a position that tells the other person you are ready to listen?
 - c. Gently invite him to share.

3. Summarize – Rephrase what you hear into your own words without changing the meaning or commenting.
 - a. Don't solve the problem.
 - b. Don't share your own experience (yet).
 - c. Acknowledge the emotions you perceive, if possible. "That must have made you _____ (sad, happy, frustrated, angry) when that happened."
 4. Invite – Encourage the speaker repeatedly to "say more" until he is finished.
 5. Ask – Ask questions that cannot be answered with just "yes" or "no" about any area that is not clear, to help him make full disclosure.
- C. Listen with a sympathetic ear. But do not allow gossip.**
1. Listen to him sharing about himself, not about others. Exception: stories about family members, who directly affect his life, usually are important to listen to.
 2. If he persists in talking about others, simply say, "I am not here to talk about them. I am here because I am interested in you and your life."
 3. You might ask, "May I pray about that concern for you?"
 4. Talk with him in a way that gets him to talk about himself, to share his heart and life with you. This includes his joys, sorrows, problems, and needs. He might begin to share these things as a part of sharing prayer requests with you.
 5. You might get him to talk about himself by asking him questions about his life.
 6. He may, like many people, have negative opinions about Christians. Allow him to express his opinions without argument. Often, once a person has expressed himself, he will be open to you. You do not have to defend Christianity. Love him by listening to his complaints.

III. Extending care

A. Minister to Needs through Acts of Kindness

1. Meet new neighbors with a small gift and a card with your name, address, and phone number.
2. Meet a practical need of sick neighbors or new parents. In some cultures, you could bring a meal.
3. Watch your neighbor's children to give the parents a chance for some time alone.
4. Visit people who are sick or housebound. Bring them something to read or something of practical value they can't get because they are ill (that meets a need in a culturally appropriate way). If you have children, consider taking them with you when you visit older people.
5. Bring together a group of children to play (invite their mothers, too).
6. If a neighbor is passing by, invite him in, even if things are not as neat as you would like.
7. Spend a Saturday morning helping someone do things they need to do.
8. In some cultures, if you are cooking something special, make some extra to give to a neighbor.
9. Host a holiday party at your home and invite neighbors. They can visit with others as well as with you.
10. Plan sporting events, games, picnics, or anything to draw the neighborhood together.
11. Help them with work in their garden or field.
12. If you have transportation, offer to give a ride if they need it.
13. Offer to pick up something at the market for them.
14. Walk through your neighborhood and talk to people you see. Visit with them if they have time.
15. Have the class suggest their own ideas for showing love through acts of kindness. Write down the ideas you like best:

B. Give the Gift of Time

1. Sometimes we get so busy that we don't take time to be with and show interest in people.
2. Take time to be a caring, loving neighbor. That is an important command from God.
3. Spend time doing things together that you both like.
 - a. Make a list of interests that you have in common.
 - b. Think through how you might be able to do some of those things together. You might watch a television program or movie, go to a sporting event or picnic, or go walk together.
 - c. Don't force it. Sometimes it takes time to build a mutual relationship.
4. Look for ways to help your neighbor in what he is doing. Especially look for things where he needs assistance.

C. Offer the Gift of Fellowship

1. As his interest in spiritual matters grows, offer to introduce him to your Christian friends and bring him to Christian events.
2. Introduce him to warm, loving Christians who represent Jesus well.
3. If you are in a small group, invite him to come.
 - a. Don't change the meeting format or turn the focus on him when he visits.
 - b. Give him an explanation beforehand of what will happen in the meeting, and an open invitation to participate or not participate, as he feels comfortable.
4. Invite him to Christian events that might fit his interests.
 - a. Seminars that the church may offer on a topic of his interest: "How to Manage Your Finances", "Marriage Enrichment"
 - b. Holiday services: Christmas, Easter
 - c. The most comfortable event could be an evangelistic meeting by a ministry that addresses the felt needs of non-believers, communicating the gospel in terms they understand.
5. Watch a good Christian video together, such as the "Jesus" film.

D. The Impact on You

1. Jesus taught that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
2. As you invest time in prayer and care and even sacrifice financial resources to show God's love to someone, your heart of love for him will grow.
3. He will see your love grow and want to know why you love him so much.
4. That is when you will have your opportunity to share.

IV. Ready to Share

A. Take your time

1. Don't rush. This cannot be emphasized enough!
2. Some people are too eager in the Prayer, Care, Share process to share too early, especially if you have been practicing door-to-door or some other form of confrontational evangelism, which allows no time or investment to build a relationship first.
3. Rely upon God's responses to your prayers and the impact of your acts of kindness to open his heart first.
4. Before you get to share from your life, you must listen earnestly and carefully as he first shares from his life.
5. Discuss, as a class, why this principle is so important.

B. Listen for your Invitation

1. As your relationship continues to develop, the person you have been loving well will bring you one or more questions. It is important to identify certain categories of questions:
 - a. A biblical question might be, “Why does God do this or that? Why doesn’t God answer this prayer?”
 - b. An opinion question might be, “What do you think about what’s happening at that church in the news?”
 - c. A personal question might be, “Why are you doing this? Why do you care so much about me?” or “Do you think there is any hope for me?”
2. Be responsive to his questions as the Holy Spirit warms his heart to spiritual matters. You listen to the Spirit as He guides you to answer wisely.
3. Answer biblical questions clearly, concisely, and compassionately. If you don’t know an answer, don’t be afraid to say so.
 - a. If his questions are sincere, let him know that you will try to find the answers.
 - b. If a question is argumentative, share about your personal dependence on God. You may not have his answer, but God does.
 - c. It will be helpful for you to prepare for the most commonly asked questions.
 - 1) Find answers by asking believers who have more training than you.
 - 2) Read Christian books on witnessing and apologetics that give basic answers.
4. Answer opinion questions honestly, carefully, respectfully, and gently, regardless of current popular opinion.
 - a. Always point toward God, who is your hope, and His Word that reveals Him.
 - b. You may want to share an experience from your life, or a verse or principle of Scripture that might apply to the matter.
 - c. If you don’t have an opinion about the matter, don’t feel that you need to develop one immediately.
 - d. You might ask him what he thinks or why it is important to him, but do not get into an argument about the issue. Listen to his answer and try to find common ground.
5. When you hear a significant personal question, either about yourself or about the spiritual condition of the other person, that is your invitation to enter the holy place of sharing.

C. What do we Share?

1. The next two sessions will help prepare you for sharing. We want to do this well in order to give that person who is far from God a clear opportunity to hear and to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ in order to receive Him.
2. But before you share the biblical message, you will share your own personal experience of receiving Jesus and the impact that decision has had in your life.
3. In summary, when you share:
 - a. You share your story
 - b. You share God’s story

Session 4

Preparing to Share Your Personal Story

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Prepare your own personal story of how you came to know Jesus, so that you can communicate it naturally and in an appealing manner
- Share about your ongoing relationship with God in such a way as to help others see that they too can have a personal relationship with Him.

I. Preparing Your Story

A. The Importance of Preparation

1. All of your sacrifices of time and energy and finances and emotional investment have paved the way to this opportunity to share. You want to do it well in order to give them the best opportunity to hear and to understand and to follow your personal example of trusting Christ.
2. Your listener must understand the one main idea from what you share: “Trusting Jesus to become my Lord and Savior has wonderfully changed my life.”

B. The Biblical basis of preparation (class discussion)

1. According to 1 Peter 3:15-16, what should you always be ready to do?
 - a. Who initiates this conversation?
 - b. Why do you think this conversation started?
 - c. What preparations must I do to be ready?
 - d. What needs to be true about my behavior?
2. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul recounts his behavior and his thinking from when he was present with them.
 - a. From verse 1, what was NOT included in his story? What would that look like today?
 - b. How complex were his doctrinal arguments, according to verse 2? How should that affect our discussions with unbelievers?
 - c. What power was he referring to in verses 4-5? What does that look like today?
3. What elements of a good story are seen in Paul’s short testimony, which can be found in Acts 26:4-23?

C. The Benefits of preparation

1. You will be ready to use it effectively.
2. You will be more concise, organized, and powerful because you are prepared.
3. You will recognize and take more opportunities to share your story.
4. You will have the joy of leading others to new life in Christ.

D. Some Guidelines for Your Story (“Do’s” and “Don’ts”)

1. DO begin with an attention-getting sentence and be natural.
2. Do NOT mention denominations or religions.
3. DO use language that sounds natural for you.
4. Do NOT sound like you are preaching.
5. MAYBE use one or two Bible verses, but only if it fits naturally. Do NOT, if your audience will not understand it or find it helpful.
6. Do NOT share too much about bad things in your past, but focus on your transformation. Do NOT share details about past sins that could lead others to sinful imaginations.
7. SOME terms (joyful, peaceful, happy, changed) MUST be explained if you use them.

8. Do NOT use Bible words or religious words that people may not understand (converted, convicted, sin, saved, born again, justified, reconciled, etc.) without explaining their meaning. Try to use common, non-church words as much as possible.
9. DO explain what you specifically did in order to receive Christ as Lord in such a way that the hearer might do the same thing himself.
10. DO explain how your life has been changed because of the decision you made to trust and follow Jesus.
11. DO have a clear ending point and make the closing natural so you will feel you don't need to keep speaking.
12. When you share your story, DO be willing to listen as well.
13. DO remember: Successful witnessing is sharing Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God.

E. The Outline of Your Story (Two options)

1. If you came to know Christ after childhood:
 - a. My life BEFORE I came to know Christ (1-2 minutes)
 - b. HOW I came to know Christ (1-2 minutes)
 - c. My life AFTER I came to know Christ (1 minute)
2. If you came to know Christ at a very early age:
 - a. HOW I trusted Christ as a child (1 minute)
 - b. In-between: As I grew older (1 minute)
 - c. My decision (three options) (1-2 minutes)
 - 1) HOW I continued to follow Christ
 - 2) HOW I affirmed my earlier decision to trust Christ
 - 3) HOW I rededicated my life to Christ
 - d. My life AFTER my decision (1-2 minutes)

II. Workshop

A. Prepare your Story

1. Using one of the two outlines above (and considering the guidelines provided), take just 10 minutes to write a first draft of your personal story.
2. Read it quietly to yourself to consider adding, changing, or removing some points. Repeat this 3 times, making corrections as you go. The purpose of reading alone out loud is to help you concentrate on your own story to make it clearer and to help you to start to learn what you've written in a short amount of time.

B. Practice

1. Divide into pairs and practice telling this story to each other. Practice reading it twice.
 - a. Help each other. Give honest feedback.
 - b. Make sure the outline sections are not too short or too long.
 - c. Remove words that are too churchy. Remove words that would not make sense to a non-Christian.
 - d. Consider the guidelines as you listen and evaluate the story you are hearing.
 - e. Tell your partner what parts you do not understand.
 - f. Give each other feedback where the story is good or where it needs to be clearer.
 - g. Tell each other the impact his story had upon you.
2. Have a few brave souls share their story with the entire class and listen well to the feedback given by the instructor.

Session 5

Sharing the Gospel

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Share the gospel with a person so that he can understand the basic concepts of the gospel and put his trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Lead a person in a prayer of faith inviting Christ to come into his life to be his Lord and Savior.

I. Sharing the Gospel

A. The Rewards of Explaining the Gospel to Others

1. If a person is to respond in faith to Christ, it is important for you to be able to explain the gospel so that he understands it and knows how to respond.
2. The most important thing you can do for others is to help them come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.
3. Remember that our job is simply to share Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God.

B. Advantages of Using a Gospel Presentation

1. The Four Spiritual Laws presentation can be found at the end of this document. It can be reproduced in a copy machine and used to present the gospel.
2. This resource has been used effectively for decades around the world, leading millions to faith in Jesus Christ.
3. You just read it aloud with someone, allowing him to respond in appropriate places. It takes you step-by-step through the gospel.
4. The Scripture verses are clearly presented, so you can use the presentation even if you do not have your Bible with you.
5. You can leave the Four Spiritual Laws with the person for him to review and think about what you have shared.

II. How to Share the Presentation

A. Simply Read Aloud

1. Hold the presentation so that the person can follow along as you read aloud.
2. Point to the text and diagrams as you read. This helps the person follow along with you and not lose the place where you are reading.

B. Dealing with Questions

1. If the person asks a question, answer it as best and as briefly as possible, and then pick up reading where you left off.
2. If the question will be answered later in the presentation, tell him so.
3. If the question would take a long time to answer and would detract from the presentation, say that you would like to answer the question, after you finish the presentation.

C. Demonstration of Sharing the Four Spiritual Laws

1. Your instructor will now ask for two volunteers to role-play (1) a Christian sharing the Four Spiritual Laws, and (2) a person who is not a Christian but would like to become a Christian. He will give positive answers to the questions in the presentation.
2. The two will read through the entire presentation to demonstrate how you would share it with a positive and interested person.

3. Have the “listener” select the self-directed life circle (on the left) and that he would like the Christ-directed life circle (on the right). After the prayer is presented, he should agree that the prayer expresses his heart and the “sharer” leads him in the prayer by having the “hearer” repeat the prayer phrase-by-phrase after the “sharer”.

D. Important stop

1. After demonstrating the prayer, the volunteers stop, but remain in front of the class.
2. Your instructor will now ask the entire class, “Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? This is the most important decision of a person’s life. Sometimes even faithful church workers or pastors realize that they have not taken this step. Perhaps there is someone present who is uncertain about his or her relationship with Christ and through this explanation understood how to receive Christ. If so, you can pray right now, inviting Christ into your life. If there is any doubt in your mind as to whether you have received Christ, you can pray right now to receive Christ.”
3. Have the volunteer “sharer” read the prayer again slowly, phrase by phrase, allowing time for anyone to echo each phrase.
4. If anyone in the room takes this opportunity to receive Christ, rejoice with him!!

E. Two-by-Two Class Practice

1. Choose a partner. Each will have 10 minutes to practice sharing the presentation.
2. The partner will respond in a positive manner and pray the prayer as if he is a receptive person. Partners, do not make it difficult for your partner to share with you.

III. Concluding Sharing the Presentation

A. “Yes”

1. If a person answers, “yes” to the question, “Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?” then lead the person in the prayer a sentence at a time. Be sensitive, the person may prefer to pray silently or pray later privately.
2. If a person invites Christ into his life, continue reading through the presentation, letting him answer the questions asked.
3. Celebrate together with your new brother in Christ! Rejoice!

B. Not “Yes”

1. If a person is not ready, encourage him to consider this most important decision and let him know that you will be available to answer any questions.
2. Leave the Four Spiritual Laws with him to allow him to read through it again.
3. Keep praying for him to receive Christ, and remain faithful in your relationship with him. Do not reject him if he is not yet ready to receive Christ.

IV. Action Point

1. Share the gospel with at least three people, two of whom are strangers. Tell them, “I am going through training and have been given an assignment to read through a presentation with someone. Would you let me share it with you?”
2. Remember that you are simply to share Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God.

Session 6

Helping a New Believer Grow

Objectives

By the completion of this session you should be able to:

- Motivate a new believer to meet with you for a series of follow-up sessions
- Conduct follow-up sessions with a new believer to help him grow and develop in his spiritual life
- Encourage a new believer to join you in a small group to help him grow in Christ and to get to know other believers
- Encourage a new believer to have a Prayer, Care, Share ministry of his own.

I. Growth through Follow-up

A. Selecting Materials

1. If your church has materials for follow-up that they are already using to help new believers grow in their faith, please feel free to use them.
2. Both Cru and the Transformational Leadership Movement offer a set of follow-up materials. These may be copied freely (and may not be sold) to share with those whom you lead to Christ.
3. Pass out the first follow-up appointment to the trainees. Explain how they can obtain the materials.

B. Class Discussion

1. How important is it to follow-up a new believer?
2. Which tools do you like to use for follow-up? Why?
3. What are the most important things for a new believer to know, in your opinion?

II. The Follow-up Meetings

A. Prepare Before the Appointment

1. Before you meet, you need to prepare yourself and the materials in order to have a successful meeting. Your preparation will show the new believer that these appointments are important.
2. Make sure you both understand clearly when and where you are supposed to meet. You may need to call him the day before or the morning of the appointment to confirm that you will both be able to meet.
3. You need to have two copies of the lesson: one for you and one for your new believer. You are the teacher, and should work through the lesson ahead of time.
4. You need to bring two Bibles so each of you will be able to read the passages listed in the lessons. The new believer should purchase his own Bible soon (or perhaps you will give him a Bible as a gift of love).
5. You need to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit whenever you are about to meet someone. Make sure that your relationship with God is not hindered in any way.

B. What Happens at a Follow-up Appointment?

1. Make sure you arrive on time
2. Greet him warmly and spend the first few minutes finding out how he is doing. If he expresses a concern or need, make sure you record it in your Prayer Journal after the meeting. You do not stop praying for a person because he has become a follower of Christ.
3. Pray for your meeting time. If he has shared a need, include it in your prayer.
4. Distribute the materials for the meeting. Give him his copy of the lesson and a Bible to use. Set your lesson and Bible in place.

5. Plan to cover one lesson in one hour. Read through the lesson together, including asking the questions in the lesson.
6. Let him look up the Bible passages listed and read them aloud.
 - a. You may have to teach the new believer how to look up verses in a Bible.
 - b. Teach him to use the Table of Contents to find the page number for the book.
7. From the passages read, let the student determine the answers to the questions. Do not be impatient. Try to help him find the answers for himself. But if he gets frustrated, go ahead and show him the answer.
8. The two of you can discuss the answers to make sure that he understands things clearly.
9. If you answer the questions for the student, you will prevent him from learning how to study to gain understanding. Let him do the work as much as possible.
10. Set up your next meeting time and place. Thank him for coming to meet with you (or for setting aside the time to meet, if you have come to his home or workplace).
11. Close your meeting with prayer.

C. Teaching by Example about Prayer

1. For the first one or two follow-up appointments, you should lead in prayer.
 - a. At the beginning, ask the Lord to bless your time of study together.
 - b. At the conclusion, thank the Lord for the time and the lessons learned.
 - c. Keep your prayers very simple and conversational, trying to avoid fancy language or potentially confusing religious words. You are setting an example for the new believer to soon follow. Keep it simple!
2. After the first couple of meetings, you might ask your new brother if he would like to pray and ask God to bless, or to thank Him in conclusion.
3. Don't force him to pray aloud, but offer him the opportunity.
4. Class Demonstration: Unwise and Wise
 - a. Your instructor is first going to give an example of praying a big, fancy, religious prayer in the presence of a new believer.
 - b. One or two students explain how a new believer might feel hearing that prayer. Might he be afraid to start praying?
 - c. Now the instructor will give a short, appropriate prayer, as an example to start a new believer's prayer life.

III. Growth through Small Group Fellowship

A. A System of Small Groups

1. Hopefully your church has a system of small groups, with trained leaders.
2. There should be prayer, Bible study, sharing, and outreach (using Prayer, Care, Share).
3. If these groups do not exist, your church may want train leaders to start small groups.
4. Life Group Dynamics is a follow-up course to Prayer, Care, Share, teaching how to develop small groups that instruct and encourage followers of Jesus.

B. Involving a New Believer

1. As you go through the follow-up material with a new believer, explain the need for fellowship with other believers as a vital factor in growing spiritually.
2. Explain how meeting as a small group, studying the Word, sharing, praying for one another, and outreach is helpful and necessary.
3. Invite him to attend your small group with you sometime soon. You may need to travel with him to his first meeting.

4. If he attends, introduce him to the members of the group, and encourage him to share his progress in his spiritual life thus far.
5. Get him involved in any social activities that the small group may be having.
6. If he does not want to go to a small group, still seek to meet with, pray for, care for, share with, encourage, and help him grow in every way possible.

C. Discussion

What is the value of being involved in a small group?

IV. Growth through Outreach to Others

A. What next?

1. After you have studied the follow-up lessons with your new brother in Christ, what should you do?
2. Jesus told us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) that we are to make disciples. Your job is to continue to help this new believer become a committed follower of Jesus Christ.
3. Just like raising children, making disciples takes time, but produces an incredible reward.
4. Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2) that the teaching he had received from Paul, he now needed to share with others, who would share with even more people. This is the principle of spiritual multiplication.

B. Commitment to Share what he has Received

1. Ask your new brother in Christ, “What is the best thing that ever happened to you?”
2. By this point in his spiritual development, he should say, “Receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.”
3. Then ask, “What is the best thing you could possibly do for others?”
4. Answer: “Help them to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.”
5. Finally, ask, “If I show you how, will you do that with me?”
6. He may be reluctant, afraid that he will be unable to do this, but you can reassure him that you once felt the same way, and because **you** once decided to commit to loving God and loving others, **he** now has a new life in Christ.
7. He might not commit at this time, but tell him that you will pray for his good decision.
8. If he does commit to join you, rejoice! Tell him that he is about to enjoy an adventure with God. Just as you have grown through practicing Prayer, Care, Share, you can be sure that he will grow spiritually.

C. Train him

1. You may continue to get together, one-on-one, to go through the Prayer, Care, Share training with him, or if a small group is going through the training, encourage him to participate with them.
2. Either way, you are his spiritual parent, and need to stay in close relationship to make sure he keeps growing in Christ. Keep praying for him, caring for him, and sharing with him.
3. Now you are sharing life together as brothers in Christ!
4. When your new brother came to Christ, your list of people to reach for Christ became shorter!
5. Whenever this happens, make sure you go back and pray about the next person to add to your Prayer, Care, Share ministry.

V. Assignment

A. Encouragement Groups

1. Form groups of two to five people who will keep in touch and encourage one another to make sure that everyone is doing what needs to be done. Make sure you know how to contact one another before you leave today.
2. Additionally, a coach will be assigned to each Encouragement group to help ensure that this is being done (See “Instructions For PCS Trainers and Coaches” in Appendix A). Make sure the instructor has your group information before you leave today.

B. Pray

1. Pray daily for your new ministry.
2. Pray for God to give you His love for the people in your life.
3. Pray for the needs people share with you.

C. Go

1. Go and ask for prayer requests from the five or six people you have selected from your circles of relationships.
2. Go out, filled with God’s love for others, and build good relationships with them.
3. Let the love of God give you joy as you seek to serve others through Prayer, Care, Share.
4. Begin a Prayer Journal and practice using it daily.

D. Personal Story

1. Rewrite your story, considering the suggestions offered by the group.
2. Practice your revised story by yourself until you can tell it comfortably from memory.
3. Practice your revised story with a classmate and with a Christian friend.

E. Share the gospel with at least three people, two of whom are strangers. Tell them, “I am going through training and have been given an assignment to read through a presentation with someone. Would you let me share it with you?”

F. Simply share Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God.

Appendix A

Instructions For PCS Trainers and Coaches

A. Trainers Read and Do this Before Conducting Prayer Care Share Training

1. It is important that before starting this training you identify and assign a church leader who is practicing Prayer, Care, Share to serve as a Coach for the trainees.
2. It is critical to “inspect what you expect.” If you wish to see the best results from your Prayer, Care, Share training, you must assign a church leader to be a Coach who will be diligent to follow up on the training to make sure that the participants are working on their assignments and practicing this ministry, not just learning about it, but doing it (James 1:22).

B. The Coach helps the trainees in several ways

1. He helps them fulfill the assignments as an overseer.
2. He encourages them individually and as a team to remain dedicated to practicing Prayer, Care, Share.
3. He ensures that trainees are faithful to do their assignments.
4. He may organize follow-up meetings for assistance and for sharing the great results God has produced.

C. Practical steps for the Prayer Care Share Trainer and Coach

1. The Prayer Care Share Trainer (the class instructor) will introduce the Coach to the trainees.
2. Depending on the number of trainees, the Coach divides them into Encouragement Groups of four or five or into Encouragement Partner pairs who will help one another to make sure the assignments are completed. Have each group or pair select a leader and develop a plan for how they will maintain contact and hold each other accountable to complete their assignments.
3. Have each group make a list of the group members and the leader. The group leader will give the Coach a list of his group members and each phone number.
4. The Coach will call each Encouragement group or pair leader within two days of the training, and ask about their meeting, working, and Encouragement plan. If they haven't yet established their plans, have him call you back when they do.
5. When they meet, each Encouragement leader is to check the following:
 - a. They have their list of 5 or 6 names to contact
 - b. They have practiced what they plan to say to each contact.
 - c. They have started a Prayer Journal and have entered the names of the five people to contact into it.
 - d. They have developed and written their personal story of before, how, and after he met Christ using the “How to” instructions from the notes in Session 4. They should help one another until both have a good draft of their personal testimonies that they can give.
6. The Encouragement leader is to call the Coach after they have met with a report of the meeting.
7. After two weeks, the Coach will contact all of his members and find out how far each person is on their assignment and encourage them to contact at least two or three of their contacts before another week has passed.
8. As a Coach do anything that you think of that will help all of the members of the group do all of the parts of the homework and to help the church team begin to think how they can train others in Prayer, Care, Share. The Prayer Care Share Trainer will serve as a resource to you.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS?

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws, which govern your relationship with God.

LAW 1. God LOVES you and offers a wonderful PLAN for your life.

God's Love

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...

LAW 2. Man is SINFUL and SEPARATED from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

Man Is Sinful

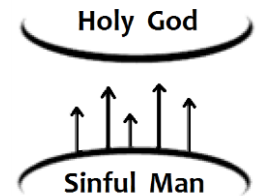
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

Man Is Separated

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6: 23).

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion - but he inevitably fails.



The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...

LAW 3. Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

He Died in Our Place

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

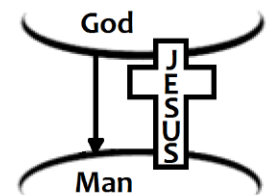
He Rose From the Dead

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6).

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf, which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



It is not enough just to know these three laws...

LAW 4. We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

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

We Receive Christ Through Faith

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives.



Self-directed life

- Self is on the throne
- Self-directed areas of life in discord and frustration
- Christ is outside the life



Christ-directed life

- Christ is in the life, on the throne
- Self is yielding to Christ
- Interests are directed by Christ, in harmony with God's plan

Which best describes your life? Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

The following explains how you can receive Christ

You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer (Prayer is talking to God). God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

How to Know That Christ Is in Your Life

Did you receive Christ into your life by sincerely praying the suggested prayer?

According to His promise in Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to you? Christ said that He would come into your life. Would He mislead you? On what authority do you know that God has answered your prayer? (The trustworthiness of God and His Word.)

The Bible Promises Eternal Life

"The witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:11-13).

Thank God often that Christ is in your life and that He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). You can know on the basis of His promise that Christ lives in you and that you have eternal life from the very moment you invite Him in. He will not deceive you.