

CHAPTER THREE

HELPING OTHERS FIND CHRIST

Sharing with others the gospel of Jesus Christ should be one of the results of your Bible study. If you are prepared, the Holy Spirit will use you to awaken an unbeliever to his need.

HOW TO PREPARE

1. In Philippians 2:14-16 Paul described the kind of life that reveals Christ and attracts men. Define in your own words the terms he used, and rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 in each area, with 10 as the best score.

	SCORE
Does not complain or argue	_____
Is blameless and pure	_____
Is without fault	_____
Shines like a star	_____
Holds out the word of life	_____
Which of these areas needs the most attention in your life at this time?	_____

What can you do to improve in this area?

2. Read Matthew 4:19. What is the best preparation for sharing Christ with others? (Explain your answer.)

3. According to the following verses, what can you pray for those without Christ?

John 6:44 _____

John 16:8-9 _____

1 Timothy 2:1-4 _____

4. How can you prepare yourself to speak for Christ?

2 Timothy 2:15 _____

1 Peter 3:15 _____

MAKING CONTACT

5. Read Matthew 9:10-12.
a. With what kind of people did Jesus associate?

b. How did Jesus make contact with them?

6. Where did Paul meet people to present Christ to them?
Acts 20:20

7. Using questions can help you introduce spiritual matters into your conversation with an unbeliever. You must guide the discussion and not command it—and the person who guides a conversation is usually not the one answering questions, but the one asking them.

List by name some non-Christians with whom you come in contact regularly. Develop questions that would help you make the transition in your conversation into the good news of Christ. (Note the examples. Jane is a college student, Clark is a business-man, and Norman is a soldier.)

PERSON	QUESTION
Jane	How have your ideas on religion changed since you came to school?
Clark	What need in your own life do you hope to meet by having a successful business?
Norman	Why do you suppose there is so much unrest in the world today?

RECOGNIZING NEEDS

Jesus was a master at recognizing needs and would speak to the issue that was of deepest concern to a person he met. The primary need of a man without Christ is to receive him as Savior and Lord. But a man without Christ may feel he has many other needs that should be met before he receives Christ. You may have to meet “felt” needs before you can help a person with his “real” needs. Felt needs are symptoms caused by real needs.

8. Read Mark 10:17-22. (Also compare Matthew 19:16-30 and Luke 18:18-30.)

a. What was the man’s felt need?

b. What was his real need?

c. How did Jesus illuminate the real problem?

d. What attitude did Jesus have toward the man when he put him to the test?

9. In recognizing needs it is important to realize that problems result in a variety of surface symptoms. John warned us about three such problems: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). What are possible symptoms for each of these problems?

a. Lust of the flesh

Instability and discomfort around people

b. Lust of the eyes

Possessive attitude

Carry a small New Testament with you. When presenting Christ, let the other person read the verses for himself if possible. This is a powerful way to present Christ and to build confidence in the Scriptures.

PRESENTING CHRIST

14. Why is it important to present Jesus Christ to men who are lost?

John 14:6 _____

Acts 4:12 _____

15. Read John 3:16-18.

a. What four points summarize the gospel? *Verse 16*

b. Why did God send Jesus into the world? *Verse 17*

c. What are two types of people? *Verse 18*

d. What one thing is necessary to escape condemnation?

Be ready to speak of Christ in any situation: Know the essentials of the gospel. Plan and practice how to explain about Jesus Christ in a clear and interesting way. Then pray and take advantage of your opportunities.

c. The pride of life

The felt need of an individual may be apparent, but don't stop there. Ask yourself what can cause this type of symptom. Try to pinpoint the real needs of the individual. Then help him discover his need and the solution in God's Word.

USING THE SCRIPTURES

10. What does God's Word do? *Hebrews 4:12*

11. What does God promise to believers concerning his Word? *Isaiah 55:11*

12. Where and with whom did Paul use the Scriptures in sharing Christ? *Acts 17:1-3 and 26:22*

13. How should you handle a situation with an antagonistic or indifferent person? *2 Timothy 2:23-26*
