

## STEP 1 PREPARATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SHARING



### CHAPTER 4 – BE COURAGEOUS IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

#### OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF REJECTION

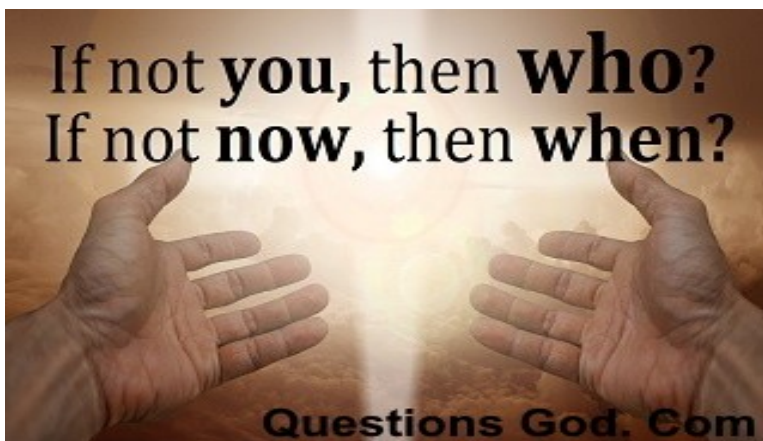
Before we start sharing, we need to learn how to build courage. Let us discover why we want to win souls by examining scriptural motives for telling others about Jesus.

#### STEPS IN DEVELOPING COURAGE - COURAGEOUS FAITH - FOCUSING ON JESUS

It takes courage and determination to share the Gospel. Most will feel uncomfortable, and many will view sharing the Gospel as a troublesome and painful experience. Fearless faith results from constantly looking at Christ and following in His ways.

We need to think about the heavenly treasures that await us. These rewards will exceed anything that makes us happy in this world. Remembering and focusing on the Gospel that saved you from death and allows you to have an eternal life with Christ is the key to building up the desire and courage to overcome the fear of sharing the *Good News*.

Courage and determination are vital for spreading and safeguarding the truth of Christ. Jesus guaranteed that we would encounter opposition and resistance when sharing the Gospel. *Jesus said in Matthew 24:9, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*



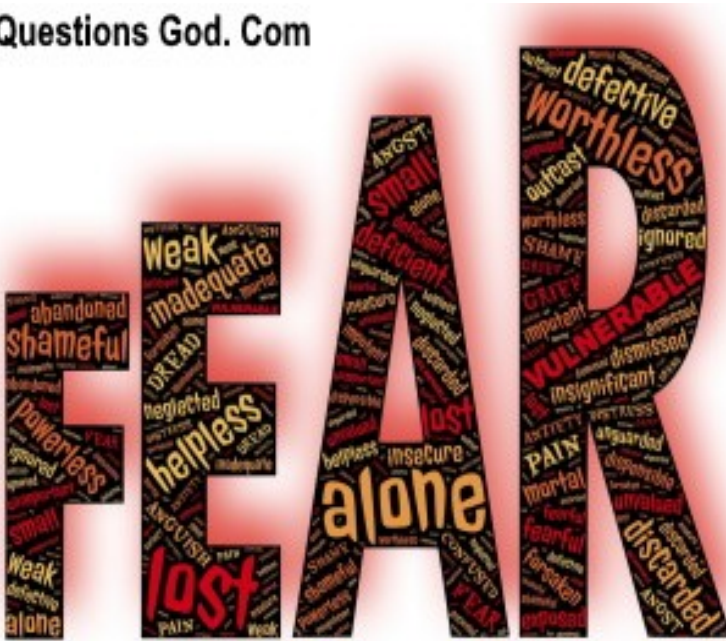
**FOR THAT REASON,** "Introducing others to Christ" will involve fearlessness and courage.

Running away from resistance, conflict, and controversy in evangelism dishonors Christ. We are not meant to be cowards.

We have no trouble discussing everything else but struggle to share the Gospel message.

Things of this world and the devil will always try to stop us. We sometimes hesitate, letting fear set in, and the battle rages in our minds. Where shall we get this courage from? Are we loyal soldiers for Christ and join the fight, or do we run for the hills with our tails between our legs?

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**Please consider these points on how to overcome fear and develop courage:**

1. We are forgiven and made righteous. I have no doubts. *"The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion."* (Proverbs 28:1).

2. Depend on God. Have confidence and trust in Him. *"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."* (Psalm 31:24). *"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."*

(2 Corinthians 3:12).

3. We are filled with the Holy Spirit. *"... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."* (Acts 4:31).
4. God is with us. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9).
5. Realize God is significantly greater than the enemy. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged ... but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles."* (2 Chronicles 32:7-8).
6. Always be in prayer. *"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."* (Ephesians 6:19-20).
7. Develop a desire to be an example for others. *"And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear."* (Philippians 1:14).



## **STEP ONE**

### **For those new to sharing:**

When just starting to share the Gospel, I recommend handing out Gospel Tracts. Please always carry them with you whenever you have the opportunity to hand them out in public. You could also include them when writing letters to acquaintances.

Check out excellent Christian tracts at [Moments With The Book](#) or [Christian Book Com.](#)

What someone does with the tract should not be a concern for you. All that matters is that you have planted the seed and done what you were supposed to do. Someone may toss it in the garbage; perhaps a janitor will fish it out and take it home. From there, a next-door neighbor may also read through it. By the way, this is something that actually happened. Other examples of finding Bible tracts:

- A custodian cleaning a bathroom saw a tract and read it. He later obeyed the Gospel and now is a preacher of the Gospel.
- A mother was visiting her daughter and found a tract on the dining table and read it. Unfortunately, her daughter, the initial recipient of the tract, had no curiosity or interest in it, but her mother sure did! She contacted the individual who sent it and ultimately accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

**IMPORTANT:** I am sure we all have different views on using Gospel tracts. At the very least, it is a starting point for anyone who has never shared the "Good News." Using Bible tracts is a way to build up the courage to share your testimony. You can read the Gospel message right from the tract. [Doing this is better than doing nothing at all.](#)  
(Pause and Reflect!)

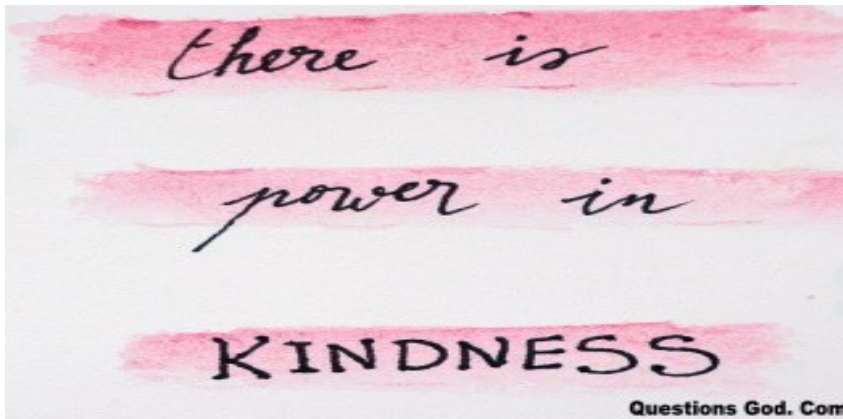
You will find folks who may have good intentions but sometimes be critical of anything you do because of a bad personal experience. They have a criticizing personality or a negative opinion on something they have never tried. To deflect objectors, ask, "[What method do you use?](#)"

The story goes about a woman criticizing a well-known evangelist on how he shared the Gospel.

He told the woman, "[I agree; what method do you use?](#)" She said, "None."

The evangelist said, "[I like my approach as it is better than doing nothing at all.](#)"

We will look at Gospel tracts in more detail in a later study guide, but please remember it is better to start somewhere than not start at all! Do not get discouraged if someone criticizes the way you share the Gospel. In most cases, they don't use any method at all. Again, to deflect objectors, ask, "[What method do you use?](#)"



## **STEP TWO**

**Let your light shine naturally when around non-Christians** ([Matthew 5:16](#)).

This doesn't mean making a spectacle of yourself but gently showing that you are a Christian through your actions and regular speech.

There is a distinction between doing things just to **be seen** (condemned by Jesus) and doing things **seen by people** (commanded by Jesus.)

It is good to reflect on whether you are a positive or poor representative of Jesus through your words and actions and how you live your life. Non-believers are always watching what we say and how we react to situations. Our behavior and words have consequences, and when we fail, Christianity takes a hit, giving a non-Christian a reason and an excuse to deny God.

Last Sunday, we got a new Lead Pastor. He said in his sermon, "[I am letting you know I will disappoint you at some point.](#)" We all fail in some way or another. But Jesus knows our hearts, and as we are God-conscious, the Holy Spirit will show and teach us His ways as we read God's Word, the Bible. Each day, we must pray, asking the Lord to help us be sensitive to how we can best represent Christ in our daily lives. Asking our Lord to lead and guide us should be your daily prayer.

## **EXAMPLES OF LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

1. Thank God in prayer for your meal whenever you eat in public places. Many occasions have happened when a non-believer will ask a Christian to give a blessing before eating. This can be done verbally by a short, thankful prayer. When you have family or friends over for dinner or at a restaurant, ask, "[Are you okay with us blessing this food?](#)" They always answer, "[Yes.](#)" When folks know you are a Christian, you will be astonished at how often they ask you to bless the food.
2. Always keep a Bible with you, and do not be self-conscious when you are seen reading it. Please try to keep a Bible or a New Testament Bible in your purse, pocket, or jacket, and read it as often as possible in public. This can open up doors for some excellent conversations about what you believe. Have a New Testament Bible with you to give if folks are interested. Most people will be glad to take it.
3. You can read a Christian book on your lunch break, waiting for a bus, or having downtime. You will be surprised how it opens up a spiritual conversation.

4. We can comfortably identify ourselves with Christ in our daily conversations. When the opportunity presents itself, casually mention things that reveal your faith in God. If a friend or acquaintance has confided in you with a problem, tell them sincerely, "I will keep you in my prayers." Or better yet, have the courage to ask, "Can I say a prayer for what you are going through?" Please use wisdom in keeping the prayer short and to the point and refrain from being forceful.

Just a heads up—every time I do that, negative thoughts of doubting and fear come first, but the end result is the person needing prayer is very thankful that someone showed they cared about them. Next time you see them, ask about their situation and show a genuine interest in how they are doing. It is one of the easiest, straightforward, down-to-earth ways to share your faith.

5. In everyday conversation, you might touch on relevant points made by your pastor, Bible teacher, or what you learned from your Bible study. Ask them if they would like to come to a Sunday service if you feel it is an appropriate time. Follow up with them over a cup of coffee or lunch. In making plans with folks, use the expression "Lord willing." Give credit to the Lord when the time calls for it.

The above are ways to share your faith and model confidence in what God can do. When done sincerely, spontaneous expressions and actions like these can help you build courage in sharing and can help you ask people about their faith.

Remember, starting in small ways is better than not sharing at all. (Pause and Reflect!)

### **True Story**

A man invited me for coffee in my late teens and shared the Gospel. On leaving, he gave me a paperback Bible, which I had kept for over 20 years. It meant that much to me. Over 15 years, my wife and I have sent thousands of Bibles worldwide for free, partly because of that man who cared to share Christ with others.

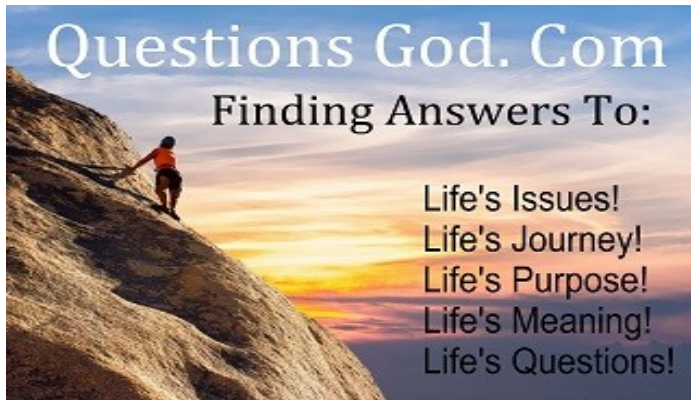
You might never know what has been done for God's Kingdom when you share the Gospel. **But God Knows!** (Pause, Consider, and Reflect!) I never met that man again, and he has no idea what part he played in God's work in our lives.

### **A Simple Method For New Christians who have never shared the Gospel:**

Many people at first need help and have a hard time sharing. Take time to write on paper what you would like to say in your presentation about Jesus. We will discuss this further in later chapters.

Always take an interest in the person you are speaking with first. Ask them questions about themselves and what is going on in their life. Then ask, "Did I ever tell you..." One effortless method I recommend is saying, "You might be interested in this website called [www.questionsgod.com](http://www.questionsgod.com) that talks about God and issues in life." Hand them one of our [front](#), [back](#), or [two-sided](#) cards to review our website [Questions God. Com](http://QuestionsGod.Com) online. (As illustrated below.) A safe place to search for spiritual answers.

## PRINTABLE HANDOUT CARDS



We also have Printable QuestionsGod.com [handout cards](#) that make eight individual cards to give out. When the non-believer has to leave, encourage them to visit [Questions God. Com](#) and give them one QuestionsGod.com business card. Choose from 8 front-sided [handout cards](#), 8 back-sided [handout cards](#), or 8 front and back-sided two-sided [handout cards](#). Double-sided printing instructions are [here](#).

You can use your printer or any printing shop business like Staples to take the PDF to any local print shop on a flash drive. We recommend printing on glossy heavy-weight paper, ideally a 67 lb. weight. More details in a later chapter.



### **STEP THREE**

**When you introduce yourself to someone and then hand them a Gospel Tract.**

You are not directly sharing yet (only using "*indirect*" sharing methods), but you are beginning to face people. This will help build up courage for you to eventually be able to reach someone with the Gospel message and tell your testimony.

Some examples:

1. Give a tract to an acquaintance and say, "[This is a short explanation of the Gospel of Christ. We have known each other for some time now, and I would like you to read this and tell me what you think.](#)"
2. Ask folks if they would like to study the Bible on their own time at their own pace in their home or through a study guide with you. If you do not feel confident leading a study guide, your pastor or a mature Christian will gladly help. I suggest doing a study guide on the Internet. The ones we recommend are sent daily by email below at [www.questionsgod.com/studyguides.htm](http://www.questionsgod.com/studyguides.htm).

- [God's Simple Plan of Salvation](#) – are you searching for Answers – 21 days.
- [New Christian Study Guide](#) – are you new to Christianity – 21 days.
- [Steps to Spiritual Maturity](#) – for developing Christians - 21 days.
- [Gospel of John](#) – knowing God better - 21 days.
- [How to Share the Gospel](#) – Ultimate Guide from A to Z - 30 days.

3. Offer to give them a Sermon, Christian music, an [audio Bible CD](#) or DVD, and ask them if they would be curious to hear what the Bible says about . . .

4. Many Christian websites have apps to download to your mobile device. You could show people some apps to download onto their phones.

5. If you have shared the Gospel, send them a link to a Christian website that explains the Gospel message, like [Questions God. Com](#) or [EveryPerson.Com](#).

You are actively sharing the Gospel with others, even though you may only be using indirect techniques. From here, you can try to set up home studies. Consult with your pastor for life groups, alpha courses, next steps programs, etc. Ask your friend to attend with you, which is an excellent way for you to present Christ. **You are starting to do things for the Lord in any of the above situations!**



### **COURAGE IN SOUL-WINNING**

If you feel that you cannot share "the main reason for the hope that is in you," you are like a disabled person without a cane or *an artist without a brush*.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew then to the Gentile."* (Romans 1:16).

Let me help motivate and encourage you to share your faith:

- **Building Courage In Soul Winning:**

*"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."* (2 Timothy 1:7).

- **Primary Reason For Not Sharing the Gospel:** Not having the courage to share is the number one reason for not introducing others to Christ. The fear and anxiety of being rejected, turned down, laughed at, and looked on by others as "*religious fanatics*" is a common perception. Who should we be trying to please? *"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."* (Galatians 1:10). We need to learn to focus on pleasing God.

- **Building Courage In Sharing:** What we need is *fearless evangelism*. "*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.*" (2 Timothy 1:7).

## COURAGE

1. Courage in sharing the Gospel means being confident in the message's truth, regardless of the response. ([1 Corinthians 9:16](#)).
2. Courage in sharing the Gospel means being willing to risk rejection and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. ([Matthew 10:22](#)).
3. Courage in sharing the Gospel means being bold and clear in proclaiming the message, even in the face of opposition or discomfort. ([Acts 4:13](#)).
4. Courage in sharing the Gospel means relying on the Holy Spirit to empower and lead in conveying the message. ([Acts 1:8](#)).
5. Courage in sharing the Gospel means actively seeking out opportunities to share the message with others and recognizing the urgency of their need for Salvation. ([Colossians 4:5-6](#)).



### GOD FUELED COURAGE - ENDURANCE

#### 1. Pray For Boldness.

Philippians 4:13: "*I can do all things through him who gives me strength.*"

#### 2. Share Christ In Ways That Are Not Face To Face:

Leave cards or tracts on tables when you eat in restaurants or insert them in letters to friends and neighbors.

#### 3. Let Your Light Shine Naturally ([Matthew 6:1-18](#)):

- Offer thanks for the meal in public places.

- Keep your Bible with you, unashamed to hold or read in public.
- Be sure to express faith when talking. (For example, "*I will pray for you.*")

**4. Personally Hand Out Tracts.** Present a tract to a friend and say, "*Here is a short explanation of the Gospel of Christ. I would like you to check this out and let me know your thoughts.*" Ask if they would be interested in hearing what the Bible says about . . . , and give them a tract on the subject. Take someone along with you if needed.

### 5. What Happens If Folks Say "No?" Keep In Mind:

- These people are not rejecting you but are denying He who sent you. ([Luke 10:16](#)).
- They judge themselves unworthy of eternal life. ([Acts 13:46](#)).
- You could look for someone else with whom to share the Word. ([Acts 13:46](#))
- You succeed every time you sow the seed by sharing *the Word*.
- Take satisfaction in knowing you are serving the Lord Jesus!



## We Must Have Gospel-Fueled Courage!

What motivated the early church to press on under the threat of rejection, persecution, and death? It is the same thing; we must overcome our fear of sharing the Gospel with our neighbors by having Gospel Courage.

Download **BECAUSE OF JESUS POSTER** [here](#).

# Because of Jesus

I will not be silent and I will not be ashamed. I can be courageous and confident as I share my faith because:

### *I AM ACCEPTED:*

I am God's child.  
**John 1:12**

I am Christ's friend.  
**John 15:15**

I have been justified.  
**Romans 5:1**

I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit.  
**1 Corinthians 6:17**

I have been bought with a price....  
I belong to God. **1 Corinthians 6:20**

I am a member of Christ's body.  
**1 Corinthians 12:27**

**1** am a new creation.  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

I am a saint.  
**Ephesians 1:1**

I have been adopted as God's child. **Ephesians 1:5**

I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 2:18**

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all of my sins. **Colossians 1:14**

I am complete in Christ. **Colossians 2:10**

### *I AM SECURE:*

I am free from condemnation.  
**Romans 8:1,2**

I am assured that all things work together for good. **Romans 8:28**

I am free from any condemning charges against me.  
**Romans 8:31-34**

I cannot be separated from the love of God.  
**Romans 8:35-39**

**1** have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.  
**2 Corinthians 1:21,2**

I am hidden with Christ in God.  
**Colossians 3:3**

I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected.  
**Philippians 1:6**

I am a citizen of Heaven.  
**Philippians 3:20**

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. **2 Timothy 1:7**

I can find grace and mercy in time of need.  
**Hebrews 4:16**

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me. **1 John 5:18**

### *I AM SIGNIFICANT:*

I am the salt and light of the earth.  
**Matthew 5:13**

I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. **John 15:1,5**

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.  
**John 15:16**

I am a personal witness of Christ's.  
**Acts 1:8**

I am God's temple. **1 Corinthians 3:16**

**1** am a minister of reconciliation.  
**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

I am God's coworker. **2 Corinthians 6:1**

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.  
**Ephesians 2:6**

I am God's workmanship. **Ephesians 2:10**

I may approach God with freedom and confidence. **Ephesians 3:12**

I am one of God's living stones and am being built up (in Christ) as a spiritual house.  
**1 Peter 2:5**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:13**

Download **BECAUSE OF JESUS POSTER** [here](#).

## **FEARFULNESS & DETERMINATION**

As Christians, sharing the Gospel with others is an important aspect of our faith. We are called to bravely spread the message of Salvation to those who have not heard it. However, for many of us, the idea of openly and confidently proclaiming our beliefs to others can be daunting. It takes a lot of courage to share the Gospel, but the rewards of doing so can be tremendous.

One of the main reasons why sharing the Gospel requires courage is because it often involves going against the tide of popular opinion. In today's secular world, many people are skeptical of religion, particularly Christianity. Speaking up for our faith can leave us feeling vulnerable and exposed, especially when we encounter resistance or opposition. Yet, as Jesus himself said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). We should take heart in the fact that we are on the right side of history, no matter what the world around us might say.

Another reason sharing the Gospel requires courage is that it calls us to step outside our comfort zones. We may feel nervous or uncertain about approaching strangers or acquaintances with the message of Christ, but doing so can be profoundly fulfilling and even life-changing for us and those we talk to. As it says in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."*

Summarizing courage in sharing the Gospel ultimately comes down to trusting in God's power and being willing to rely on his strength rather than our own. It may mean taking small steps, such as sharing your faith with a friend or co-worker or boldly speaking up in a larger setting. Whatever the case, remember that when we share the Gospel faithfully and bravely, we are glorifying God and fulfilling our calling as Christians.

### **A Journey Of Chapter 4 Questions – Courage In Sharing The Gospel.**

Embark on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and personal growth. Explore your thoughts and emotions to better understand yourself and your world. By reflecting on these questions, we can expand our perspectives and uncover new insights to help us overcome any obstacle.

Please reflect on these questions from Chapter 4.

1. Have you ever shared the good news with others? If not, why?
2. What personal steps must you take to share the Gospel boldly?
3. Do you have the courage to share the Gospel against the tide of public opinion?
4. Write down your thoughts on how you can have more courage in sharing the Gospel.

# Tomorrows Study Guide

## Chapter 5

### PRAYER IS THE CATALYST FOR SOUL-WINNING

Please let us know if you said Yes to Jesus [here](#).  
If you are undecided or have questions, please let us know [here](#).  
Need to talk to a Christian - 24/7 Christian Chatline [here](#).  
Need help to find a caring local church? Go [here](#).

If you are hurting or searching for life's answers, check out [Questions God. Com](#).  
*"This is a safe space to contemplate one's life, spirituality, and relationship with God."*



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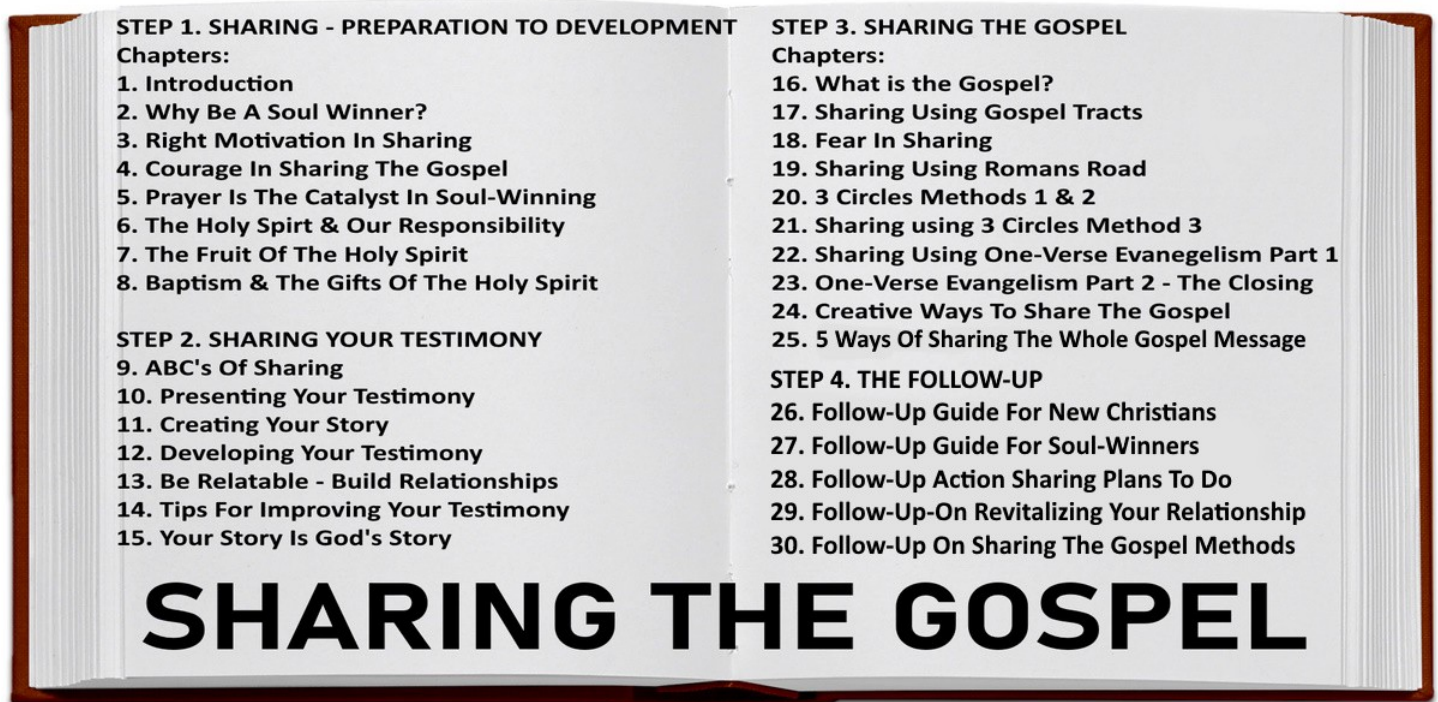
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Gospel of John  
Sharing the Gospel

## 30-DAY LIFE-CHANGING CHALLENGE

Sharing our faith is among our urgent calls as followers of Jesus. Discover the heart of evangelism and exciting techniques you can utilize to help you reach others for Christ.



### SHARING THE GOSPEL OUTLINE - 30-DAY STUDY GUIDE

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