

STEP 3 – SHARING THE GOSPEL - CHAPTER 26

YOUR FOLLOW-UP GUIDE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

One of the most rewarding aspects of your sharing the Gospel is touching people's lives and watching new Christians grow and mature in Christ. Here we will set some **GOALS** for you to focus on when following up with a new Christian.

- Help the new believer find and understand Bible verses central to the Christian faith.
- Help them understand principles of spiritual growth.
- Guide and instruct them on building new Christian connections and developing friendships within Christ's body.

After you have shared the Gospel with someone through any form of evangelism—Bible tracts, the Circle Method, Visual Presentations, and over 20 other methods discussed in Chapters <u>17</u>, <u>19</u>, <u>20</u>, <u>21</u>, <u>22</u>, <u>23</u>, <u>24</u>, <u>25</u>, and they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The next **step** in the process is **discipleship**.

According to <u>Matthew 28:18-20</u>, there are two principles for discipleship: baptizing people in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching people to observe the commandments of the Lord. <u>John 15:16</u> describes the results—bearing fruit that will last.

After being saved, the person is usually willing to be discipled and desires to study the Bible. Help introduce the new believer to a local church where they can be water baptized. They can join a New Believer's class (or something similar) at a local church,

where they learn what water baptism means. Most churches also have Life groups and Bible study groups they can join.



QUESTIONS GOD. COM

Nurturing the new believer goes hand-in-hand with discipleship.

After water baptism, it would be good for you to encourage them to continually bear "good fruit" and help them stay in Christian fellowship. God wants a relationship with them and cares about them. God has adopted them into his family, and each day they should read God's Word in the Bible and fellowship with other Christians.

It is good to emphasize to new believers that God begins to change them from the inside out. Critical to articulate that it is not an instant one-time event when they will suddenly become perfect saints. Instead, it is a continuous lifetime development as they surrender their will and desires to the Lord and want more of Christ's leadership in their lives.

Let's take a good look at John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

First, we notice that we should bring forth fruit, but it doesn't end there. The latter part of the verse says to bear fruit that will last. A new believer needs to meditate upon this verse. Sometimes we see a new Christian who is at first excited about the Lord, and in response to that excitement, they start to live a life for Him. However, a while later, we find them swallowed up by worldly desires and falling out of the faith.

Or we may not know what has happened to them because we did not take the time to disciple or nurture them. It is crucial to always follow up with every person you share the Gospel with. A newly born-again person does not have the necessary tools initially to understand how to live a life pleasing to the Lord. It is essential to help them along their journey and to encourage them to start sharing their faith with their non-believing friends. Never say, "God bless you," and let them go off alone after you have finished talking with them.

This last weekend my wife and I invited a couple out to dinner we have known at arm's length for about five years. They mentioned they would like to get together when they first came to our church, so we invited them for pizza. It meant so much to them, and I completely forgot about it. You never know—by the grace of God, when going the "*extra mile*" could lead to something extraordinary.

BE WARNED: You might have less time to watch TV, golf, or do whatever hobbies you may have.

Discipline and **nurturing** a new believer will be like a parent raising a new infant that starts crying and wants immediate attention. In the big picture, you are so blessed as you watch and help your child grow into an adult. So it is with the new Christian; it takes God's Love and patience to mentor a brandnew child of God. Yes, you will need an abundance of God's love, wisdom, and patience. As I write this,



I receive an email from a young new Christian almost every hour with questions. Another person in a developing country sent me hundreds of emails before and after accepting Christ as Lord asking questions daily on anything he could not understand starting in 2014. That person is Tamil, a Pastor now going through persecution for many years in his country but serves Christ wholeheartedly. <u>Tamil's testimony</u>.

Also, it is important to do many follow-ups with the new convert because the enemy will immediately attack them with unbelief. Please follow through in person, by phone, video chat, text, or email as much as needed. You would not leave a brand-new baby to look after itself; do the same for the new child of God. Most importantly, pray daily for the new Christian. God's work in using you has just begun, be kind, patient, forgiving, and loving to the new "*baby*" Christian.

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10.) The heavens rejoice; however, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and it to the full." (John 10:10.)

RESOURCES TO HELP NEW CONVERTS

- You can send encouraging letters or emails to those starting to follow Christ.
- Sign-up by email for 21-day study guides, for example, <u>God's Simple Plan of</u> <u>Salvation</u> or <u>Steps for a New Christian</u>. One good idea is to do the study guides together once or twice weekly to review them.
- Encourage them to read the book of John in the New Testament. 21-study guide on the <u>Gospel of John chapter by chapter here</u> or a shorter chapter by chapter of the <u>Gospel of John here</u>. Download and print out the <u>Gospel of John PDF here</u>.

• <u>Alpha</u> is an excellent 11-week course for new Christians to discuss faith, life, and God. Check out <u>Alpha Online here</u> to find one close to you. One suggestion is to meet with the new believer and do the Alpha course together.

WAYS TO FOLLOW UP WITH NEW BELIEVERS

- As stated previously, introduce them to a New Believers class, a Life group, or a Bible study group at your church or a church of their choosing. Attend with them, if possible, for support.
- Send them encouraging letters, emails, or texts. And always make time to talk to them over the phone, Skype, Zoom, or in person is the best to meet and talk.
- Take them out for coffee or lunch, or invite them for another activity.
- Introduce them to other fellow believers.
- Please get to know them, be an encouraging friend, and be there for them, as they will likely have many questions.
- Give them <u>information on the next steps</u>. I recommend that you have this printed out. Please give them the <u>next steps for a New Christian here</u>.

FOLLOW-UP - MAKING DISCIPLES (More Detailed Method)

After sharing the Gospel and your testimony with someone,

Say, "You're probably wondering what the next steps are for you to deepen your relationship with God and how to live a life for Him."

Then **ask**, "What do you do now?" The person might say they are unsure. (Here is more information on how they can <u>become a Christian</u>, or download and print the <u>PDF</u>.)

Respond with: "You have become a child of God if you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart! You have now been born again spiritually and are now a child of God. Our Lord has forgiven your sins, and today begins the first day of many in your new walk with God."

EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT AS NEW CHRISTIANS, THEY SHOULD: 1. Read The Bible.

(God's Word) daily to learn and understand how to walk with Jesus. Ask them if they have a Bible; if the answer is no, give or buy them a new Bible <u>here</u> as soon as possible. We suggest reasonable Bibles to buy under \$10.00 to \$15.00 <u>here</u>. Or recommend you give them one of your Bibles, or your church may have Bibles available for free.

Note: New Christians should have a Bible translation that they understand to help them

Read the Bible Prayer Babfized Fellowship Church Share Ouestions God Com

grow spiritually. I <u>recommend</u> giving them a <u>New International Version Bible</u> (NIV) or a <u>New Living Translation Bible</u> (NLT.) <u>Devotional Bibles</u> are also excellent.

Someone gave me a "Good News Bible," which was perfect for not knowing anything about God then.

Giving someone a Bible is the best thing you could give someone, as the Bible tells us what God wants us to do and how we ought to live. It's God's Word. As you begin to read it every day, it will help you grow spiritually.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15.) "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalms 119:105.)

Find more information on <u>Bible Reading Methods here</u> and <u>15 Bible Study Methods</u>.

There Are Three Methods Of Bible Translation:

- <u>Literal Translation</u> Translators transcribe each word in the original language to an equivalent English word, word-for-word, as in the King James Version (KJV).
- <u>Dynamic Translation</u> Translators transcribe the original message into equivalent English words or expressions, capturing the meaning and purpose of the original language like in the New International Version (NIV) or the New Living Translation (NLT.)
- <u>The Paraphrase</u> is the more easily readable of all translations but is the least accurate as it simplifies the text explained <u>here</u> in detail, as in The Message version.

Insight: I want to take a moment to emphasize how important it is to give a new Christian the "*Word of God*." Someone gave me a free Bible that changed my life. A few years before I accepted Christ, a man took me out for coffee and explained the Gospel. I did not understand much then, but the man assuredly sowed the seed. He gave me a paperback *Good News Bible* that I had kept for over 20 years.

That act of kindness had a tremendous life-changing impact on my life. My wife and I have sent thousands of free Bibles worldwide for many years because of one man's compassion to serve our Lord.

That man will never discover the ripple effects of his kindness towards me until we reach heaven. I am an average person with no unique gifts but a child of God who desires to help build His Kingdom. To God be the Glory!

I am telling you this story because it is likely that you will not see the results of your kindness towards someone and all the miraculous things that will happen in that person's life. At some point, you could share God's word with the next <u>Billy Graham</u> or <u>Corrie Ten Boom</u>. You might never know, but God knows.

May this encourage your heart and your zeal to witness?

2. TALK TO GOD EVERY DAY IN PRAYER.

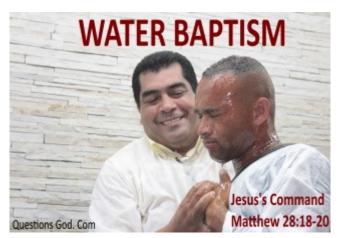
Talking to God is as easy as having a conversation with a friend. I recommend finding a quiet place and a specific time to meet with God daily. We must choose to shut out the turmoil and negativity around us and purposely focus our thoughts on God. I want you to know the words you say are not as imperative as the genuineness and attitude of your heart.

Don't just talk the entire time; close with an "*Amen*," and get up and leave. We recommend taking a few moments to be quiet during prayer so you can listen. If you talk the whole time, you will not have ears to hear what He wants to say to YOU. You might ask, "Is it possible to hear from God?" The answer is "*YES*." Please read the Good Shepherd and His Sheep in John chapter 10.

In the same way, we can hear from God. God speaks to us by reading the Bible and listening to the gentle, quiet voice of the <u>Holy Spirit</u>. Daily conversations with God can transform your life!

3. GET WATER BAPTIZED.

As the Bible teaches, talk to the person about getting water baptized with total immersion. It is an act of obedience to <u>Jesus's command in</u> <u>Matthew 28:18-20</u>. You could also send a few Christian articles on <u>water baptism</u> by email. After they have read the materials, discuss baptism with them in person, on Facetime, over the phone, through email, or by text.



With their permission, help the person contact a local pastor to set up a meet-and-greet to

discuss water baptism. Please give them plenty of support and encouragement; water baptism can become less important to them if they wait too long to get baptized. I have friends that fall into that category. It is a step of faith for a new Christian; if they are introverts, it could be tough to do this in front of people. In most cases, they will need a lot of reassurance and scriptural support that warrants water baptism.

4. Fellowship, worship, and serve with other Christians in a local church.

Please encourage them to find a caring local evangelistic church to grow spiritually. The Christian life blueprint is to be together with other likeminded Christians.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25.)



Here are <u>100 reasons</u> why you should go to a neighborhood <u>church</u>.

More information on why we need Christian Fellowship and to go to a <u>local caring</u> <u>church</u>.

Need Help Finding A Caring Church?

Many people are unsure which church is the right place to attend. Daily we get folks asking us to help them find the best church to attend.

Some good Church organizations are Baptist, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Alliance, Assemblies of God, and many other Gospel-preaching churches.

Please don't hesitate to <u>contact us</u> if you need information about finding a caring local Church in your area.

5. Tell Others About Christ.

A reminder: God does not call the equipped; God equips the called.

It is our duty to share what Jesus has done for us with others. We cannot open people's hearts to the truth of the Gospel, but God can through the Holy Spirit. In <u>1 Corinthians</u> <u>2:1-5</u>, we read that the Apostle Paul was not eloquent, with no wise and persuasive words. He rested not on human wisdom but on the Holy Spirit's power.

6. As Jesus' representative, demonstrate your new life in Christ by displaying your love and concern for others.

Sharing your faith goes hand in hand with living a Godly life and showing concern by helping those with specific needs and problems.

As a new Christian, a common fear is that you know you will not have all the answers to people's questions. But the most important is that people observe you living a good Christian life and will desire to imitate that in their own life. Your testimony will also verbally demonstrate how Jesus has improved your life.

Our prayer:

We pray for the person sharing their faith and that the new believer understands the great calling the Lord has given them. Lord, give them many souls won for Christ in Jesus' name.

If you, or someone you know, have just committed to Christ, we would love to speak with you about your decision to follow him. Please <u>connect</u> with us so that we can rejoice with you! We suggest you give this link on the <u>next step</u> to any new Christian.

Below, we will show a more straightforward method using the acronym G-R-O-W-T-H to show the steps for a new Christian.

is the <u>PDF</u> to hand out to the new believer.



FOLLOW-UP GUIDE FOR A NEW CHRISTIAN

Download Steps for A New Christian PDF Here.

HOW TO DIRECT THE NEW CONVERT TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Write six things you do after you accept Christ. (As below in the word **GROWTH**.) Using the acronym - **GROWTH** (<u>1 Peter 2:2</u>.)

G	
R	
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н	help build a loving relationship.

The soul winner encourages the new believer by telling them what they can do to grow spiritually.

1. G - GO TO CHURCH. (<u>Hebrews 10:25</u>.)

Explain to them the importance of going to church. They will meet new friends and spiritually grow through preaching, singing, and fellowship. It is not enough to watch church on TV or the internet. Read about the spiritual benefits of <u>Christian fellowship</u> and why you should <u>attend church</u>.

A few good Church organizations are Baptist, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Alliance, Assemblies of God, and other Gospel preaching Churches.

Please <u>get in touch with us</u> if you want more information about finding a caring local Church in your area.

Welcome brand-new believers to come to your Bible study or church. It helps the new believer to meet new friends and learn from mature Christians. Another part of follow-up is presenting brand-new followers to other Christians who can motivate and support them in this new stage in their life.

Encourage the new Christian to get **involved** in the church they choose to attend. **Some ideas are:**

- Have them volunteer alongside another Christian as greeters, ushers, etc.

- Or encourage them to enlist to help with the hospitality team, for example, at the coffee bar at church if they have one.

- Involve them in church activities: Sunday school, men's or women's classes, newcomers' classes, and the <u>Alpha program</u>.

- Or have a small gathering in a home setting with other Christians to discuss questions a new believer may have.

- Ask your pastor about areas where they need help for a new Christian to participate.

2. R - READ YOUR BIBLE. (Matthew 4:4 and Joshua 1:8.)

You should read your Bible daily as it brings the beauty and truth of God's Word into your everyday life. Plus, it is full of God's promises for our lives. You will discover God's will and discernment instructing us in righteousness and the power to overcome.

R - REVERENT PRAYER

Without God, we will not be able to do anything of genuine worth and value. We need to pray continuously with Him so He can direct our lives. Speaking to God daily through prayer helps build a lasting relationship with Him.

3. O - OBEY THE LORD. (Acts 2:41)

Obeying the Word of God is crucial. Those who love him have the desire to keep His commandments. John 14:15,21 says, "If you love me, keep my commands. . . Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me."

When following up with a new believer, ask them if they are willing and have the desire to obey the Lord. Encourage them to follow one of His commands–<u>WATER BAPTISM</u>- and attend a local church faithfully. Water Baptism is an essential step in anyone's walk with Christ. It is not just a public act of your willingness to follow Jesus but a great act of obedience to Him. If you have any questions on water baptism, ask us <u>here</u>.

4. W - WITNESS (SHARING) (<u>Acts 1:8.)</u>

New Christians must learn to share their testimonies with others from the beginning. Remind them how they got saved, and tell them they can help others find Christ as they did. **No one can say** that they no longer need to share or witness to others. Christian witnessing is simply sharing your genuine faith in Christ and what He's personally done to change your life! We do not dispute or argue anybody into heaven. But we are called to share the "*Good News*!" As soon as possible, teach them how to share using the simple methods in the previous study guides below.

PLEASE REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS ON WAYS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

CHAPTER 17 – SHARING USING GOSPEL TRACTS

CHAPTER 19 – SHARING USING ROMANS ROAD METHODS 1 TO 9

- CHAPTER 20 SHARING USING THE 3 CIRCLE GOSPEL METHOD 1 & 2
- CHAPTER 21 SHARING USING THE 3 CIRCLE METHOD 3

CHAPTER 22 - SHARING USING ONE-VERSE EVANGELISM PART 1

- CHAPTER 23 SHARING USING ONE-VERSE EVANGELISM PART 2
- CHAPTER 24 CREATIVE WAYS OF SHARING THE GOSPEL
- CHAPTER 25 SHARING THE WHOLE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Ask them if they are interested in signing up for our <u>21-Day New Christian study guides</u>.

Every Christian should know how to share the Gospel. Please have them sign up for our <u>How To Share The Gospel - 28-Day Study Guide</u> and, if possible, do it together. We suggest at least a half hour each day. It will be hard work but life-changing.

5. T - TOGETHERNESS - FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

We need to share our lives with brand-new followers, being sincere and open about the good and evil in our lives and what God is teaching us. Get together and do enjoyable activities.

Paul explains that he resembles a spiritual parent to the brand-new believers: "Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children." (<u>1 Thessalonians 2:7</u>.)

We, too, can be similar to caring, loving parents for brand-new followers, directing them, supporting them, motivating them, nurturing them, correcting them, and keeping them accountable. "It takes a village to raise a child" applies to new believers and us.

6. H - HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit's function is vital. Assisting brand-new followers in understanding who the <u>Holy Spirit</u> is and how to walk in the <u>Holy Spirit's power and influence</u>, not in their own power. We will fall away if we attempt to live the Christian life independently of God.

CONCLUSION

As quickly as possible, shift from sharing the Gospel to doing follow-ups with new Christians. New followers may have doubts and questions, and supporting and motivating them immediately is essential. Please make a specific meeting time and location. Here is a link to our <u>24 hr Christian Chat line</u> for any questions they have.

Download Steps for A New Christian PDF. (Handout for new Christians.)

In follow-up, we can play a crucial part; however, eventually, it is God who is doing the work. He has assured us in His Word to bring about the good work He has started in us.

BIBLE VERSE STUDIES FOR A NEW CHRISTIAN

The five things you must know to go to heaven:

- You must realize that: <u>Romans 3:10, 23</u>. (Write the verses.)
- You must realize that you are _____ by your sins and <u>Romans. 5:12</u>, <u>6:23</u>. (Write out <u>Romans 5:12</u> and 1st part of <u>Romans 6:23</u>.)
- You must realize that you ______ save ______ save ______
- •
- You must realize that ______ on the cross. <u>Romans 5:8</u>. (Write out the verse.)
- You must realize that you must <u>Romans 10:9, 10 & 13</u>. (Write out the verses.)

A 4-Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith:

Refresher on how to share the Gospel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK9IsiEcW7k

SUMMARY OF THE VIDEO

- ASK Questions Love and listen to them.
- ADMIRE Find areas you can connect with.
- ADMIT You were so messed up.

GOSPEL (Walk through the Gospel.) Download the entire G.O.S.P.E.L

- G God created us to be with Him.
- O Our sins separate us from God.
- S Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.
- P Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
- E Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
- L Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

Two questions you should ask:

- Does that make sense?
- Is anything holding you back right now from putting your faith in Jesus?

PLEASE TELL YOUR STORY, pray for opportunities, and share your story this week.

Tomorrow's Study Guide

CHAPTER 27

FOLLOW-UP GUIDE FOR THE SOUL-WINNER

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If you are hurting or searching for life's answers, check out <u>Questions God. Com.</u> "This is a safe space to contemplate one's life, spirituality, and relationship with God."





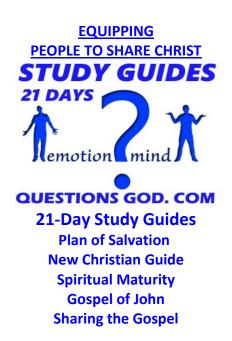








Chat with a Christian



STEP 1. SHARING - PREPARATION TO DEVELOPMENT Chapters:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Why Be A Soul Winner?
- 3. Right Motivation In Sharing
- 4. Courage In Sharing The Gospel
- 5. Prayer Is The Catalyst In Soul-Winning
- 6. The Holy Spirt & Our Responsibility
- 7. The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit
- 8. Baptism & The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

STEP 2. SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- 9. ABC's Of Sharing
- **10. Presenting Your Testimony**
- 11. Creating Your Story
- 12. Developing Your Testimony
- 13. Be Relatable Build Relationships
- 14. Tips For Improving Your Testimony
- 15. Your Story Is God's Story

STEP 3. SHARING THE GOSPEL Chapters:

- 16. What is the Gospel?
- 17. Sharing Using Gospel Tracts
- 18. Fear In Sharing
- 19. Sharing Using Romans Road
- 20. 3 Circles Methods 1 & 2
- 21. Sharing using 3 Circles Method 3
- 22. Sharing Using One-Verse Evanegelism Part 1
- 23. One-Verse Evangelism Part 2 The Closing
- 24. Creative Ways To Share The Gospel
- 25. 5 Methods Of Sharing Your Faith

STEP 4. THE FOLLOW-UP

- 26. Follow-Up Guide For New Christians
- 27. Follow-Up Guide For Soul-Winners
- 28. Follow-Up Action Sharing Plans To Do

SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL – 28-DAY STUDY GUIDE OUTLINE