

Guide Spiritual Discovery | Req 3

Req 3 - Learn the principles of leading a person to Jesus.

This is one of the most important skill you will learn. The value of learning to allow the Holy Spirit to use you to reach others is incalculable.

Preparation

Approach:

Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV but there are many diverse paths to Jesus. Each person has macro and micro factors that impact how they will find God. Missiologists are trying to crack the puzzle of contextualizing the Gospel in a way that groups as diverse as Muslims, Hindus, Animists, and Post Moderns will find appealing. For those raised in a Christian home the path to Jesus will be different. On a micro level, even siblings in the same home will read different books, hear different speakers, and experience the tug of the Holy Spirit in diverse forms. So, the first step is identifying the best approach given where the person is coming from.

Timing:

Ideally the person you are working with is in a place where they want to lead to Jesus. You cannot force a person against their will to love Jesus, but always be alert to God inspired openings. Often these openings will be close to some personal crisis.

Pick a path to follow (Roman road):

One of the greatest tools to lead someone to the Lord is called the Roman Road. The Roman Road is a path of verses to follow through the book of Romans that outline the primary principles of salvation.

Step 1.

Bible Authority: Remind or explain to our friend that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and get acceptance of this concept before moving forward. If required, do a Bible Study on this point.

Step 2.

Preparation: If you are preplanning this effort, spend some time in prayer. Pray for strength. This is no easy task, but it is what all Pathfinders and Christians have been called by Jesus himself to do.

Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

Step 3.

Recognize our Sin: The first step to salvation is recognizing that there is sin in your life. The following verses identify that there is sin in the lives of all men and women.

Romans 3:10 "There is no one righteous, not even one" Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Step 4.

Penalty for Sin: Sin leads to death, and we must understand this concept to understand the need for salvation. Explain that the death caused by sin is not just the death of this world, but an eternal death meaning separation from God for eternity.

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death"

Step 5.

God's Gift: While sin leads to death, God has a better plan for us. God's gift to man is salvation and eternal life, through Jesus Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. God's son died for us sinners! We do not deserve God's gift because we are sinners, but God gave salvation because of His love for us, his children.

Romans 6:23 "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

Step 6.

Claim your place in God's family: The existence of the gift is not the complete solution - we must claim the gift of salvation.

Romans 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" ().

Step 7.

No Condemnation: Once you have prayed to accept Jesus Christ you no longer have any condemnation. That means that you will not be punished for your sins because you have received forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 "We have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Romans 8:1 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"

Step 8.

The Question: Once you have talked through all the verses, ask if they would like accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? If at this point they say yes move on to the next step.

If they say no, they may not be ready. Ask why they feel that way and then be quiet. You may be amazed at the responses you get since doubt, fear, and a feeling of unworthiness can stand in the way. Be ready to lead the person forward by studying the Bible together. You may need to get help from your pastor or elder.

Step 9.

The Prayer: Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation! Have the person accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour pray to Him. Before the prayer, be sure they will cover the following key points.

- Recognize your sin.
- Recognize that you are deserving of punishment.
- Recognize that Jesus Christ took that punishment upon himself and provides forgiveness for your sins.
- Offer your life to God.
- Ask forgiveness for your sins.
- Thank God for his gift of grace and forgiveness, for eternal life.

If they want to pray for other things as well that is OK.

New Believer Care:

Once they have finished praying, get contact information if you don't already have it. Your friend is now a baby Christian and just like a baby needs care and nurturing, a process we often call discipleship. Get them integrated into your or a nearby Seventh-day Adventist Church. Include them in social and community service activities. Find them a job to do in the church community. Be sure they have a good, easy to understand translation of the Bible and offer to study toward baptism with them. Finally encourage them to share their new found faith with others. An excited new believer is often a more effective witness than the "heard it all before long time Christian.

Important Tips:

- Follow up because you care and love your friend the new believer.
- Know your scriptures (you are a Pathfinder after all) and make sure that you really understand the doctrine of Salvation. If you do not fully understand it, talk to a pastor or other church leader until you can explain it.
- Consider marking the Roman Road verses in your Bible for future use, perhaps in a special color or by writing Roman Road in the margin. This will help complete the Bible Marking honor.
- Don't get discouraged if you can't get your friend all the way to accepting Jesus. Just do your part and God will take care of the rest. Paul wrote "What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field." 1 Cor. 3:5-9

