

HOW TO MAKE  
FRIENDS  
AND BRING THEM TO  
CHRIST



## LOOK FOR FIVE PEOPLE

You need to identify who you want to lead to Jesus. Any work done without a purpose, achieves no results. The best way to get nowhere is to not know where to go. Therefore, choose among your neighbors, relatives or colleagues of work or study, five people that you want to bring to Jesus. They do not need to be friends, at the beginning. But they are people to whom you will come close to with the purpose of becoming friends and take them to Christ.

Why should they be five? Because as time goes by, one or more of them will be discouraged or simply will not want to know anything about the gospel. But at the end, at least one of them will arrive. If you start only with one and he/she becomes discouraged, it will frustrate you. That's why you have to choose five. As they get baptized, substitute them. But you should always keep a hotbed of people to work with.



## PRAY, PRAY AND PRAY

The conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore pray, pray and pray. Do not get tired of praying. Although it seems like you're not progressing. The Spirit of God is working in an invisible manner and His work will be manifested when you least expect it, you will be surprised. The intercessory prayer, in addition to helping the other person who you are praying for, is good for yourself. The adverse circumstances that Job underwent changed when he began to pray for his friends. "After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before" (*Job 42:10*).

## LOOK FOR A PRAYER PARTNER

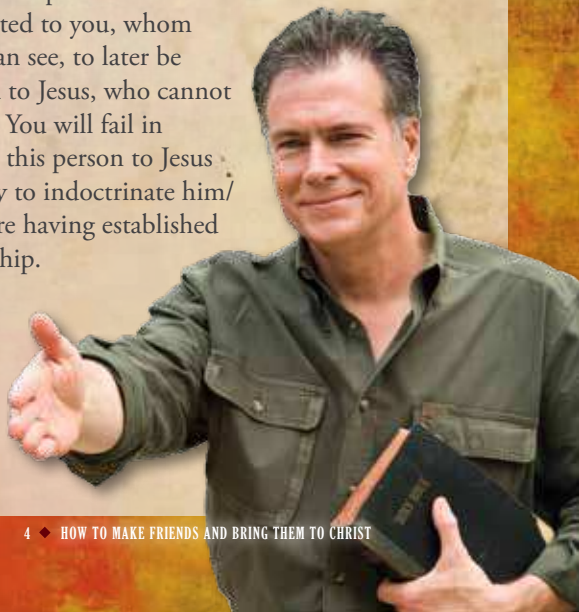
In the Bible is registered the following promise: "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth concerning anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven" (*Matthew 18:19*). The expression "again I say", shows that this is a matter that human beings are slow to understand. Jesus has to repeat it over and over again. But the promise is concrete and assured. It doesn't fail. God answers the prayer of two children, when they agree to ask about anything. Therefore look for a prayer partner and together pray for your respective friends. God will respond from heaven and they will be converted.

## LOVE PEOPLE

God is love, and his Church on earth is the church of love. People suffer when they are out of the circle of love. Your mission is bringing them into the circle of love, instead of simply changing their religion. You'll have much more success in bringing a person to Jesus, when you've gotten to love him/her. Love conquers, captivates and disarms the resistance. You'll also see that praying for somebody will help you love them.

## BECOME A FRIEND

First, the person needs to be attracted to you, whom he/she can see, to later be attracted to Jesus, who cannot be seen. You will fail in bringing this person to Jesus if you try to indoctrinate him/her before having established a friendship.



## PEOPLE DO NOT FOLLOW STRANGERS, THEY FOLLOW FRIENDS

Do you want to succeed in drawing a person to Jesus? Remember the principle that people only follow their friends. Who drives a young person to drugs? Friends. Almost every young person who starts using drugs knows that he/she is going to fall into a deep pit of destruction, with no way out. But the power of friendship is so great that he/she accepts to follow their friends despite the risk. Why would a person reject an invitation to come to church, if there is a friendship already established?

## BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS TAKES TIME

No one becomes friends in a week or a month. Friendship is a plant that requires time to be cultivated, but it is the only method that Jesus gave us to accomplish the mission. The Handmaid of the Lord says: “Only the method of Christ will give us success in reaching people. The Savior related to people as someone who wanted to do them good. He showed them sympathy, attended their needs, and earned their trust. Then, He would tell them: ‘Follow me’” (*The ministry of healing*, p. 133).

## DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION

No one, with very rare exceptions, wants to switch religions. Don't start talking to people about religious topics. Remember the popular saying: "If you want to be my friend, don't talk to me about your soccer team, or your political party, or your religion, because in these three areas, everyone has their own team." To get to people talk about what they are interested in, not what is important and meaningful to you.



## GET CLOSE TO PEOPLE WHOM YOU WANT TO DO THEM GOOD

Do not rush. If biologically speaking, it takes an average of nine months for a child to be born, in the spiritual life also requires time for a person to be born in the kingdom of God. Therefore invest time building a friendship with people without giving the impression that you want to “convert” them, or change their religion. Find out what they like and talk to them about those topics.

## TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Everybody has emotional or physical needs. At some point, we all go through difficulties, and in those moments people need a friend, to whom they can open their hearts. If you put yourself in God's hands to be a blessing to those who surround you, you will embrace the opportunity to introduce Jesus to them, as the eternal source of water, the only one that quenches the thirst of the soul.

## SHOW SYMPATHY

Sympathy attracts. If Christ lives in you and you reflect His character, your life will be like a magnet to attract people. A warm greeting, a gesture of courtesy or kindness, a compliment, or a word of appreciation, are details of sympathy that charm the neighbors, relatives and colleagues of work or school. “If we were humble before God. If we were caring, courteous, compassionate and merciful, we would have a hundred conversions to the truth, where there is none now” (*Testimonies for the church, took 9, p. 152*).

**Here are some ideas about how you can get closer to a person to do them good:**

1. Help to unload the shopping cart
2. Take a plate of food when you make something special
3. Offer to house-sit when they go for a trip
4. Offer to remove the snow from their entry
5. Offer to mow their lawn
6. Offer to pick the leaves up in the fall
7. Offer transportation
8. Also invite them to your house
9. Offer to pick up their mail when they are traveling
10. Find out when it is their birthday and give them a gift
11. Help with a translation if needed
12. If you can, help them fix something in their house
13. Offer to wash their car



## EARN THEIR TRUST

Going back to the time factor. The trust of a person is not earned in a short time. Trust is the result of time and a relationship. Learn to listen. Everyone deserves to be heard. Pay attention to what people want to share. Don't show impatience, even if you don't find so much importance in what they say. The loyal friend laughs at your jokes, even if they are not good, and sympathizes with your problems even if they are not serious. If you don't listen to people, why should they have to listen to you?

## TRANSFORM YOUR CHURCH INTO A CHURCH THAT ATTRACTS

The individual effort of the members will fail if the church as a whole is not friendly, or doesn't attract people. This work begins at the door when people who attend the church for the first time are greeted. The ushers should be the most friendly young people dressed radiantly and with modesty. They are the face of the church.

## TEACH EACH MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO SMILE AND GREET NEW PEOPLE

Out in the world, no one is interested in anybody. There are millions of people across the street and even in the same building that have never shook hands or even looked at each other. The church must be different. Each member must learn how to greet people even without knowing them. It is enough to see an unknown face to smile with kindness, or approach them to give them a hand, if necessary. People should leave the church impacted by the courtesy and friendliness of its members. So, that they feel stimulated to return.

## DO NOT CALL THE GUESTS WHO VISIT FOR THE FIRST TIME 'VISITORS'

If someone invites you to their house for dinner and upon entering they tell you that you're a visitor, what they're saying is that you are not a part of the family, and this is happening only for one occasion, and that it is not certain that the invitation will happen again. That is the message that sometimes we convey to people who come to the church for the first time. Each person who arrives at the church must feel that they are part of the family; don't make them feel like strangers. Don't be afraid to call them sisters or brothers. Tell them that they are part of the family, and you have been waiting for them for a long time.

## TRANSFORM THE LUNCH OF THE CHURCH INTO A MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCELLENCE

The church members should be aware that lunch is an opportunity to show the love of the church to the guests. Look for the new people and share with them to make them feel part of the family.



# COMMITMENT

BY THE GRACE OF GOD I WILL PRAY FOR THESE FIVE PEOPLE AND I WILL GO TO THEM WITH THE DESIRE TO TAKE THEM TO JESUS.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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