

**via**

# MAKING DISCIPLES: **THREE HABITS FOR EVERYDAY EVANGELISM**

# Making Disciples:

## Three Habits for Everyday Evangelism

*Created by // Alex Boyd*

Evangelism is one of our most important purposes in life, therefore we must discipline ourselves to carry out this biblical command.

- “Only 2% of Christians in America share their faith regularly with non-believers.” Bill Bright
- “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” James 4:17

Share the “Cure to Cancer” Illustration. Why do you think many Christians don’t have a bigger sense of urgency to share the gospel? How can we grow in our readiness to share Christ?

- “I’m convinced that the main reason many of us don’t witness for Christ in ways that would be effective and relatively fear free is simply because we don’t discipline ourselves to do it.”  
*Donald Whitney in Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*
- “It doesn’t matter how high and holy our world changing intentions are if we don’t have time to carry them out.” *Christopher Adsit in Personal Disciple-making*

What stood out to you from the quotes above? Look up Ephesians 5:15-16. How does this passage apply to making evangelism a spiritual discipline?

### **1. Pray that Jesus would open doors for you to share His word, and then take advantage of the opportunity.**

Look up and read Colossians 4:2-6. What principles can we apply to our efforts in everyday evangelism? List as many principles as you can below.

- “After extended observation we have concluded that effective, lifestyle evangelism takes place when a Christian specifically prays each morning asking for opportunities to witness... Do you know why Christians aren’t leading more people to the Savior? We aren’t asking daily for opportunities to share our faith!” *Billy Hanks in Operation Multiplication*
- “You would not believe the corresponding ratio between the number of times I pray for an open door and the number of times God swings one loose. Uncanny... Imagine what would happen if every single morning everyone of us prayed fervently that God would open doors for us that day!” *Bill Hybels in Just Walk across the Room*

Do you think praying for open doors is a prayer God would want to answer? What do you think is the relationship between your prayer life and taking advantage of open doors?

Look up John 4:34-38. How does this passage apply to this first habit of looking for open doors? On a scale from 1 to 10 how would you rate yourself on the ability to notice open doors? How can you improve or maintain this? Share “Reticular Activation Center” illustration.

“Whenever I am alone with a person for a few minutes, I assume that I am there by divine appointment.” *Bill Bright*

- Taking advantage of an “open door” can look like many things... making a new friend, building a deeper friendship, inviting them to hangout, serving a friend, identifying with Christ, sharing your testimony, inviting them to Church or Bible Study, sharing a nugget of truth, setting up a gospel appointment or sharing the whole gospel. Remember when it comes to evangelism “something is better than nothing!”

Considering the above list, what “open doors” have you had in the past few days? What could be some potential “divine appointments” that might happen to you on a regular basis? How could you take advantage of them?

## **2. Develop an “Impact List” of 5-10 people. Use the Prayer, Care, Share strategy.**

Prayer: Look up John 16:23-24. What principles about praying for our friends can we draw from this passage? What are some practical ways that we can remember to pray for our lost friends? Write down your ideas.

Care: Look up 1 John 3:16-18. What principles about caring for others can we apply from this passage? What are some practical ways you can show your lost friends that you care for them?

Share: Look up Romans 10:13-15. Why is it so important that our lost friends actually hear the gospel? What are some things that might keep you from initiating contact with friends on your impact list?

On the back of this page, or in your prayer journal, make a list of all the non-Christians in your immediate circle of influence. Pick out 5-10 people to put on your impact list that you want to pray for everyday, serve in humility and share Jesus with.

## **3. Plan regularly to spend time with your non-Christian friends.**

- “It takes most new Christians about three years to eliminate all the non-Christians from their lives.” *Howard Hendricks*
- “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” *John 17:15*

What stood out to you from the quotes above? Look up Matt 9:9-13. What can we learn from the example set by Jesus?

What do you like to do for fun? Write down some ideas about how you can use that activity to build relationships with those outside the kingdom. Analyze your impact list, create a schedule to see how your time is divided, then set a realistic goal for the amount of time you spend with them.

### **My Commitment**

I am committed to practicing these habits for the next month. I am trusting God to work in my life and those I reach out to. I am also committing to ask my partner these questions so we can keep each other accountable.

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Sign your name here

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Write your accountability partners name here

### **Accountability Questions**

1. Have you been praying daily for opportunities to share your faith? What opportunities did you see? What opportunities did you take? What opportunities did you miss?
2. Have you been praying everyday for the people on your impact list? What steps have you been taking to get to know them better or share the gospel with them?
3. Have you spent any time hanging out with non-Christians? What is your plan of action to spend time with people who don't know God?

Discipleship Challenge: Practice these three habits this week. Be ready to answer the questions above. Memorize Col 4:2

## Leader Lesson Guide

### Goal

The goal of this lesson is to get your disciple get excited about the potential of living everyday on mission with Jesus using these habits and practicing them as a part of daily living.

### Getting started

Review the lesson and do a heart check concerning which of these habits you personally need to work on the most. Be honest with your disciple about which habits you need to work on. Think of some specific stories of how practicing these habits have helped you reach out. Share these stories throughout your meeting. Rick Warren says “Personal is always most powerful.” Before your meeting, pray hard that God will motivate both of you to apply these habits.

### Going through the lesson

This lesson has more quotes than usual and many are easy to understand without much discussion. Don't feel like you need to pick apart every quote. Focus most on the practical discussion questions. Don't rush through this lesson. These three habits have the potential to serve as a foundational tool in evangelism that your disciple can use for the rest of their life. It is ok if you spend two meetings going through this lesson.

### Illustrations

The “Cure to Cancer” illustration

Imagine that you have the cure to Cancer. How would you share that with the world? What if you kept the cure to yourself and didn't share it with anyone? What would people do if they found out that you didn't share the cure with anyone? We have the cure to the deadly disease that is sin. Every person on earth is affected by it and the sacrifice of Jesus can heal them. Spreading the gospel of Jesus is much more urgent than finding the cure to cancer because it is an issue of eternal death, or eternal life.

## The “Reticular Activation Center” illustration

When you get a new car you start to notice that many people in town drive the same car! We each have a small part of our brain called the “Reticular Activation Center” that trains itself to notice specific stimuli based on a person’s past experiences and what is most important to them. Praying daily for open doors helps us “turn on” our Reticular Activation Center to opportunities to share the gospel with others.

## Wrapping Up

As you finish up this lesson encourage them with a vision of how applying these habits could help them in daily life. Encourage them to be disciplined in getting started this week. Help them think of specific people to include on their impact list. Pray together and ask God to give you both open doors this week. When you meet next week ask how the inviting went and check up on the accountability questions.