

Women & the Bible



A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

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The following scripture references are from the New King James version.

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.”

PROVERBS 11:30

HOW TO
HELP
WIN
SOULS



Written by Shannon Crawford

In the church as a whole, we typically try to train our youth to be prepared for certain roles when they are older. We need good faithful men to fulfill the roles of elders, preachers, deacons, song leaders, etc. We also need good faithful women to be bible class teachers, a wife of an elder or a preacher, etc. Not everyone though is going to be able to fulfill those responsibilities. However, our hope and prayer should be for everyone who is a Christian to develop a mindset of being a soul winner. Everyone who we meet is a soul who needs Jesus if: (1) they are not a Christian, (2) needs encouragement to change if they are a backsliding Christian, or (3) needs encouragement if they are a Christian. A soul winner's work is never done because they realize that this is the task that the Lord is asking of all Christians until He returns.

Starting in **1 Corinthians 12:12** we learn that the body is not one member, but many (**v.14**). As we continue reading in the next several verses there's an analogy used for us to understand this context. Just as our physical bodies have ears, eyes, feet, hands, etc., we all have different parts spiritually. Everyone in the body of Christ plays a special role. You don't have to be the teacher in a bible study to evangelize. If that's not your place, or suited to your ability, that's okay. We all have different talents that are important and give glory to the Lord. I think every member of the Lord's church is involved in at least one of the following aspects of evangelism.

***"Come and see."* (Bring them to Jesus)**

Our primary focus is to make contact with lost sinners and invite them to learn how to be saved through Jesus and be added to His church. This can't be done properly unless everyone is willing to talk to their friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers. Let's look at **John 1:43-46**. Jesus wanted to go to Galilee and He found Philip and told him to follow Him. Philip was from the same area as Andrew and Peter. Notice the dialogue between Philip and Nathaniel in **verses 45 and 46**.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Wow! What a simple and yet powerful invitation Philip gave to Nathanael. *Hey, come and see for yourself who this Jesus is.* Just from that invitation, those men's lives changed from that moment on.

Over the years, I have learned that evangelism is relationship based. Sometimes there may be people that you will be able to reach better than your preacher because you have gotten to know them and have already established a relationship with them whereas your preacher has not had that opportunity. Not only do we need to try to invite folks to worship with us on Sundays, but we also need to bring them into our homes (c.f. **Acts 5:42**). Unfortunately, hospitality has almost become a lost art. Our homes can play a crucial part when it comes to evangelism. This is where people can be in a comfortable and relaxing environment. Folks who you come in contact with can become potential prospects. This will cultivate the soil so that when they are ready for a bible study, the seedbed has already been prepared so that when the seed of the gospel is planted it will take root and become a yield producing seed, just as described by Jesus in the Parable of the Sower (**Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23**).

“Always be ready to give a defense.” (Teach them Jesus)

When it comes to all of their questions, there's nowhere to take folks but to God's word. Our main goal is to show people the truth of how to become a follower of Christ, a Christian. It is crucial that we teach people this truth effectively and in a way that is easily understood so that it can be received and encourage them to respond obediently to the salvation that is being offered by the Lord.

There are so many wonderful tools in the brotherhood that are available for us to use in helping us teach the gospel to someone. Whatever tool or method you are using, if any, remember to keep it simple. Let the study lead for itself. You don't have to try to look like an expert and explain a whole bunch of stuff. Jesus, the expert, already has all the answers for us in His word. All we need to do is to seek with a humble heart and an open mind.

Being a teacher of God's word is rewarding but yet a responsibility that is not to be taken lightly. **James 3:1** says, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." As was mentioned before, you don't have to be the teacher in a bible study to evangelize.

If you have an interest in leading a bible study with someone but you just don't know where to start, there are many able-bodied brethren in your congregation whose talent is to teach in that setting. Find someone who you can sit in and observe one of their studies. After the study, have a conversation with them about what you observed and ask questions concerning observations that will help you effectively develop your evangelism. I know they would love to help you in your pursuit of becoming a soul winner.

Another way that you can gain some experience so that you can develop your goal into becoming a soul winner is to be a silent partner. I learned this neat idea from a sister in Christ, Nicole Whitacre, in her book *Recipes for Evangelism*. Basically, your job is to be a supporter to the one who is in charge of the bible study and be a help when needed. As the silent partner, you can be a guide to the prospect(s) by helping them find the scripture references. If they seem to be confused on something, you can easily ask the teacher to clarify the question or whatever was just said so they can understand it better. You can also provide encouragement during the study by reassuring them when their answers are correct. This will help the teacher to maintain an atmosphere in which the student will feel comfortable. The more you practice with this type of training, the easier it will be for you to gain the confidence to one day conduct a sit-down bible study with someone.

“Comfort each other and edify one another.” (Encourage like Jesus)

Once a person becomes a Christian, that’s just the beginning of his or her journey with the Lord. There’s still so much to learn. As Christians, we are to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (**2 Peter 3:18**). Does your congregation offer a bible class or host a home group study just for new converts? That is a great resource to help encourage and edify one another.

A fellow preacher friend once told my husband how it’s one thing to bring someone to Christ, but it’s harder to keep them. If there is a new Christian who doesn't already have a good support system, perhaps you can volunteer to be an accountability buddy or a mentor. You can check in on them often and just be a help when needed. Remember that the devil is working overtime all the time (**1 Peter 5:8-9**). If not careful, one could easily fall right back into the sinful hands of the world. We got to help keep the saints saved.

Application

Our mission, just like Jesus, is to seek and save the lost. According to **Matthew 9:37-38**, there’s a harvest of lost souls that are waiting to hear the good news of Jesus. We need soul winners - everyone in the congregation - to go out and harvest for the Lord. There’s no one better to attract sinners than when the Lord’s church lets the light of Christ shine through them.

Jesus says in **John 8:32**, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Can you think of someone who needs Jesus to free them from their sinful burden? I’m sure we all have at least one person in mind. Pray for whoever is on your personal list and start from there. You can simply offer them an invitation to come and see for themselves who Jesus is and how to receive salvation through Him. As a soul winner, if we can bring at least one person to Christ, then it’s all worth it.

Whether if you find yourself as a bringer, teacher, and/or an encourager, thank you for all that you do for the Kingdom of God. Remember that we're all in this together. Let's go out and win as many souls as we can and strive to have the mindset of **1 Corinthians 16:14**, "Let all that you do be done with love."



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