

Call to Action

For part 1 we will study “call to action”. In the beginning of this witnessing course, we spoke a lot about starting a conversation, continuing a conversation and how to present the gospel in the conversation. For this part we will spend some time talking about how to finish a conversation. This is an important part because our desire is **not only to go out and share the truth, but to call people to accept the truth.** Sometimes, a person will be so touched by the gospel message that they want to repent and it is important to know what to say. If a person rejects the message of the gospel and doesn't want to listen, I believe it's important to not just say OK goodbye then, but to also leave him/her with a thought or question. So below we will have a few scenarios that I wish to go through, that have different calling to action. Please be familiar with each of the “calls” and Bible verses (no need to memorize the whole verse just be familiar).

1. **Find a good church.**

Many times you will talk to a person who might know a lot about Christianity and will be open about wanting to learn more, and they might be even a Christian themselves. If they have accepted Christ or if they are not ready to accept Christ just yet, a good call to action will be for them to find a good church. If it is appropriate for you to invite them to your church that would be best. I have found it more practical that the person you witness to goes to the same church as you because they have heard the gospel message from you. So even if it is not a church but a fellowship or a Bible study or even inviting them to your home, if it is appropriate, then this would be better than sending someone to a different church. Now there are times when you might be out of state or even out of the country. In this situation it might be a good idea for you to know a good church or two in the nearby area. In 1 John 1:7 it says ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*** There might be some people who proclaim to be Christians but don't want to go to church. Quote to them or read to them the verse above where it states that a person who seeks to walk in holiness will seek connection and a relationship with others who have the same desire. Encourage them to find a church or invite them to yours.

2. **Read the Bible**

Often you run into people who have never read the Bible. They don't have a desire to go to church because they really don't know what it's all about. But they are open to learning more about Jesus. This is where I would call people to read the Word of God. I tell people to start reading from gospel of Mark, but it doesn't matter where exactly they should start as long as it is in the New Testament. I've also encouraged people to read the Bible who don't believe anything written there. I challenge these people to read the Bible honestly and ask God to reveal Himself to them. Specifically to atheists I

would say, “if you're truly interested in knowing there's a God, why don't you just ask Him? But don't just ask Him in prayer and be silent, pick up the Bible and start reading it and I believe God will reveal Himself to you.” Remember, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Romans 10:17.

3. Repent

There are times when after hearing the gospel message, people want to give their life to Christ and that is such a joy! Sometimes it could be a little hard when someone is actually wanting to repent because this is such an important moment, and I personally feel like I must do it right. So there are few things that we must do before we actually pray with the person. First of all be certain that the person consciously understands the gospel, especially if this is their first time hearing it. I have heard a statistic that it takes up to 7 times for a person to hear the gospel message here in America before they repent. Also, which is like the previous point, make sure that the person understands that this is a serious decision and a serious commitment. I once had an individual tell me that they've tried Buddha and they've tried other philosophes too so they told me, “I guess I'll try Jesus too, why not?” However, when people think this way they really don't understand that Jesus is not something that we just try. Jesus is God, Savior, Lord and we either give our hearts to Him or we don't. Another point that I want to make here is that we should be very honest to non-Christians that if they accept Jesus, they won't all of a sudden have lots of money, good grades or a beautiful spouse. Let's be careful not to preach the gospel of prosperity, but instead preach the Biblical gospel. So If indeed a person is ready to repent and is doing it consciously and with the right heart, now is the time you pray with them. I personally do not like to ask people to repeat things after me because I want their prayer to be genuine and for them to use their own words. This does not mean that I can't guide them in the prayer, and as a matter of fact it might be a very good idea to do so if they have never prayed before. In 1 John 1:9, which was our verse for the week before, we have read that if a person confesses their sin to God, He will forgive them. In prayer it is important for them to confess sin, which means they have to name the sins that they have done by name. In Romans 10:9 it says, *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Also, when they pray they should acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and that they believe in Him. They should thank Him for His sacrifice and His love to them. Finally in prayer I would tell them of the importance to pray and ask God for the Holy Spirit, so that they may be guided by the Spirit and truly born again. *(If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* Luke 11:13). Friends, I'm not saying that you should lead every person to repentance who is open and sincere. It might be in your heart to call brother who is more experience and that is OK. However, I don't think we should rely only on this as I believe is appropriate for any Christian to lead another person to Jesus. If a person does repent, please meet with them again (if they are the same gender) and help them grow. Once a person repents, they are so hungry for God's Word and for fellowship and its so important to help them eat spiritual food.

4. Talk to a Pastor (minister)

As mentioned earlier there are some instances where it might be more appropriate for a minister to meet up with a certain individual. While I don't believe that we should give our pastor's

personal information to just anybody we meet (as I have encountered that some people just want money), I do believe that sometimes it's just more appropriate for ministers to be involved. For example, the person might be experiencing a heavy addiction to something. Or the person might be going through a divorce and I might not know anything about this area to help them. Maybe they are seeking for someone who is an ordained minister as they feel more comfortable sharing and opening their heart to them. So in a conversation I would say would you like to meet with our pastor? If the person agrees I would usually call the pastor or minister and ask them for permission to give their number and then lead them to the minister.

Please answer the following questions from the scenarios below (please use a Bible verse to support your answer):

1. You are talking to someone about Jesus and they tell you that they are very interested in knowing more but don't know how they can do this. They are not ready to give their life to Jesus yet because they feel they need to understand Christianity more. What would you tell them to do?
2. You come up to a person and start sharing your faith and very soon you realize that this person is an atheist. As you start witnessing more you realize that the person is still rejecting God, but the individual is not aggressive and appears to be seeking truth (although they don't openly say this). The conversation has to end as the atheist will need to go. What would you tell him to do?
3. You come up to a teenager and start sharing the gospel. As you start sharing the teenager interrupts you and says "wow, I cant believe you are telling me this because I just heard something like this on Youtube and it really touched me!" You continue sharing the gospel and when you finish talking the person turns to you and says, " I am so ready to accept this!". What would you tell him to do?
4. You start talking to an individual in the streets and he tells you that he and his wife are Christians. You ask if they go to church and they say, "oh no, we just talk to God and have a personal relationship with Him". What would you tell them to do?

