



SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND STUDY GUIDE

Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023

Series: Soul Winning

Lesson Title: How to Win your Family Members to Christ

Instructions For This Week:

- 1. Take this week to study your Sunday School lesson prior to coming to class.**
- 2. Do the homework assignments throughout this study guide.**
- 3. Bring the study guide along with your answers to class.**

See you there!

WINNING YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS TO CHRIST

As a Christian, a genuine Christian, there is a perpetual desire to see our loved ones come to understand what we have experienced. A real, living relationship with God which changes our life both now and in eternity.

However, at times, it can be hard to share our faith with family members because they have known us our entire lives. Our family knows our past, can point out our failures and, well, sometimes can get under our skin. Many consider evangelism to family the most difficult type of soul-winning.

However, at the same time, witnessing to our loved ones can be very effective. Since these people have known us for a long time, they can see the

changes that God has done in us firsthand. No matter what, don't allow anything or anyone to stop you from reaching your family for Christ.

Assignment:

Make a list of the family members that you are praying to reach for Christ.

Bring your list to class in your Sunday School binder on Sunday, March 12th.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Keep Relationships with Family Members Open (As Much As Possible)

A broken relationship will hinder many conversations about Jesus and inviting them to church. Although God can use a stranger to share the gospel with them, He also wants to use you. Ask God to heal the relationship and then do whatever you can to make amends.

Consistently Model a Godly Life Before Them

Do you have sin, wrong attitudes or compromising behaviors that tarnish your witness? Do family members see you living for God one moment, but living like the world the next? This causes great confusion and raises a lot of perplexing questions in their minds. While your life can't save anyone no matter how righteously you live, you also don't want to present a skewed view of God. Ask God to change you, as He is changing them.

Assignment:

Why is it important to live a godly life before people?

WINNING YOUR UNBELIEVING SPOUSE TO CHRIST

The Bible counsels Christians to marry other Christians. When writing to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul advised them, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14). He knew that close relationships, like marriages, between believers and unbelievers would suffer. When one side of a relationship makes decisions based on God's Word, and the other side remains dead in sin, the relationship will definitely have its challenges. Some think the best option is to divorce, but that is far from what the Bible says about being married to an unbeliever. If you find yourself in such a situation, do not be dismayed! There is hope and encouragement for you in Christ.

Ways To Win Your Unbelieving Spouse

Be An Example - Actions Speak Louder Than Words

1 Corinthians 7: 14

"For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy."

You can either be a great example for your spouse, that draws them to want to know more about God or be the biggest obstacle. Don't forget that God wants to use you as a tool to bring your spouse into a relationship with Him. Don't get in the way of that by being condescending and mean-spirited.

Pray For God to Change Their Heart

Ultimately, God is the one that moves in a person's heart to want to follow Him. Pray for this to happen for your spouse. Remember, you have great influence in either encouraging or discouraging your spouse from seeking God. Don't be a roadblock and remember that it's ultimately God's job to change their heart.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a

tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Keep Coming to Church

Keep coming to church so that you can continually be fed with the spiritual nourishment needed to give you the strength, wisdom and power to help carry out your assignment. Oh, and by the way, don't belittle him, or withhold affection as a bargaining tool either. (Just thought I'd say that)

Invite Them To Church

You should invite your spouse to come along with you to our Worship Services. Also, be sure to invite them to special events and activities such as: Men, Women, Young Adult and Young at Heart Events.

Watch God Work In Your Spouse's Life

God loves your husband or wife more than you do. He is working to draw them to Himself. He knows better than you do what their brokenness is, where they are vulnerable, what barriers they will have to overcome and what it will take to win their heart.

You may, as a believer, get an inside view of how God deals with someone who is "hard to get." Or you may not see any evidence that God is doing anything; don't let that fool you. Sometimes God allows life to break a person in order to give His Holy Spirit an open door; your interference could possibly prolong that process. And He may use your love as a demonstration of His own love to them.

Continue Praying

Prayer works. How long does it take? Only God knows. And only He knows the specifics of the outcome. Don't believe the lie that prayer doesn't work just because you don't see your spouse coming to Christ. The testimonies are too numerous to believe otherwise, and God's Word affirms it.

LEADING YOUR CHILDREN TO CHRIST

The Bible says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6).

Someone said, “Our greatest contribution to the kingdom of God may not be something you do – but someone you raise.”

So, how do we even begin to lead our own children to Christ?

Be An Example Before Them

Your journey with Jesus should not only be ‘activated’ on a Sunday. Your children are watching your every move, so be sure to honor Christ in your home every day. Speak about God (and to God) in your children’s presence and let this become a normal part of their day.

Assignment:

What is one way that you can honor God in your home? (Ex. Saying grace before meals)

Leading Your Children to Christ - Use the Bible

During conversation, show the child verses in the Bible. Slowly explain the following verses to the child.

Verses you may need:

- 1 John 4:10 (God loves you)
- Romans 6:23 (Sin separates us from God)
- Romans 5:8 (Christ died for us)
- Romans 3:23 (Everyone sins)
- 1 John 1:9 (Confess and ask for forgiveness for sin)
- Acts 16:31 (Believe and be saved)
- Romans 10:9 (Follow Jesus)

Welcome Jesus In

Once your children understand the key concepts of sin and salvation and their need for Christ, they may be at a point to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Help them ask Jesus into their life. Remember, a simple prayer of salvation is only a starting point on a journey with God. Invest time and effort to help guide your children along this path. You and your child get involved in the youth ministry.

Lead Your Child to Salvation

Have your child repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus, I repent and turn from my sins and I ask for Your forgiveness.
Thank You for dying on the cross for my salvation.

I invite You to come into my heart and life. Wash me clean and fill me with Your Holy Spirit and I will trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, I am born again! I am forgiven! I am saved and I am on my way to heaven!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Keep the Lines of Communication Open

Talk to your children about who God is, your dependence on Him and what God is doing in your life. Tell them about how God has come through for you in the past and share the everyday moments when you feel that God is speaking to you.

Assignment:

Share something with your children this week about how God has come through for you. If you can, write a brief description of what you shared with them. (Ex. I trusted God to help me deal with a difficult co-worker)

Read The Word

Read the Word with them. Go over your Sunday School Lesson. Spur a passion for the Word of God in your home and you'll develop a love for the Bible in them that may extend into adulthood.

Pray Together

Make prayer a regular part of your family life. Soon enough, your children will learn that talking to God is normal and encouraged.

Get Your Children Involved With the Youth Ministry

Pray that God will give you wisdom and guidance to find youth communities where your child can nurture their faith in Jesus with other children. As parents, we can lead them. When our children experience God with other children who are passionate about Jesus, their faith will be encouraged even more.

LEADING YOUR ADULT CHILDREN TO CHRIST**Forgive and Apologize**

Your children have hurt you, and you've hurt your children, through some of what you all have said and done to each other in the past. But don't allow bitterness to poison your relationships with God and each other. Realize that you won't be able to lead your children back to Christ if you don't follow His command to forgive and apologize. Remember that God has forgiven you of many sins. So forgive your children, as an act of your will, despite your

feelings. As you rely on God's power to help you through the forgiveness process, your feelings will gradually change. Acknowledge that you've made mistakes relating to your children, and ask them to forgive you. Whenever your children are willing, pursue reconciliation in your relationships. Take the first step to try to reconcile with them.

Even though your child is over 18, you still have a ministry of discipleship to love them and reach them for Christ.

Remember,

In our prayers, we must remember that God "wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth," and His desire to save the lost is far greater than ours (1 Timothy 2:4). We are not praying to a reluctant God, but a God who is eager to save His people.