



Developing Friendships for the Lord

Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Developing Friendships for the Lord

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

MODULE AT A GLANCE			
Section	Time	Page	Brief Description
I. Module Introduction	5 Minutes	5	Introduce module, purpose, and objective.
II. Lecture	25 Minutes	6	The facilitator presents information to encourage participants to develop friendships for the Lord.
III. Small group Activity	20 Minutes	12	Participants use an informal scale to rate their friendship-ability.
IV. Discussion	5 Minutes	13	Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how it will assist in their leadership.
IV. Action Planning/Reporting	15 Minutes	13	Participants note how salvation can meet the greatest need(s) of their unsaved friends.
V. Module Wrap-up	5 Minutes	15	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 75 minutes			

I. Module Introduction

(5 Minutes)

Distribute Participant Material. Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

The participant material includes:

- Purpose
- Objective
- “Fill-in-the-Blanks” for the Lecture
- Application Exercises

The purpose of this module is to:

Recognize how to develop friendships for the Lord.

The objectives for this module are to:

- **Consider how Jesus developed His friendships**
- **Identify those with whom Jesus developed friendships**
- **Determine why Jesus accumulated friendships**

Notes

Slide 2

II. Lecture

(25 minutes)

The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant handbook.

A. HOW did Jesus develop friendships?

1. Jesus RECIPROCATED His friendships.

a. He chose to be AVAILABLE to people.

1. Jesus PURPOSEFULLY sat down by Jacob's well, an ideal place to meet people (John 4).

2. Jesus spent two DAYS in Sychar with the Samaritan woman and her friends (John 4:40).

b. He asked people to JOIN Him in daily activities.

1. Jesus said, "FOLLOW me" to Matthew (Matt. 9:9).

2. Jesus ATE with Matthew and his friends (Matt. 9:10).

Illustration:

One pastor told me his church spent hundreds of hours training members on exactly what to say as they went door to door sharing the gospel. Three years later, after a tremendous amount of time and effort, only one person who claimed to become a Christian was still walking with God. He said the reason was the Christian who came to his door cultivated a genuine friendship with him and invited him to meet his network of Christian friends.

The pastor was so struck by the power of friendship that his congregation began focusing on building strong small group neighborhood Bible studies. He provided Bible study and small group training and encouraged them to reach out to their non-Christian neighbors. What was the result? The members of his church began to trust each other, love each other, and become truly involved in each other's lives. Then when they formed friendships with non-Christians in

Notes

Slide 3

Slide 4

Slide 5

II. Lecture Cont.

their neighborhood, they genuinely wanted them to meet their friends in the Bible study. Soon the Bible study members were bringing their non-Christian friends to their group and eventually to their church (Pippert, Rebecca Manley.)

2. Jesus **VALUED** friendships.

a. He was **PATIENT**.

1. Jesus first established **COMMON** ground with the Samaritan woman: the need for water (John 4:7).
2. Only then did Jesus **PROGRESS** to a conversation about living water (John 4:10-14).

b. He was **OPEN**.

1. Jesus admitted his **NEED** for a drink (John 4:7).
2. Jesus **PINPOINTED** the woman's true need.

3. Jesus **STRENGTHENED** friendships.

a. He **COMMUNICATED** effectively.

1. Jesus used effective **NONVERBAL** communication.
2. He **SAT** down by the well (John 4:6), thereby putting the Samaritan woman at ease.
3. He progressed from speaking (John 4:10, 13, 17) to declaring (vv. 21, 26), thereby **EMPHASIZING** the woman's need for salvation.
4. Jesus used effective **VERBAL** communication.
5. Jesus did not give **PAT** answers (John 4:10, 21).
6. Jesus **RESTATED** the woman's responses (John 4:17, 21).

b. He **LISTENED** carefully.

Notes

Slide 6

Slide 7

Slide 8

Slide 9

II. Lecture Cont.

1. Jesus **ALTERNATED** between speaking and listening.
2. Jesus was not sidetracked by **SUPERFICIAL** issues (John 4:11-12).

B. With whom did Jesus **DEVELOP** friendships?

1. Jesus was "...a friend of tax **COLLECTORS**..." (Matt. 11:19).
 - a. Jesus **CHOSE** a specific class of people, tax collectors Matthew and Zaccheus, for his friends.
 1. The tax collector was a public figure; his associations were subject to public **SCRUTINY**.
 2. The tax collector was the **LOWEST** common denominator in society.
 - b. Jesus was impervious to social status, but **ATTUNED** to spiritual needs.
 1. "Philos," the Greek word for friend, is used to describe the patriarch **ABRAHAM** (James 2:23).
 2. "Philos," the same Greek word for friend, is used to **DESCRIBE** the tax collector Matthew (Matt 11:19).
2. Jesus was "...a friend of tax collectors and **SINNERS**" (Matt 11:19).
 - a. Jesus befriended both those who did, as well as those who did not, readily **ACKNOWLEDGE** their sin.
 1. The Samaritan woman **OPENLY** admitted her sin to Jesus (John 4:17a).
 2. Matthew was sitting at a tax collector booth and **COMPLACENT** in his sin when he met Jesus (Matt 9:9).
 - b. Jesus befriended sinners **BEFORE** they were

Notes

Slide 10

Slide 11

Slide 12

Slide 13

Slide 14

II. Lecture Cont.

made righteous.

1. All men are **SINNERS** (Rom. 5:19).
2. Jesus' friendship **CHANGED** the lives of sinners.

C. **WHY** did Jesus develop His friendships?

1. Jesus' purpose was to **DIRECT** people to God.
 - a. Jesus demonstrated the **NEED** for salvation.
 1. The Samaritan woman was a societal outcast; Jesus offered **ACCEPTANCE** from God (John 4:9, 13-14).
 2. The Samaritan woman was a doubter, Jesus offered a **REASON** to believe (John 4:11-13).
 3. The Samaritan woman was a sinner, Jesus offered **SALVATION** (John 4:17, 23).

Illustration:

Everything about my neighbor Natalie irritated me. When the family across the street installed a new swimming pool, Natalie pouted for the rest of the summer. She complained that the teenagers next door played loud rock music. At the neighborhood block party Natalie was offended when anyone turned down a piece of her chocolate cake. She seemed to have a permanent chip on her shoulder.

Since we were next door neighbors, I couldn't really avoid Natalie. So I strove to develop a friendship with her, and I started by looking at her through Christ's eyes. Only then did I begin to see that her whiney attitude stemmed partially from her sensitivity. I began praying God would use that very quality of sensitivity to make her vulnerable to the Holy Spirit. In the weeks that followed I began seeking out Natalie's company and developing a real friendship with her. We started out by taking walks together in the evening and sharing scrapbooking supplies.

It didn't happen overnight, but I gradually learned to look beyond

Notes

Slide 15

Slide 16

Slide 17

II. Lecture Cont.

Notes

Natalie's weaknesses and affirm her positive qualities. When she was thoughtful to an elderly neighbor, I commented on it. When she provided child care for a single parent across the street, I noticed and appreciated it. And eventually Natalie began observing my life and commenting on the way I respected people.

Then the day came when Natalie asked me, "What do you see in me, anyway? Why do you choose to be my friend?"

"I see someone who God loves," I said, "and I see the potential He's given you. But most of all I see someone who longs for friendship with God. Wouldn't this be a good time to accept what God has to offer to you?"

Natalie accepted Christ that day, but she is still a work in progress. (Aren't we all?) I recently realized that Natalie knew all along how much she aggravated people. But not until someone offered her sincere friendship did she glimpse the unconditional love of God.
(— Lori Williams)

- b. Jesus described the **BENEFITS** of salvation.
 - 1. Living water quenches spiritual **THIRST** (14).
 - 2. Living water is available to **EVERYONE** (14).
 - 3. Living water provides **ETERNAL** rewards (14).
- c. Jesus encouraged the **ACCEPTANCE** of salvation.
 - 1. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to **RECEIVE** the gift of God (10).
 - 2. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to **ASK** for living water (10).
 - 3. Jesus invited the Samaritan woman to accept salvation (22).

2. Jesus' purpose was to **INVOLVE** people in ministry.

Slide 18

Slide 19

II. Lecture Cont.

- a. Matthew effectively **SPREAD** the Gospel (Matt 9:10).
 1. He invited Jesus **HOME** for dinner.
 2. He **INVITED** sinners to eat with Jesus.
- b. The **SAMARITAN** woman effectively spread the Gospel (John 4:28).
 1. John 4:28 says, “Then **LEAVING** her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.’”
 2. In this context, the word “leave” literally means to forsake or abandon.
 3. The same meaning is found in John 4:52, “the fever left him” (the official’s Son), and John 16:32, “You (the disciples) will leave me (Jesus) all alone.”
 4. The Samaritan woman forsook her old life of pursuing temporary pleasures for a new life of receiving eternal salvation.
 5. The woman’s **TESTIMONY** brought her neighbors to Jesus (John 4:39).
 6. After hearing Jesus’ words, the neighbors became **BELIEVERS** (John 4:40-42).

Notes

Slide 20

Slide 21

Slide 22

III. Small Group Exercise

(15 minutes)

This module has examined Jesus' willingness and ability to develop purposeful and eternal friendships. To determine your willingness to do the same, work individually and use the scale below to rate your friendship-ability.

Do I go places where I can meet people who are not Christians?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Am I willing to set aside my own busy agenda to listen to people who don't share my beliefs?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Am I as good a listener as I am a talker?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Do I look for and establish common ground with people who don't know Jesus?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Do I try to make my verbal and nonverbal communication congruent?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Do I believe people are intrinsically concerned about eternal issues?

1=No 2=Very Seldom 3=Sometimes 4=Often 5=Regularly

Now consider how you responded to the above questions. What are your strengths? Your weaknesses? Gather in groups of 3-4 people and pray for the following areas that apply to you:

- Thank God for the friendship-ability gifts He has given to you.
- Ask God to help you maintain and reinforce the friendships you have initiated with unbelievers.
- Acknowledge your friendship-ability weaknesses and ask God to soon give you an opportunity to strengthen those areas.

Notes

Slide 23

V. Discussion

(5 Minutes)

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about developing friendships for the Lord. Open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, refer to any of the questions in the small group exercise.

V. Action Planning/Reporting

(15 Minutes)

How many Samaritan men and women do you know? Think for a moment and you'll realize that all around you there are people who are, just like the woman at the well, looking for happiness in all the wrong places. But, unfortunately, we often write off the "Samaritans" we meet because we don't believe they would respond positively to the Gospel.

How would you respond to the unbelievers you befriend if you believed they were longing to hear the good news of the Gospel?

In John 16:7-11, Jesus said, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment; in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer, and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." These scriptures assure us that the Holy Spirit has gone before us to appeal to the hearts of our unsaved friends. Our friends cannot help but be inherently concerned about the state of their souls.

Notes

V. Action Planning/Reporting Cont.

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Divide into groups of three to four participants. Ask one person to read aloud John 4:9-17. Listen to how Jesus pinpointed the Samaritan woman's need. Also notice the way Jesus described the benefits of salvation.

Now consider the need(s) of your non-Christian friend(s). Are they so-called social outcasts who are craving acceptance just like the Samaritan woman? Do they doubt Jesus is real? What is their greatest need right now? How can Jesus meet that specific need?

Friend's Name: _____

Their Needs: _____

How Jesus Meets Those Needs: _____

Friend's Name: _____

Their Needs: _____

How Jesus Meets Those Needs: _____

Friend's Name: _____

Their Needs: _____

How Jesus Meets Those Needs: _____

Again picture in your mind your non-Christian friends. What benefit(s) of salvation do they most crave at this point in their lives? Are they, like the Samaritan woman, unsatisfied because happiness eludes them? Are they tired of sinning? Fill in the chart below.

Friend's Name: _____

Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive: _____

V. Action Planning/Reporting Cont.

Notes

Friend's Name: _____

Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive: _____

Friend's Name: _____

Salvation Benefit They Need to Receive: _____

Choose one other person in your group with whom to pray right now. Mention your unsaved friends by name; ask God to give you an opportunity in the coming week to talk with one unsaved friend about his or her greatest need and how salvation can meet that need. Let your prayer partner know, either by phone or e-mail, the outcome of your conversation with your unsaved friend.

VI. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Remind the participants to record their results and be prepared to share the progress at the next session.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

For more information, find us online
at www.usacanadaregion.org/training-modules

or

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