

Traveling Companions

COJOURNERS № 3.1 | GUIDE

Spiritual journeys are best made in the company of others. In Jesus' ministry, crowds of curious, interested and seeking people were often found together with the apostles and other followers. Jesus often ministered to both groups together. For example, read Mark 8:34-38.

As you enter into someone's spiritual journey, seek to guide the person into two relational environments. First, introduce the individual to some friends who are already following Christ. These relationships will help provide encouragement to continue on. Second, invite the individual to a larger gathering of believers so he can see and experience the fellowship of the body. A healthy Christian community will water the truth of the gospel with the

love of God's people. That's an ideal environment for the seed of the gospel to take root in a life.

Discuss

- When did you first begin to form Christian friendships? What difference did it make for you?
- What was the main community of believers that God used in your own spiritual journey?

Action Plan

Plan an activity and invite the individuals that you are praying for and seeking to reach. It could be a recreational event, a party or whatever. This will give them a chance to form other Christian friendships.

Summary

Relationships are vital for those journeying toward Christ.



Embarking Together

COJOURNERS № 3.2 | GUIDE

A guide shows the way for traveling companions. Spiritually, this can be done in a relationally sensitive manner. The key is to ask permission.

- Can I tell you a little of my story?
- Can I show you what has really helped me?

An important word to use when asking permission is "sometime."

- Sometime, I'd like to show you what has helped me understand my relationship with God and see what you think. Would you be up for that?

Asking to do something sometime (as opposed to right now) takes pressure off the moment. A positive answer expresses openness. Set up a time to talk over coffee or lunch. The prearranged time provides an ideal setting to talk. Both parties know the topic of discussion, so there is no awkwardness about bringing it up.

What if she says she's not interested? Asking permission has not harmed the relationship. Asking demonstrates respect.

Action Plan

Try it out. Break up into threes. Take turns asking permission of each other, with the third person observing. After each has had a turn, discuss the approaches. What was best? What suggestions do you have?

This week ask two people a "sometime" question. When they respond positively, set up an opportunity to talk. Enlist others from your group to pray for these discussions.

Summary

The place for a guide to begin is by asking permission.



First Hand Experience

COJOURNERS № 3.3 | GUIDE

How much must a person know and say to be an effective witness? Turn the question around and discuss: How little can a person know and say and still be a powerful witness?

Read John 4:28-30, 39-41. Refer to the earlier part of the chapter to discover insights about the Samaritan woman.

- What had she experienced in life?
- What did she know about Jesus?
- What did she tell the people she knew about Jesus?
- What impact did she have?

Was the Samaritan woman an effective witness? Absolutely. She led her entire village to check out Jesus.

Discuss

The Samaritan woman expressed her encounter with Jesus in a sentence and an invitation. Take turns trying to share your experience with Jesus in a sentence or two. Evaluate your initial attempts. Were they intriguing? Inviting?

Action Plan

This week prepare a two-sentence statement of your experience with Jesus. Pray for an opportunity to share it with someone else to spur further conversation about Jesus.

Summary

An intriguing sentence can spark the spiritual interest of others.



Showing the Way

COJOURNERS № 3.4 | GUIDE

A guide must not only know the way, he or she must have the ability to show the way to others. The way to Jesus is found in the gospel. Read Romans 1:16 and Romans 10:14, 15.

You understood the gospel when someone explained it to you. You will also learn to share the gospel as others show you how. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 2 Timothy 2:2.

Discuss

- On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that you can clearly explain the gospel to others and lead them to Christ?
- Who do you know who could teach you how to communicate the gospel effectively?

You may learn to share the gospel from someone with more experience, such as your Bible study leader, a Christian leader, etc. Or, you may attend a training seminar or read a book on witnessing.

Action Plan

Make a plan with your small group to get training in how to share the gospel with others.

Summary

The gospel is the most important tool to guide someone to Jesus.





Take risks: if you win,
you will be happy;
if you lose,
you will be wise.
-Anonymous



This communicating of
a man's self to his friend
works two contrary effects,
for it redoubleth joys, and
cutteth griefs in half.
-Francis Bacon



It takes two to speak
the truth – one to speak,
and another to listen.
-Henry David Thoreau



The most valuable
of all talents is that of
never using two words
when one will do.
-Thomas Jefferson

