

Friend Day 3

Lesson 3

5 Things You Need to Influence People for Christ

I. Review: Where to Look or Where to Focus in 2024 (and for the rest of your life).

A.1. Look to Jesus

B.2. Look up! Jesus is coming back soon!

C.3. Look to yourselves.

D.4. Look upon the harvest.

II. Review: Our primary focus for 2024 is the harvest. We are to place our focus on Soul Winning and Church Growth this year. So, as I continue to introduce this vision to you, let's review Four Irrefutable Facts about the Harvest that Jesus gave us.

A. Fact 1: The harvest is now.

B. Fact 2: The harvest is ripe.

C. Fact 3: The harvest is plentiful.

D. Fact 4: The harvest is weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

III. Review: What are scattered sheep like?

A. The Bible gives a sevenfold description of scattered sheep in (Ezek. 34:5-16 NKJV)

1. Scattered sheep have no spiritual direction.

2. Scattered sheep are isolated and lonely.

3. Scattered sheep are depressed and discouraged.

4. Scattered sheep feel driven away.

5. Scattered sheep are broken and sick.

6. Scattered sheep are spiritually malnourished.

7. Scattered sheep are prey for demonic oppression.

B. Our unsaved friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors are like scattered sheep. **They have 7 heartfelt needs.**

1. They need real, true spiritual direction in their lives.

2. They need to be searched for and sought out from their isolation and loneliness.

3. They need encouragement because they are discouraged and depressed.

4. They need acceptance because they feel driven away.

5. They need healing because they are broken and sick.

6. They need the Word of God because they are spiritually malnourished.

7. They need deliverance because they have been in bondage to demonic oppression.

a. (1 John 5:19 NKJV) ¹⁹ *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

b. (1 John 5:19 AMPC) ¹⁹ *We know [positively] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one.*

C. If we can minister to their heartfelt needs, then there is a good chance that they will be open to receiving further ministry as we share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

IV. 5 things you need in your life if you are going to influence people toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

A. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you should be spending time daily in His Word.

1. (John 8: 31 NKJV) ³¹ *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

2. You may be the only Bible some people every read.

B. You must be living a life of prayer.

1. (Rom. 10:1 NKJV) *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*

2. You should be praying for your unsaved friends and family.

3. If you talk to God about your friends, it will be easy to talk to your friends about God.

4. Peter was praying on a roof top when God sent messengers from Cornelius to come share the Gospel with his household.

C. You must have Biblical compassion for your friends.

1. Jesus was moved with compassion toward the harvest.

2. (Matt. 9:36-38 NKJV) *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were ^[1]weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

3. Paul was moved by love to share the Gospel. (2 Cor. 5:14 NKJV) ¹⁴ *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all*

died;¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

D. You must be a good listener.

1. (James 1:19,20 NKJV) *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

2. Listen to your friend's need and bring Jesus to their need.

E. You must be tactful and considerate of your friends.

1. (1 Pet. 3:15 NKJV)¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*

2. (1 Pet. 3:15 AMPC)¹⁵ *But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you but do it courteously and respectfully.*

V. Review: The Lord has put on my heart as pastor to lead the church in several soul winning strategies this year. These strategies are team efforts. Let's review our first 2 strategies for the year.

A. Friend Day Campaign 1/7-3/24 (11 Weeks) There is a harvest waiting for this church among our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.

1. Prepare the church and equip the members for **Stairstep Evangelism**. You are not going to try to lead them to a decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Rather, you are going to prepare them to be your guest on Friendship Sunday by doing taking certain steps that will cause them to trust you and want to be your guest on that day. I am going to show you how to increase your influence in their lives. We are going to show them love and hospitality and I will present the plan of salvation to them in my sermon. Many of them will get saved because you have stair stepped them to Jesus.

2. **Friend Day Follow Up and Baptisms** 4 weeks following. (3/24-4/21) All of us will be involved in that.

3. **We are going to restructure the Sunday School hour to accommodate discipling these new believers.**

B. Resurrection Sunday San Jacinto Outreach

1. Give free hams to the first 100 guests that come.

C. Two big attendance Sunday's back-to-back targeting 2 different groups of people.

1. The San Jacinto converts will flow into the Friend Day Follow Up Plan.
2. We should have 100 plus in attendance on both Sundays.
3. We could see 50 or more salvations.

D. Great opportunities to invite friends before Friend Day.

1. Super Bowl Party Sunday evening Feb. 11th. This is a good time to invite your family and friends to hang out with us and have fun. We will get in touch with you on plans for snacks.

2. Ladies Brunch Sat. March 2nd with a special message from Debbie Loper.

E. Friend Day Follow Up and Baptisms 4 weeks following. (3/24-4/21) All of us will be involved in that.

1. We are going to **restructure the Sunday School** hour to accommodate discipling these new believers and new attenders.

2. New format for Sunday School hour.

a. **Pastor's Welcome Class.** 8 weeks. Led by Pastor Jim for people who are new to our church. It starts next Sunday Feb. 4th at 9:30 am.

b. **Foundational Doctrines Class.** 8 weeks. Led by David Heider. For those who graduate from the Pastor's Welcome Class. Study the foundational teachings of Christ in Heb. 6:1-3.

c. **Spiritual Gifts Class.** 8 weeks. Led by Debbie Loper. For those who graduate from Foundational Doctrines Class. Learn about spiritual gifts, discover how God has gifted you. Find a place to serve in the church.

d. At the end of these **Discipleship Courses**, you will have gained 3 new things.

1. New teaching from the Word of God.

2. New friends and fellow disciples.

3. New places to serve the Body of Christ.

e. **Antler's Bible Study.** Led by Pastor Jim. 5 pm. Sundays on Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Revelation. We are going to post the Zoom link in the App, Website, and Facebook Page. The Zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85347164418?pwd=bE9QbUFYSHVhMHBvWS9VeWx2L2QxUT09>

VI. Review: Last week I gave you the first step in this process.

A. I am asking each of you to go to the Lord in prayer and ask him, "Who are the friends that you want me to minister to?" and I want you to write down 5 names and begin to pray for them. Write those 5 names down and bring the list to church next week. Make two copies. One for yourself to keep and one for the

Pastor's Prayer Circle to begin to pray for.

B. Focus on your unsaved friends and relatives or some believer who is out of fellowship and needs to be restored. Let's not try to get other people to leave their churches and come over here.

VII. Friend Day Lesson 3 Homework

A. Pray over these four points daily.

1. Look to Jesus
2. Look Up. Jesus is coming soon.
3. Look to Yourself.
4. Look at the Harvest.

B. Ask God to build confidence and assurance in your life that you are qualified to minister to your friends.

C. Continue to pray for your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors. Ask God to show you what characteristics of scattered sheep they have.

D. Ask God to show you how to begin to encourage them and how to meet some of their 7 heartfelt needs.

E. Keep working on memorizing these four verses. The Romans Road of Salvation

1. Rom. 3:23 NKJV Man's Need

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Rom. 6:23 NKJV Sin's Penalty

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Rom. 5:8 NKJV God's Provision

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Rom. 10:9 NKJV Man's Response

⁹ 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.

F. Continue to write down names of people that God brings to your mind to invite to Friendship Sunday. Ask the Lord, "Who are the friends that you want me to minister to?" Write down 5 names and begin to pray for them. Write those 5 names down and bring the list to church next week. Make two copies. One for yourself to keep and one for the Pastor's Prayer Circle to begin to pray for.

G. If you cannot think of a friend, then ask the Lord to open your eyes to people

around you who are demonstrated the signs of a scattered sheep. Ask God to show you how to minister to that person.

Cut along this line and bring the bottom half back to church with you next week.

Focus on your unsaved friends and relatives or some believer who is out of fellowship and needs to be restored.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____