

Life Notes *Sharing Your Faith with Pastor Justin*

12. New Believers Need Discipleship

It would be easy to think of our friend's step of receiving Christ as an end, but it's really the beginning! As the Bible explains, it's their birth into a new life. This means that spiritually our friends are newborn babies who need immediate kinds of spiritual nourishment and support. As soon as it seems natural, after they put their trust in Christ, we need to encourage or coach them in the next steps of their new found relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

There are several areas to cover as part of this orientation to spiritual growth:

1. The importance of ***praying daily***

- Teach them to set aside time each day to connect with God by talking to Him.
- Encourage them to talk to God with ordinary language and to be honest about what is really on their mind each day.
- Sometimes they will not feel like praying, but they can express that feeling to God, as well.
- They can gain balance in praying by using the A-C-T-S outline:
 - A – is for adoration: worshiping God.
 - C – is for confession: admitting sins to God and receiving His forgiveness.
 - T – is for thanksgiving: a natural response to His daily blessings.
 - S – is for supplication: an older word that means to make requests to God.

2. The need to ***regularly read the Bible***

- Teach them the Bible is the primary way God speaks to us.

- Help them to start the habit as soon as possible by reading a chapter a day in the New Testament gospels.
- Encourage them to read from a Bible they can understand.

3. The importance of ***relationships with other Christians***

- Stress the importance of developing growing friendships with other Christians.
- Emphasize the importance of a small group setting which will be an important source of encouragement, learning, accountability – as well as friendship and fun!
- Encourage them to be “parented” or coached by you or another mature believer who wants to see their walk with the Lord blossom and flourish.

4. The importance of ***relationship with a church***

- Encourage them to attend a church that accurately teaches the Bible and encourages and fosters spiritual health and growth.
- Emphasize the importance of their role in a local body of believers for service to others and to God.

5. The importance of ***relationships with non-Christians***

- Instruct them of the desire God has for them to tell others they know about His love and forgiveness.
- Caution them to be patient with close friends and family members who will more than likely need to see the change in their own lives before they will consider the implications of the gospel for themselves.
- Temper this caution by reminding new believers how long they took to step across the line of faith.

****REMEMBER****

Discipleship is not knowing everything, but instead sharing what you do know with others who are younger or less experienced in their faith than you are.