



# COJOURNERS

JOINING OTHERS IN THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

SHARING YOUR FAITH CAN BE AMONG THE MOST TERRIFYING,  
YET REWARDING EXPERIENCES AS A CHRISTIAN.

## OUR POSITIVE MOTIVATIONS FOR WANTING TO SHARE OUR FAITH INCLUDE:

- Our genuine love for Christ (Acts 4:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
- Our genuine love for others (Matthew 9:35-38; Romans 1:16; 10:1, 17)
- Our calling as Christ-followers (Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20)
- Our responsibility as his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Our power to be his witnesses as given by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- Our privilege to be God's fellow-worker in the lives of others (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

## THE COUNTER FORCES WORKING AGAINST OUR DESIRE TO SHARE OUR FAITH INCLUDE:

- Our fears of relational risk, potentially damaging a relationship or our reputation
- Our uncertainty about what to do or how to do it well
- Our lack of relational involvement or connection with those outside the faith
- Our busyness in life
- The cultural values of relativism, pluralism, and tolerance
- The negative cultural perceptions of Christians today

## THE REALITY DEMONSTRATED BY RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

- People are more spiritually open than we think
- Genuine care and relationally appropriate approaches to engage in the journeys of others will open the door to many significant spiritual and gospel conversations

## COJOURNERS WILL HELP YOU ENGAGE IN THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS OF OTHERS THROUGH THE ROLES OF:

- THE EXPLORER: discovering where people are in their spiritual journey
- THE GUIDE: showing the way to Jesus
- THE BUILDER: constructing ways over and beyond their issues and obstacles
- THE MENTOR: helping people continue to follow Jesus



# EVERYONE IS ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

## CHAPTER 1 IN A PAGE

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### A COJOURNER'S THREE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

1. **EVERYONE IS ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**
2. **GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS**
  - He is the Lord of the Harvest who sends out laborers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38)
  - His desire is for all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), not wanting any to perish (2 Peter 3:9).
  - It was he who created all people and nations and who has “determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live,” doing so in order “that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him” (Acts 17:26-27 NIV).
  - His Spirit is at work in the lives of people today (John 16:7-11).
  - He has given us the privilege of being “fellow workers” (1 Cor 3:9) with him.
3. **GOD DESIRES TO USE YOU**
  - We are often like the disciples, failing to recognize the spiritual harvest that is all around us (John 4:27-39).

### YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER:

1. **JESUS PROMISED TO GIVE US POWER TO BE HIS WITNESSES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (LUKE 24:49; ACTS 1:4, 8).**
2. **WE CAN EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT'S FILLING AND POWER THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THESE TRUTHS:**
  - **THE PROMISE:** Jesus promised that God's Holy Spirit would satisfy the thirst-or deepest longings-of all who believe in him (John 7:37-39).
  - **THE DIVINE GIFT:** God has given us his Spirit so that we can experience intimacy with him and enjoy all he has for us (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor 2:12).
  - **THE PRESENT DANGER:** We cannot experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us if we fail to depend on his Spirit (Galatians 3:3; 5:17; 1 Cor 3:1-3).
  - **THE INTIMATE JOURNEY:** By walking in the Spirit we increasingly experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us (Galatians 5:16-25).
  - **THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE:** We are filled with the Spirit by faith, enabling us to experience intimacy with God and enjoy all he has for us (Ephesians 3:16-17; 5:18; 1 John 5:14-15).
  - **THE TURNING POINT:** We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. Sincere prayer is one way of expressing our faith.
3. **THE SPIRIT'S POWER DOESN'T ELIMINATE OUR FEAR. IT GIVES US THE POWER TO SPEAK DESPITE OUR FEARS (1 COR 2:1-5).**



# THE FOUR ROLES

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THERE ARE FOUR ROLES THAT WE CAN PLAY IN THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS OF OTHERS:

**EXPLORER:** ENTER THE UNKNOWN TO LEARN, DISCOVER AND UNDERSTAND

- Through asking good questions
- Through listening

**GUIDE:** SHOW THE WAY TO JESUS

- Through your life-story (or testimony)
- Through a gospel explanation

**BUILDER:** CONSTRUCT BRIDGES OVER OBSTACLES AND ISSUES IN SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

- Through prayer
- Through gentle persuasion

**MENTOR:** ENCOURAGE THEM ON IN THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

- Through relational connections
- Through life concepts

The roles aren't sequential. They are situational. You play the role that is needed.

YOU BEGIN AS AN EXPLORER, discovering where a person is and their level of openness. But what role you play next is determined by what you discover. Is this person open to hearing about your spiritual journey and Jesus? Then become a Guide. Do they have issues and obstacles in their journey? Be a Builder. Do they need encouragement and help to continue on? Become their Mentor.



# THE EXPLORER

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We can't make assumptions about someone's spiritual journey; we have to discover their realities.

## THE SPECTRUM OF SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS:

### ASK GOOD QUESTIONS:

- "How are you?"
- Take a genuine interest in people's lives.

### EXPLORE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

#### 1. EXPLORE PAST EXPERIENCES: WHERE THEY'VE BEEN

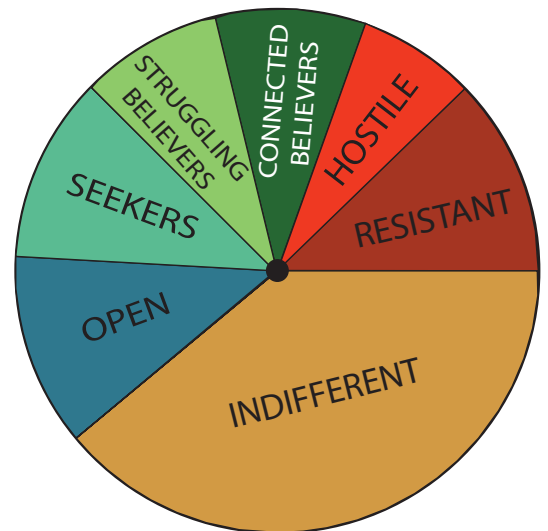
- What was your religious background as a child?
- What have you tried in your spiritual journey since?

#### 2. EXPLORE PRESENT ATTITUDES: WHERE THEY ARE

- How has your search left you feeling?
- Where are you now in your spiritual journey?

#### 3. EXPLORE FUTURE DIRECTION: WHERE THEY ARE GOING

- What do you desire most spiritually?
- Do you think you are moving toward God, away from God, or staying about the same?



### LISTEN FOR:

- Common ground
- Windows to the soul
- Unmet needs
- Traces of the Spirit

### LISTEN WITH:

- Focused Attention
- Invite More: "Tell me more..."
- Give Feedback: "What I hear you saying is..."
- Ask Permission: "Can I ask you about...?"



# THE GUIDE

## CHAPTER 5-6 IN A PAGE

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The role of a guide is to lead someone to a destination, to show the way. a cojourner assumes the role of guide to lead others to Christ. Everyone who knows Christ can be an effective Guide, even brand-new believers.

- Andrew led his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus as a new follower (John 1:40-42).
- Philip led his friend, Nathaniel, to Jesus (John 1:45-46).
- The Samaritan woman led her whole village to Jesus after her initial encounter (John 4:29, 39).

TO CHANGE ROLES FROM AN EXPLORER TO A GUIDE: ASK PERMISSION TO SHARE A LITTLE OF YOUR STORY.

### Share Your Story in Brief: try three descriptive words or phrases

- One that describes your life before you met Christ
- One that describes how you came to know Christ (including a sentence or two that summarizes the essence of the gospel)
- One that describes your life after coming to Christ

### Know the Essence of the Gospel (from 1 Corinthians 15:1-10; compared to Luke 24:46-48)

- Who is Jesus? The Christ
- What has he done? Died on the cross and rose from the dead
- Why did he do it? For the forgiveness of our sins
- How do we know? Old Testament Scriptures and the eyewitnesses to the resurrection
- How should we respond? Faith and repentance

### Use a Simple Gospel Message: Romans 6:23

- Problem: For the wages of sin is death
- Provision: but the free gift of God is eternal life
- Person: in Christ Jesus our Lord
- AN EVEN EASIER GOSPEL PRESENTATION: WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY? BOOKLET

### Other Guide Tips and Resources

- Send them an article to read (Everystudent.com) or a video link to watch.
- Have them download the Jesus Film Media app. Download the GodTools app yourself.
- Extend a sometime invitation: "Sometime, I'd love to show you what has really helped me understand a relationship with Christ and see what you think of it."
- Ask permission to share what has helped you, right then and there.

### CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: INVITE THEM IN



# THE BUILDER

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p.6.

The builder removes obstacles and constructs bridges over and beyond the issues and obstacles in someone's spiritual journey. The builder's two main tools are: prayer and gentle persuasion.

## BEWARE: OBSTACLES AHEAD

- Intellectual Issues
- Emotional Issues
- Volitional issues (or matters of the will)
- All are spiritual issues, as Satan blinds (2 Corinthians 4:4), binds (Ephesians 4:4), and battles (Ephesians 2:1-3) over the lives of the unbelieving
- Our weapons have divine power to destroy strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

## PRAYER APPLIES GOD'S POWER TO THE ROOT OF THE ISSUE (COL 4:3-6; MATT 10:18-20; ACTS 1:8)

- Intentionally praying for the lost (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 10:1; Colossians 4:3)
- Silently praying when in conversation with the lost

## PAUL'S EXAMPLE AT ATHENS (ACTS 17:16-34):

- The Athenian Obstacles: Idolatry, humanistic philosophies, idle speculation, religiosity, ignorance
- Paul's Starting Point: Their interest in religion and their altar to the Unknown God
- Paul's Ending Point: The coming judgment by the appointed, resurrected Lord Jesus
- The Bridge Connecting the Two: God's nature and intentions in creation connected to quotes from their poets
- The result: Some sneered, others wanted to hear more, and a few believed

## THE ART & SCIENCE OF BUILDING BRIDGES:

- THE STARTING POINT: Begin where they are, that is, understanding their issue
- THE ENDING POINT: Ultimately, this is about Jesus, not secondary matters
- THE BRIDGE: Connects the two

**FOUR COMMON BRIDGES:** 1. YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE; 2. QUESTIONS TO REFRAME ISSUES; 3. STORIES TO ILLUSTRATE IDEAS; 4. THE BIBLE.

**FIVE COMMON OBSTACLES:** 1. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL; 2. RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, OR MANY PATHS TO GOD; 3. THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE; 4. THE HYPOCRISY OF CHRISTIANS; 5. SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE.



# THE MENTOR

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The mentor invests time, energy, and personal know-how into another person's spiritual life and growth.

## WHAT A YOUNG BELIEVER NEEDS MOST IS:

- Relational Connections: to connect with a community of believers who will help them grow
- Life Concepts: to learn the foundational truths of the Christian life

## PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF MENTORING THE NEW THESSALONIAN BELIEVERS:

- He prayed for them consistently (1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3; 3:10, 11-13).
- He spent time with them, encouraging them on (1 Thessalonians 2:6-12).
- He wrote them letters while he was away (1&2 Thessalonians are both follow-up letters from Paul).
- He encouraged them to foster their relationships in community with each other (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 3:6; 4:9-10; 5:11-15, 26-27).
- He sent another mature believer to build into them when he couldn't be there himself (1 Thessalonians 3:1, 2).

## RELATIONAL CONNECTIONS: THREE RELATIONSHIPS CRITICAL FOR GROWTH

- A one-on-one spiritual mentor
- A small group of believing friends
- A larger community of believers

## LIFE CONCEPTS: FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- Stepping from Uncertainty to Confidence: Assurance of Salvation (1 John 5:9-13)
- Stepping from Feelings of Unworthiness to Forgiveness: The Forgiveness of the Believer (1 John 1:5-2:2)
- Stepping from Being Unable to Empowered: The Filling of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-3:4)
- Stepping from Being Unprepared to Equipped: Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)
- Stepping from Being Undeveloped to Maturity: Principles of Spiritual Growth (Acts 2:40-47)

## SHARE EACH CONCEPT BY:

- Comparing our Stories
- Considering our Struggles
- Exploring the Solution
- Examining the Sketch
- Taking Steps