

# Living Questionable Lives

When you think of evangelism, what questions or anxieties come to mind?

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### **Colossians 4:3-6**

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

A suggested two-fold approach:

1. Pray for gifted \_\_\_\_\_ to have open doors to boldly and clearly proclaim the Gospel in compelling ways.
2. Pray for every believer to be wise in their \_\_\_\_\_ toward outsiders, looking for opportunities to answer people's questions when they arise.

Peter says something similar in 1 Peter 3:15-16:

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

## **DISCUSSION STOP**

### **Titus 2:1-10**

*You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.<sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. <sup>3</sup> Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. <sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup> and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. <sup>9</sup> Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup> and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

Why should we behave this way?

## Habits that will help in living a questionable life.

### **Matthew 5: 14-16**

You are the **light** of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Neither do people **light** a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives **light** to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**L** \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit. Spend at least an hour a week in listening prayer.

**I** \_\_\_\_\_ others to share a meal. 3 times a week ask a different person to share a meal.

**G** \_\_\_\_\_ a blessing. Do, give, write or say something that will bless three people.

**H** \_\_\_\_\_ from the Gospels. Spend time reading how Jesus interacted with people.

**T** \_\_\_\_\_ inventory. Journal at least once a week about how you did or did not respond to God's promptings.

When each habit is practiced, it releases a God-like character quality in your life:

- If you make it a habit to **listen** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will become a more \_\_\_\_\_ Christian.
- If you make it a habit to **invite** others to share a meal you will become more \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you make it a habit to **give** blessings through the week, you will become \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you make it a habit to **hear** from the gospels you will begin to think, act and be more like \_\_\_\_\_
- If you make it a habit to **take** inventory of what you did with God's promptings, you will begin to see yourself as someone \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Notes:

# Listen

Spend once a week listening for the Spirit's voice and promptings.

Notes:

*"Let him who cannot be alone, beware of community. He will only do harm to himself and the community."*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"Solitude and listening teaches me to love people for what they are, not for what they say."* - Thomas Merton

Practicals:

- A designated \_\_\_\_\_
- Eliminate \_\_\_\_\_
- Let \_\_\_\_\_ in
- Listen for God's \_\_\_\_\_

Experience:

- 10-15 minutes of enjoying the Lord's presence to center yourself.
- 10-15 minutes listening for promptings: faith community, unchurched route

# INVITE

Invite and eat a meal with three people a week – at least one of whom is not a Church goer.

Quiz: How does the N.T. complete the following sentence:

The Son of God came ...

The Son of God came ...

The Son of God came ...

1 Cor. 11:17-22 - the meal table should be the great equalizer in relationships

Notes:

# GIVE

Give three blessings a week – at least one of whom is not a church goer.

Blessings often come in one of three forms:

- Words of \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:



# Hear

Spend at least one period of time during the week learning from Jesus in the Gospels what to do and say when around other people.

Notes:

# Take inventory

At least once a week take inventory of how you responded or ignored the promptings of the Holy Spirit to Invite or bless someone.

What do you say right after a movie trailer?

What would God want you highlight about his kingdom in the little movie trailer encounter people see in you when you bless them or share a meal?

- J \_\_\_\_\_
- B \_\_\_\_\_
- W \_\_\_\_\_
- R \_\_\_\_\_

## Soul Time

Take 30 minutes to reflect through your notes and see if God is prompting you to take some action this next week to start living a questionable life.

## **Credits and Further Reading**

Michael Frost, *Surprise the World*

Lance Ford and Brad Briscoe, *The Missional Quest*

Doug Pollock, *God Space*

Lance Ford, *Missional Essentials*

Alan Hirsh, *The Forgotten Ways*