

Victorious

Teacher's Manual

My wife Claudia prepared this manual. She really had a vision for this course and was the first one to use it with some of the ladies that eventually joined our church in Hungary. Pst. Francois Boudreau

This course was prepared to meet two important needs:

1. To lead a person into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and His work on their behalf.
2. To lead them into a living relationship with the Lord through the bible, prayer, church fellowship etc.

Where do we start?

The first object is to find one person who is interested in the bible, Christianity, Jesus Christ etc.

Where do we find them?

We could find a person like that on the street during soul winning or knocking on doors. It could be a first time church visitor, a neighbor or a colleague at work. This could be a person you invited to church but never came. They like and trust you but they are not interested or afraid to go to church. It could be that they would respond to the opportunity of taking a course that YOU would give in the privacy of their home. Other possible candidates are: new believers, visitors at special church events, a relative... The possibilities are innumerable. Even as you are reading this the Holy Spirit could already put somebody on your heart. [As a rule men choose men, women choose women].

How do I present the course to them?

Take courage and ask the person: “would you be interested in a new believer’s course? [You could also call it a course on the foundation of the Christian faith] I would come to your house once a week for about one hour, for 6 weeks. You choose the time that is convenient for you. Are you interested? [Of course this is not a script to learn by heart but it is the essential]. Remember the goal is to find ONE person that is interested. If the person says no, that’s OK. Give them maybe a church newspaper or invitation to the church and that’s all. If a person is not sure you could say:” How about if I come to your house once and if you don’t like it we do not have to continue. “I did that once and after the first lesson the lady loved it and she wanted to continue. If they don’t want to do it in their home maybe you could choose a quiet restaurant. I think the best is at their house. You can be almost sure that they will be there at the appointed time; if the person says yes, yippee! you have an open door for the Lord. Ask them what would be, for them, the best time to meet and exchange addresses and phone numbers in case the first meeting attempt won’t work out. Tell them how happy you will be to meet with them again. Ask them if they have a bible so you can give them one the next time you meet. [This is very important because from the start you will teach them from the bible directly]. One or two days later send them a Christian postcard to tell them how happy you are that you met and that you are looking forward to see them again on... {here you write the time and day you have agreed on}.

Why not invite an interested person to a new believer’s bible study?

Most probably they won’t come, or they come once and that’s it. I don’t want to be pessimistic but from experience, we see that most people come to church through a PERSONAL contact. A friend, a relative...New believers or those interested in the things of God need a FRIEND. A mature believer will CHOOSE to be their friend, somebody whom they can trust and ask questions. They need somebody who is genuinely interested in their lives. You will know if they are sick or if they have problems because they will tell you but this alone is not enough. They need you to teach them the word of God. If they will follow God they will first need to know him, hunger and thirst after him and have a relationship with the Lord. This will only come through the powerful word of God and the Godly Spirit. When you will have the awesome privilege to teach a person the word of God let the

bible do the talking. The bible still speaks and the course is arranged in a way that you will not have to comment too much during the scripture reading. From the start you will tell the person where to turn in the bible, help her find the place and then have HER read it. This will teach that we can actually understand with our OWN mind what the bible is saying. Another thing that's important is to prepare for each lesson and make it your own. You should write a logical sequence of the verses you are planning to use and study them.

What is the basic outline of a meeting?

I have already mentioned that the planned timing is about one hour. Take about 15 to 20 minutes for the actual teaching. This is not a discussion time! YOU alone do the talking. You are teaching the lesson. As mentioned earlier YOU have your own bible with your lesson outline of scriptures and brief comments [lesson outline are in the Victorious booklet that you have to get for a very affordable price] and HE or SHE has her bible. Every time you go to a new verse you have the person find it in their bible and have them read it out loud. [The reason I did this is because when I taught the course in Hungarian, I was too embarrassed to butcher their language so I asked them to do it]. I think it is very good for them to read it because the goal of the course is to LEAD THEM TO CHRIST, into a relationship with Him and not create a dependency on us. You can tell the person that if they have questions during the reaching time to write them and to ask you at the end. Please stick to your theme so you won't confuse them.

Basic outline

1. Greeting, arrival.
2. Introduction time: For example: Comment on their apartment, how nice it is. [Don't lie if it's not true]. Ask them how their week went, their work etc. Ask them since you have met if God has shown them something through his word or another way. If this is not your first meeting, ask them if they read up on the last lesson or a possible homework. If they have attended church ask them if they understood the message. What didn't you understand? Make them talk. You want to understand where are their questions, what are their needs. For example, after one of my first lesson I

had asked the lady to read the creation account in Genesis and the following week I asked her what she thought about it. She responded, “I believe it but it is difficult to understand because I was taught evolution in school. Then I remembered that one time we had invited a guest speaker on Creation vs. evolution and the next week I gave her the tape to listen to. Don’t be afraid to ask them questions. If they ask you something and you don’t know the answer just be honest and say I don’t know but I will find out for you or give you some material on it next week. My experience is that people don’t really ask question or volunteer what is on their heart so be prepared to ask them the questions; be the initiator. Write down the questions you want to ask them, questions that will stimulate them to think about spiritual realities.

Teaching the lesson:

Again stay on the subject, don’t try to do a bible school lesson or preach a sermon. Use the word of God and show them it doesn’t communicate some mystical, hidden message that only a certain elite can understand but on the contrary it is clear and simple. God wants us to understand how He thinks.

Question time:

Now the person can ask you questions about the lesson. If they don’t have questions you should always have some prepared questions about your lesson to see if they understood the lesson. For example, if you have taught the first lesson on salvation, ask them on the verses you read together. Example: Through what man came sin into the world? If they read the verse with understanding and they remember, they will say:” Through Adam”. If they don’t know, go back to the verse, have them read it and then ask them the question again. What or who is the only way to heaven or to the father? The answer should be according to the verse you taught: Jesus. [I am the way... no one comes to the father but by me]. It seems simple but if the foundation is not there this can cause a confused picture of Christianity. How often have we seen people that have come to church for a while but don’t really understand what is going on. Maybe they like the nice people and surely God is drawing them but what will keep them from continuing in the faith is a clear foundation of the faith. Christianity that doesn’t start and end with the church service, once or twice a week, but God permeates every aspect of our life.

At the end you can give them a little homework if you feel it will help them understand the lesson better. I usually would give the booklet of Pastor Stevens of the spiritual birthday. Give something that is relevant to the subject you taught on.

Start the lesson with a prayer. Tell them: "I will ask God to help you understand his word and enable me to teach it correctly ETC. Do you have some things you would like to ask God for? "This might be the first time in their life that they hear somebody pray. Say something like "I can pray for you but you can also ask God yourself". Usually they will be too shy but that will change after a few meetings. Also after the lesson or before you go home have another prayer for them, their week etc. Do invite them to come to church with you. Don't be discouraged. The word of God and the Holy Spirit will create a desire in them to go to church. God will do his work, so we don't have to pressure them.

After the six weeks are over, it doesn't mean that now you cut off all contact but it means that your visits will be more irregular but your care and friendship for them will stay the same. You will have to live a prepared life, meaning the person will be very open to you for any verse or encouragement you can give them in the faith. So be ready to feed them spiritually, this of course is not natural because our soul rather clings to the dust but God does encourage us to have a word in season for them that are weary, encouraging each other in the most holy faith.

What I love about the course is that if they have said 'yes' to the course and you come to their house they are WAITING for you, they know why you are there and they are waiting to be taught. You don't have to beat around the bush; you got permission to teach the word of God to them.

I would advise that for every meeting as your budget allows you to bring a little present. For example:

- A bookmark with a bible verse
- A doctrine booklet
- Missionary stories
- Message tapes
- Pen with a bible etc.

It should preferably relate to the subject taught that week. This I feel is optional and may be easier for a lady to do than for a man.

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