

# Leaders Who Lead

## Session Five

✓ Each item below after you have discussed it with your Coach and other Leaders.

### Preparation before you meet with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 1. Study **How to Prepare Your Group to Share Their Life Story**. Using this workshop prepare your own testimony. Be prepared to discuss with your Leadership Group how you plan to train your Life Group members.
- ☐ 2. Study, **How to Have an Enjoyable and Effective Friendship Party**. Be prepared to share and discuss with your Leadership Group your plans to have a party.
- ☐ 3. Complete the ***Report*** below.

### To be completed with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 4. Each one share your personal praise and prayer requests. Talk about the needs of group members.
- ☐ 5. Discuss and (✓) check off points 1 through 3 above.

### Empowering you to lead your Life Group this month:

- ☐ 6. I plan to train our Life Group members using the My Life Story Workshop, on the following date \_\_\_\_\_. I will need to prepare \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the workshop.

Pray with me that I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 7. What do you plan to do to conduct a Friendship Party?

I plan to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Report on Your Life Group:**

- ☐ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ Attend regularly
- ☐ 9. \_\_\_\_\_ New Attenders This Past Month

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 10. People in One-to-One Training:

Dynamic Basics \_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

Dynamic Discipling \_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

Dynamic Sharing \_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is training \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 11. \_\_\_\_\_ people received Christ as Saviour through those in our group.

**Prayer and Closing:**

- ☐ 12. Pray for each other and for our group members.
- ☐ 13. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Six.
- ☐ 14. Set a Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
for our next Leaders Who Lead session.

# How to Prepare Your Group to Share Their Life Story

- Prepare your Life Story (Personal Testimony of how you received Christ as your Saviour), using the following Workshop.
- Share your life Story with your Life Group.
- Have copies of My Life Story Workshop available for each group member. (Note: You can copy these notes. This same Workshop is in Lesson 8 of Dynamic Discipling and in Lesson 1 of Dynamic Sharing). Instruct each person to read the instructions and prepare their 1 minute testimony before they return next week.
- At your next Life Group pair them up - a man with a man or a woman with a woman). They should share what they have written. They can help each other to clarify and improve their testimony.
- Have several share with the group what they have written.
- Be sure to **encourage** and **complement** those who share their testimony.
- After each one shares ask the group to identify the **Before, How** and **After** of their story.
- Gently identify points that need improvement. Be very careful not to embarrass anyone.
- Encourage them that this is their story of God's wonderful grace shown to them. They should share it often. Their Life Story is not the Gospel but it illustrates the Gospel and can lead into sharing the Gospel.
- Encourage them to share the gospel by sharing the booklet *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* or the *Four Spiritual Laws*.

# My Life Story Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to help you write a testimony and present it to others.

## How To Prepare My Life Story - Personal Testimony

Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by careful organisation. A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every witnessing situation. It should be our desire to present Christ in such a clear, attractive, yet simple way, that those who hear will want to know Him too, and will also know **how** to receive Christ personally.

### Do's and Don't's of a Personal Testimony

#### Do's:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write. (James 1: 5,6)
2. Follow a four-point outline: **My Life Story** (see sample worksheet).
  - a. Share about your life before knowing Christ.
  - b. Explain how you came to know Christ. (be specific)
  - c. Tell about your life after you received Christ (positive changes He has made and what He means to you now).
  - d. Give an appropriate Bible verse.
3. Emphasise point (c) above if you became a Christian as a young child.
4. Take approximately 10 seconds for point (a), 20 seconds for point (b), 25 seconds for point (c), and 5 seconds for point (d). Points (a) and (b) are past history. Once you have prepared them you will not necessarily be changing them. Point (c) should be kept current and fresh - what Christ is doing in your life now.
5. Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence and close with a good conclusion. Try to follow a theme throughout. Examples are:

Purpose for living	Sense of belonging
God's Word	Assurance of Salvation
Freedom from fear of death	Freedom from fear of living
Freedom from self	Peace of mind
Fulfilment	God's love
God's forgiveness	Success
6. Write in such a way that others will feel associated with you in past and present experiences. Talk about changes in attitudes such as: apathy or hate to love; resentment to concern; depression to joy; anxiety to peace; impatience to patience; lack of discipline to temperance.
7. Edit carefully and rewrite as necessary before final draft.
8. Memorise your testimony and practice it until it becomes natural.

#### Don'ts:

1. Don't use Christian jargon - words such as: **saved, converted, convicted, born again** and **sin**. Though these words and phrases are precious to us, they are often misunderstood by non-Christians.
2. Don't be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasise how bad you used to be.
3. Don't use words like **wonderful, glorious, fantastic** etc.

4. Don't mention church denominations, especially in a derogatory way.
5. Don't speak negatively about any other individual or group.
6. Don't give the impression that the Christian life is a life without problems.

## **Evaluate Your Life Story**

1. What is my theme? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Will my opening statement catch their attention? \_\_\_\_\_

### **My life before I received Christ:**

1. Remember, I will be talking to non-Christians. Could they relate? Is it realistic?
2. What caused me to realise that I needed Christ?

### **How I received Christ:**

1. Did I say specifically **how** I actually invited Christ into my life?
2. Would a non-Christian know how to and want to receive Christ as a result of hearing my testimony?

### **My life after I received Christ:**

1. Did I use simple, clear illustrations of ways in which Christ has changed me?
2. Is it realistic? Remember, no one is perfect.
3. Does it show that it is Christ making the difference in my life?

### **Appropriate Bible Verse:**

1. Does this verse tie in with the theme of **My Life Story**?

### **When Sharing Your Testimony, Be Sure to:**

1. Share it with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
2. Speak clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.
3. Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as: rubbing your nose, clearing your throat and using **ums** and **ahs**.
4. Avoid using high pressure methods to get a **decision** for Christ. Remember men are **born of the Spirit**, not through the persuasiveness or logic of men, though God may use both.
5. Avoid preaching at people. Present **a testimony**, not **a preachimony**. Say **"I"** not **"you"**. Remember, it is **your** story.
6. **Smile often!** Ask the Lord to give you a happy, radiant face.

# **My Life Story Worksheet**

**My Life Before I received Christ:**

**How I Received Christ (Be Specific)**

**My Life After I Received Christ:**

**Appropriate Bible Verse:**

# **How to have an Enjoyable and Effective Friendship Party With Your Life Group or Several Groups Working Together**

## **What is a Friendship Party?**

We have been meeting each week and enjoying the wonderful truths of God's Word. What a blessing it is to walk with God and to fellowship with each other. Most people whose lives we touch know nothing of this kind of relationship. We have the opportunity to share our joy with them by inviting them to our Friendship Party. They will experience Christian fellowship and gain understanding of how to have a relationship with God.

## **Whom should I invite?**

Anyone you like, but especially those for whom you have been praying. The seven people you have identified on your **Sphere of Influence** list. Why not prepare an invitation and ask them to come. Always invite 3 times as many as your room will accommodate.

## **What would I say?**

Share with them that your friends are having a party and you have been asked to bring a friend. Be sure to explain that someone will be sharing their experience of how they discovered the **Reality of Christianity in Today's World**.

If they need time to consider whether they will be coming, be sure you take the initiative to get back to them for their answer. Tell them the date, time, place and type of Party (games, barbecue, bowling etc.). **Offer to pick them up and take them with you.**

**Pray specifically by name** (personally and as a group) that they will decide to come. When they do decide to come, pray that nothing will prevent them from coming.

## **What will we do at our Friendship Party?**

Each group can plan their own party. A few suggestions for you to consider are:

- Table Games
- Outdoor Barbecue or Picnic
- Sports activities at the park and dessert

## **Suggested Agenda**

- Greet guests as they arrive and give them name tags. You may want to serve refreshments.
- Perhaps start with some get acquainted type games or questions as guests arrive.
- Begin activities - table games, barbecue or other activities.
- Share **The Reality of Christianity in Today's World** (1 of 3 options below).
- Follow-up.

# Share the Reality of Christianity in Today's World

## Option 1: Invitation to Join our Group and Learn about God

- Hand out the comment cards to everyone. Ask them for their comments on the evening. Ask them to check any boxes that apply especially if they would like to attend our group.
- Share with them that they are welcome to attend your group on a regular bases. Clarify the day, time, and place. Encourage those who brought guests to offer to pick them up for the next Life Group.
- Tell them we want to be available to help them grow in their relationship with God.
- Collect the cards by having them leave them upside down in the basket by the coffee pot. (Note: Do not look at the cards until all the guests have left.)
- Invite them to help themselves to the dessert and coffee and resume the casual atmosphere of the party.

## Option 2: Gospel Presentation Format

- Gather the group together and the leader should transition into the gospel presentation using the booklet entitles **Would You like to Know God Personally?** He could say, ***"We are glad that you are here tonight and we have had a good time together. In our small group, we have been learning about how to have a more meaningful relationship with God. Now I would like to share with you the essence of what we believe and how you can have this same relationship."*** Be sure that everyone (**including each Christian**) has a booklet and encourage them to follow along as you read the booklet without comment through to the end of the prayer on page 10.  
After you read through the prayer, invite those who would like to receive Christ to pray with you as you read the prayer again, a phrase at a time.
- Hand out the comment cards to everyone (**including each Christian**). Ask them for their comments on the evening. Ask them to check any boxes that apply to them, especially if they prayed to receive Christ or if they would like to attend our group.
- Share with them that they are welcome to attend your group on a regular bases. Clarify the day time, and place. Encourage those who brought guests to offer to pick them up for the next study.
- Tell them we want to be available to help them grow in their relationship with God.
- Collect the cards by having them leave them upside down in the basket by the coffee pot. (Note: Do not look at the cards until all the guests have left.)
- Invite them to help themselves to the dessert and coffee and resume the casual atmosphere of the party.

## Option 3: Personal Testimony and Gospel Presentation

- Introduce the person who will be sharing his/her testimony of how they developed a meaningful relationship with God.  
The person (or couple) sharing their testimony should be well prepared and take only 10 min.
- At the end of the testimony, they or someone else should transition into a gospel presentation using the booklet entitled, **Would you Like to Know God Personally?**  
They could transition from the testimony to the gospel booklet by saying ***"I (we) have shared with you how I (we) came to the experience of a personal relationship with God. Now I***



**would like to share with you how you can have this same opportunity. ”** Be sure that everyone **(including each Christian)** has a booklet and encourage them to follow along as you read the booklet without comment through to the end of the prayer on page 10.

After you read through the prayer, invite those who would like to receive Christ to pray with you as you read the prayer again, a phrase at a time.

- Hand out the comment cards to everyone **(including the Christians)**. Ask them for their comments on the evening. Ask them to check any boxes that apply to them, especially if they prayed to receive Christ or if they would like to attend our group.
- Share with them that they are welcome to attend your group on a regular bases. Clarify the day, time and place. Encourage those who brought guests to offer to pick them up for the next study.
- Tell them we want to be available to help them grow in their relationship with God.
- Collect the cards by having them leave them upside down in the basket by the coffee pot. (Note: Do not look at the cards until all the guests have left.)
- Invite them to help themselves to the dessert and coffee and resume the casual atmosphere of the party.

### **Follow-Up**

- Group Leaders be sure to contact those who received Christ and pair them up with someone in your group who will take them through the 4 sessions of follow-up ***Dynamic Basics***.

This will be a faith stretching experience. God will honour your faith!

If you have any questions or need help contact your Pastor or Coach.

## **Suggestions and Guidelines for Host and Hostess**

Every couple can help a little to change the world a lot.

1. Invite 3 times as many as your room will comfortably seat.
2. Invite people from every area of your acquaintance
  - a. Neighbours - friends
  - b. Members of clubs
  - c. Business and professional contacts.
3. Have a Co-Host and Co-Hostess help with invitations, preparations and serving.
4. Select (or make) attractive invitations.
  - A. Mail (or deliver) invitations approximately 10-14 days in advance.
  - B. Include the following in the invitation along with date, time place, theme etc.

***Bill and Jane Smith of Whereeverville, will give a short talk on "The Reality of Christianity in a Today's World".***
5. Follow up invitations with a personal phone call (*i.e. "Hi, John, hope that you got your invitation from Tom and Cathy. "*)
6. Serve refreshments as guests arrive.
7. Have name tags for guests.
8. Have dinner music in back-ground (NOT CHURCH MUSIC)

9. Stimulate conversation around secular topics (sports, fashions, school, family, etc.)
10. Avoid conversations relating to church activities (this only alienates the non-Christians)
11. Provide ashtrays.
12. Encourage the Christians whom you invite, **to pick up and bring** their non-Christian friends (to whom you have mailed or to whom they have delivered an invitation)
13. Ask your Christian friends to circulate, in order to avoid segregation of men and women.
14. Offer refreshments again after speaker is finished **and move right into a relaxed atmosphere again.**

## Party Format

1. Serve refreshments as guests arrive
  - a. Give name tags (use dark felt pens)
  - b. Keep people circulating
  - c. Keep conversation on secular topics
2. Move into casual evening of games (or whatever type of activities have been planned - for approximately 1 - 1½ hours)
3. Serve food (preferably buffet style - this keeps people circulating (approx. 45 minutes)
4. Couple give short talk (approximately 30 minutes for their Testimony and Gospel Booklet)
5. Serve more coffee and dessert as soon as they are finished
 

\* At this time it is most important that both the Host and Speakers help people get back into a relaxed type of atmosphere (this is best done by getting up immediately to get some coffee and encouraging others to do the same.)

This format is designed to keep you on track (**be prepared to flex**)

## Things You Need For Your Party

☐ Invitations  
☐ Punch Bowls (refreshments)  
☐ Glasses or Styrofoam cups  
☐ Silverware  
☐ Plates (paper or china)  
☐ Serviettes (small and large)  
☐ Ashtrays  
☐ Candles & candle holders  
☐ Card tables and/or round tables  
☐ Games/pencils  
☐ Barbecues/coals/starter  
☐ Fondue pots/forks/plates  
☐  
☐  
☐ Gospel Booklets  
☐ Comment Cards

### Style of Menu

☐ Barbecue  
☐ Smorgasbord  
☐ Fondue  
☐ Patio Platter/Bufferet  
☐ Cold plate  
☐

### Menu Supplies

☐ Meats and Sauces  
☐ Potato/Salad/Baked  
☐ Sour Cream  
☐ Salads/Tossed/Jellied  
☐ Salad Dressing/Pickles/Relish  
☐ Buns/Breads/Buttered/Garlic  
☐ Coffee/Tea/Cream/Sugar

<b>Note: The following 2 pages can be photo copied as needed</b>
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## **A Few Tips For Our Christian Friends**

Perhaps you have a Non-Christian friend, relative, neighbour, club member or business associate with whom you would like to establish a rapport to such an extent where they will go with you to an informal evening of fun and food and where they will also have an opportunity to hear a sharp couple give a short talk on:

The reality of Christianity in a Couple's (woman's, man's, student's, teen's) World.

### **If So -**

Why not begin establishing that rapport now by:

1. Inviting them over or taking them out for dinner (keeping conversations on secular topics, such as sports, fashions, hobbies, school issues, local issues, etc.)

### **Then -**

2. Invite them to go along to a game of their favourite sport (hockey, tennis, football, baseball, golf, bowling etc.) Buy their tickets and pick them up

**or**

3. Take an interest in their hobbies or children, to such an extent which will cause you to spend some time with each other as couples. (Take some baking over, give a helping hand whenever possible, i.e. baby sitting.)

### **All these things show your love and pave the way**

for them to accept your invitation to an informal evening such as the above mentioned Friendship Party. As their friend you will want to share the Gospel with them.

### **A few tips to follow when inviting your non-Christian friends.**

1. Deliver a written invitation personally.
2. You can say something like this: ***"Friends of ours are having a Friendship Party (Not Outreach). Describe it - whether it is a barbecue, swim party, lawn party or whatever it will be. They said we could (not should) bring another couple with us. We would like to invite you to be our Special Guests. Also, Bill and Jane Smith, will give a short talk on "The Reality of Christianity in Today's World". If you could let us know as soon as possible, we can in turn let our host and hostess know we are bringing friends. "***
3. If they can come - **Make specific arrangements to pick them up for the party** (this is very important).
4. When you arrive at the party, circulate with your special guests, introducing them to as many people as possible.
5. Again stimulate conversation around secular topics.
6. Avoid conversation around church activities (this only tends to alienate your special guests)

## COMMENT CARD

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV/STATE \_\_\_\_ PC/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: (IN A SENTENCE OR TWO SAY WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE EVENT)

- ☐ I prayed today and invited Jesus Christ into my life
- ☐ I would like to learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ☐ I would be interested in attending your home group

## COMMENT CARD

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV/STATE \_\_\_\_ PC/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ I would be interested in attending your home group

