

Follow-up New Believers

What is Follow-up?

Making disciples begins with the task of evangelism.

The second step in the disciple-making process is follow-up. Follow-up is spending the necessary time with a new convert to see that he grows and matures into the likeness of Jesus Christ. It deals with the development of new babes in Christ from the time of their new birth until they grow and provide for themselves. (Ex: new born baby and parenting)

What hinders people from becoming involved in the task of follow-up?

1. Fear
2. Feel inadequate
3. Feel that someone should be teaching them rather than they teaching someone else
4. Not wanting to get too involved/too personal

Basic Guidelines for Good Follow-up

Provide Proper Care

Diligent involvement is required of us when dealing with new Christians.

1. Go over again carefully with him the plan of salvation. The assurance of salvation. (Read I John 5:11-12)
2. Pray for him. Paul prayed for the growth and maturity of believers (see Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-20). Think of the areas your friend may be struggling with and intercede for him/her.
3. Visit him soon and frequently after his decision for Christ. This is particularly important during the days immediately following his conversion experience. Make them feel a part of the family of God. You are brothers or sisters.
4. Encourage, encourage, encourage – let him know that you stand with him as he fights some of the same problems you face.

A Proper Diet is Essential

Note: Young tigers feed from anywhere!

The proper spiritual diet for a new Christian should include at least:

1. A consistent quiet time. (Mark 1:35)

The quiet time should include a time of prayer and some time in the Word. Each day should begin with a brief period of fellowship with the Lord. Show him by having a quiet time with him. Begin with a short period of time with the Lord (Seven Minutes with God).

2. Bible reading. (I Peter 2:2)

Start the young Christian with a small portion, preferably from the New Testament or the Psalms and incorporate it in his quiet time.

3. Bible study.

The most important goal of follow-up is to teach the young Christian how to feed himself from the Word of God.

Commit to Love Them

One of the basic needs in life is to be loved and wanted. It is impossible to give people too much love. Envelop the young Christian with love!

1. Invite him over to your home for meals and make him feel a part of the family. I Corinthians 16:15
2. Involve him in the warmth and fellowship of the church. Hebrews 10:25
3. Take him with you. Mark 3:14; Proverbs 27:17

Create an Atmosphere of Acceptance

When following up a Christian, it is essential that he feels free to share his doubts, fears, and personal problems no matter how intimate they may be, without feeling he will be condemned or rejected because of them.

I Peter 4:8 – “Charity [love] shall cover a multitude of sins.”

Basic Steps to take when following up a new believer:

1. Pray – for God lead you. Talk to God about the person
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you
3. Word of God – Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 10:11
4. Quiet Time – more appealing to the young convert than studying for long hours
5. Scripture Memory
6. Build a relationship – take an interest in the person; spend time with the person
7. Share good content – have depth of content; impart something of value
8. Model – be an example; show the person what it looks like to be a Disciple
9. Focus on principle rather than methods