

WEEK TWENTY-ONE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 10, “The Sinner’s Prayer: Asking Jesus Into Your Heart,” and Chapter 11, “Now That You Are Saved” *Share Jesus Like It Matters*

At some point in their lives, most of the people in your D group have talked with someone else about God:

- Some may have taken the step of faith to invite someone to church.
- Some may even have pointed out the dogmatic words of Jesus, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.*”
- Some may have become so bold that they shared their testimony or the plan of salvation with someone.

However, what Bro. Steve writes about in Chapter 10 is the dividing line between a conversationalist and a soul winner. When we seek to lead someone in “The Sinner’s Prayer,” we are “landing the plane,” we are “closing the deal.” We are purposely asking the question, “Would you like to receive Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life—right now?”

Although Bro. Steve went over “The Sinner’s Prayer” in chapter 9, I want to point out a couple of points as he emphasizes “The Sinner’s Prayer” in this chapter:

- As you share Christ, realize that people are not going to get “more lost.” If you sense an opening in their spirit, give them a chance to receive Christ. Know that the devil will not lead you to invite people to receive Jesus.
- We know that we cannot save an individual, only the Holy Spirit can do that. However, we are to do all that is in our power to **convince men** of their need for salvation. Paul exhorts us, “*Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men . . .*” (2 Corinthians 5:11). This word “persuade” is a passionate word. We see it used in other places:
 - “*And he [Paul] was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.*” Acts 18:4
 - “*If we say [the baptism of John was] ‘from men,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.*” Luke 20:6

- *“For I am **convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers . . . shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”* Romans 8:38, 39
- *“But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having **won over** the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”* Acts 14:19
- How can someone ultimately and eternally be persuaded (saved) if you don’t give them an opportunity to respond to the truth of the gospel? They may be under conviction, but they **will not be saved unless they receive Christ**.
- Realize that the gospel calls for a decision. When the gospel is shared, people either receive or reject Jesus—if we call for a decision.

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapters 10 and 11. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

Questions:

- **When you share your testimony and/or the gospel, do you share more for informational purposes, or persuasion purposes? Do you expect someone to repent, believe, and receive?**
- **Is your presentation clear enough that the person you are sharing with knows that they need to repent, believe, and receive?**
- **What keeps us from calling for a decision?** (Example—fear of rejection; fear that we will “botch the prayer time.”)
- **Practice going over “The Sinner’s Prayer” in your group time so that when the time comes for someone in your D group to lead someone to Christ, they are familiar with what to do.**

Our verse for next week is 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.