

# **Love Your Friend to Faith**

## **Becoming A Caring Christian**

### **Instructor's Guide**

*Southern Nazarene University  
Church Growth Research Center  
in cooperation with the  
Division of Church Growth  
Church of the Nazarene, International*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Becoming a Caring Christian

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objectives. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

### Module At A Glance

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Module Intro	5 mins.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce module, objectives, outline.</li> </ul>
II. Lecture	25 mins.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitator presents information to encourage participants to become caring Christians.</li> </ul>
III. Small Group Exercise	20 mins.	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants make a list of 4-5 unsaved friends, then refer to a list of caring actions for ideas on how to minister to their unsaved friends.</li> </ul>
IV. Discussion	5 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how the information will assist in their leadership.</li> </ul>
V. Action Planning	15 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants begin preparing their homework assignments: determining what specific and significant caring ministry or ministries their church could offer to the unsaved.</li> <li>• Participants will report the results of the activities at the next workshop.</li> </ul>
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.</li> </ul>
Total Module Time: 75 mins.			

## Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module:

- ❑ Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis:
  - The instructional material includes a copy of each slide.
  - The material includes suggested narrative at points where instructions or transitions are important. The suggested narrative is the *italics*. Even experienced facilitators might want to use the suggested narrative to insure the key information is communicated. However, you may feel more comfortable using your own words as you become more familiar with the module.
  
- ❑ Check to ensure the following materials are available:
  - Transparencies (transparency masters are provided)
  - Participant booklet original
  
- ❑ Gather the following materials:
  - Transparency markers
  - Pens and/or pencils
  - Other material you want to use
  
- ❑ Make copies of the following material (one for each participant):
  - Participant booklet
  
- ❑ Check the classroom for:
  - Overhead projector
  - Chalkboard or flip chart
  - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
  
- + Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Your instructor's manual contains the following icons:

+ Special instructions or suggestion



Time suggestions



Overhead transparency with its corresponding number

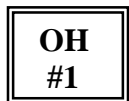
## I. MODULE INTRODUCTION (5 Minutes)

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- + If this is the first module of the day, refer to Session Introduction for suggestions on beginning the day.
- + Distribute participant material.

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- purpose
- objectives
- “fill in the blanks” for the lecture
- application exercises

*The purpose of this module is to encourage Christians to devote themselves to doing good.*



Place transparency #1 (How can we devote ourselves to doing good?) on the projector.

*The objectives for this module are:*

- To develop personal virtues in preparation for doing good.
- To understand the kindness of God.
- To determine what caring deeds are excellent and profitable for everyone.

## II. LECTURE (25 Minutes)

- + The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.

The scripture passage for this module is Titus 3:1-8. Choose three participants to read; ask the first to read vv. 1-2, the second to read vv. 3-7, and the third to read v.8. The scriptures are NOT included in the participants' handbooks.

*"<sup>1</sup>Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, <sup>2</sup>to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men."*

*"<sup>3</sup>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup>This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."*

A. A **READINESS** to do good emerges from personal virtues.

**OH**  
**#2**

Place transparency #2 (A readiness to do good emerges from personal virtues.

1. We must be responsive to **AUTHORITIES**.
  - a. When Paul obediently stood before God's High Priest Ananias (Acts 23), Felix and Festus (Acts 24), and King Agrippa (Acts 26), the apostle had a **CAPTIVE** audience for the gospel!
  - b. The obedience to authority that Christ demands of us **NEVER** contradicts our allegiance to God.
  - c. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus showed submissive obedience to authority when He prayed to His Father, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Jesus'

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submission to the ultimate authority of His Father  
**PRECEDED** his submission to those who crucified him.

- d. We can be ready to do good by submitting to human authority only after we have submitted to the authority of **CHRIST** in our lives.

**OH**  
**#3**

Place transparency #3 (How to engage in kind conversation) on the projector.

- 2 We should engage in **KIND** conversation.
  - a. Shun **SLANDER**. Slandorous talk is based on false charges aimed at **DEFAMING** someone's reputation. Proverbs 10:18b says, "Whoever spreads slander is a fool."
  - b. Boycott **GOSSIP**. Don't encourage the gossip or spread the gossiping. Proverbs 11:13 says, "A gossip betrays a confidence but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."
  - c. Avoid **THREATS**. Follow the example of Jesus, who always turned the other cheek. "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (I Peter 2:23).

Illustration:

One day Sally, the church busybody, approached her pastor to apologize for the malicious gossip she had been spreading. The pastor said he would accept her apology if she would accompany him outside. Once there the pastor handed Sally a basket of feathers and asked her to toss the feathers into the air. As a gust of wind carried the feathers across the field and out of sight, the pastor then asked Sally to gather the feathers back up into the basket. Sally was nonplussed until her pastor explained that her damaging words, just like the feathers, were irretrievable.

**OH**  
**#4**

Place transparency #4 (Fostering peaceful and considerate relationships) on the projector.

3. We must foster peaceful and considerate **RELATIONSHIPS**.
  - a. Peaceful Christians find **SOLUTIONS** instead of laying blame.
  - b. Considerate Christians think of **OTHERS** instead of themselves.
  - c. Considerate Christians **RELINQUISH** their rights instead of retaining their rights.

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OH #5
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Place transparency #5 (How can we model a humble attitude?)

4. We must model a **HUMBLE** attitude.
  - a. Showing true humility means treating people **RESPECTFULLY**.
  - b. Showing true humility means asking for **FORGIVENESS**.
  - c. Showing true humility means **REMEMBERING** what Christ saved us from.
  - d. Showing true humility is to become **TEACHABLE**.
5. We should be **OBEDIENT**.
  - a. Obedience directs our **ACTIONS**, but submission impacts our attitudes.
  - b. Consider the example of the defiant little boy who, when scolded, said, "I may be sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside!" He was careful to be obedient, but he was not submissively obedient.
  - c. Christian submission goes beyond obedience to be **GRACIOUS** and yielded.
6. As you listen to the following illustration, consider if the deacon or the pastor has developed any of the five personal virtues needed for doing good.

Jack had been president of a large corporation, and when he got cancer, they ruthlessly dumped him. He went through his insurance, used his life savings, and had practically nothing left.

A pastor and one of his deacons went to visit Jack. "Jack, you speak so openly about the brief life you have left. I wonder if you've prepared for your life after death?"

Jack stood up, livid with rage, "You (blankety blank) Christians. All you ever think about is what's going to happen to me after I die. If your God is so great, why doesn't he do something about the real problems of life?" He went on to tell the two visitors from church he was leaving his wife penniless and his daughter without money for college. Then he ordered the pastor and deacon out. Later the deacon insisted they go back. They did.

"Jack, I know I offended you," the deacon said. "I humbly apologize. But I want you to know I've been working since then. Your first problem is where your family will live after you die. A realtor in our church has agreed to sell your house and give your wife his commission."

"I guarantee you that, if you'll permit us, some other men and I will make the house payments until it's sold."

“Then, I’ve contacted the owner of an apartment house down the street. He’s offered your wife a three-bedroom apartment plus free utilities and an \$850-a-month salary in return for her collecting rents and supervising plumbing and electrical repairs. The income from your house should pay for your daughter’s college. I just wanted you to know your family will be cared for.

Jack cried like a baby.

He died shortly thereafter, so wrapped in pain he never accepted Christ to our knowledge. But he experienced God’s love through that deacon and his friends. And his widow, touched by the caring Christians, responded to the gospel message.

**OH**  
**#6**

Place transparency #6 (How does God save us from sin to righteousness?) on the projector.

- B. But God’s **KINDNESS** saved us from sin to righteousness.
1. Here is how we **OBSERVE** God’s kindness:
    - a. Only God’s divine **INITIATIVE**, not our own intent, sent Jesus Christ to us.
    - b. Only God’s **KINDNESS**, not our conscience, can lead us to repentance.
    - c. Only God’s **MERCY**, not our works, can save us.
    - d. Only through **REBIRTH** and renewal, not our good intentions, are we presented acceptable to Him.
    - e. Only through **ADOPTION** as heirs, not our enslaved condition, can we inherit eternal life.
    - f. Only through a comprehension of God’s **GRACE** in our lives, not through our own efforts, can we practice good works.
- C. Because of God’s character we **DEVOTE** ourselves to doing good.
1. Why does Paul **REPEAT** his admonition to do what is good?
    - a. The sharp contrast between our sinful past and our present salvation **COMPELS** us to do whatever is good.
    - b. People will remember what they have **EXPERIENCED** of God’s love long after they have forgotten what they have heard about God’s love.
    - c. The experience of God’s love **PRECEDES** the understanding of God’s love.
  2. Be careful to do what is **GOOD**.
    - a. Paul admonishes us to be careful to do what is good because we can so easily settle for doing what is mediocre or self-serving.

- b. We **MEASURE** the quality of our endeavors by the yardsticks of submissive obedience, consideration, and true humility.
- c. Acts 6:1-7 is one example of careful good works in action. In this passage, the disciples appointed seven men to oversee the daily food distribution to the growing number of widows within the church. The disciples were **CAREFUL** to continue their ministry of prayer and preaching, but not to the exclusion of helping the poor with their material need.



Place transparency #7 (Three guidelines for doing good) on the projector.

- 3. Doing what is good is excellent and profitable for **EVERYONE**.
  - a. Doing what is good should be **SPECIFIC**. Doing what is good should have a definite and clear purpose
  - b. Doing what is good should have **SIGNIFICANCE**. Doing what is good should meet human need and carry out God's redemptive purpose.
  - c. Doing what is good should be **CONSCIOUSLY** chosen. Doing what is good should be chosen as a result of God's prompting, not because of a so-called "guilt trip."<sup>1</sup>

Illustration:

In May of 1999, a core group of concerned Christians traded power lunches for school lunches and began building relationships with students at Greenvale Elementary School (GES). In a neighborhood where government housing and drug dealers dominate, the school volunteers soon learned what the kids craved most was friendship, not food.

In preparation for beginning a church in the neighborhood, Pastor Darren Reed and his volunteers began organizing regular kids' activities in the park. Pastor Reed also took a survey of the members of the Greenvale Community and discovered that the greatest need was for free, accessible medical care. Twelve doctors and 60 volunteers now staff a neighborhood clinic that provides immunizations and check-ups.

Less than a year since Reed and his laypeople began building relationships with the kids at GES, the discipline problems at the school have decreased by more than a third. Such statistics can mean only one thing: homes are being transformed.

The story of a single parent named Darla is just one example. Pastor Reed first met Darla's three children at a community

event in the park. He challenged the kids to bring their parents to church, and Darla came to church for the first time with her kids the following Sunday. The Holy Spirit's conviction led her to make two decisions: she turned her life over to the Lord and subsequently quit her job as a topless dancer at the Red Dog Saloon. Today Darla is holding a respectable job and has already been named employee of the week. She attends the Nazarene church in Greenvale and has even hosted a Bible study in her home.

<sup>1</sup>Findley B. Edge, "The Meaning of Ministry" in *LAOS: All the People of God*, ed. Fisher Humphreys and Thomas A. Kinchen (New Orleans: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 1984), 72-73.

**III. SMALL GROUP EXERCISE  
(15 Minutes)**

Devoting ourselves to doing whatever is good begins with a plan. Work independently for five minutes.

- Use the left column for listing 4-5 names of people who might respond to specific and significant acts of kindness. Especially try to focus on naming unsaved friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, etc.
- Look at the individual name and decide what specific and significant act of kindness each person would most appreciate. Match the listed names to the suggestions in the right column, or list other ideas in the blanks provided.
- After you have completed the exercise, break into church teams of 3-4 people. Pray together about the specific plans you have made to do whatever is good.

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| 1. _____ | A. Yard work/Leaf Raking                         |
|          | B. General Handyman Work                         |
|          | C. Housecleaning                                 |
| 2. _____ | D. Notes of Encouragement                        |
|          | E. Car Wash and Wax                              |
|          | F. Child Care                                    |
| 3. _____ | G. Elderly Care                                  |
|          | H. Gift Certificate to Favorite Store/Restaurant |
| 4. _____ | I. Taxi Service                                  |
|          | J. "Meals on Wheels"                             |
|          | K. Walking/Jogging Partner                       |
| 5. _____ | L. Trip to Zoo/Museum                            |
|          | M. Trip to Ball Game                             |
|          | N. Shopping Excursion                            |
|          | O. Computer Skills Tutoring                      |
|          | P. _____   |
|          | Q. _____   |
|          | R. _____   |

**IV. DISCUSSION  
(5 Minutes)**

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about devoting themselves to doing good.

- ⌚ If you're ahead of schedule, the discussion can go a few extra minutes. However, it's easy to lose track of time so watch the clock.

Open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, refer to the small group exercise

**V. ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING  
(20 Minutes)**

A caring church is made up of caring Christians. Could individual caring actions, such as those listed in the small group exercise, be translated into a church-wide caring ministry?

- A. What caring ministry could you begin at your church?
- B. How will you keep the focus of your ministry specific?
- C. How will you ascertain that your ministry has significance?
- D. How will you recruit people who will consciously choose to be involved in a caring ministry?

**VI. MODULE WRAP-UP  
(5 Minutes)**

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Remind the participants to record their results and be prepared to share the progress at the next session.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

