

## A SIMPLE MODEL FOR INVITING PEOPLE TO KNOW JESUS

### 1. A SIMPLE MODEL TO INVITE PEOPLE TO KNOW JESUS

- A. Did you like that gift (of healing, presence, etc.)?
  - I. God gave it to you because He loves you.
  - II. You just experienced Jesus on the outside.
- B. He has another gift for you – a gift of love.
  - I. This gift is for your inside – your heart.
  - II. He would like to come and be with you on the inside - forever.
  - III. If helpful, you can say, “I have to go, but Jesus will stay with you if you want him to.”
  - IV. Would you like to receive the gift of His love?
- A. Alternatively, we could ask, “Would you like him on the inside?”
- C. If they say yes, offer them a simple prayer.

### 2. HERE IS A SIMPLE PRAYER

- A. I call this type of prayer, “a prayer to receive Jesus.”
  - I. You will find many variations of this prayer - there is no formula.
  - II. Although this type of prayer may be based on scripture, one is not recorded in scripture.
- B. Here is an example “prayer to receive Jesus” that I used to use:
  - I. *“Lord Jesus, I need You. I want to trust and follow You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Forgive me of my sin. Cleanse me and set me free. I believe that you are risen from the dead and alive. Come into my heart and life. I receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*
  - II. Part of this is helpful in growing as a disciple but not essential to start a relationship with Jesus.
  - III. What is essential, is that we are born again. What does it mean to be born again?
  - IV. In the words of Paul: *You also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV*
  - V. What this verse says is that when we believe, we receive the Spirit of God.
  - VI. This is Christ making his home in us that we see in John 14. This is being born again by the Spirit.
- C. Faith is the only essential (on our part) – and sometimes not that much it seems (mustard seed).
  - I. *Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” John 6:28-29 NKJV*
- D. A good question to ask of the evangelism models that we’ve been taught in the past.
  - I. Are we asking people to do or believe something to start a relationship with Jesus that Jesus Himself isn’t asking them to do or believe? Or perhaps, not in the present moment.
  - II. Or at least not as the basis for receiving relationship (salvation).
- E. Here is an example of a prayer that I use these days. (It’s most likely too long.)
  - I. And it’s not a confession of the same kind of belief that you have when you get to know God.
  - II. But it does offer several invitations for God to move in your life.
  - III. And if Jesus answers this prayer, you’ll be off on a good start to knowing him.

*"Jesus, you are here and you're alive. You invite anyone who is thirsty to call upon your name. I need you and I want to trust and follow you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I receive your forgiveness. Cleanse me and rescue me from darkness and settle me into your kingdom of light, life, and love. Come into my life and make your home in me. I receive the free gift of relationship and reconciliation with you. I want to know you and hear your voice and be a part of your family. Write your name on my heart and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Thank You Jesus for receiving me, loving me, forgiving my sins, and giving me eternal life. Amen."*

### 3. REFERENCES

S. Stewart, *When Everything Changes: Healing, Justice and the Kingdom of God*: Fresh Wind Press, 2015

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® All rights reserved.