

Love your Friend to Faith

Becoming a Caring Christian



Instructor's Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

Director of Course Development - Dr. Lyle Pointer

Author of Module - Dr. Lyle Pointer

Curriculum Developer-Lori Williams, M.A.

Curriculum Re-Designer - Whitney Lett, 2013

Graphic Designer - Jackie James, 2013

Evangelism Ministries

Church of the Nazarene

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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.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - 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.

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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 objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Module Introduction	5 mins.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce module, objectives, and outline.
II. Lecture	25 mins.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator presents information to encourage participants to become caring Christians.
III. Small Group Exercise	20 mins.	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants make a list of 4-5 unsaved friends, and then refer to a list of caring actions for ideas on how to minister to their unsaved friends.
IV. Discussion	5 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how the information will assist in their leadership.
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	15 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants begin preparing their homework assignments: determining what specific and significant caring ministry or ministries their church could offer to the unsaved.
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 75 mins.			

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For more information go to:

I. Module Introduction

(5 Minutes)

Notes

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.

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.*

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II. Lecture

(25 Minutes)

Notes

- 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 v. 1-2, the second to read v. 3-7, and the third to read v. 8. The scriptures are NOT included in the participants' handbooks.

Titus 3: 1-8 Saved in Order to Do Good

¹ *Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.*

³ *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. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ 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, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

⁸ *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.

1. We must be responsive to **AUTHORITIES**.

- a. When Paul obediently stood before God's High Priest Ananias (Acts 23), Felix 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

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II. Lecture (cont.)

obedience to authority when He prayed to His Father, “Yet not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39). Jesus’ submission to the ultimate authority of His Father **PRECEDED** his submission to those who crucified him.

- d. We generally do good by submitting to human authority only after we have submitted to the authority of **CHRIST** in our lives.
2. We should engage in **KIND** conversation.
 - a. Shun **SLANDER**. Slanderous 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 gossiper. 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).
 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. Christians **RELINQUISH** their rights instead of retaining their rights.
 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.

Illustration:

Jack had been the 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.

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.

2. God's kindness saved us and inspires us to serve.

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**.

II. Lecture (cont.)

- 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 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 intentionally continued their ministry of prayer and preaching, but not to the exclusion of helping the poor with their material need.
3. Doing what is good is excellent and profitable for **EVERYONE**.
- a. Doing what is good should have a definite and clear purpose.
 - b. Doing what is good should have **SIGNIFICANCE**. Doing good meets human need and carries 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."

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.

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II. Lecture (cont.)

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. 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.

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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III. Small Group Exercise (cont.)

Notes

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

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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?

What caring ministry could you begin at your church?

How will you keep the focus of your ministry specific?

How will you ascertain that your ministry has significance?

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.

Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

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