

# Love Your Friend to Faith

## Becoming a Credible Christian



## Instructor's Guide

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

# Acknowledgments

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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 Credible 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce module, objectives, and outline.</li> </ul>
II. Lecture	25 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitator presents information to encourage participants to become credible Christians.</li> </ul>
III. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share an experience and identify the responsibility, attitude and behavior of that experience. How does our church handle conflict among members? Are there broken relationships?</li> </ul>
IV. Discussion	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage participants to share thoughts about how the information will help them become credible Christians.</li> </ul>
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	20 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants begin preparing their homework assignments. Evaluate your own life. Are there areas that I need to work in my own life? How can I use those gifts?</li> </ul>
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Module Time: 75 mins.</b>			

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# I. Module Introduction

## (5 Minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

Purpose

Objectives

“Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture

Application exercises

*The purpose of this module is to:*

- **Reflect the humble character of Jesus.**
- **Keep the unity of the Spirit in peace.**
- **Apply the grace-gifts in building up the body of Christ.**

*The objectives for this module are:*

- To live a worthy and virtuous life.
- To keep the unity of the Spirit.
- To apply the grace- gifts God gives.

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## II. Lecture

(25 Minutes)

The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.

The scripture passage for this module is Ephesians 4:1-13. Choose two participants to read; ask the first to read vv. 1-6, the second to read vv. 7-13. The scriptures are not included in the participant's handbook.

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.<sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.<sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?<sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

## II. Lecture (cont.)

### A. Introduction

Illustrations:

- \* "You Christians can't agree on what you believe. The Nazarenes fight with the Baptists; the Lutherans with the Catholics, and a whole bunch disdain the Charismatics" criticized one angry person.
  - \* "I'm not going to any church that is known for its list of 'don'ts'."
1. The question asked in these incidences is "Who is right?"
  2. The scriptures do not answer the question of who is right, but the Bible does tell us who is credible.
  3. Here are ways you can tell if a person is an authentic Christian.
  4. A **CHRISTIAN** lives a worthy and virtuous life.

### B. **LIVING** a worthy life

1. We are to live a life of **HOLINESS**.
2. We are **CALLED** from sin to right living.

The circumstances of life may not reflect the worthiness of a person. Paul, for example, was a prisoner accused of causing problems.

### C. **LEADING** a virtuous life.

1. We are to be **HUMBLE**.

We laugh when someone quips, "I sure am proud of my humility."

- a. **HUMILITY** means to be teachable.
  - b. Humility allows someone else to act as an authority or a **LEADER** without undermining.
2. We are to be **GENTLE**.

Most of us think of a child being gentle. I have held infants who clobbered me. The small muscles are the last to develop in a child. Only those who are strong are capable of being gentle.

## II. Lecture (cont.)

3. We are to be **PATIENT**.
  - a. Becoming irritated and expressing annoyance injures **FEELINGS**.
  - b. We are to **PRIORITIZE** relationships.

### D. Because God is **ONE**.

1. We who would choose to be like Him will be **UNITED**.
2. This passage does not call for **UNIFORMITY**.
3. Be **CREATIVE**, God enjoys variety.
4. God is over all; He is in charge of **UNITING** people not tearing them apart.

### E. Because we are **BOUND** together through peace.

1. **CONFLICT** divides; peace unites.
2. Keeping peace requires **EFFORT**.

### F. **GOD** gives a variety of gifts.

1. Apostles are sent by God with special powers and for specific **PURPOSES**.
2. Prophets **PROCLAIM** the truth of God.
3. Evangelists call people to **DISCIPLESHIP**.
4. **PASTORS** care for a flock of people.
5. Teachers instruct **LEARNERS** about God.

### G. **GOD'S** purposes are to:

1. Prepare people to **SERVE**.
2. **BUILD** the body of Christ .
3. Unite people in faith and **KNOWLEDGE** .
4. Bring **PEOPLE** to maturity.

## II. Lecture (cont.)

### H. Conclusion

1. Believers and unbelievers can discern who the credible Christians are by how they live, treat people, and build up the church.
2. What about those churches who disagree with each other?
  - a. God is not bothered by our disagreements unless we divide, become unloving or fail to build up the body of Christ.
  - b. Can we point to our differences? Yes, but we are not to fight.
3. For all of us who wish to lead other people to Jesus, let us live a life worthy of God's call to holiness.

## III. Small Group Exercise

(15 Minutes)

The small group exercise portion of the module provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

1. What are the Christian virtues that positively impress unbelievers?
2. How does our church handle conflict among church members?  
1 excellent-----10 poorly
3. How can we better restore broken relationships?
4. Who are some of the best peace-makers in our church?
5. How can we become like them?
6. How do you evaluate your own personal spiritual life on each of these virtues? (Rank on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being highest to 5 being the lowest.)

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions. Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

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## IV. Discussion

**(5 Minutes)**

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about themselves and how they can use the materials presented to be a credible Christian to their neighbors, friends and family.

Open the floor for discussion. Ask the participants: How do you evaluate your personal spiritual life on each of these virtues? Rate on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the highest 5 the lowest).

If you are ahead of schedule the discussion can go on for a few extra minutes, however, it is easy to lose track of time so watch the clock.

## V. Action Planning/Reporting

**(20 Minutes)**

This section gives the participants an opportunity to discuss their plans for using this information.

Evaluate your own life. Are there some areas where I need to work in my own life to be a credible Christian?

How can I use the strengths of those areas?

How well do I do I use my spiritual gifts (e.g. service, mercy, faith) among unbelievers/non-Christians?

List ways you find that are easy and natural for you to serve people around you?

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions not focused on the assignment and guide them in completing the questions. Let the groups know when five minutes remain and ask them to conclude.

## 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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