

Love Your Friend to Faith

Becoming a Compassionate 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.

Becoming a Compassionate 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	30 mins.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator presents information to encourage participants to become compassionate Christians.
III. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the group this question. Are you a good neighbor? List ways that you can be proactive and creative in reaching your neighbors through compassion in loving your neighbor.
IV. Discussion	5 mins.	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage participants to share thoughts about what was presented and share insights about how the information will help them become a compassionate Christian and demonstrate love to a neighbor.
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	15 mins.	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants begin to prepare for their homework assignment. Use the information provided and develop your own personal compassion ministry to love your neighbor into a loving relationship with Christ.
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close with final comments
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 people to lovingly draw their acquaintances into a saving relationship with Christ

The objectives for this module are:

- *Speak truthfully to your neighbors.*
- *Work to share with needy persons.*
- *Build up others.*
- *Be Kind and forgiving.*
- *Live lovingly.*

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II. Lecture

(30 Minutes)

Notes

The underlined text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.

The scripture passage for this module is Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Choose a participant to read. The scriptures are NOT included in the participants' handbook.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin;" Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5 ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

A. Speak **TRUTHFULLY** to your neighbor.

Illustration:

In the book *The Day America Told the Truth*, the polls revealed that 91 percent of Americans lie regularly.

1. For us to speak **HONESTLY** is absolutely essential for our time.
2. We must put off **FALSEHOOD** and pretense.
3. **SPEAKING** honestly reveals to others what we are like.
4. We must speak honestly about our **RELATIONSHIP** with God.

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For more information go to:

II. Lecture (cont.)

B. The reasons for being **HONEST** are absolutely essential for our time.

1. **SELF-HONESTY** is important for good mental health.
2. Honesty with others makes for healthy, happy **RELATIONSHIPS**.

Illustrations:

- When Jim met a man whose family had attended a local church, he said "Are you here to get me saved?" Jim's response was an honest and direct, "nothing would please me more!"
- When an angry man said that Christians were stupid and unloving, Beverly simply explained, "I think I am neither, but I belong to Jesus Christ and have given my life to Him. By His love He has changed me into the person I now am."

C. Our world seeks to **TAKE** from others.

1. We are warned about **STEALING**.
2. We have come to believe, "what is **YOURS** is mine."
3. **GOD** respects our need to possess, but encourages us to give.

D. The Christian **LOVINGLY** seeks to meet needs.

1. The reason for working is so we might **SHARE** with others.
2. The Christian who would **EXPRESS** his love will give.
3. The Christian will be moved by **COMPASSION** when people have needs.

E. Christians guard against **UNWHOLESOME** talk.

1. **NEGATIVITY** abounds
2. It is easy to be **CRITICAL**.

F. What we say **BENEFITS** those who listen.

1. Make one of your **LIFE'S** goals to build up other people.
2. Dispense **ENCOURAGEMENT** liberally; there is a shortage.

II. Lecture (cont.)

G. Get rid of **ANGER**.

1. We do have a **CHOICE** about being angry.
2. **ANGER** gives the devil a foothold.
3. Sustained anger is **FORBIDDEN**.
4. **WE** are told to "get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."
5. The burden of **RESPONSIBILITY** for handling anger is placed squarely upon our shoulders.

Illustration:

We tend to blame others, "he made me mad." Or, "I couldn't help it." These are unacceptable excuses which sustain our selfish agenda and actually impede the work of God.

6. The **GOSPEL** cannot be advanced when there are angry, broken relationships.

H. The life that is winsome is kind and **COMPASSIONATE**.

1. **LOVE** is greatly influential.
2. **KINDNESS** will always be remembered.
3. Love and kindness are **GODLIKE** qualities – virtues we embrace and **DEMONSTRATE**.
4. Apart from kindness and compassion, few people will be **SAVED**.

I. **FORGIVE** each other.

1. God's people are **FORGIVING**.
2. The reason we **FORGIVE** is because we are forgiven.
3. We actually owe a **DEBT** of forgiveness.
4. How can we expect people to seek the forgiveness of God if we have not demonstrated God's forgiveness by forgiving other **PEOPLE?**

II. Lecture (cont.)

- J. We are to live as **CHRIST** lived.
1. He met the **PHYSICAL** needs of people by healing them.
 2. He **MINISTERED** to the emotional needs of people by comforting them.
 3. He addressed the intellectual search of people by describing God to them.
 4. He coached them to live a **COMPATIBLE** life by teaching on marriage, virtues, and governmental authority.
- K. He gave up himself as a **SACRIFICE**.
1. View the love of **JESUS**. Although Jesus did not want to die, he did.
 2. **EVERYTHING** inside of Jesus screamed for safety, just as we want to be safe.
 3. Jesus was publicly criticized and **PERSECUTED**.

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. We are to love our friends to faith.
2. We will live a life of godliness must before them.
3. We choose deliberately to shape our lives after the loving life of Jesus.
4. To be imitators of God and live life lovingly will win our world to Christ.

Illustration:

Paula was volunteering in her daughter's classroom when she met Kim, Ryan's mother. Their children followed each other through grade school and into junior high. Paula and Kim struck up a friendship, went to lunch together and began to enjoy a growing friendship. After several weeks of being acquainted, Kim asked Paula what her husband did. Paula said, "My husband is a pastor." Kim gasped, put her hands over her mouth in astonishment, and declared, "What have I said?" Paula reassured her that she hadn't said anything wrong. Then Kim observed, "I should have known you were a Christian." Today Kim serves as a church secretary in California. Ryan her son, is a minister. Rex, Kim's husband, now saved serves on the church board.

5. Let's love our friends to faith.

Ask the group this question:

Are you a good neighbor? Make a list of ways that you can be proactive and creative in reaching your neighbors through compassion.

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 thoughts about what was presented.

Encourage participants to share thoughts about what was presented and share insights about how the information will help them become a compassionate Christian and demonstrate love to a neighbor.

Open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, start with one of the questions they discussed during the exercise. 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.

V. Action Planning/Reporting

(15 Minutes)

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

The homework assignment for this module is:

Using the information provided, develop your own personal compassionate ministry to love your neighbors into a loving relationship with Christ.

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions that are not focused on the assignment and guide them completing the questions. Let the groups know when there are five minutes remaining and ask them to begin to conclude their discussions.

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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