

# Love Your Friend to Faith

## Becoming a Convincing 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 Convincing 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"> <li>Introduce module, objectives, and 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	15 mins.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the questions from the introduction for the Small Group exercise.</li> </ul>
IV. Discussion	5 mins.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage participants to share thoughts about what was presented and share insights about how the information will help them become convincing Christians and demonstrate it in their daily lives.</li> </ul>
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	5 mins.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants begin preparing their homework assignments. The participants should answer the question, How can I use what was presented in this module to be a convincing Christian to the world around me?</li> </ul>
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Module Time: 60 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:*

***Encourage people to live a life of integrity.***

*The objectives for this module are:*

- *To speak the truth in love.*
- *To become a godly person.*
- *To live distinctly different from the culture.*

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## II. Lecture

(25 Minutes)

Notes

### A. Introduction:

1. What does it take to convince someone to become a Christian?

#### Illustrations:

- ⇒ Kevin became a Christian after watching his Christian girlfriend and her parents for two years.
- ⇒ E. Stanley Jones relates that Mahatma Ghandi lived for a year with a Wesleyan couple whose lives showed no joy. He decided not to become a Christian.
- ⇒ Terry accepted Jesus because John, his manager, took personal interest in him while living a consistent Christian life.

2. What are people who are thinking about a life with Christ looking for among Christian witnesses?
3. How does God advise us to live so as to be convincing?

### B. A Christian knows **DOCTRINE**.

#### Illustration:

"We don't believe in doctrine," some say. My response, "That is quite a doctrinal statement."

1. To know what to **BELIEVE** is important.
2. In an age when what you feel gets catered to, the Christian **CHOOSES** a higher, more stable path.
3. We believe there is absolute **TRUTH**.
4. We know truth does not **CHANGE** even when times do.

### C. A Christian **GROWS** in Christ.

1. If Christians acquire information and cite certain creeds, **CHRISTIANITY** would be merely cerebral and cold.

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## II. Lecture (cont.)

Notes

2. Christians increase in **INTIMACY** with Christ, a person.
3. Christians allow **CHRIST** to be the governing love of their lives.
4. **GOD**, who is good, loving, just, and kind, calls us to be like him.
5. Christians can live out a **CONVINCING** portrait of God.

D. A Christian **DISTINGUISHES** himself/herself from the culture.

1. Our culture has become **FUTILE** in their thinking.
  - a. They have come to accept **RELATIVISM**.

Illustration:

The relativist answers questions of wrong and right with, "It depends upon the individual," or "it depends upon the situation."

- b. Our culture denies transcendent truth and **REFUSES** to embrace absolutes.
    - c. Even **CHRISTIANS** have come to think, "There are lots of ways to God."
    - d. Embracing **PLURALISM** has lessened the need to evangelize.
  2. Futile thinking has led to hard **HEARTS**.
    - a. **INSENSITIVITY** leads to sensuality.
    - b. Sensuality leads to **INSATIABILITY**, "a continual lust for more."
  3. A Christian knows Christ not from feelings but by the truth found in **JESUS**.

E. We, the church, are held together by **CHRIST**.

1. We are not a **HUMAN** organization alone.
2. We function under divine **LORDSHIP**.

F. We, the **CHURCH**, grow and build in love.

1. Love **BINDS** us together.
2. Love propels us to **GROW**.

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G. We, the church, each **FUNCTION** along the lines of our assigned work.

1. Our work is to **LOVE** each other.
2. We are to **BUILD** up one another.

H. Put off the **OLD** self.

1. The old self follows **DESIRES** rather than principles.
2. **PHYSICAL** drives and psychological needs cry out for fulfillment.
3. Desires deceive and they **CORRUPT**.

I. Put on **HOLY** living.

1. The new self begins with our **ATTITUDES**.
2. The set of our **MINDS** decides our behavior.
3. When our motivation is to be **GOD-LIKE** He gives us a new self.
4. We were created for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Conclusion:

1. Our task in the world is to speak the truth.
2. This, then, is how we become convincing Christians.



### 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.

What does it take to convince someone to become a Christian?

What are people who are thinking about a life with Christ looking for among Christian witnesses?

How does God advise us to live so as to be convincing?

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.

### 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 become a convincing Christian.

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

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

Notes

(5 Minutes)

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

How can I use what was presented in this module to be a convincing Christian to the world around me?

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 participant's to share their thoughts about the module.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement

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