

## ENCOURAGE...

//DON'T LEAVE THEM HANGIN'

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WOW! PARTY! THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN ARE REJOICING OVER THE REPENTANCE AND SALVATION OF THIS NEW CHILD OF GOD! YOU'RE STOKED ABOUT YOUR NEW SPIRITUAL SIBLING! AND THEY ARE EITHER EMOTIONAL OR DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. SO ... WHAT NOW?

Well, as the instrument that God used to lead this person to Christ, you have a responsibility to disciple them. We can't just leave them hangin', Jesus said, "Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19 NKJV).

God didn't command us to make converts but full blown disciples, We can't leave new believers stranded with no direction, So you have a responsibility to **encourage** and **disciple** the new believer. The work has just begun!

On the next page, we're going to hook you up with some fundamentals of the Christian faith that you must relay when encouraging a new convert, namely...

- **READ YOUR BIBLE**
- **PRAY**
- **GET INTO FELLOWSHIP**
- **SHARE YOUR FAITH**

If you don't toss out these building blocks, then you are leaving your friend in the faith out at sea without a lifejacket. They are bound to drown in the sea of worldliness. That reminds me of an old Chinese proverb:

**"MAN WHO SWIMS IN SEA OF WORLDLINESS WITHOUT LIFEJACKET ... DROWNS!"**

SHINE

# ENCOURAGE...

## //THE BASICS

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THERE ARE SOME ON-THE-SPOT DETAILS YOU NEED TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE WHO GIVES THEIR LIFE TO CHRIST. THINK ABOUT IT, THEY MIGHT FEEL LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST HIT THEM LIKE A TRUCK. THEY MIGHT BE A LITTLE DISORIENTED. YOU CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO COME TO CHRIST AND THEN LEAVE THEM WITH NO SENSE OF DIRECTION.

Every believer needs to do four basic things to bust out a healthy relationship with the Lord:

### //1. READ THE BIBLE

The Bible will tell them everything they need to know in order to grow in their spiritual life. Because God speaks through His Word, they will get to know Him better and learn what pleases Him. As they obey His Word, they will grow strong and begin to see positive changes in their life (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

### //2. PRAY

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges we have as a child of God. Just think, the God of all creation wants to hear from you! Let them know they can call on the Lord any hour of the day or night and He will listen. It doesn't matter to God if their prayers are eloquent or flowery. It matters only that they pray with a pure and sincere heart (see Jeremiah 29:12 and 1 John 5:14).

### //3. FELLOWSHIP

Church plays a vital role in spiritual growth. Fellowship with other Christians will keep them spiritually active and give them much needed encouragement and support. Church provides them with instruction from God's Word and gives them the training and opportunity to use their God-given gifts and abilities (see Hebrews 10:24-25).

### //4. SHARE YOUR FAITH

Good news is hard to keep to yourself! God wants them to share their newfound faith with others. They don't have to wait until they're an expert in the Bible to witness to others. They can share what they know - their own story of what Jesus has done for them (see 2 Timothy 4:2).

Once a baby Christian understands how to eat, breathe, and walk on their own, then they can survive in the real world, After all, you might not always be able to be there for them.

The work isn't over yet. Flip the page to check out what you can do to encourage your new sibling's spiritual success in the future.

# ENCOURAGE...

## //DISCIPLESHIP DUTIES

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AFTER THE INITIAL ENCOURAGEMENT YOU PROVIDE FOR THIS NEW BELIEVER, THERE ARE A COUPLE THINGS YOU SHOULD DO TO FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A "SPIRITUAL PARENT." (I BET YOU DON'T KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE KIDS THIS SOON... JUST JOKING). REMEMBER, YOU WEREN'T CALLED TO MAKE CONVERTS, BUT DISCIPLES. ANYTIME YOU LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST, YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THEM THAT EXTENDS FURTHER THAN THAT DAY. HERE'S A SHORT CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO TO GET YOUR NEW BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:

### //EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION:

You need to make sure this new Christian hooks you up with their phone number and/or e-mail so you can contact them at least a couple times over the next few weeks. It's your responsibility to call them and to provide some friendship, spiritual guidance, and prayer. This will bless you as much as it will bless them, They should also have the ability to reach you if they have any questions or needs, Remember, this is cool when someone is your own age, but be careful with the personal info when you're dealing with a much older or unstable person!

### //COMMIT THEM TO PRAYER:

You need to be praying for this individual fervently for at least a period of time. Think about it, they are brand new babes in Christ, and Satan wants to destroy them (see John 10:10). Your prayers are a necessity!

### //HELP THEM GET PLUGGED INTO CHURCH:

If they live in your area, try to get them hooked up with your church. Help them to be a part of the body and make them feel welcome in the family of Christ. If they need it and if it's possible, give that person a ride to church so they can get locked into some godly fellowship, If they happen to live in another area, make some calls and find a solid Bible teaching church in their area. Hook 'em up spiritually!

By making this checklist a reality in your ministry, you will remain faithful to God's calling in Matthew 28:19 and to every person you have the privilege of leading to Christ.

SHINE