

Each One Reach One

*Walking a Family Member or Friend
Through the Process of Receiving Christ*

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Helping men become so **FOCUSED** on Christ
that they are **LIVING** for Christ.

Fifth Edition

Name: _____



Each One Reach One

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*Dedicated to our heroes...
those ordinary followers of Christ who are faithfully,
with extraordinary compassion,
walking one friend at a time
through the process of receiving or rejecting Christ.*

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Introduction

I Have No Other Plan

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples...I am with you always...” Matt 28:18, 20

Shhhh! It's a holy moment. Envision the dramatic, physical ascension of Jesus.¹ Note the millions of angels giving Him a glorious welcome in heaven. After a joyous celebration, they gather around to ask questions about His birth, life, death and resurrection. They crowd around to hear just how He had so faithfully accomplished all that the Father had given Him to do. They wait with anticipation for the details of His strategic





plan for delivering His salvation offer to the world. Imagine the conversation.

“You are back here so soon! Merely 33 years of age and only three in public ministry! How will the entire world throughout the generations know about the salvation You offer?” they pressed.

“*I have trained My men and women,*” came the simple answer.

“To evangelize the whole world?” they questioned with utter astonishment.

“*Yes, indeed. Every person in every nation, from every city, every tribe, every culture and every language.*”

“How many have You trained for such a mammoth task?”

“*A handful,*” responded the Lord.

“A handful,” they gasped. “But what if they fail?”

“*If they fail, I have made no other plans.*”

“But isn’t that a grave risk to take?” they probed. By now the entire rank of angelic host was fascinated with Jesus’ simple, yet audacious plan.

“*No. Through Me they have experienced the Father’s compassion and grace. And in response to My love they will make My very last command of making disciples their very first concern. And in the power of the Holy Spirit they will announce My Father’s gracious offer of forgiveness everywhere they go and to everyone they meet.*” Jesus glanced past the sea of angels and gave the Father a wink.

“Well, what kind of men did you choose? Are they the sharp, dynamic, articulate types with charismatic leadership and exuberant personalities that can draw in the crowds?” the angels inquired.

“*Let’s see,*” Jesus interrupted. “*I chose a few smelly, uneducated fishermen, a couple of leather-skinned shepherds, a greedy tax collector, a political zealot, some disillusioned religious folks, an old, widowed grandmother, several prostitutes, a prisoner, a doctor, a business-woman, a tent maker and some others.*”

“But Lord, how can You entrust the greatest enterprise of history to such as these? The risk is too great. Surely they will not succeed.”



Seeing that the angels had run out of questions, Jesus replied, *“It is not a risk because they will not fail. I have made no other plans to spread the Good News of My redemption and offer of eternal life with the Father. I have trained My men and women. And they will NOT fail!”*

And they didn’t! A tiny handful of the most unlikely characters, enriched with the dynamic of the living Lord through the presence of the Holy Spirit, did not fail. Witness the church throughout history and its growth in the world today. We would not be here if they had failed.

As from the beginning, the Lord remains committed to just one simple plan. He wants to use **EACH ONE** of you to **REACH ONE** of your family members or friends with the truth of His Gospel. And if you step forward in faith in response to His love, **you will not fail either!** ²

Your Plan

God has a glorious plan to bring people into a relationship with Himself through Christ. He has sovereignly placed you in the lives of those who desperately need Christ and invites you to be a part of His plan.

This *Each One Reach One* workbook will encourage and equip you to walk one person through the process of receiving Christ. It is organized around six actions.



DARE to obey God by identifying just one person whom you will walk through the process of receiving Christ or rejecting Christ. (John 1:35-42) *“Andrew found first his own brother, Simon...”*



PREPARE your heart so that you are so overwhelmed with God’s grace that your lips and life-style overflow with the Gospel message. (Eph 3:14-21) *“...rooted and grounded in love...filled up to all the fullness of God.”*



PRAYER to release the Lord's power in your life to share the Gospel and to draw the heart of your friend to the heart of God. (Col 4:2-6) *"Devote yourselves to prayer...so that you will know how you should respond to each person."*



CARE enough to love your friend through this process, no matter how intimidating the obstacles or how great the cost. (Mark 10:46-52) *"Jesus stopped...the (blind Bartimaeus) came to Jesus."*



SHARE what God has done in your life as well as how your friend, too, can experience God through Christ. (Mark 5:19-20; John 3:16) *"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."*



WHERE the Spirit leads you, commit to follow. (1 Thess 1:5; 2:1-13) *"Our Gospel did not come in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction..."*

You will quickly notice that this workbook is designed to be interactive. We've included many questions to help you focus your mind and prepare your heart. We trust that by engaging with God's truth you will develop a plan that will mobilize **you** to share the Gospel with your friend. Experience has shown us that without a plan, the typical Christ follower will not intentionally risk leading a friend to Christ. So, reflect on the questions in an unhurried manner. God will honor your investment!

Use the yellow pages entitled, "**My Action Plan,**" at the end of this workbook to record key action points.



Make sure to update this plan as you grow in your understanding of how best to care for and communicate the grace of God to your friend.

"I have found the principles in this book to be sound, helpful, and effective. The concept of thinking about, praying for, and loving one person to Christ opens one up to be a channel of God's marvelous grace to that person. After more than a year of applying these principles, I had the privilege of sitting with a member of my family as that person prayed to receive Christ. There is no greater experience this side of heaven."

*Bud (70s)
Retired Bank Executive*



“Yeah, my associates would not look favorably and might even tease me if they knew I was a Christian... luckily, I’ve been able to keep it a secret.”

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chapter one



Dare to obey

*“So they came and saw where He was staying; and **they stayed with Him that day**, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. **He found first his own brother Simon** and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which translated means Christ). **He brought him to Jesus.**” John 1:39-42*

If You Spent the Day With Jesus

Suppose that Jesus Himself invited you to spend the entire day in fellowship with Him. In response to His gracious investment in your life, what would be the first thing



you would do when the day was over? Notice what Andrew did! **“The FIRST THING Andrew did was to FIND his brother Simon and tell him... and he BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS”** (John 1:35-42). You see, there’s something powerful about spending a day with Jesus. There’s something so contagious and refreshing about His love, His



peace and His purpose that you just have to share it with another person. His grace and His forgiveness are so magnetic that they must be expressed. It is spiritually impossible to spend time in fellowship with Jesus without the passion of the Father’s heart rubbing off on yours!

So, who will be the person you find first to tell about Jesus?

The Simple Vision: Won by One

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message so that we may speak forth the mystery [Gospel] of Christ ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly ... Be wise in your conduct with outsiders making the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation always be full of grace ... that you may know how to respond to **each person.**”* Col 4:2-6

Notice the last phrase of what Paul says to the members of the church at Colossae: *“that you may know how to respond to **each person.**”* Paul encouraged his friends to learn the most effective and natural way to communicate God’s great love in Christ to each individual person God had placed in their lives. When it comes to outreach, we are often characterized by one of two extremes. The first extreme is to do nothing. Many of us are intimidated by or fearful of the possible negative responses. Others do not have a meaningful enough relationship with an unbelieving person to have a spiritual conversation. So we remain silent and do nothing as our friend walks toward a Christ-less eternity apart from the Father’s love.

The other extreme is to overwhelm our friend. We charge into the life of a friend with great zeal to tell him all about the Lord, only to drive him away. Our friend is not necessarily offended by the Gospel, but by being treated as a project rather than as a person. This type of effort becomes more of an evangelistic “raid,” attempting to sell a friend something he does not want, rather than a loving, intelligent conversation to help with the next step toward Christ.

To avoid either extreme, we must remember that our goal is to accompany a person through a **process**, not to accomplish a **project**.

Reflecting back over my recent conversion to Christianity, I can see that God used several people during the process. He first got my attention through Jonathon and Grace. A few years ago I was trying to rent out an apartment I own, and this young couple came to look at it. They were very nice, and I really wanted to rent to them. They told me they liked the apartment but wanted to pray about it and would get back to me. I told them OK but really didn't know what they meant. Several days later they moved in and, after a while, asked me to attend the new church they were attending. I hadn't been to church in years, but I decided to go with them. I didn't know God at the time, but through this church, I was introduced to Glenn and Dave. Each of these men, independently, took the time to get to know me, and I felt comfortable asking them about spiritual things. Over several months of relating with these guys, I actually prayed to receive Christ with yet another friend who challenged me to submit my life. I just thank God that He put each of these people in my life at just the right time. It gives me hope as I am currently in a two-year process of walking my best friend toward Christ.

*Earl (50s)
Industrial Sales*

Do you realize what could happen if you, along with a number of folks in your church, developed an “each one, reach one” mindset of walking just one person through



the process of coming to Christ this year? Your church would absolutely explode with exhilarating new birth rather than merely expand through transfer growth! Your mission would become clear with an outward focus rather than with an inward preoccupation. There would be deep hunger for more truth from the Word, more training for ministry and more teaching on answers to hard questions. Your worship would become vibrant with authentic celebration, and there would be a sensitivity and surrender to the Holy Spirit as never before.

Can you grasp the incredible impact God could make through you right where you live, work and play if you made yourself available to His Spirit to love just one person to Christ this year? Can you see the awesome potential of helping that new believer continue to grow in his/her

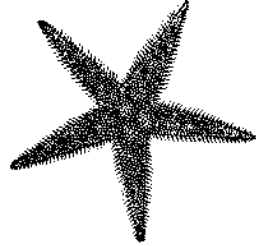
Our goal is to accompany a person through a process, not to accomplish a project.

love and devotion to Christ? Can you envision your new brother in Christ reach out to just one of his friends, just as you reached out to him? And imagine growing in Christ as never before as you daily depend on Him while on the “front lines” of ministry.

You see, most of us are not gifted to reach large crowds or lead massive events, though God is certainly using these methods in powerful ways. Our emphasis here is to help you present Christ to your family and friends one at a time! Because each individual matters to the Father, we must reach out to each person individually, following our Lord’s example in Luke 15:4. Here, Jesus challenged His disciples with the provocative question, “*What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and **go after the one** which is lost, until he finds it?*” In other words, Jesus is releasing His people to go after and focus on just one spiritually lost person until that person comes to Christ.

Not long ago, a woman was walking along the beach one morning. She came upon a weathered old man stooping to pick up a starfish. She watched as the man would

again and again bend to lift a starfish from the sand and then toss it into the surf. Curious, she approached to ask what he was doing. The old man responded, "Each morning I come to the beach to find starfish stranded by the night's high tide. And if someone doesn't carefully throw them back, they will die!" The woman glanced down the beach and exclaimed, "But there are thousands of them. You can't possibly throw them all back. What difference will it make?" The old man paused for a moment, then bent down to pick up another starfish lying near his feet. With practiced effort he threw it as far as he could into the sea. Turning to the woman, he grinned and said, "Made a difference to that one!"³



The simple vision of introducing just one person to Christ this year can make a profound, eternal difference. Not only will individuals meet Christ for the first time, but we can also become powerful change agents in our local churches by helping our fellow church members reach beyond themselves.

So let's get to it!

Eliminate and Concentrate

Think of three people whom you would most like to see come to Christ. Consider the faces in your sphere of influence. Neighbors. Friends. Family. Work associates. Vendors. Colleagues. Employees. Bosses. Churched. Unchurched. Church damaged. Teammates. Classmates. Soulmates. Inmates. Even Primates ☺. Folks you know through school, sports, work, community service, special interest organizations, clubs, associations, online, offline and in line.

For many Christians, it is not easy to identify three people in their circle of relationships who are not yet followers of Christ. Perhaps you have become insulated and isolated from those who are without Christ. You are not



alone! It is a well-known statistic that within two years of conversion, most of God's people lose meaningful contact with a majority of their unbelieving friends. If this describes you, you will need to step out of the **comfort zone** of your church and into the **zone of the unknown** of your culture to meet and befriend someone.

It's OK if you are unsure of where a friend stands spiritually. If you discover later during the process that your friend already follows Christ, then God may have put this person on your heart for another reason! Perhaps both of you could encourage one another to each reach out to someone else!

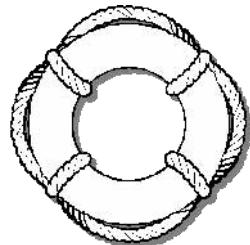
The following scenarios may stimulate your thinking and crystallize your choices:

- What if Jesus Himself looked you in the eye and said, *"I am returning for My second coming in exactly four months. All who have yet to repent of their sins, believe in My grace and receive My forgiveness will spend eternity separated from My Father's love in a literal place called Hell!"* Now, who from your circle of relationships comes to mind with such an image?
- Visualize entering Heaven yourself. Now look around at all the faces. What friend or family member is missing?
- Hey, there are over 6 billion people on earth. PICK 3!

The three folks I would like to see come to Christ are

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Of these, which **ONE** do you sense God would have you focus on first? Put his/her initials in the life saving ring. Prayerfully keep the face of this friend etched on your heart as you work through this book.



Please understand that choosing a single person to focus on is not to **eliminate** the others from your heart. Rather, it is to help you **concentrate**. The mindset you will achieve while walking this one through the process will spill over to the other folks you've listed!

The Pressure's Off

Before we continue, let's stop to acknowledge the single most vital aspect of all outreach efforts. **GOD IS THE EVANGELIST!** He alone has the final responsibility for your friend or family member receiving Christ and surrendering to His Lordship. He alone is "*working wonders, plans formed long ago with perfect faithfulness*" (Isa 25:1). He is building His church (Matt 16:18) and knows how to draw folks to His Son (John 6:44; Acts 9:1-18). He knows how to convict them of their sin (John 16:7-11) and convince them of their desperate need for Christ on both sides of the grave (1 Pet 1:3-5; 1 Thess 1:9-10). Remember that He loves your friend far more than you ever will. In fact, it's not even our words or actions that ultimately draw men to Christ but His unfailing Word and the irresistible grace of His Holy Spirit (Isa 55:8-11; Rom 10:17).



The salvation of your friend does NOT depend on your ability, faithfulness or obedience. It is not up to you. Their salvation is ultimately God's responsibility, but He wants to use you in His eternal plan. He would never allow the salvation of your friend to depend on your skill, ability or initiative! He will get their attention and confront them with their emptiness and expose the "hole in their soul." *He* will bring a heartfelt conviction to realize the full weight of their sin. *He* will cause their mind to understand the Gospel by sending His Holy Spirit to bring to life a spiritually dead heart. And *He* will supply the faith needed to



transport them from spiritual death to life (Eph 1:3-14; 2:1-10; Gal 1:15-16; Acts 13:48. 16:14; Col 1:12,13)! Always remember how God worked in the life of Lydia the businesswoman. For it was the Lord who “*opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul*” (Acts 16:14). Once and for all, let’s rid our minds of that heretical poem, “If it’s gonna be... it’s up to me!”

It is, however, your **responsibility** to respond to His **ability**. It is not your ability but your **availability** that God uses most. You demonstrate this by stepping forward in faith and obedience, allowing Him to use you as a part of the process (Rom 10:8-17). You are to compassionately love your friend and to clearly present God’s simple plan of salvation, leaving all the results to Him.

Be encouraged with what Matthew records just prior to Jesus giving the Great Commission of worldwide outreach to the eleven disciples. “*They worshiped Him but some were doubtful*” (Mt 28:16-17). Can you believe it? After all they had seen, heard and experienced as they walked every day for three years with the Master, they doubted. At this point we would have expected Jesus to pray, “Father, let me start over with another twelve men. These guys are out!” But even when His closest followers were fearful, hesitant and lacked the confidence to get about the business of evangelism, Jesus wanted to use them still! That is why He said to them, “*All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and earth. Therefore go and make disciples.*” It is not up to you to bring your friend to Christ. Trust Him and rely on His authority as you live out this strategy to love your friend.

Your responsibility is to respond to His ability.



Invest a few minutes to write out a heart-felt prayer to the Father. Recognize His sovereign grace both in your life and in the life of your focus friend. Turn the results of your outreach efforts over to Him.