

TOOLS *FOR THE* JOURNEY



FOUR WEEKS TO EQUIP YOUR STUDENTS AS
COURAGEOUS WITNESSES IN EVANGELISM



This resource is brought to you by our partners at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA, a part of IFES the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.



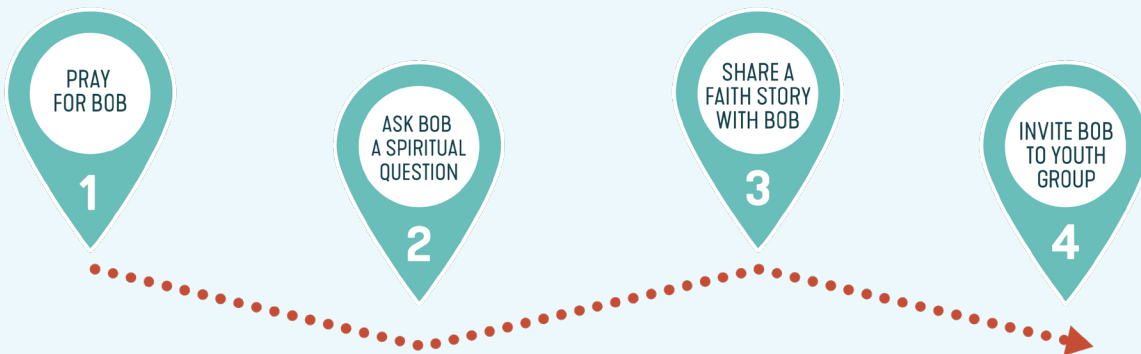
DEAR YOUTH PASTORS AND YOUTH LEADERS,

We have something in common. We all love students, and we long for them to thrive as followers of Jesus for their entire lives. But we also know that 50%+ of the students in our youth groups will lose their faith as they grow into adulthood. Someone should do something about this!

We believe one way to make their faith more sticky is to help students be comfortable with having spiritual conversations with their non-Christian friends, which will develop their muscles of resilience while they are still in high school.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN OUR CURRICULUM

Our Courageous Witness small group curriculum will add four tools for your students' backpack of faith: 1) intercessory prayer; 2) asking spiritual questions; 3) sharing a story of God working in our weakness; 4) making invitations to explore Jesus. Imagine that your student, Sally, is growing her friendship with a non-Christian at school, Bob.



HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

You could use this four-week study as four “stand alone” weeks, or you can build one week upon the next by returning each week to the same list of names of non-Christian friends students (see our Prayer Wall in Week One). The four-week study culminates with invitations where students invite their friends to come and explore Jesus with them at your youth group (see our additional small group Bible study for seekers included at the end of week four). We suggest you read week four first, so that you can plan a good follow-up event ahead of time.

Students often find themselves in spiritual conversations during high school and college. We want them to be prepared and comfortable, instead of awkward and intimidated when talking about the Jesus part of their life.



YOUTH PASTOR PRO-TIP

We think having an evangelism game plan (like this four-week series on friendship evangelism) will impact your ministry in a variety of ways. Be ready for the fruit: students grow in more resilient faith, new non-Christian students explore Jesus in your youth group, and hopefully conversions happen as seekers fall in love with Jesus, and more. To prepare for the ripple effect, ask yourself, “How can I help my small group leaders take risks first and invite their students to join them as courageous witnesses?”

The word “evangelism” is complicated. Ask them, “What are some negative associations that you have with the “e” word?” The point of these four weeks is to help you talk about what Jesus is doing in your personal life without being weird.



What Tools are in the Backpack?

Make this fun! Gather a backpack of tools ahead of time to use it as an object lesson each week. Read about the tools below, and incorporate them as you go.



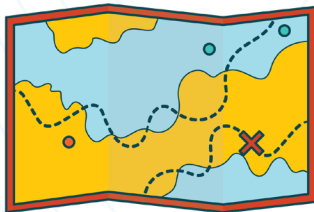
PRO-TIPS: TRAIL MARKER

This trail marker denotes pro-tips to help you make the most of your small group experience. Take time to read these and prepare well before you lead each week.



CHECK-IN: FLASHLIGHT

The bright flashlight will shine a light on your weekly experience and growth as a courageous witness as you reflect.



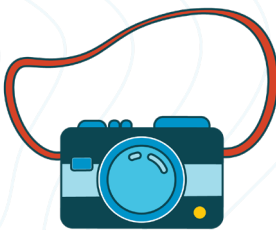
PRAYER: MAP

We can't get anywhere without a good map. Similarly, praying for our friends helps us see them with God's perspective and how God is preparing the journey ahead.



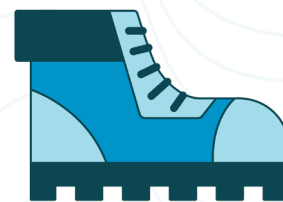
QUESTIONS: COMPASS

Use the compass to navigate your way in spiritual conversations. Seek Jesus with friends as you ask them good questions.



STORIES: CAMERA

The camera helps us remember and share "snapshots" of God as we tell stories about Jesus meeting you us in real ways through our lives.

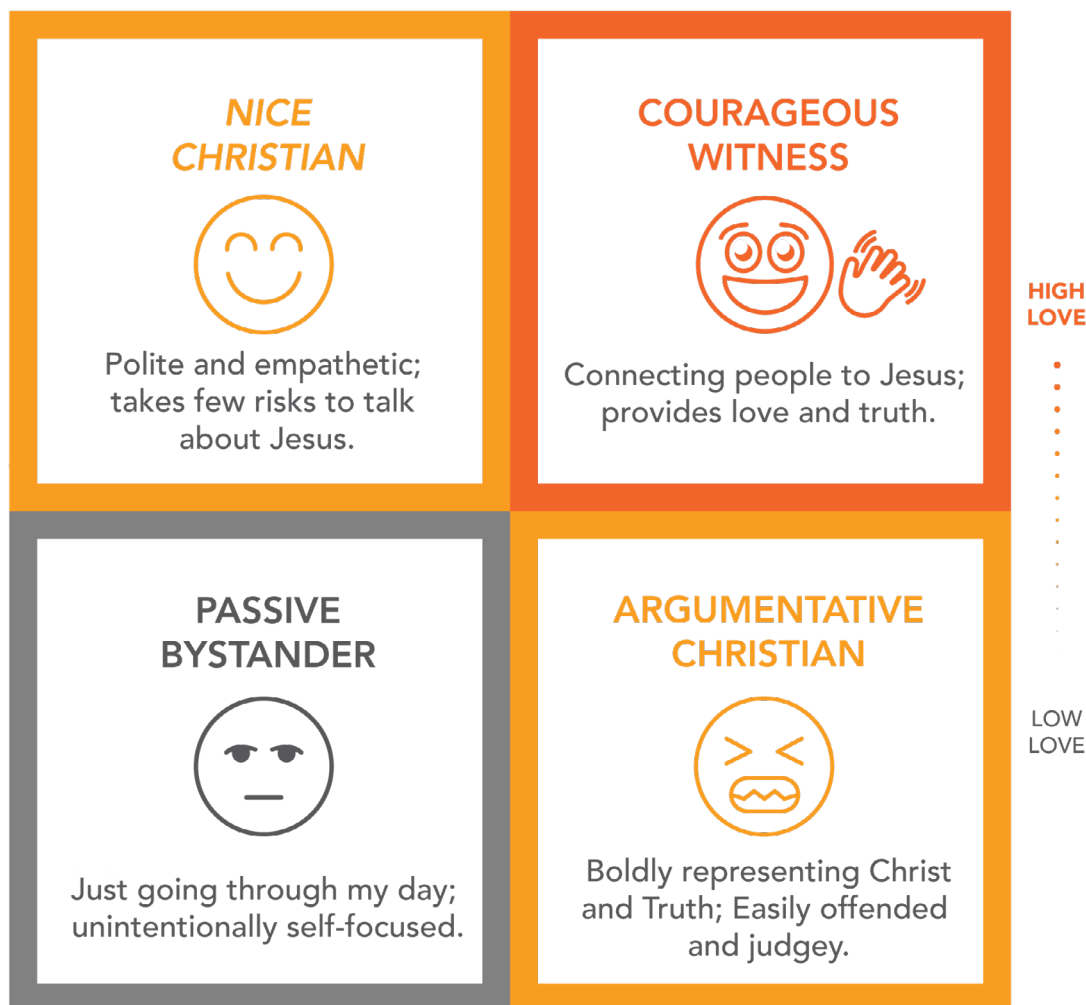


INVITATIONS: BOOTS

Scripture tells us "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (*Romans 10:15 NIV*) Our invitations to explore Jesus give our friends the chance to put on their boots and journey with us.

Courageous Witness Check-In

LOW COURAGE HIGH COURAGE




Sometimes we are tempted to hide our faith or to become argumentative about God's Truth. Don't settle for being passive or merely nice. Don't cave into the pressure to be obnoxious. We can help you as you ask God to fill you with love and courage.

Meet our four friends: Passive Bystander, Argumentative Christian, Merely Nice Christian, and Courageous Witness. They all want to grow and strengthen their faith. Actually, all four of these 'friends' represent us, as we move throughout our week.

Think about last week. When were you a Passive Bystander? Argumentative? Merely nice? Or a Courageous Witness? Pause now to ask Jesus to give you more of his love and his courage.




YOUTH PASTOR PRO-TIP

Bring a hard copy of this Check-In each week and begin the conversation using this 2x2. Let them know, "We will use this Check-In every week. Each of us will share how we are doing." Make extra hard copies of this page for your leaders. You will see the flashlight icon  any time the Check-In is mentioned in these guides as a reminder.

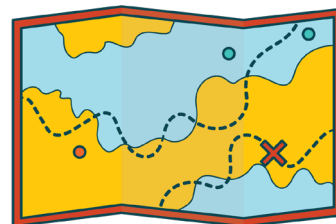
Praying for Friends with Love and Courage

INTRODUCTION

God is doing a new thing! We are shifting from passive survival mode to growing in courageous love for our friends and family. Ready? Take a look at the Courageous Witness Check-In  and consider:

- *Where are you? How do you feel about where you're at?*

Share with your small group.



MARK 2:3–5, NIV

"Some men came, bringing to him [Jesus] a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'**"

- *These four people really care about their paralyzed friend. What do you admire about this kind of friendship?*
- *What friendship do you have that is like these four? Or who would you like to grow your friendship with to this level?*

PRAYER

Pray together using the prayer below.

"Jesus, change my prayers. Make me like these four friends. Help me rip through roofs to lower my friends to you for healing and forgiveness. Help me stop at nothing as I break through any barriers that may stand in the way of my friends knowing your love."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Pick a text buddy for the next four weeks to support one another's growth.

- **101:** *Take two minutes to fill out this prayer map. Write your name in the middle and list all the non-Christians you see regularly (one name per circle). Jesus has put them in your life! Ask God, "Who are two non-Christian friends for whom you want me to focus my prayer and energy?" List their names below:*

Pray for one minute: ask God, "How do you want me to pray for them? How might I invest in these friendships?" Ask the Holy Spirit, "Help me to pray daily for these friends."

- **201:** Create a [Communal Prayer Wall](#) and return to this regularly this month.

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Praying for Friends with Love and Courage



GOAL

- Students begin their witness journey with prayer.


PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

Look ahead and decide if you want to lead your small group towards a 101 or 201 application. To do the 201 Prayer Wall application, be ready with a poster board, three colors of markers, and printed directions found [here](#). Be prepared to share about your prayer life with the group.

ICE BREAKER: SPEED INTRODUCTIONS

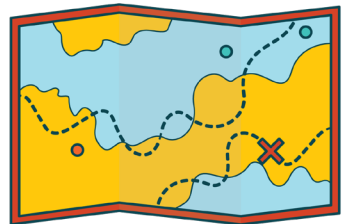
1. Pair up the students, assign them Group A and B.
2. Set a one-minute timer.
3. Have Group A students talk about themselves (school, family, hobbies, etc.) to their Group B partner for one minute. After that minute is up, reset your timer.
4. Next, have Group B student talks about themselves to Group A for one minute.
5. Go around the group, and every person had to gives an introduction of their partner based on what they've heard.

INTRODUCTION

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- *Where are you? How do you feel about where you're at?*

Share with your small group.



PRO-TIP

Print the Courageous Witness Check-In for each member of your group. Read the page together and ask, "Where were you on this grid this week?"

MARK 2:3–5, NIV

"Some men came, bringing to him [Jesus] a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'**"

- *These four people really care about their paralyzed friend. What do you admire about this kind of friendship?*
- *What friendship do you have that is like these four? Or who would you like to grow your friendship with to this level?*



PRO-TIP

You can make this fun. Come up with a story from your life when you did something crazy, like when you ripped apart a box of cookies. Ask them whether they feel that this is crazy.

Other discussion questions:

- *How do these friends feel when they can't get inside to see Jesus?*
- *Paint the picture, what do you imagine it was like to go through the roof? How might they have expected Jesus to respond?*

Be prepared to describe your own prayer life. This may be a new concept to some students. Be sensitive to some students who may not have any close friends. Tell them, "We all want and need good friends. Let's pray for God to give us good friends, and for us to be a good friend to others."

PRAYER

Pray together using the prayer below.

"Jesus, change my prayers. Make me like these four friends. Help me rip through roofs to lower my friends to you for healing and forgiveness. Help me stop at nothing as I break through any barriers that may stand in the way of my friends knowing your love."



PRO-TIP

Say this: "When has someone saved the day for you? When were you desperate, and someone did you a big favor? (*Have a personal example ready to go.*) That is how we love our friends, even if they never know it. I like to think of it as lowering people in prayer right into the arms and love of Jesus. It helps me to picture Jesus' love all around them."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Pick a text buddy for the next four weeks to support one another's growth.

- **101:** Take two minutes to fill out this prayer map. Write your name in the middle and list all the non-Christians you see regularly (one name per circle). Jesus has put them in your life! Ask God, "Who are two non-Christian friends for whom you want me to focus my prayer and energy?" List their names below:

Pray for one minute: ask God, "How do you want me to pray for them? How might I invest in these friendships?" Ask the Holy Spirit, "Help me to pray daily for these friends."

- **201:** Create a [Communal Prayer Wall](#) and return to this regularly this month.



PRO-TIP

It takes courage to offer to pray. It changes the friendship dynamics. You may want to practice doing this. Role play with them like you are their friend.

It is good for you to memorize the names of their friends. Ask them about these friends regularly over the next few weeks.

Have them commit to an actual time to text their friends to pray. If the non-Christian friend thinks prayer is weird, reply with this (or make up your own):

- **101 Script:** "When I'm going through stuff, I pray about it and ask Jesus for help. I want you to have help."

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Asking Courageous Questions

INTRODUCTION

Questions create safety. People love to talk about themselves. They appreciate your interest in their story. Questions open your eyes to who they really are. God will grow your love for them and show you how to pray for them. Questions are contagious. This creates friendship and allows you to talk honestly about God's work in your life.



JOHN 5:5-9, NIV

"One who was there has been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, '**Do you want to get well?**'"

'Sir,' the invalid replied, '**I have no one to help me** into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.'

Then Jesus said to him, '**Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.**' At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked."

- *How does Jesus' question make this moment with the man go deeper?*

PRAYER

"Jesus, make me more like you. Help me to intentionally ask good questions of my Christian and non-Christian friends this week. Make me a better question-asker."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Brainstorm questions that you could ask your friends about their lives and spirituality. (Examples: Have you ever been to church? What was your experience like?) Put this in the Notes app on your phone. Share it with someone next to you.

- **101:** *I have a spiritual question that I am prepared to ask.*
- **201:** *I will ask this question next time I talk to the friend I am praying for.*
- **301:** *I want to grow as a Courageous Question asker. I'll take this course on Brave and Safe Questions: [Asking Good Questions Part 1](#).*

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"


Asking Courageous Questions



GOAL

- Students begin their witness journey with prayer.

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

Begin each week by reviewing the  Courageous Witness Check-In. Think of ways to make it fun. One week ask, "When were you merely nice this week?" Another week ask, "When were you triggered and tempted to be argumentative?" Another week ask, "Give us an example of when you were courageous this week." Give a fun-size candy bar to anyone who tried something courageous.

ICEBREAKER: PICK A SIDE

1. Have everyone stand in the center of the room.
2. Let them choose between two options. They will have to run across to each side of the room based on their choice.
3. Here are some go-to questions:
 - a. Who would win in a fight? Left side: Godzilla. Right side: King Kong
 - b. Would you rather take a vacation in the mountains (left), or on the beach (right)?
 - c. Does pineapple belong on pizza? Left: Yes. Right: No.
 - d. Who's better? Billie Eilish (left), or Jack Harlow (right)
 - e. Crocs in public? Left: Yes. Right: No.

INTRODUCTION

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PRO-TIP

Think of a story when someone asked you one or more good questions, and that changed how you viewed a problem or a situation? Share this story with them. Then ask, "How about you? Do you have a story like that?"

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Then Jesus said to him, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.' At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked."

- How does Jesus' question make this moment with the man go deeper?



PRO-TIP

Keep the conversation going with these additional discussion questions.

- Imagine being the man who was just healed. What questions would you have for Jesus?
- It could be offensive to ask a sick person, "Do you want to be well?" Why might Jesus take this risk? What is the impact of this delicate question? (Think of a moment when someone asked you a difficult question.)
- Thirty eight years is a very, very long time to have the same condition. Describe what this guy's life has been like for nearly four decades.
- The man is making reasonable excuses for not getting into the pool. He has no help. Jesus tells him, "Get up!" Think of a time when you were feeling sorry for yourself and feeling stuck in depression or another funk.

PRAYER

"Jesus, make me more like you. Help me to intentionally ask good questions of my Christian and non-Christian friends this week. Make me a better question-asker."



PRO-TIP

Ask one person to pray the prayer printed above.

Ask, "How do you feel about becoming a better question asker?"

Help them explore how asking good questions can feel like a social risk. Moving conversations deeper is an invitation to move relationships deeper. Some may not like your question and prefer to keep things superficial. The point is to take a risk and see what you learn.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Brainstorm questions that you could ask your friends about their lives and spirituality. (Examples: Have you ever been to church? What was your experience like?) Put this in the Notes app on your phone. Share it with someone next to you.

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PRO-TIP

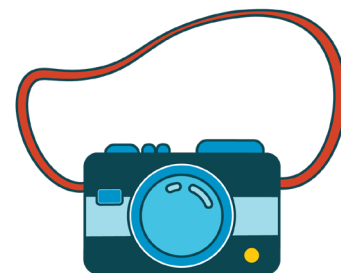
It is helpful if you select a few questions that you personally are willing to try out on people ahead of time. Take a few risks yourself, so that you have a personal story about conversational risk taking. In addition, check out our self-guided course (link above) about how to ask better questions. Let them know, "My favorite part of this course is...."

Get ready for the 301 challenge. Take the "Asking Good Questions" course ahead of time so you can share your experience and recommend it to the students in your small group.

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Sharing a Courageous Faith Story



INTRODUCTION

Your authentic story will offer your friends a front row seat to God's love and power.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10, NIV

"[God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' 'Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' "

- How do your friends feel about showing weakness?
- From this verse in 2 Corinthians, how does God feel about our weaknesses?

PRAYER

When you bring your weakness to Jesus, he gives you a fresh story that your friends need to hear. Which emotion have you experienced the most this week?

- Anger
- Sadness
- Loneliness
- Fear
- Apathy
- Other?'

Pray this Prayer:

"Jesus, I have been feeling (emotion). Would you please speak to me about this right now? (Pause) Restore me with your love."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Grow as a Courageous Storyteller

A famous author said, "The first Bible that a person will ever read is your life." (Becky Pippert)

Use your own words to tell your story or try this out:

"I'm learning to be honest about my weaknesses. Today I did a prayer exercise. I've been feeling... And I invited God to help me. I felt... Have you ever tried prayer?"

- **101:** I will share this story of God's work in my life with a Christian friend this week.
- **201:** I will share this story of God's work in my life with a non-Christian friend this week.

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Sharing a Courageous Faith Story



GOAL

- Students will be able to identify a place of weakness where they need Jesus. They will learn how to share their weakness and witness to God's work in their lives.

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

We think it can be helpful to begin each week by reviewing the Courageous Witness Check-In. Think of ways to make it fun. One week ask, "When were you merely nice this week?" The next week ask, "When were you triggered and tempted to be argumentative?" Another week ask, "Give us an example of when you were courageous this week." Give a fun-size candy bar to anyone who tried something courageous.

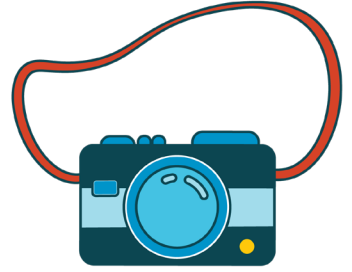
Go through this week's content ahead of time. Consider where God is at work in your own weakness. Decide if you will share your story in the introduction or use the story included below.

ICEBREAKER: PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

1. Make three or four teams of people and put them in each corner of the room.
2. Have them take out their phones and open Instagram or their camera roll.
3. You will call out a list of 10 items. The first team to run to you and show you a picture of them with the item included gets a point. The team with the most points wins!
4. Items:
 - a. Hairbrush
 - b. Suit or dress
 - c. Sandwich
 - d. Coffee
 - e. A pet
 - f. A parent
 - g. A baby
 - h. Sports uniform
 - i. A tree
 - j. Your pastor
 - k. Mirror selfie

INTRODUCTION

Your authentic story will offer your friends a front row seat to God's love and power.



PRO-TIP

Either tell a story of God's power when you felt weak, or read the story included below.

"Here is a short example of God showing up in this person's weakness. I will read it, then you share what you think about it."

"Let me tell you about the worst day of my life. I was devastated when I lost my father. I started weeping. I lost my pillar in the family.

But you know what happened next? God showed up. God comforted me. I could feel his love right there in that room with me. I was not alone. God saw my tears. That made all the difference.

How about you, where do you turn on your worst days?"

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10, NIV

"[God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' 'Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' "

- How do your friends feel about showing weakness?
- From this verse in 2 Corinthians, how does God feel about our weaknesses?



PRO-TIP

Here is an additional question to discuss:

- How do you feel when other people see you in the midst of your weakness?

PRAYER

When you bring your weakness to Jesus, he gives you a fresh story that your friends need to hear. Which emotion have you experienced the most this week?

- Anger
- Sadness
- Loneliness
- Fear
- Apathy
- Other?'

Pray this Prayer:

"Jesus, I have been feeling (emotion). Would you please speak to me about this right now? (Pause) Restore me with your love."



PRO-TIP

Take time to have each person share the weakness they chose. Some people may say, "I feel all of those things." Gently remind them that for this prayer exercise, everyone needs to just pick one to bring to God. Then you as the leader pray the prayer written above, and list the different emotions that the group identified.

After the prayer, tell the group, *"It is important for us to invite God into our weaknesses. How did that feel for you?"*

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- **101:** I will share this story of God's work in my life with a Christian friend this week.
- **201:** I will share this story of God's work in my life with a non-Christian friend this week.



PRO-TIP

There are three things happening in this section. First, you are helping students to write their stories. Second, you are helping them consider with whom they will share their story. Third, you are setting up a way to support one another as you share stories this week.

WRITE YOUR STORY

Hand out a 3" by 5" card and a pen. Ask each person to write their own version of the prompt above. They can write it out exactly as written, or they can use their own words. Ask each one to read it out loud to the group. *"What do you think that quote means from Becky Pippert?"* Remind them why their stories are so important to share.

CONSIDER THE 201 CHALLENGE

Help your students feel empowered to be brave and reach for 201. Take time to share your own feelings about it, *"Personally, I feel ...about sharing my weakness with [non-Christian friend's name.] So when I feel... I will ask God..."*

Then instruct your students to write down one person, Christian or Non-Christian on a note card. You can instruct them like so: *"Let me go first. I'm going to share with [non-Christian friend's name.] On your card, write down one person who you might share with. Let's pray and ask God if he is inviting you to share this story this week."*

Then pray the following: "Jesus, we want to grow as Courageous Witnesses and allow you to shine through our weaknesses. Is this a risk you are inviting me to this week?"

SET UP SUPPORT

Get into a group text so you can pray for each other during the week.

Here is something students can share with their friends if they feel nervous, *"My small group leader told me I have to share this story with a friend. Can I share this with you?"*

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Courageous Invitations

INTRODUCTION

Angel was curious about God, but he didn't have a clue about following Jesus. God wisely put Katie into Angel's life, and Katie invited him to her Small Group Bible study. Then Katie invited everyone at her Bible study to follow Jesus. Angel lit up saying, "Yeah, I want that." Katie learned that it was not about the perfect moment, but Angel just needed a clear invitation. Brave invitations can change lives.



JOHN 1:37-39, 43, 45-46, NIV

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ **'Come,' he replied, "and you will see."** So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon... ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' ...Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' ⁴⁶ 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. **'Come and see,'** said Philip. "

- *Philip imitates Jesus. Jesus first invites two disciples to spend the day with him. Then Philip invites Nathanael to check out Jesus for himself.*
- *Why are invitations so important in this story?*

PRAYER

Pray this Prayer:

"Jesus, I want to be available to you. Please work through me to show your love any time, any place. I want to experience the joy of helping someone else fall in love with you."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Grow as a Courageous Inviter

With your buddy, pray that you'll see God moments around you this week and take a risk to invite a friend.

Write and practice your invitation.

- **101:** *I will invite a friend to a youth group fun activity.*
- **201:** *I will invite a friend to join my [small group](#) for four weeks to explore Jesus.*
- **301:** *I will learn to [share a Gospel summary](#) with my friends.*

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Courageous Invitations



GOAL

- Students will be equipped to give an invitation to their friend to attend a youth group event.

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

Look carefully at the 101, 201 and 301 growth challenges. As small group leaders, choose together which challenge you will do. Be prepared to share how your youth group will respond.

Think of two brief stories. First is a time when you received an invitation to a social event (or church event) that you really enjoyed. Open the small group with that story. *"Today we are talking about invitations, and why they matter. I have two stories for you."*

Be sure to communicate your gratitude that someone thought to invite you. Think of a second story when you offered someone else an invitation to a social event or to church. How did you do it? What was the good impact on them?

Think of a brief story when you received an invitation to a social event (or church event) that you really enjoyed. Open the small group with that story, and communicate your gratitude that someone thought to invite you.

Think of a second story when you offered an invitation. How did you do it? What was the good impact on them?

ICEBREAKER: ROCK PAPER SCISSORS BATTLES

1. Pair up the room at random. Everyone will play a best-of-three round of the game Rock-Paper-Scissors.
2. The person who loses becomes a cheerleader and must follow the winner around the room, cheering with excitement.
3. The games continue tournament bracket style, and you play rounds until there is one final winner. Feel free to award the winner with a fun trophy or reward.


INTRODUCTION

Angel was curious about God, but he didn't have a clue about following Jesus. God wisely put Katie into Angel's life, and Katie invited him to her Small Group Bible study. Then Katie invited everyone at her Bible study to follow Jesus. Angel lit up saying, "Yeah, I want that." Katie learned that it was not about the perfect moment, but Angel just needed a clear invitation. Brave invitations can change lives.



PRO-TIP

Say this, "Katie is a real person. She used to be afraid to make invitations. She just wanted to be nice, to be liked. She took a risk, and God transformed her into a courageous witness."

Have everyone look at the  Courageous Witness Check-In. Say, "We all get stuck in the 'nice' box sometimes. We want to be liked and to not rock the boat. Katie knew she needed to break out of the box and do something courageous. How do you know when you're stuck in the nice box?"

JOHN 1:37-39, 43, 45-46, NIV

"³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?' They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹ **'Come,' he replied, "and you will see."** So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon... ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' ...Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' ⁴⁶ 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. **'Come and see,'** said Philip." "

- Philip imitates Jesus. Jesus first invites two disciples to spend the day with him. Then Philip invites Nathanael to check out Jesus for himself.
- Why are invitations so important in this story?



PRO-TIP

Additional discussion questions:

- What do you like about Jesus' invitation to come and see? What do you think Philip saw when he spent time with Jesus?
- How is Philip being loving and courageous toward Nathanael?

PRAYER

Pray this Prayer:

"Jesus, I want to be available to you. Please work through me to show your love any time, any place. I want to experience the joy of helping someone else fall in love with you."



PRO-TIP

Before jumping into the prayer, remind the members of the group who they have been praying for and connecting with the last three weeks. (This could be bringing out the prayer map from week one or having each person share a name of a friend.)

Ask, *"What is one fear that you feel that would prevent you from inviting your friend to explore Jesus with our youth group?"* Ask each student to write down their fear on an index card. Instruct them to offer their fears to Jesus as you pray the prayer written above. When they give Jesus their fears, they can rip up the index card. (If students begin to criticize things about your youth group, be open to their concerns. Then redirect them to the internal question of fears.)

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Grow as a Courageous Inviter

With your buddy, pray that you'll see God moments around you this week and take a risk to invite a friend.

Write and practice your invitation.

- **101:** I will invite a friend to a youth group fun activity.
- **201:** I will invite a friend to join my [small group](#) for four weeks to explore Jesus.
- **301:** I will learn to [share a Gospel summary](#) with my friends.



PRO-TIP

Help them write out an invitation that they would be willing to give this week. Write down the names of their friends they want to invite. On your own time, pray for each of these friends by name.

Example invitation for a 101 challenge: "My youth group is doing this awesome thing. We are just having fun together. Come and hang out with us."

Example invitation for a 201 challenge: "My youth group is talking about self-care and Jesus. I think it would be great if you came with and we can work on self-care together."

At the end, debrief the entire four week series. "What is one habit that you want to keep doing for the rest of the year?" "How is God slowly changing us to be more like Jesus?"

CHECK-IN

Go back to the Courageous Witness Check-In and ask yourself, "Who was I this week? What do I need Jesus to help me with this next week to grow in love and courage for those around me?"

Appendix and Additional Resources



COMMUNAL PRAYER WALL *(AS FEATURED IN WEEK 1)*

<https://nso.intervarsity.org/library/creating-communal-prayer-wall-prayer-network-map>

This communal prayer wall exercise will help you create a poster-size visual aid of all the non-Christian friends connected to your small group. This will help you pray and take risks for the next four weeks.



SKILLS FOR THE 5T: ASKING QUESTIONS (PART 1) *(AS FEATURED IN WEEK 2)*

<https://rise.articulate.com/share/y0e2gfVMv0KleozcMz9nu4sEBWuWkeOq#/>

Learn how to ask two types of questions (safe and brave) and how to engage in direct and indirect conversations. This 45 minute self-guided course will teach you how to ask good questions, which fuel the process of evangelism.



SHARING THE GOSPEL (COURSE) *(AS FEATURED IN WEEK 4)*

<https://theministryplaybook.intervarsity.org/courses/sharing-the-gospel>

This course will help you share a short summary of the Gospel.



SELF-CARE SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES *(AS FEATURED IN WEEK 4)*

<https://nso.intervarsity.org/library/self-care-outreach-bible-studies>

Leaders and students can use this Bible study series to continue practicing being Courageous Witnesses.



