

Your friends need to know Jesus...

...and you're the perfect person to introduce them.

L.O.V.E.D. is a roadmap for helping you lead the people you know to Jesus. If you'll be faithful to follow the guidance offered here, you can become a disciple maker.

L - "**List**" – Write a list of three to five people who God has placed in your sphere of influence and who need a real, intimate relationship with Jesus. Pray over the list often. Set a reminder in your phone or write it on a post-it note that you put on your bathroom mirror or in your car.

O - "**Once-a-month**" – at least once a month, purposely invite someone on your list to a meal, to coffee, or to join you while doing something fun. Build a relationship. Look for opportunities to engage in the next step (Voice) while you're together.

V - "**Voice**" – When leading someone to Jesus, three voices matter: The person's, the Holy Spirit's, and your own. Listen to the person as they share their story. Listen to the Holy Spirit for next steps in the conversation. And when appropriate, share some, or all, your testimony as the Spirit leads.

E - "**Embrace**" – During each step of a person's journey, your relationship with them will likely involve a more and more complete "embrace" of the person. Start by showing practical expressions of compassion toward the people on your list. As each person takes steps toward Jesus, welcome them into a closer relationship with you, your family, and your church.

D - "**Discipleship**" – All of the above—whether it takes a day or a year—is designed to lead a person to their own meaningful relationship with Jesus. As soon as one of your people confesses Jesus as Lord, celebrate with them and the church.

Before we get to the conversations, there are three things you will need to have ready at any moment during any conversation:

1. Know your one-minute testimony
2. Know the Gospel
3. Know the offer

Below is a detailed description of each of these three tools. **Put some time into learning and practicing these tools.** You'll be glad you have them!

Know Your One-Minute Testimony

1. Every personal testimony consists of three main things: (1) who you used to be, (2) what God did to reach you, and (3) who you are now because of Him.
 2. Write down **ONLY** one to two sentences for each of those points (it's okay to write a third sentence for one of the points if needed). Keep it concise. It's much easier to add details than to figure out which details to leave out.
 3. Read your written testimony out loud. It should be roughly one minute long. Practice it again and again until you can recite your one-minute testimony.
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Know the Gospel

The word "gospel" means "good news." It is good news that Jesus came on a rescue mission to seek and save those who were lost (Luke 19:10). Who were the lost? Well, that would be everyone (Romans 3:23). Because we are all sinners by nature and nurture, none of us have met the standard of God (perfection, holiness). But God, rich in love and mercy, sent Jesus to live the life we couldn't live and die a death we deserved to die (Romans 5:8). While our sin separates us from a Holy God and is punishable by eternal separation in hell, the free gift God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is salvation and eternal life (Romans 6:33).

- **ADMIT** – Admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23). Because God is holy and His standard his perfection, we have to realize our need for someone to do for us what we can't do on our own. Because of sin, we deserve to be eternally separated from God in a real place called, "hell" (Romans 6:33a). Through the life, death and

resurrection of Jesus, we have a way back to the Father (John 10:10) and a precious gift of eternal life (Romans 6:33b).

- **BELIEVE** – Believe Jesus has done everything necessary for our salvation (Romans 10:9b). Even while we were still sinners, He came and died for us (Romans 5:8). He lived the perfect life (1 Peter 2:22) we could not live and died a criminal’s death (Matthew 27:32-50) we deserved to die. He defeated death by raising from the grave (Luke 24:6), and He ascended back to heaven to take His rightful place on the throne – at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19).
- **CONFESS and COMMIT** – Confess that Jesus is your Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9a) and commit to follow Him wherever He leads (Matthew 4:19).

Read the above Gospel presentation over and over again until you feel like you understand the core components listed and can explain them in your own words. Hint: It helps to read it out loud so you can hear yourself saying it.

Practice explaining the Gospel to a fellow Christian who can give you real-life experience and constructive feedback on your presentation.

Bonus: See if you can find a way to weave some of Jesus’ story into the second point of your one-minute testimony (how God reached you), turning your testimony into a clearer Gospel presentation.

Know the Offer

Real conversions come most often from those who have counted the cost and decided knowing Jesus is worth any price. The goal is not to lower the bar so that more people can come to Him (because such people won’t actually be following Jesus). The goal is to be perfectly honest about the fact that following Jesus will cost you everything.

There’s a reason so many people are willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. The Gospel was successfully explained to them, and the news was so good that it made the price (everything) seem unreasonably small.

Helpful things to say:

- Jesus described His kingdom like a hidden treasure in a field. When a man found the treasure, he hid it again, went and sold everything he had, and used the money to buy the field. It cost him everything, but what he gained from it was worth so much more.

- Jesus has given all of His life **FOR** you, and when you give Him all of your life, He gives all of His life **TO** you.
- **Ask the person if there is anything stopping them from giving their life to Jesus today.**

Traditionally, many preachers have led people in a repeat-after-me sort of prayer that is popularly called “the sinner’s prayer.” This is okay to do but understand that it’s only about a 100-year-old tradition that began with the preacher D.L. Moody. But the book of Romans tells us what is necessary for salvation:

Romans 10:9–10 – If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

- Share this scripture with the person and invite them to speak out loud, “Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior.”
- Then pray with the individual.
- In your prayer, reiterate that they are forgiven because of the finished work of Jesus and are now adopted into the family of God.
- And when you say “amen,” celebrate! A great phrase to declare is, “Welcome to the family!”

If you want to have success in evangelism, be ready to share your testimony, a concise Gospel presentation, and an offer to receive salvation. Practice the above and re-read it often. The more familiar you are with it, the more confident you’ll be when the opportunity arises.