

Hints to Help in Witnessing to Relatives

1. Actions to do when witnessing.

a. Make a list of all your relatives. Begin with your immediate family and develop the list as broadly as you choose. Please include in-laws. This will turn out to be quite a list for some of us.

b. Mark or identify the ones that are “Followers of Jesus” (those from whom you have heard a clear testimony of faith), the ones that are “Not yet Followers of Jesus,” and the ones you are “Uncertain” about. (You may want to use different colored pencils or pens.)

c. Begin praying evangelistically for the ones who are on the “not yet” or “uncertain” lists. Pray for their salvation, for the Gospel to be shared with them, their openness to the Gospel, your own boldness to share the Gospel, your own life to be a witness of your faith and love for God and them.

d. Begin building bridges of relationships or strengthening ties with the “not yet” and “uncertain” family members. Here are some suggestions to do this:

- Write letters, notes, emails, texts, comment positively on social media posts, etc.
- Send birthday/anniversary (marriage or deaths) notes or cards. A handwritten note is meaningful.
- Take or send cookies, gifts, etc. (Something you know they like) No special occasion is necessary.
- Discover their favorite music, sports, entertainment, etc., and take the opportunity to find groups, events, subscriptions, etc. that would be similar or interesting to them that have a Christian connection. (i.e. Christian magazines, Christian music styles, etc.)
- Write out your testimony and send it to them. Consider including a salvation tract, a Bible, or a hand-marked Scripture portion.
- Call them regularly on the phone and talk about normal life, include faith stories where you can.
- Minister to them in times of illness or crisis.
- Don't be pushy and don't procrastinate. Eagerly look for opportunities that the Holy Spirit is giving to share Christ with them. Pray that you will use the teachable moments wisely.
- Be careful that you don't present an attitude of “I have it and you don't.”
- Love them with an unconditional love.
- Don't give up.
- Keep the lines of communication open.

2. Specific actions in witnessing to your spouse.

- Pray evangelistically for them (by name) every day.
- Live for Jesus daily in your words, deeds and attitude.
- Have a daily prayer time and Bible study time.
- Don't compare them with the spouses of others.
- Don't make a big issue of their habits.
- Don't compromise your convictions.
- Appeal for their help in religiously rearing the children.
- When they are responsive to some area, note it and cultivate that area.
- Take the children to Sunday School and church. Don't stay home with him/her.
- Look for times to share Christ without being pushy or offensive. (Funerals, births, crises, etc.)
- Get them into church when possible. Special events, musicals, sports, game nights, etc.
- Forgive and forget past wrongs.
- Quickly ask for forgiveness when you have acted un-Christ-like.
- Be patient and wait on the Lord.
- Don't nag or preach.
- Love them as Jesus does.
- Return good for evil.
- Give genuine praise.
- Don't give up.

Every action needs to be done in love and prayerfully. Love them the way Jesus loves you. I am praying for you as you share Jesus with those you love.

Pastor Butch Tanner

The Greatest Blessing

God values you and wants to honor you as His child. We were created to live in His family. God intended that we would have an eternal and abundant life filled with His blessings.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16.

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10b.

Our actions have been shameful and dishonor God. This rebellious nature brings disgrace and shame. These actions create a barrier between us and God. We try to restore our honor by establishing our own rules and standards. We worship idols, other gods, pride, leisure, work, education, etc. All our attempts to restore honor and remove our shame and guilt fall short.

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. Isaiah 59:2.

Jesus Christ chose to die in a disgraceful death on the cross to remove our shame and restore our honor. Christ bore our punishment for sin. In His resurrection, Jesus proved to be the conqueror over evil and death. He disarmed the force of darkness and gives us power to bring honor to God.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. Colossians 2:15.

To remove our shame and receive the restoration God offers, we must pledge our allegiance to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We must reject all other gods, idols, and influencers, and choose Jesus as the only authority in our lives. When we do, He graciously receives us into His family and gives us the power to live.

For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." Romans 10:11.

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. Colossians 1:13.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. John 1:12.

You can receive Jesus through prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, I have left You out of my life and lived like I control my destiny and that dishonors You. Forgive me for my sins. Thank You for dying for me on the cross. I ask You to come into my life. Today I declare that Jesus is my Lord and only authority to follow. Thank You for salvation. Amen.

When you turn to Jesus and accept Him, He gladly says, "Welcome to the family."

Jesus is the greatest gift to ever receive.

最大的祝福

神重視你，並希望尊你為他的孩子。我們被造是為了永遠活在他的家裡，接受他豐盛的祝福。

神愛世人，甚至將他獨一的兒子賜給他們，叫一切信他的人不致滅亡，反得永生。約翰福音3:16

我來了，是要羊得生命，並且得的更豐盛。約翰福音10:10下

我們的行為是可恥的，羞辱神。這種叛逆的本性帶來了羞恥和羞愧，並成了我們和神之間的一個障礙。我們試圖通過自己制定的規則，敬拜偶像、其他神明、驕傲、休閒、工作和教育來恢復我們的榮耀。我們試圖消除羞愧和罪惡感的所有努力都落空了。

有一條路，人以為正，至終成為死亡之路。箴言14:12

因為世人都犯了罪，虧缺了神的榮耀。羅馬書3:23

但你們的罪孽使你們與神隔絕，你們的罪惡使他轉臉不聽你們。以賽亞書59:2

你們行惡……各人隨從自己頑梗的惡心行事，不聽從我。耶利米書16:12

耶穌基督選擇死亡，在十字架上恥辱地死去，承擔了我們的懲罰，以消除我們的羞恥，恢復我們的榮耀。在他的復活中，耶穌證明了他是戰勝邪惡和死亡的征服者。他解除了黑暗權勢，賜給我們能力來榮耀上帝。

惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死，神的愛就在此向我們顯明了。羅馬書5:8

仰望我們信心的創始成終者耶穌，他因那擺在前面的喜樂，輕看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦難，如今已坐在神寶座的右邊。希伯來書12:2

基督既將一切執政者、掌權者的權勢解除了，就在凱旋的行列中，將他們公開示眾，仗著十字架誇勝。歌羅西書2:15

為了除去我們的羞恥，接受神所賜的復和，我們必須保證忠於耶穌基督為我們的主和救主。我們必須拒絕所有其他的神明，偶像，和有影響力的人，並選擇耶穌作為我們唯一的權威。當我們這樣做的時候，他就會接納我們進入他的家庭，並給我們生活的力量。

經上說：「凡信靠他的人必不蒙羞。」羅馬書10:11

他救了我們脫離黑暗的權勢，遷移到他愛子的國度裏。歌羅西書1:13

凡接納他的，就是信他名的人，他就賜他們權柄作神的兒女。約翰福音1:12

你可以藉著禱告來接受耶穌。

親愛的主耶穌，我曾把你置於生命之外，我曾活得像自己來掌控命運，沒有榮耀你。饒恕我的罪。感謝你在十字架上為我死。我請求你進入我的生命。今天我宣告耶穌是我的主，是我唯一的權威。感謝你的救贖。阿門。

當你轉向耶穌並接受他時，他很高興地說："歡迎來到這個家庭。"

耶穌是有史以來收到最偉大的禮物。