

FIRST STEPS

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and have received the Holy Spirit, then you are qualified to lead someone to the Lord or counsel them through what that means. As long as God's words on the topic is what guides the direction of your conversation, then you are headed in the right direction! Our goal for every counseling interaction with our students is to see them take the next step towards obedience, whether that be through accepting Jesus for the first time, being baptized or repenting of sin.

First Impressions for all decisions: After you have been paired with a student, take the first few moments to kindly introduce yourself. Learn the student's name and a little about them. Then start by asking what prompted them to make this decision. Ask questions that really bring to the surface what the student was thinking and feeling. Sometimes students don't know why they raised their hand, and we don't want to proceed with anything until we know why.



SALVATION DECISIONS

For those that have initiated that they have: accepted Jesus, want to accept Jesus, or want to learn more about what that means...

Key Questions To Ask (to reveal where they are):

1. In your own words, what does it take for a person to be “saved?”
 - i. Biblical Response: Confess of your sin and accept Jesus as Lord
2. What does it take for a person to go to heaven?
 - i. Biblical Response: Have a relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord, who is the substitute for our sin

Coaching their answers: Use scripture (such as Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16 and more) to coach them in what the GOSPEL means. You are here to help put biblical truth to the things that they are feeling/desiring. If you feel that you are forcing them to make a decision that they truly don't want to make, then pray with them, encourage them and let them know that the TSC-YTH staff would love to walk through this from here on out. DO NOT try and force something that may not be happening. We do not want to manipulate a decision.



SALVATION DECISIONS

Markers of a Genuine Decision:

1. They recognize that they are a SINNER. (Romans 3:23)
 - i. Not relying on religion, good works or being a “good person.”
2. They know why Jesus had to come and die for their sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
3. They want to confess of their sin today and ask Jesus to forgive them. (1 John 1:9)
4. They want to follow through in obedience to be baptized. (Matthew 28:18-20)

LAST THING: If the student understands that JESUS is the only way to God, and that he/she is a sinner, then the Spirit is working! They are ready to make a DECISION! Take this time to pray with them to accept Jesus. Before you walk away, PLEASE help our staff make sure that they walk away with a new Bible, a reading plan and steps towards getting Baptized!



BAPTISM DECISIONS

For those that have indicated that they have repented of their sin and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, and want to make their decision public through Believers Baptism.

Key Questions To Ask (to reveal where they are):

1. In your own words, what does it take for a person to be “saved?”
 - i. Biblical Response: Confess of your sin and accept Jesus as Lord
2. What does it take for a person to go to heaven?
 - i. Biblical Response: Have a relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord, who is the substitute for our sin
3. Why do you want to get baptized?
 - i. Biblical Response: To obediently follow Christ in his example and make my relationship with Him public
4. Does Baptism save you?
 - i. Biblical Response: No, it is simply an outward expression of an inward change.



BAPTISM DECISIONS

Markers That They Are Ready for Baptism:

1. They recognize that they are a SINNER. (Romans 3:23)
 - i. Not relying on BAPTISM, religion, good works or being a “good person.
2. They know why Jesus had to come and die for their sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
3. They have confessed of their sin and asked Jesus to forgive them. (1 John 1:9)

LAST THING: If the student understands that JESUS is the only way to God, and that he/she is a sinner, then the Spirit is working! They are ready to be baptized! Take this time to pray with them. Before you walk away, PLEASE help our staff make sure that they received the information so that we can schedule them for baptism.



REDEDICATION/REPENTANCE DECISIONS

For those that have come forward to re-dedicate their life to Christ or confess of sin.

Key Questions to ask, (to reveal where they are):

Technically, there is nothing in scripture that supports that we are called to “re-dedicate” our lives to Christ. According to Romans 8:1, there is NO condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. This means that once you are saved, you are always saved. God does not dismiss the Holy Spirit from our lives and take back his salvation. That being said, use this moment to coach the students in God’s unending love and grace for them, and to open the door for he/she to bring up what has held him/her back from walking in obedience to Jesus.

Passages to Aid in Helping the Student Repent of Sin: 1 John 1:9, Revelation 3:19, Acts 8:22

Passages to Support Eternal Security: Romans 8:1, Romans 8:28, Philippians 1:6, John 1:12, John 6:37

Last thing: Make sure to pray with the student and inform the staff of what took place in this conversation. This will help our team in knowing how to follow up the most effectively.

