



Grace Bible Church –Global Impact Ministry

Short Term Trip Playbook

Supplement – Using a Gospel Tract

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Introduction

This companion to the Short Term Trip Playbook will assist each team member to prepare for their trip. Knowing how to concisely and compellingly present the story of how you met Christ and how the listener can believe, is the most important skill for the mission field. This guide, plus the coaching of your trip leader, will help you prepare a testimony and become comfortable sharing it and the Gospel.

Gospel Tracts

Using a Gospel Tract Effectively

Global Impact trips will use either the “May I ask you a Question?” or the “Four Spiritual Laws,” tracts. Many methods exist. The training below is specifically for the Four Spiritual Laws, but many of the concepts presented here are relevant to other methods.

We train the use of the Four Spiritual Laws in teaching how to share the gospel effectively for several reasons. There are several good methods of sharing the gospel. We are able to obtain bilingual “clean” or “secure” copies of this tool for you to have when you share. Thus, someone can be reading the gospel in their own language while you are reading it aloud in English.

Many of the verses used in these other methods are the same as those in the Four Spiritual Laws which should facilitate your memorizing the verses in the 4SL.

Four Spiritual Laws

Introducing and presenting the Four Spiritual Laws Effectively

1. Here are four possible ways to introduce it in conversation:
 - a. “Have you heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?”
 - b. “Has anyone taken the time to share with you this little booklet called ‘The Four Spiritual Laws’?”
 - c. “If it were possible to know God’s love in a personal way, would you be interested?”
 - d. “I’d like to show you a booklet that has been very meaningful to me.
 - e. Create an introduction of your own:

- f. Mechanics of reading the Four Laws Effectively
 - i. When presenting the Four Spiritual Laws, be sensitive to an individual’s interest and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. The simplest way to share the booklet is to simply read it aloud –don’t digress– but don’t become mechanical. Remember that you are not just sharing principles; you are introducing someone to the Lord Jesus Christ!

- iii. Remember, the Four Spiritual Laws are only a tool to help you effectively communicate the Gospel. Pray for God's love to be expressed through you. Pray, share, and leave the results to God.
- iv. When questions come up that would change the subject, explain that most questions are answered as you go through the booklet. You might say, "That's a good question. Let's talk about it after we have finished reading through the booklet."
- v. If there seems to be no response, stop and ask, "Is this making sense to you?" or a similar appropriate question to hold the listener's interest.
- vi. For the next five minutes practice simply reading the first three laws presented on pages 2-7, two by two.

(Trainer: be sure to allow the suggested time to have two by two practice where it is instructed...and don't forget to switch roles at "half time".)

Possible Responses to the Circles

1. The circles help both of you identify where the person is spiritually.

Trainer note: We are now entering the area of "faith barriers." Many fear being considered "pushy" or accused of "invading the privacy of another person's heart", so they hesitate to call for answers and decisions. Press on. It is truly helpful for a person to hear himself or herself communicate where he/she thinks he/she is spiritually and where he/she would like to be . . . and then to act upon it.

2. Consider the two questions and the possible answers and how you should respond:
 - a. "Which circle represents your life?" If they say:
 - i. **"The circle on the left"** – continue to the next question.
 - ii. **"not sure"** –continue on to the next question.
 - iii. **"somewhere in between"** – continue on to the next question.
 - iv. **"the right"** – say "I'd like to finish the booklet, because you might find it an effective way to share Christ with others." (Not everyone who says he/she is in the right circle actually is. They may not understand what you mean or be relating it to their church or religious experience rather than the indwelling Christ.) By using this approach and reading on through the prayer, we can help them be sure of their relationship with Christ. So, let them know you'd like to finish and then read through the prayer. Now at this point you can ask them if they can remember a time when they prayed a similar prayer to invite Christ into their life. If he/she says "no", encourage them to settle the issue and to place their faith in Christ by praying today. If the answer is "yes", say, "Tell me about it! "
3. "Which circle would you like to have represent your life?" If they say:
 - a. "right circle" – continue on.

- b. “not sure” or silence – Don’t be disturbed. Maintain a loving and positive attitude and simply say, “ At some time you may want to know Christ is in your life. May I go on and explain how ?”
 - c. “left” – same answer as 2b.
4. Practice again in groups of two. Switch roles after two or three minutes. Start by reading Law 4 on page 8, through page 9. Then be sure to re-ask the questions following the circles several times so you can practice responding to a variety of possible responses to the questions.

The Prayer

1. Read page ten out loud in the group.
2. Now let’s consider three possible responses to the question, “Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?”:
 - a. “Yes”
 - i. Ask, “What do you think would happen if you prayed this prayer right now?” You may need to review parts of the Four Laws if they cannot see that Christ said He would come in to their lives. The verses in Law Four are helpful here. Remember to draw them back to the prayer.
 - ii. Remind them that Christ only comes in by FAITH, not saying a prayer. If someone prays the prayer without really believing Christ will answer, NOTHING WILL RESULT. God is interested in the desires of our hearts.
 - iii. Lead the person in prayer...one phrase at a time, asking them to repeat it a phrase at a time after you. Then close with “Amen.”
 - iv. Be sensitive as to whether he/she wants to pray his/her own prayer or use the prayer from the booklet. Some will prefer to pray silently, whereas others might like to repeat the words of the prayer after you. Give him/her the option.
 - b. “No” – They don’t want to pray.
 - i. Ask them if they understood what you were sharing.
 - ii. Go to page 13 of the booklet and share exactly what happens when someone invites Christ into their lives.
 - iii. Be positive by saying, “I hope that someday you will want to invite Christ into your life. This is what will happen when you do so.”
 - c. The hesitant
 - i. If they are obviously interested, but for one reason or another are hesitant to pray with you right then, say, “I’d like to encourage you to review this booklet tonight before you go to bed and pray this prayer to receive Christ.
 - ii. Assure them that you would like to keep in touch and that you are available if they would be interested in further discussion of their questions. The easiest way to do that is to exchange email addresses if you are in a foreign country. If you have a local phone number while you are in country, you can give them your cell phone number so they can text or call you.
3. Two by Two – Practice dealing with each of the responses, “yes”, “no”, and “hesitant” responses to the question, “Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?”

- a. Remember you are still in the area of possible “faith barriers” on your part. You may fear asking a person to pray out loud with you, for any number of reasons. Keep in mind that you cannot know if a person is ready to receive Christ unless you ask and then give them a specific opportunity to do so.
- b. Many time a person who appears to be indifferent will want to place their faith in Christ, and they will want to pray when presented with the opportunity. This is a big step . Many appreciate assistance in asking Christ to enter into their lives and be Savior and Lord of their lives.

How to Help a Person Be Sure That Christ Is In His/Her Life.

1. Ask the following questions:
 - a. “Did you receive Christ into your life?”
 - b. “According to His promise in Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to you?” (Wait and let them answer.) “Christ said that He would come into your life. Would He mislead you?”
 - c. “On what authority do you know that God has answered your prayer?” (The trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.)
2. Read aloud 1 John 5:11-13. Emphasize the words “has” (vs. 12) and “know”(vs. 13).
3. Explain the importance of not depending on feelings and the train diagram.
4. Emphasize that at the moment he/she received Christ by faith, many things happened, including the following:
 - a. Christ came into his/her life (Revelation 3:20. Colossians 1:27)
 - b. His/Her sins were forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
 - c. He/She became a child of God (John 1:12).
 - d. He began the great adventure for which God created him (John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
5. Suggest that you bow together and thank God for what He has done. The very act of thanking God demonstrates faith and obedience and often results in Christ manifesting Himself to the new Christian in a special way.

Making the Issue Clear

1. You may sense that they are agreeable, but lack understanding. They may have indicated they are not ready to pray because they need some issue clarified. Asking questions will help you determine where the problem seems to be rooted. Here are 8 good examples of questions:
 - a. “Is there anything about Jesus Christ that troubles you or that you don’t understand?”
 - b. “Can you think of a reason you couldn’t ask Him in right now?” (Rev. 3:20)
 - c. “What do you think God would demand of us in order to become Christians?”
 - d. “What do you think a Christian really is”
 - e. “Have you seen what Jesus said are the requirements to enter the Kingdom of God?” (John 3:1-8)
 - f. “Have you ever taken the time to investigate the claims of Christ honestly? Would you be interested in doing so?” (If you are overseas, get their contact information and get

them in touch with a local person involved with the ministry. The local staff will get them involved in an on-going Bible Study or Discovery Group.)

- g. “It’s okay to ask questions. The only way we are going to get answers to our questions is to ask. Let me encourage you to take the time to ask about the things that are bothering you or you don’t understand, and honestly investigate the claims of Christ.”
 - h. “If you were to die tonight, and to stand before God and He asked you, ‘What right do you have to enter Heaven,’ what would you say?” (What you are trying to discover is what they are placing their faith in: the cross or themselves. Eph 2:8-9)
2. If they are not open to the gospel or interested in learning more about Jesus Christ at this time, it would be futile to try to make the issue clear. Keep the doors of communication open. Assure them of your availability should they be interested in knowing more. Pray for them.

Summary

Remember that the definition of effective witnessing is “Simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.”

The other person’s response is not what determines our success in witnessing. The issue is whether we have been faithful to share in His power...and if we are willing to trust God with the results. Read Romans 1):14-15; Psalms 89:1; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20.

Close in prayer, asking God to give you an opportunity to share the Four Spiritual Laws this week. See what God will do when you ask Him for a Divine Appointment. Thank Him for giving us tools to help us communicate His good news both clearly and effectively.