

# Sharing Jesus Through Bible Study

By Kurt Johnson

## How to Bridge Relationships/Contacts into Bible Studies

### Three Groups of People in our Community

1. Friends/Neighbors
  2. Those we do not know
  3. Current Bible study students—friends and relatives
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### Group #1: Friends/Neighbors

*God has placed you where you live to bring your neighbors into a relationship with Him. If you don't do it, who will?*

1. **Why walk across the street to your neighbors?** Of course to be a genuine friend, but also, to maybe, just maybe, have an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ talk to them about Jesus.
2. **Walking across the street means:** “Living your life in such a friendly, loving, caring, compassionate way that your friends and daily contacts know you are their \_\_\_\_\_ friend. Your unconditional friendship, at times, provides openings for you to point your friends to a God who cares about them and gives eternal life.” Kurt Johnson

### 3. Mission Statement of Jesus

Luke 19:10: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Getting Started

- Get close to people
- Enlist for the journey
- Do things together
- Get into their world

- Be an *unconditional* friend
- Pray

### **Your Turn**

Instructions: Write down the 3 names of the people you chose from your “network of influence.” Beside each name, write down what you will do this week to begin developing a relationship or deeper relationship with them. Continue to pray for those on your list.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“To all who are working with Christ I would say, Wherever you can gain access to the people by the fireside, improve your opportunity. Take your Bible, and open before them its great truths. Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private homes, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches.” *Gospel Workers* 193.

### **5. Simple Pointers**

- #1: Believe that God is interested in your neighbors.
- #2: Build social relationships.
- #3: Get acquainted with your neighbors.
- #4: Prayer walking & driving.
- #5: Don't trap your neighbors.
- #6: Do things together with your neighbors.
- #7: Be available when people hurt and also are happy.
- #8: Give them a book, tape, video/DVD.

#9: Pathways—give an invitation.

#10: Conversation bridges:

- Direct Approach
- Look for natural windows of opportunity.
- Invitational approach.

## 6. General Principles

- Go at their pace.
- Use their curiosity & questions.
- Speak in plain English.
- Use split-second opportunities.

Acts 1:8, “...you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Mark 5:19, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

### *One of the easiest Bible study invitations is a Small Group Invitation*

**Inviting a visitor** (from the book, *Small Group Ministry*, Kurt Johnson, RH 2010)

The key to a successful small group is to personally invite people with whom you are acquainted. Consider inviting neighbors, friends, work associates, relatives, your dentist, service station attendant, hairdresser, store clerk, and other general acquaintances. The invitation may take the form of a personal visit, a telephone call, or a handwritten or printed invitation. A more impersonal method is to distribute handbills advertizing the types of groups available and inviting the public to call or attend a one-evening organizational meeting. Others have placed a sign in their front yard advertizing the meeting.

I have found that a relaxed, nonthreatening approach is the best. Say something like this: “Sue, I’m having a small-group meeting in my home on Tuesday evenings, and I want to invite you to come try it out. Several of us are studying together the life of Jesus in the Gospels. We’re looking for things to help us in dealing with everyday issues of life. I would like you to be a part of the group. Come this Tuesday night, and if you think it’s for you, I’d like you to keep coming. If it doesn’t meet your need for now, that’s OK, too. What do you think?” Next, hand the individual a printed invitation.

## Printed invitations

The following sample invitation can be set up and printed from your home computer and given to those whom you invite:

*You're invited*  
to a small group meeting in my home.  
I hope you will be able to join us!

We will be discussing: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

My address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The next best thing to a personal invitation is a telephone invitation. When calling a friend or neighbor on the phone, say something similar to the suggested invitation to “Sue” given above. Then, follow up telephone conversations by sending a printed or written invitation via postal mail or email. Experience has shown that actually mailing the invitation through the post office increases the likelihood of the person attending the small group meeting. The reason is that the individual can actually hold something in their hand that reminds them of the meeting. Also, the extra effort shows your genuine desire for the one invited to attend.

## Group #2: Reaching Those We Do Not Know

### Enrollment Cards: The #1 Way to Recruit Bible Study Students

**Place directly in people’s hands:** Enroll friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and casual daily contacts using lesson #1 or an enrollment card. Carry enrollment cards and Guide #1 with you any time and all the time. Dedicate a place in your car, home, pocket, or purse and keep a supply of enrollment cards and/or Guide #1 handy at all times. Offer to mail the enrollment card for them. Have Sabbath School members take and hand out cards weekly.

**Mass Distribution of Enrollment Cards:** Enroll people in the *Discover Bible Guides*, or another Bible course by a mass distribution of enrollment cards. This can be done either by bulk mailing or by door-to-door distribution. Call the Voice of Prophecy (Toll Free: 1-877-955-2525) and ask for the number to call to arrange for bulk mailing services. The filled-in cards come directly to your church or to a central address at the VOP and are distributed back to your Discover School/local church on a daily basis.

**Media and Publications:** Enroll interests from media programs (It Is Written, Voice of Prophecy, Faith For Today, Breath of Life, La Voz de la Esperanza, etc.) and interests from cards placed in publications by letter, telephone, or personal visitation. These names are

excellent because they have already developed an interest in spiritual things.

**The Church Interest List:** Visit those on the church interest list or send an enrollment card with a letter.

**Free Take One Cardholders:** Place “Free Take One” enrollment card holders in strategic locations in your community and keep them filled. Possible locations are numerous: professional offices, waiting areas, hospitals, Laundromats, convenience stores, and restaurants—use your imagination. (Available from the Voice of Prophecy.)

**For a Friend:** After the Bible School is in operation, one of the most effective methods of increasing enrollments is by current students enrolling their friends in the course. A rubber stamp, which says “For a Friend,” should be ordered and stamped on the front of the cards that are inserted when returning the student’s Answer Sheet. A handwritten “Post-it” note attached to the card, reading, “For one of your friends” has proven even more effective. Some schools put an enrollment card in every mailing with the “Post-it” note attached.

**Cards in Personal Mail:** Enclose an enrollment card with utility, credit card, and other payments; and with Christmas, birthday, anniversary, and graduation cards, etc.

**Signs News Box:** Place a News Box at grocery stores and places of business. Every *Signs* magazine includes a printed ad for the Bible lessons along with an inserted enrollment card.

## Other Successfully Proven Ways

**Sharing Booklets:** These are small handout booklets printed by the Pacific Press and the Review and Herald and have inserted ads for free VOP Bible lessons. Other community mailing projects, such as, Project Steps to Christ have ads for Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons.

**Newspaper Inserts:** Have Bible study enrollment cards or specially designed newspaper inserts blown into the local newspaper. The VOP can provide you with excellent 8 1/2 X 11-inch inserts.

**Pocket Signs:** Imprint your Discover Bible School address upon the tract and encourage members to distribute the tracts.

## Don’t Forget These Excellent Ways

**Radio Spots:** Use radio advertising spots immediately following the Voice of Prophecy broadcast or at other times during the day.

**Television Spots:** Advertise the Bible Course on local Adventist telecasts or cable stations.

**Newspaper Ads:** Sponsor ads in newspapers, newsletters, and local magazines. Advertising slicks and classified ads are available from the Voice of Prophecy. Also, an ad in the personal section of the newspaper is effective.

**Bulletin Board Ads:** Place ads on bulletin boards in stores, Laundromats, and other public places.

**Nick’s Discovery Pocket Book:** Use the *Nick’s Discovery* booklet which has an enrollment form

on the last page. (Available from the Voice of Prophecy.)

**Personal Delivery House-to-House:** House-to-house visitation using Discover Guide #1 or an enrollment card.

**Advertising Packets:** Mail enrollment cards in cooperative advertising envelopes. Several companies solicit advertising from a number of businesses and include them in one envelope for mailing.

**Prospectus:** Place the *Discover Prospectus* in waiting rooms, or distribute them door to door. The *Prospectus* gives a description of the Bible course and the benefits a person will receive from it. At the back of the *Prospectus*, place an enrollment card and/or a Lesson #1 and Answer Sheet #1, along with a return envelope to send in the filled-in Answer Sheet.

**Community Survey:** Conduct a door-to-door or telephone survey.

(Source: Voice of Prophecy Discover Bible School Manual, Kurt Johnson)

## Visiting Those Who Have Requested a Bible Course

1. Dress appropriately.
2. Depend on the Lord. Prepare with prayer and pray before, during, and after the visit.
3. Your objective is to be brief and to get the person to receive and study the lessons, gain the right to return, and make friends. Do not argue about anything. Your goal is to build bridges, not walls.
4. Know basically what you are going to say.
5. When you knock on the door: Smile and be cheerful! When you knock on someone's door, the person on the other side wants to know basically three things: (1) Who is it? (2) What do they want? (3) How long are they going to stay? You can answer those questions in the first few words at the door by saying, "I am \_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We are associated with \_\_\_\_\_. We can't stay long, but we did want to . . ."

## Suggested Approach

- Take the enrollment card the person returned in the mail and a copy of Guide #1. Show them the card and say, "Hi! I am (your name) with the Discover Bible School. We received this card requesting the Bible Guides. (Adapt this statement according to the method by which the person requested the course.)"
- "I have stopped by to bring you the first Bible Guide to get you started. What I normally do is leave the Bible Guide #1. I come back in a week with the next Bible Guide and we discuss any questions you might have. How does that sound to you?"
- If they say, "I thought the lessons would come in the mail," respond by saying, "I usually

stop by to explain the system/process. However, I can send the lesson in the mail or I can come by each week. Which do you prefer?"

- If the person shows some resistance to having you come to their home, arrange to have them return the Answer Sheet to the Bible School by mail. Give the person a return envelope with the Discover Bible School address on it. Then tell them that future guides will be sent to them by mail.
- If they ask what denomination is sponsoring the lessons, say, "The lessons are from the Voice of Prophecy Radio Program sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church."
- If they say, "I am a (religion or denomination), so no thank you," respond by saying, "These lessons are designed for people of all faiths and are based only on the Bible. Why not try the first couple of lessons. If you don't like them, you can always stop."
- If it seems appropriate, before leaving ask the person if you can have a brief prayer with them to ask God to bless them as they study the guides.
- "Dear Lord, Thank you for Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ who has a desire to study the Bible. Help her as she opens Your Word to understand more fully Your plan for the future and her own life. Please bless and guide her. In the name of Jesus. Amen."

(Source: Voice of Prophecy Discover Bible School Manual, Kurt Johnson)

### **Group #3: Current Bible Study Students and their friends & family**

**Always** ask your Bible study students to invite someone else to join in the study. No matter if it is studies by correspondence, personal/small group, Internet, etc.

#### **Contact Information:**

[kurtjohnson@vop.com](mailto:kurtjohnson@vop.com)

(805) 955-7659 office

[www.biblestudies.com](http://www.biblestudies.com)

[www.bibleinfo.com](http://www.bibleinfo.com)

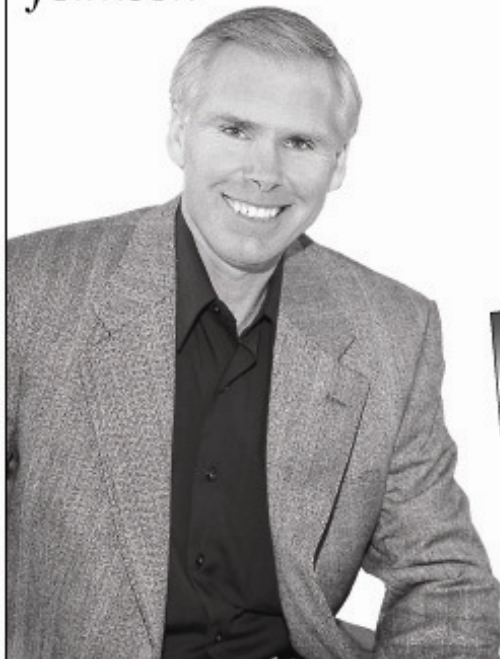
[www.kidsbibleinfo.com](http://www.kidsbibleinfo.com)

Discover Bible School Information Website: <http://info.bibleschools.com> (username: vop and password: vop)

**During GC Session visit ABC and AdventSource for books and resources by Kurt Johnson. On the topic of this workshop ask for the book: *How to Give a Bible Study*, by Kurt Johnson.**

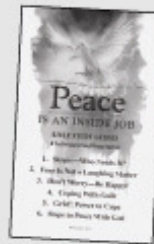
# Small Group Bible Study Resources

by Kurt Johnson



## Peace Is an Inside Job

A practical approach to dealing with stress, worry, fear, guilt and grief. Based on actual Bible stories and God's solutions to these nagging issues of life. Six study guides.



## Face to Face With Jesus

An in-depth, practical look at the life and ministry of Jesus. Excellent for assisting others in becoming acquainted with our best Friend! Thirteen study guides, in booklet format.

## LifeLine

Booklet One and Booklet Two.

These two booklets are a practical, interactive approach to understanding the major doctrinal teachings of the Bible. This full message course is 26 lessons long—13 per booklet. Popular for personal and small group study, pastor's Sabbath School class and baptismal classes.



## Prayer Works

What is prayer? How do you establish a vibrant prayer life? Why does it seem God doesn't answer my prayers? This 13-lesson booklet of Bible guides answers these questions and many others on developing and maintaining a prayer life that works.

## Small Groups for the End-Time

An inspirational "how-to" book on small group ministries. Information includes how to start a small group; leadership responsibilities; how to obtain members; how to lead members to decisions for baptism; and other helpful information.



## Steps to Peace in Life

This pamphlet is a contemporary, updated gospel presentation patterned after the Four Spiritual Laws. Designed to be shared with someone when explaining how to accept Jesus.

## When Heaven Pauses

What do you do when life tears up the rule book and throws the pieces in your face? When you're facing a crisis and don't think you can go on? A sharing book. Topics covered are stress, worry, guilt, fear, forgiveness.



# Small Group Bible Study Resources Order Form

TITLE	PRICE	QTY.	TOTAL
Peace Is an Inside Job	\$1.95		
LifeLine, Booklet One	\$3.95		
LifeLine, Booklet Two	\$3.95		
Prayer Works	\$3.95		
Face to Face With Jesus	\$3.95		
Small Groups for the End-Time	\$8.75		
Steps to Peace in Life (package of 10)	\$2.90		
When Heaven Pauses	\$1.99		

I enclose my check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:



Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Rates are  
Actual Charges.  
Please call for information.

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_

CA residents add 8.25% tax: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Discover Bible School**  
Voice of Prophecy  
101 W. Cochran Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

**TOLL FREE 1-877-955-2525**  
Receptionist/orders 805-955-7659  
Orders only 805-955-7652  
FAX 805-522-1760