

Restoring Personal Evangelism (5)
How do I Find Someone to Teach?
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Introduction: I believe the opportunities are abundant to find those who will study with you!

- A. Jesus pointed this out to His disciples in His day. **(Jn 4:35-36)**
 - 1. We may have become callous to the people around us.
 - 2. If we would listen there are many opportunities.
- B. We need to make our lives one that is looking for open doors.
 - 1. I believe there are those who are ready and looking. I also believe that God's providence will often place those doors before us. **(1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12)**
 - 2. It may be that we have approached this one in the past and the door was closed. We need to have the faith and the patience to wait.
 - 3. In the meantime we need to make sure to eliminate all things that might hinder the gospel in our lives. **(1 Cor 9:19-23)**

I. We need to teach the gospel to all men.

- A. The great commission makes this clear. **(Mat 28:19; Mk 16:15)**
 - 1. In the parable of the sower the seed to broadly scattered. **(Mk 4:3-8)**
 - 2. Remember, that even a rejection brings glory to God. **(2 Cor 2:16)**
- B. We must be careful not to pre-judge someone on the basis of a human standard. **(Jas 2:8-9)**
 - 1. Will this church accept anyone who is a faithful Christian?
 - 2. Are you prepared to associate with and encourage all who take the stand as a Christian? **(1 Cor 6:9-11)**
 - 3. Are you willing to forgive those who repent? **(Mt 6:14-15)**
- C. How many would have considered Paul as a good prospect? **(1 Tim 1:12-13)**
 - 1. Even after his conversion there was some fear. **(Acts 9:26)**
 - 2. This does not mean that we should be naïve however.

II. We need to use wisdom in who we study with and the time we spend.

- A. **There is a basis for determining who is really interested and who is not.** **(Acts 13:46)**
 - 1. There are several categories of people in the Bible that we should not spend our time with. This determination is to be made after contact with that person.
 - a. Jesus described some as "swine." **(Mt 7:6)**
 - b. The Bible warns us about fools. **(Prov 1:22, 16:12, 17:10,12)**
 - 2. You should give your time to those who are interested. **(Acts 16:6-10)**
 - a. It is not that we are saying "no" to others, but rather we are finding the open door and taking it.
 - b. This has been one of my greatest failures in my earlier years of trying to teach others! I finally learned this in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Example)
 - c. I believe we should use his same principle in determining who we help in individual benevolence. (Ex. Car drove up to services for money for a trip)
 - 3. It may be that you best opportunities are with training Christians who have a

strong interest!

B. We need to be realistic as to our schedule.

1. Do not neglect your God given responsibilities in any area! (**Eph 6:4**)
2. It is best to have a limit to the number of classes you conduct each week.
3. There are times where we should postpone a class while picking up a new one.
4. In essence I am encouraging you to have a set of priorities!

III. Ways to find someone to teach

A. Start with the most interested.

1. Those who have visited services.
2. Those who are mates or children of members.
3. Those who know you and appreciate your stand for the Lord.
4. Those who ask you Bible questions.
5. Those who have some relationship with Christians.
6. Start a Bible study during the lunch break at work.
7. Those who are new Christians.

B. Then look to those whom you have no previous relationship.

1. These people will be much more difficult. If they are quick to study then you likely will have someone where stability is a problem. (**Mk 4:16-17**)
2. Door-to-door work.
3. Visits with those new in the community.
4. Those who are teachers from other religious groups such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.
5. There will be a few who can be reached! In these studies you will learn much and acquire better skills as well.

IV. Some suggestions to remember.

A. It is better to set up a study than to have a discussion about a Bible subject in passing!

1. I try to let the question be an opportunity to set up a study.
2. I have never converted someone by a casual conversation, but I have seen many reached from studies that were begun with a conversation!

B. I like to include others in a home study.

1. By having one or two other Christians in a study, the student will not feel that everything is directed at him.
2. I do try to all of those in the study equals in terms of how I present the material.
3. Please be careful in who you invite to the study among Christians. There are some whose attitude and pride will cause much more trouble.
4. You may already have a study going and invite them to join.

C. I like to give them a copy of lesson one when I ask for the study.

1. This allows them to see what we will cover.
2. I also tell them that if after lesson one they are not interested, we will end the study there without any complications.

Conclusion: When you are ready to start the Lord will provide the doors!