

Your Nonbelieving Neighbor

from *Life-Style Evangelism* by Joe Aldrich

So, how do you reach your neighbor? Let's assume that you really want to be a neighbor to someone spiritually. You desire to develop the "capacity to draw near." Following are some keys to developing redemptive relationships. It should be noted that they are not necessarily in a logical or chronological order. It is very likely that you will be involved with two or three of these key elements at the same time. These keys are simply guidelines or stepping stones to help you become an effective member of the "second incarnation." What's the first step?

Visualize the Neighborhood Readiness for Christ

Visualize the Spirit of God hovering over your neighborhood. This is the first key. When I go fishing, birds are often the key to locating fish. Gulls will frequently circle in a particular spot because feeding fish are driving the small minnows (their dinner) to the surface. Gulls join the feeding frenzy and inadvertently tip off the perceptive fisherman where to fish for his dinner.

In a very real sense, the effective evangelist believes God's Spirit will lead him to the schooling fish. No one wants to be involved in a losing proposition. Many budding fishers of men are defeated before they get a line in the water because they are convinced no one is interested, seeking, or already prepared by God. Our Lord has already told us the fields are white unto harvest. Believe me there are Spirit-prepared people living in close proximity to you who are seeking answers. God will lead you to these people like the birds lead fishermen to fish—if you're looking.

For many, the first step in neighborhood evangelism is attitudinal. If they think they will be successful or unsuccessful, they're right. What we anticipate in life is usually what we get. If you say, "I can't do it," you're probably right, especially if you firmly believe you can't. God says you can. Who do you intend to believe? Actually, this principle is a very practical one which shapes your whole attitude and approach to being a neighbor.

I'm a jogger, and as I run through my neighborhood, I see more than just houses, garages, and automobiles. Those houses have people with names and faces living in them. Those I know by name I remember by name. As I regularly visualize the Spirit of God hovering over my neighborhood, I am encouraged to be about the King's business. It's true, where there is no vision, people (your neighbors) perish. Obviously, not every neighbor is ready or responsive.

Remember the pattern however. Witness begins with *presence*, moves to *proclamation*, and then on to *persuasion*. For some, the extent of your evangelistic mission may be to simply expose them to a healthy presence—the music of the gospel. Hopefully, God will use you to bring some of your neighbors to the point of a verbal explanation of the good news (the words of the gospel). The last chapter will focus on how to present the words.

When you have cultivated a friendship and become aware of some of your friend's needs, your gospel presentation becomes much more powerful because it becomes a potential solution to both his real and felt needs. When a friendship has been established, it is much easier to sense the appropriate time for moving from presence to proclamation and persuasion. Often our attempts to "persuade" are premature because we really don't know whether the individual is in a "sowing, watering, or harvest" condition.

Make an Initial Acquaintance

God knows the responsive hearts in your sphere of influence. How do you locate them? Social relationships are the key to finding the Spirit-prepared, schooling fish.

This, then, is the second key: *Those people who respond to you socially are the schooling fish.* To carry the fishing analogy (not without biblical precedent) a step further, your divine fish locator is social relationships. As you begin to relate to your neighbors, some will respond to you and some won't. Again, it

is important that you seek the Lord's help in building towards genuine friendships. It shouldn't be a relationship with a hook. Those who respond to you are great candidates for discovering Christ.

I have seen this principle affirmed over and over again. One day I spent forty-five minutes with a neighbor discussing the essence of the gospel. He initiated the conversation, and as we sat watching the surf at the Oregon coast, I shared some foundational principles of the gospel. The conversation was both casual and deeply significant. This moment came after months of friendship. Both families spent the morning together playing on the beach. We consider them to be good friends. We enjoy their company. After talking about spiritual things, we shifted the conversation to the possibility of some fishing trips this fall.

A model from the world of real estate becomes instructive at this point. A real estate firm in Salem, Oregon, assigns its agents to a 500 family "farm." They are expected to contact every family once per month for a year. The contact may be a personal one, a telephone call, or a letter. Research indicates that it takes at least six contacts for people to remember who the agent is and whom he represents. During this time of "building relationships," the agents are encouraged *not* to go in the house (good psychology, every one else is trying to get their foot in the door). Furthermore, they are encouraged *not* to ask for a listing during this "get acquainted" time. Obviously there would be exceptions to these restrictions, but they do illustrate an understanding of what it takes to create a favorable climate for selling real estate.

After the initial year of regular contacts, the agent continues to communicate with his "farm members" on a scheduled, systematic basis. Research indicates that if this pattern is followed consistently for one year and a half, the agent will get eighty percent of the listings.

What do they know that we either don't know or overlook?

First, people do not like to be confronted by strangers seeking entrance into their homes. In fact, in many communities this is a social faux pas. The salesman or any other unknown professional who arrives at the door is automatically confronted with a high sales resistance. If the door is opened, the homemaker does it with a determination not to be "taken in" by sales talk. The salesman professionally represents his goods, and consequently his sales pitch must be discounted at least fifty percent. However, if a friend comes over and shares a glowing personal testimony of the value of the salesman's product, the reaction is apt

to be markedly different. A satisfied customer is the most effective salesperson.

Second, people are more inclined to do business with acquaintances than strangers. Third, it takes time and effort to build a healthy decision-making climate. Fourth, there is no substitute for time. Sometimes it is necessary to "make haste slowly."

Your goal is to build a climate for effective decision making. We've lived at our present location for over two years and are just beginning to see people respond. With great anticipation we wait for the harvest. We are surrounded by schooling fish. So are you.

Obviously, you cannot adopt a 500 family farm, but how about a 5 to 10 family farm. By extending your friendship to the neighborhood at large, you will discover 3 to 4 families who seem to be responsive. Block parties, Christmas open houses, and other neighborhood activities provide opportunities for exposure.

Establish a Growing Relationship

A third key follows close on the heels of the second: *To discover schooling fish, you must get acquainted.* Ask God to give you help in how to get to know your neighbors. Get to know their names. Be certain you pronounce them correctly. Second, smile! Be the kind of family your neighbors would want to know. If you want to build redemptive friendships, be friendly! Third, be a good listener. Discover and discuss his interests rather than your own. I find that many Christians get tongue-tied when it comes to conversation with non-Christians.

Sometimes it's helpful if you have some subject categories in mind. For example:

Profession or career
Hobbies

Sports and recreation
Family activities and interests
Vacations
Children's activities and accomplishments
Current news items
Personal properties: boat, cars, pets,
gardens, etc.
Religious background
Current projects and home improvements
Current books, films, etc.

Fourth, take the initiative to be of help when it is appropriate. If he's painting his house, grab a brush! Offer to mow the lawn and look after the house and pets while they're on vacation. Do they need a baby sitter? Sit for them. Take their children on a picnic with yours.

Extend an Invitation to Your Home

A fourth key is *to invite them to your home*. Your goal is to advance your back fence relationship towards a more significant friendship. Meals are a great way to do it. As a general rule, it is good to have a definite reason for inviting them. It may be simply to enjoy your new barbecue recipe or share some homemade ice cream. They might enjoy seeing slides of your vacation trip (notice I said they "might").

Don't be too elaborate if you entertain them for dinner. A formal dinner with crystal, china, and sterling silver isn't necessary. They would probably feel more relaxed and "at home" with a good barbecued hamburger and a coke. If your meal is too "elaborate" you are less likely to be invited to their home because the wife may not be able to match your "production." This does not mean the meal cannot be prepared and served in a lovely, gracious manner. It should be!

But what if you feel awkward about entertaining non-Christians? You feel socially inept? Let me suggest that you find someone in your church who really has the gift of hospitality and invite them *and* your neighbor over for dinner. Blend their gift with your concern and you've got a winning combination! Explain your dilemma to them and let them help you ease through. Their warmth and social skills can be the catalyst to weld the bond of friendship between you and your neighbor. Believe me, it works!

Sometimes as a gesture of friendship, your neighbor may bring over a bottle of wine. This is a common and accepted social grace in the non-Christian community. Don't panic. A judging, "self-righteous" attitude is not necessary (or biblical). You have three options. First, if you are not free before the Lord to participate (as with any doubtful thing), you may thank them for their thoughtfulness and graciously decline, returning it to them. Second, you can graciously decline but offer to serve them. Many feel free before the Lord to do this. Third, if your conscience has liberty in this area, you may thank them and participate if you desire. Whatever else may be said, the sin is not participation (assuming freedom of conscience); it is intoxication. Within the Christian community around the world, I have observed mature, Spirit-led, knowledgeable Christians exercise each of the options.

Contrary to the opinion of some Christians, no one option is more "spiritual" than another. I am not advocating or encouraging anyone to adopt any particular position. That is between the individual and His Lord. Having non-Christians around regularly, I know that this issue will come up. Regardless of your personal position, if you are going to be with non-Christians, be prepared to respond to this type of situation in a loving, sensitive manner.

When your neighbors are over for dinner, don't feel compelled to "say" something spiritual. Many seem to feel that if they have not shared their "witness" before the evening is over, they have failed. Not so. One couple we saw trust Christ took three years of careful cultivation. For most of that period, spiritual things were off limits. It soon became obvious we were not free to discuss such matters. During this time we probably ate together at least thirty times. I wish you could meet this couple today! Patience does pay off.

I would suggest that you have grace at the meal. It is your home, and it is natural for you to do this. Don't preach or share a quickie "witness" during the prayer. Be brief, and thank the Lord for your neighbors by name. I usually do not lead in prayer when we are at a restaurant with non-Christians. This can be an embarrassing experience for them.

Cultivate Common Interests

Let me share a fifth key: *Do things together*. The goal is to build a reservoir of common, shared experiences. As your backyard fence relationship develops, discover what interests them. Sometimes it's good to think through a list of possible common ground "contact points." Put a check by those which would be options for you as you think about specific neighbors and their interests.

Tennis	Investments
Golf	Sports Events
Fishing	Rodeos
Sewing	Recreational Vehicles
Boating	Guns
Model Trains, planes, etc.	Eating
Bowling	Knitting
Indian Guides	Service Clubs
Movies	Garden Clubs
Concerts	Coffee
Lunch	Flying
Ice Skating	Gardening
Rafting	Woodworking
Racquetball	Playing Bridge
Hunting	Cooking Classes
Skiing	Gourmet Clubs
Cycling	Volunteer Activities
Jogging	Stitchery
Scouting	Quilt Making
P.T.A.	Hiking

Certainly there are items in this list which both you and your neighbor enjoy in common. It is important to discover these contact points and use them as relational building blocks. You probably have a number of common interests. As I sit here in my study writing, my wife is out with a neighbor gal going through some model homes. They both share an interest in interior design.

When you are in your neighbor's home, look for clues to his/her interests. A shop full of woodworking tools, a well-stocked sewing room, or basement shelves full of home canned fruits can be excellent conversation starters/contact points. Seasonal events such as fairs, rodeos, and ball games have built-in opportunities for friendship cultivation.

On two occasions Ruthe and I have been involved in block parties which involved as many as seventy-five people. The police were quite willing to block off the street for us. This done, we borrowed tables and chairs from the church and set them up for serving and eating. Volleyball nets strung across the street provided an outlet for the athletically inclined. Contests and prizes for the kids proved to be popular. We had a bike decorating contest which the kids enjoyed, not to mention egg tossing, sack races, etc. Six barbeques were rounded up for cooking hamburgers. Cranking the homemade ice cream freezer added to the fun and fellowship.

Block parties are super for providing a quick exposure to the majority of your "family farm." It enables you to look for responsive people who may be candidates for the "good news." If for no other reason, they are worth doing just for the fun and fellowship.

Make Holidays Count

A sixth key: *Capitalize on the holiday seasons*. Christmas, New Years, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving provide great opportunities for extending and enriching relationships within your “family farm.” Why not plan the greatest Christmas Open House on your block! Pack them in, serve some super refreshments, sing carols together, and then let different neighbors share the most memorable events of past Christmases. There is no need for a “devotional” or “gospel witness” to make the evening a success. Last Christmas we went to a neighborhood caroling party with about fifty neighbors. In the fall we borrowed a cider press and invited some neighbors over to make cider and eat hot doughnuts.

Be sensitive to widows, widowers, one-parent families, and those who are alone during the holidays. Since moving to Portland, we’ve had the joy of sharing our holiday season with a widower who is eighty years old. At this point he doesn’t know the Lord, but our family prays for him, and believes God is going to touch his heart. The last time I took him to lunch, I got him started talking about the old steam-driven threshing machines of another era. As he answered my dozens of questions, he literally lit up and glowed. He knew all about how they worked, and it brought back happy memories to relive some of his childhood years. I was thoroughly fascinated with the conversation. When we last had him over for dinner, he held me and my son Stephen spellbound for nearly an hour as he shared his knowledge and experience of working in mines. Soon I intend to share the simple plan of salvation. We believe he has heard the music of the gospel as he shared our “hearth and home” on numerous occasions. We love him and believe that he knows it.

Capitalize on holidays. They’re great times to show your love in special ways. Hearts are often more receptive during these special times of the year!

Be Available for the Hurting

A seventh key is more urgent in nature: *Be available to help when people hurt*. In other words, look for wounded fish. Life is tough. Sickness, death of a loved one, marital problems, financial reversals, and other pressures provide opportunities for the Christian to express Christ’s love through serving and caring for members of his “farm family.” Remember, people don’t care how much (or what) you know until they know how much you care! The hurts of others are your opportunities to become good news to them. I believe those opportunities are often arranged by God Himself. A helping hand and a sympathetic, listening spirit give your beliefs validity and impact. Mowing lawns, taking over meals, babysitting, shopping, and driving are some ways to help people in need.

One caution: Don’t forget . . . you have needs. How about letting others meet some of them. Maybe the greatest gift you can share is the gift of your need. When conversations focus on some of the normal marriage and family problems, remember that you have some, too. Don’t act as if you don’t or you’ll come across unauthentic.

In relational evangelism, availability is often the greatest ability. Be a listening, sensitive, giving, caring Christian friend and look out . . . it’s contagious.

Become a Giver of Books

An eighth key is an easy one to adopt and apply: *Give them something to read or listen to*. Be casual about it. Put some good Christian literature on your coffee table. Be sure they are top quality. Chuck Swindoll’s *Killing Giants*, *Pulling Thorns* is a great example. Hal Lindsey’s *The Late Great Planet Earth* is another powerful book. Stick with books which are need-centered and have good graphics. Often they will pick up a book and start thumbing through it. If they express an interest, give it to them, or drop by later with another. Have some on hand which you can give them. “Hey, Bill, this is a super book. I’d love you to read it and tell me what you think of it.”

If they are struggling with family concerns, there are many good books available to help them. If they have a philosophical bent, C.S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity* is a good book to give them. Check with your

local Christian bookstore for other selections suitable for a non-Christian. Whatever you do, be sure they are quality books. Don't be cheap! Sometimes a good modern translation New Testament makes a good gift.

There are some very challenging tape series which are effective in evangelism. Be sure, however, that you listen to the tape first! It should be positive in tone and attitude (after all, the gospel is *good news*), need-centered, and biblically sound. A good "evangelistic" tape doesn't necessarily have to deal with the subject of evangelism. Tapes on marriage and family relations, prophecy, Christian evidences (apologetics), and well-presented personal testimonies can be powerful evangelistic tools.

Christian magazines certainly should not be overlooked. Parents struggling with teenagers might be delighted to know about *Campus Life* magazine. *Moody Monthly*, *Christian Life*, *Eternity*, and *Virtue* are but a few of the fine magazines available. Calling attention to a particular article and then giving them the magazine often is a good way to expose them to the gospel. I would suggest that you generally avoid the bumper sticker, wall plaque mentality. At least be sure they are tasteful, accurate, and of good quality.

Be creative in your use of Christian resources. Purchase a supply of quality items and keep them readily available. Consider such expenditures part of your tithe (even if you don't get a tax receipt). Remember, it was God who said that "he that winneth souls is wise." In all of these activities, your goal is to become a servant to your neighbor.

Find an Appropriate Harvest Vehicle

A ninth key: *Look for an appropriate harvest vehicle.* Whether you use a lure, a worm, a hook, or a net, fish can be caught in numerous ways! Select the proper bait, however. One doesn't use trout flies for yellow tail. Live squid get their attention and make excellent bait.

Once while fishing in Mexican waters for yellow tail, we hit a school of them and boated 131 in a little over an hour. We were using live squid, but that wasn't all that kept the fish coming back. As soon as we hooked up, the deck hands started chumming the water with chopped minnows. In a very real sense, we "chum" the spiritual waters as we function as salt and light. In a practical sense we do this by spending time with our non-Christian friends, discovering their interests, sharing their fellowship, and bearing their concerns. But a time comes when it is appropriate to pray towards involving them in some type of ministry vehicle. A sensitivity towards their preferences and personal views is important. For a nonathletic vegetarian, an invitation to hear an all pro athlete at a steak fry probably is not appropriate or in good taste. If there must be an offense, let it be the offense of the gospel, not the manner in which the gospel is presented (whether verbally or non-verbally).

There are numerous "harvest vehicles." Here are some examples:

- Evangelistic Dinners
- Home Bible Studies
- Businessmen's Breakfasts
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfasts
- Christian Movies
- Conferences or Retreats (Forest Home, Mt. Hermon, etc.)
- Seminars (Bill Gothard, Leadership Dynamics, etc.)
- Fishing/Hunting Trips
- Church Sports Program
- Special Concerts (Bill Gaither, Evie, Church Musicals, etc.)
- Church-Sponsored Craft Classes (Pottery, Carpentry, Painting, Stitchery, Knitting, Photography, etc.)
- Church-Sponsored Neighborhood Teas
- Boys Brigade/Indian Guides, Indian Princesses, etc.

Obviously, the list is limited only by man's creativity. Skim the list again and note how many of these activities are suitable for blending Christians and non-Christians together. Imagine what could happen if a church member with oil painting ability was asked to teach a church-sponsored class open to the general public. A well-equipped shop could be a great vehicle for bringing people together in relationships with great redemptive potential.

A fishing club centered around a mature Christian who knows fishing inside and out would be a very attractive vehicle to involve your neighbor in if he loves fishing. I've been part of such groups. There is lots of time for getting close to needy people on a fishing trip!

Mariners Church in Newport Beach, California, started because a group of businessmen became burdened for their community. With no intention of planting a church, they started a Christian Leadership Week. The Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsors it. No clergy are involved in its planning or execution. It is totally lay-led and as a result has been very effective. Liberal pastors who want to get in on the action are invited to send a layman to get involved. Somehow they can't seem to get their laymen interested in evangelism.

Each morning businessmen's breakfasts are held in several country clubs in the area. No ministers are allowed to speak. (This keeps it a city-wide event, free from the pressures of the local council of churches.) Two local business people (after careful preparation) speak at each breakfast. The messages are short and to the point. Speakers are asked to avoid references to specific churches, creeds, or controversial religious issues. The central topic is the gospel and how it has been personalized in their own experience. The women sponsor teas at which they share their testimonies. Evenings are filled with home meetings at which laymen share.

A Mayor's Prayer Breakfast climaxes the week. As many as 2,000 attend this function. The same morning, 500 to 600 high schoolers pack out a similar breakfast designed just for them. Usually a well known athlete or public figure speaks at this gathering. Service clubs, cooperating with the Christian Leadership Week, often have speakers at their meetings. One week we had 102 speakers. Dozens are influenced each year by this strategic event. Several of our board members found Christ through the activities of the "harvest vehicle." The church that I pastored is one of the fruits of this original vision. Christian Leadership Week was designed to provide an opportunity for Christians to invite their non-Christian friends.

A church which takes evangelism seriously should schedule several yearly events, classes, or activities which are appropriate harvest vehicles. The church newspaper should not only publicize these events but also other functions scheduled in the broader Christian community.

These harvest vehicles (check the list again) are necessary because most non-Christians avoid the big step from where they are to a Sunday morning church service. To bring your neighbor to a point of decision may involve inviting him to participate in three or four "harvest vehicles." Some will obviously be more frontal or direct in their presentation of the gospel than others. It is the cumulative impact which is important. (It should be said that neighbors may come to Christ without direct involvement in any type of "harvest vehicle.") My wife and I found evangelistic Bible studies like those described in the previous chapter to be an especially effective vehicle.

Plant Seeds for Salvation

Your friendship may progress to the point where nonbelieving friends virtually ask you how to become a Christian. This is not uncommon, especially if you have been a good "seed planter." This is the tenth key: *Be a good "seed planter."*

There will be opportunities during your friendship to communicate bits and pieces of both the gospel itself and your own personal testimony. We already discussed the role of books and tapes in this pre-evangelism process. The temptation is to unload the entire evangelistic dump truck the first time the conversation turns to spiritual things. As a general rule, this is not a healthy pattern to follow. Gradually directing a person to Christ through seed planting is a much preferred approach.

First, discuss his religious background. “Jim, we’ve never had a chance to chat about your own religious background. At what point are you in your own spiritual pilgrimage?” Don’t ask if he is a Christian. Often he will say “yes” and yet not have any understanding of the new birth. As you perceive his lack of understanding of the gospel, it then becomes necessary to prove that his affirmation (his “yes”) was wrong.

Second, as he discusses his religious background, listen . . . carefully and patiently. Listen for understanding. When the opportunity comes to lead him to Christ, it is very helpful to know something of his background, beliefs, and experiences. By listening selectively, the evangelist notes key words which reveal, directly or indirectly, the person’s objectives, needs, fears, and problems.

Listen for permission to continue the discussion. As you interact, note carefully his response. Although he may not verbally ask you to stop the conversation, the perceptive listener knows when the conversation is outside his present “comfort zone.” Time and trust are the two keys to gradually stretching his spiritual comfort zone. Insensitivity at this point may close the door to any further discussion. Stretch him, yes, but not to the breaking point. Watch for signs of nervousness, wandering attention, a change of subject, or nonverbal evidences of hostility and resentment.

Third, eliminate caricatures of the gospel. This is one of the most important dimensions of seed planting. As the non-Christian contemplates the vast puzzle of Christianity, he visualizes a lot more pieces in it than Christ and the cross. Let me list a few of these distorting “pieces.”

(1) “Christianity is keeping the golden rule. Therefore, for me to become a Christian, I must try harder.” Hardly good news to someone who has tried and tried and failed and failed. To eliminate this caricature of the gospel, plant this thought. Just the other day my neighbor said to me, “I’m not a very religious person.” I replied, “I’m not either. I was delighted to discover that Christianity isn’t a religion, it’s a relationship with a person, Jesus Christ.” That to most non-Christians is a revolutionary thought. If you did nothing more than eliminate that caricature, you have made great progress in your evangelistic enterprise. It may be appropriate to stop the conversation at that point without pursuing it further. Believe me, the non-Christian who comes to understand just this one point has something to go home and think about. If you’re his friend, he will!

(2) “To become a Christian I must give up everything I enjoy.” This is a partial truth. His observations have led him to conclude that Christians never have any fun. The caricature could be stated this way. “Christians are negative people; I don’t want to be so negative, therefore, I don’t want to be a Christian.” Unfortunately, some Christians act in ways which reinforce the caricature. A super time at the beach can bury this caricature in a hurry—assuming you invite them. You can be the key to eliminating this distortion.

(3) “To become a Christian I must go to church and get involved in lots of meetings.” This is the old “churchianity” caricature. Unfortunately, some of our churches perpetuate this idea by pushing a program which encourages a neurotic Christian. I shared with my neighbor that I wasn’t interested in lots of meetings, but that I did enjoy regular times of *significant* teaching and worship. Obviously, the list of caricatures could go on and on. Take a paper and pencil and list a few of your own.

Caricatures are reasons for rejecting the gospel. As you plant seeds which gradually eliminate caricatures, you move the individual closer and closer to the cross. There are usually many “predecisions” which precede *the* decision. Elimination of caricatures predisposes the non-Christian towards making *the* decision. Each time the non-Christian has a caricature challenged, he faces a decision point. To reject a caricature is to remove one more excuse. If he discovers “Christians have more fun,” he can no longer use the “no fun” caricature as an excuse. If he decides to reject the caricature, he has unknowingly taken a step towards the acceptance of Christ. The pre-decision decision has been made, and the nonbeliever moves one step closer to the cross. Believers must be very sensitive to the distortions of Christianity which exist in the nonbeliever’s mind. At any given point, the believer’s behavior either *reinforces* or *removes* these caricatures. BE a remover, not a reinforcer!

The fourth step to take as a seed planter is to highlight the positive aspects of the gospel. This you can do verbally and nonverbally. This involves all that we have said about how knowing Christ relates to various aspects of everyday life. “My wife and I have found that knowing Christ is a major key to our

relationship as husband and wife.” “Knowing Christ has given me a great peace of heart.” “It’s a wonderful thing to know that God has forgiven me for all my failures.” Spread over a period of time, perceptive seed planting bears great fruit. It eventually leads you to the point of sharing the “words” of the gospel.

Be Ready to Share

The final key: *Be prepared to set the hook.* We do need to be able to share the *words* of the gospel. What a joy it is to introduce your friends to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We will discuss how to personally share Christ in the final chapter.