

Impact

Getting Started

September 24, 2017 / Dan Solofra

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that **God may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which **I am in chains**. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. **Colossians 4:2-6, NIV**

God _____ for the gospel message to make an impact on the world.

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4:2, NIV**

When reaching out to others we will want to:

- _____ time in prayer.
- _____ those God has put in our lives.
- _____ loved ones to join us.
- _____ God for being so great to us.

³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. **Colossians 4:3-4, NIV**

God opens doors through which we will walk. We want to proclaim Christ which is a _____ message while at the same time a very _____ message.

² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of

God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **Colossians 2:2-3, NIV**

⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ **Let your conversation be always full of grace**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. **Colossians 4:5-6, NIV**

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to **give the reason for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **1 Peter 3:15-16, NIV**

In my approach to people I care about I will use OILS:

O _____.

I _____.

L _____.

S _____.

What am I going to share?

- My story
- My failures and fears
- A verse that is special to me
- Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to **give the reason for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect. **1 Peter 3:15, NIV**

My next step: I will invest time in prayer and invite people to join me on my walk of faith. I will show Christian love by listening to those I care about and sharing Jesus with them.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Group – Getting Started

Getting Started: What is something in your life that was difficult to start, but once started, seemed to go or run well?

Practicing what we preach:

As part of our life of *worship* we will want to talk to God. He encourages us to bring praise and thanks and prayers and petitions to him. We are going to do that right now!

Choose one of the following items and write a prayer on your phone or another sheet of paper. Don't stress about the wording. Simply talk to God honestly from your heart. Then, share and pray your prayer with the group.

- 1) Lord, please do this in my neighborhood:
- 2) Lord, please do this in my country:
- 3) Lord, please do this in the world:
- 4) Lord, please do this in my heart:

Over the next week, include each of these groups in your prayers.

What keeps me from getting started?

Which of these issues do you think most hinders your ability to get started making an impact on the lives of others?

God hasn't opened a door for me.
I haven't identified anyone to invest time in or invite.
I am not comfortable talking about this subject.
I don't know what to say to someone.
Other:

When a car won't start we **identify** the problem and **try to fix it**. Maybe we need to "jump" the battery. Maybe we need gas. As you identify your outreach issue, work as a group to consider what your next step is to getting started. Write it down and encourage each other to take the step.

My next step to get started in outreach is:

I am going to share my next step with (person):

I am going to try to take this next step by this time(date):

Read:

1 Peter 3:15-16

Explain the process by which you go about "revering Christ as Lord" in your heart.

Why will living a Christian life usually lead to a conversation about Jesus?

How do you share your story, your failures and faults, a favorite verse and/or Jesus with gentleness and respect?

OILS – Observe, Invite, Listen, Share

Even though people you know have never heard of OILS, they might have "practiced" it on you. Has there been a time someone has checked-in on you to make sure you were OK? Did they ask you out to lunch or for coffee? How did this conversation deepen your relationship?

How does being on the "receiving end" of an encouraging conversation and relationship make you more likely to offer a listening ear and a caring heart to another person?

Give an update on a person you would like to share the OILS approach with in your life.

In my group a person said, "Thinking of people to practice OILS on or pray for is like playing the "slug bug" game. You don't notice them until you start looking for them. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?"

Close with Prayer