

Lesson Plan & Study Guide



# Friendship Evangelism

## Two: Mingle with Others

**iFOLLOW**

Working with Jesus

The iFollow Discipleship Series

Version 1.0 - 11/17/10



## About the iFollow Discipleship Series Pastor's Edition

### Categories

The iFollow Discipleship Series is designed to be used in congregations to assist people in their pursuit of God. This assumes that individuals are in unique places in their journey and there is no perfect set of lessons that everyone must complete to become a disciple—in fact discipleship is an eternal journey. Therefore the iFollow curriculum is a menu of milestones that an individual, small group, or even an entire church can choose from. The lessons can be placed in three general categories: **Meeting with Jesus** (does not assume a commitment to Jesus Christ); **Walking with Jesus** (assumes an acceptance of Jesus Christ); and **Working with Jesus** (assumes a desire to serve Jesus Christ).

### Components

Each lesson has a presenter's manuscript which can be read word for word, but will be stronger if the presenter puts it in his/her own words and uses personal illustrations. The graphic slides can be played directly from the Pastor's DVD or customized and played from a computer. There are also several group activities and discussion questions to choose from as well as printable student handouts.

### Usage

The lessons are designed to be used in small groups, pastor's Bible classes, prayer meetings, seminars, retreats, training sessions, discussion groups, and some lessons may be appropriate sermon outlines.

### Credits

**Curriculum Development:** The iFollow Discipleship Series Pastor's Edition curriculum development was lead by the **Center for Creative Ministry**. **General Editor:** Monte Sahlin; **Assistant Editor:** Debbonnaire Kovacs; **Directional Advisory:** Brad Forbes, Carole Kilcher, Ceri Myers, Cesar Gonzalez, Clayton Kinney, Curtis Rittenour, Dave Osborne, Dave VanDenburgh, Gerry Chudleigh, Jane Thayer, Jerry Thomas, John Appel, Jose Rojas, Kim Johnson, Nicole Chao, Paul Richardson, Rich DuBose, Shasta Nelson, William Sutton; **Pastoral Advisory:** Claudio Consuegra, Collette Pekar, Dave Hutman, Don Driver, Fredrick Russell, Jerry Nelson, Jesse Wilson, Leslie Bumgardner, Loren Fenton, Rebecca Brillhart; **Unit Authors:** Alberto Valenzuela, Althea Pineda, Corienne Hay, Debbonnaire Kovacs, Ed Dickerson, Gianluca Bruno, Gil Bahnsen, Greg Nelson, Jack Calkins, James Whibberding, Karen Collum, Monte Sahlin, Norma Sahlin, Pam Splawinski, Patty Ntihuka, Reinder Bruinsma, Ryan Bell; **Additional contribution** by Maria Ovando-Gibson; **Additional editing:** Dave Gemmell, Meredith Carter; **Graphic Design:** Mind Over Media; **Layout:** Paul D. Young; **Web Development:** Narrow Gate Media.

### License

**iFollow Discipleship Pastor's Edition** is produced by the NAD Church Resource Center for use by Seventh-day Adventist Congregations in Bermuda, Canada, and the United States. Churches may freely copy the lessons and PowerPoints for use within their congregations. Any other usage is prohibited without prior written consent from the NAD Church Resource Center. iFollow Discipleship, Copyright 2010, the North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. NAD Church Resource Center, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-680-6339.



**iFOLLOW**

[www.ifollowdiscipleship.org](http://www.ifollowdiscipleship.org)

# Friendship Evangelism Two: Mingle with Others

*This presentation is designed for people who desire to serve Jesus Christ and help lead others to Him.*

## Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance of social skills in witnessing
2. Learn ways to share God's love without using words
3. Develop a sense of Christ's compassion for sinners
4. Find a way to live out the example of Jesus who "mingled" with people "as one who desired their good"

## Content Outline

1. The first step in the paradigm for ministry presented by Ellen White
2. Christ's mission statement in Luke 4
3. Ministry in the world (secular ministry)
4. Visibility problem of the Adventist Church
5. Public awareness of the Adventist message and mission
6. Your circles of influence
7. Mingling with compassion

## Background Material for the Presenter

The paradigm we are using is found in *The Ministry of Healing* on page 143. It describes the approach used by Christ and includes five verbs. The first one is introduced in these terms; "The Savior mingled with men [people] as one who desired their good." The first verb used is "mingle."

In the Christmas story (Luke 2), Christ came and began His ministry by being born in poverty to a mother and father as a baby. He did not appear on the temple mount



iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others

1

with all the angels flanking Him as He sat on the heavenly throne. In fact, He was subject to human institutions and the frailties of human life. Jesus' birthplace (although it was in prophecy) was, in fact, determined by the decree of Caesar Augustus that a census be taken.

In verses seven and 12 we discover that Jesus' parents were temporarily homeless. He was born into abject poverty. We say, theologically, that He was incarnate. At the deepest, most mysterious level that means that divinity became a human being. Part of our ministry is incarnation, taking the grace of Christ to the world and mingling it with humanity.

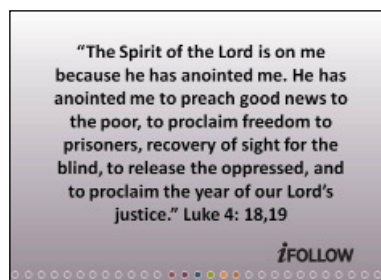
## Jesus' Mission Statement

In Luke 4, we find the story of Christ's first sermon. He came to Nazareth and went into the synagogue on Sabbath, as was His custom (verse 16). The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. (The Old Testament book of Isaiah in our Bibles today.) He was asked to be something like a Sabbath school teacher that day. It says He unrolled it, found the place where it was written and read verses 18 and 19 from Chapter 61 of Isaiah. He picked these verses to be a mission statement for his ministry.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me. He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's justice." (Luke 4:18-19)

Many preachers turn this text upside down and say that when it talks about the blind, it only means those who are spiritually blind. When it talks about the poor, it means people who are spiritually poor, but that's not what the language means. The original language is very clear that when it talks about poor people, it is talking about people who are economically impoverished. When it talks about prisoners, it's talking about people who have been locked up in jail. When it talks about the blind, it's talking about disabled people. When it talks about the oppressed, it means marginalized people who are treated unjustly.

In other words, Christ mission statement relates to real practical problems in the world. He doesn't divide the world and say, "I'm interested in the religion element. You can take care of all your other problems." He's relating to real problems in the world.



iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

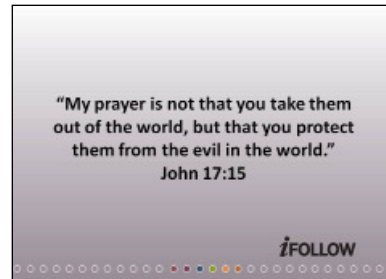
Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others

2

## Ministry in the World

In John 17, you will discover clear statements from Christ about ministry to the world that may surprise you. If your experience in Christ has been to put a lot of emphasis on separating from the world, being different or “peculiar”, read John 17:5. **“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil in the world.”**



Verse 18 takes it a step further. **“I have sent them into the world.”** Believers in Christ are actually **sent into** the world by Jesus. Theologically, we say the ministry of the Laos—the people of God—is a **secular** ministry.

You are called to minister in the world, not in the church. The clergy are primarily called to minister in the church, equipping members for service, according to Ephesians 4:11-12. Everyone else is called to minister in the world. Your ministry is the people in the community, where you work, and in the world. That is what God has called you to do. While it is true that we all may serve in both the church and the world, there is a primary and secondary focus for clergy and members.

## Adventist Visibility

The Adventist church has a problem being in the world, as Christ intended. It is the problem of invisibility. A number of polls have been taken among the general public. The national polls were carried out in 1970, 1986, 1994 and 2003, about once a decade. The first two were conducted by Gallup Poll, and the more recent surveys were done by the Center for Creative Ministry, using the same methodologies. Each had a sample of about 1,200 random telephone interviews, which is the standard for a professional, scientific survey.

There is a distressing trend. From 1970 to 1986, there is a modest increase in the percentage of people who say they have heard of the Adventist Church. But in the next decade there is a dramatic decline. Why? One major difference is that in the 1970s and early 1980s, the church is still benefiting from the enormous energy put into the 5-day Stop Smoking Plan. But between 1986 and 1994, that came to an end. The 2003 survey is about the same as 1994 and subsequent surveys in major metropolitan areas drop to much lower levels. There is very little public awareness of the Adventist Church in North America.

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others

3

## Public Awareness of the Adventist Message and Mission

Frankly, there's more distressing information in these surveys. The first question interviewers asked each person is "Have you ever heard of the Seventh-day Adventist church?" If they said "no," they were asked a couple of demographic questions and then the interview was concluded. For the largest number of the people the interview ends there.

But if they said "yes," the second question was "When you hear the name Seventh-day Adventist Church, what comes to mind?" That's not such a simple question—some thought has to be given to the answer. For the largest number of those who were asked the question—the answer was "nothing." Another percentage said, "It's a religion," which is something the question actually told them, so their answers are not much different from those who said "nothing." Another, much smaller segment said, "That is the church that doesn't believe in blood transfusions," or something similar which clearly indicates they had a group other than Seventh-day Adventists in mind.

Only a percentage in the single digits have both heard of the Adventist Church and know something accurate about it. And some of those people aren't happy about what they know. The overwhelming majority of North Americans really do not know anything about the Adventist Church, or what they know is wrong. In other words, our problem isn't prejudice. Our problem is invisibility. The general public doesn't even know we're here.

In all too many cases, we are invisible to the community. We need to mingle more, not just to acquaint people with the church, but in order to introduce them to Jesus. We need to become more involved in the life of the community until we are making a contribution outside the religious sphere. That's when we get on the map, become a good neighbor and become visible.

People expect any church to work in the religious sphere, to seek to proclaim its message and recruit members. But when you go beyond your sphere and begin to contribute to non-religious needs in the community, you become known; you stand out.

## Mingling with People You Know

**Circle of Friends:** Increasing the visibility of your faith also takes place when you mingle with those outside your church in your personal life, among the people in your circle of friends. If you made a list of everybody you know there are probably between 100 and 200 people on that list. If you look at those people and ask yourself if you mingle with them, you will discover some real boundaries between you and the people who are not members of your church. For instance, people may invite you to have a drink with them after work. It's not necessarily that you'd be tempted to drink. It's just that we can feel awkward in



situations where we cannot fully participate. So, we tend to pass on the opportunity. Or, the community has a block party. But it is on Sabbath so we tend not to go. We avoid mingling.

**Work Associates:** The people upon whom you will have the most influence make up your mission field. Naturally that would include your work associates. That means not only the people in your office or shop, but it may mean sales people who come in or clients. You may be surprised to find that you actually spend more time at work than you do with almost everybody else in your life. The average American spends more time at work than they do awake with their own family. You often know your work associates over a period of years. You may go through episodes with them that break down barriers and find you have opportunity to openly share with them.

**Community Acquaintances:** Another group of people to mingle with is community acquaintances. If you live long in the community, you tend to go to the same place to get your car serviced, the same barbershop or hair salon, a favorite restaurant. You get to know people there, but you may not even know their last name. Perhaps you belong to a service club in your community or a professional group or a neighborhood council. These are people you may influence.

**Neighbors:** Depending on where you live, you have more or less influence with neighbors. In suburban areas, more and more people don't know their neighbors and their neighbors don't want to be known. If you make too much effort to know the neighbors, they look at it as invading their privacy. But if you live in a rural area, then knowing your neighbors is a much more important tradition. If you live in some urban areas, that same dynamic can also be present. But your neighborhood isn't nearly as high on the list of priorities as your workplace. In today's world, a lot of people aren't comfortable having drop-in guests even if it is people they know. Imagine how they feel about those who go door-to-door. This has caused the primary opportunity for witness and ministry to change from the neighborhood to the workplace. That said there are those who want a sense of community and are looking for connections among neighbors. Simple kindness and courtesies for the people next door can go a long way in melting hearts for Christ.

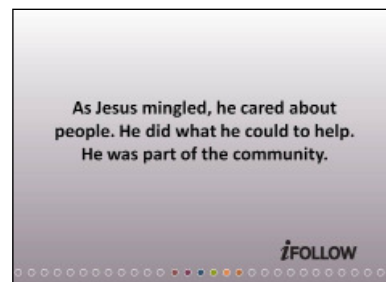
**Relatives and Close Friends:** Most of us have relatives who aren't active in the church any more. Many have relatives who never joined the church or have become active Christians. There are also close friends, but that is a more limited sphere of ministry for two reasons. One is that many of your close friends are people who share your faith. The other is if you have some close friends who don't believe in God or believe in another religion, part of your relationship is that you tolerate each other's differences and respect them. Your ability to influence and minister may be greater with the people in the middle category; those who aren't strangers and those who are not really close. This middle category is where you have the greatest opportunity to influence others for Christ.

## Mingling with Care

You mingle with people every day. Even if you are working at home on the Internet, you get to know people indirectly. How are you perceived in that mingling? Are you known as somebody who's trustworthy? Kind? Fair? Someone who cares about more than making a profit? Cares about people? That is the most powerful piece of your witness; how you are perceived as you mingle with people.

*The Ministry of Healing* statement (page 143) about the paradigm of friendship evangelism says Christ mingled with people "as one who desired their good." He was pro-humanity. Another term is "humanitarian." He cared about people. He was supportive. He was fair and just with people. He brought healing. He tried to make things work better in the community. He did not adopt the attitude of Jonah and sit on a hill while mumbling, "When is God going to strike them dead?"

Jesus did not withdraw from humanity. As He mingled, He cared about people. He did what He could to help. He was a part of the community. Are you perceived as somebody who is a part of your community? Someone who is pro-active for the good of people around you? That is a very important basic element in your witness.



## Handouts in this Package

1. Friendship Evangelism—Mingling
2. Your Circles of Influence
3. An Adventist Paradigm for Sharing Your Faith



iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others

6



## Additional Resources

Finley, Mark (1989). *Making Friends for God*. Fallbrook, CA: HART Research Center. (This is a video seminar series with video cassettes, participant book and leader's guide.)

Sahlin, Monte (1991). *Friendship Evangelism Seminar*. Siloam Springs, AR: Concerned Communications. (This is a seminar package that includes an instructor's guide and a participant notebook.)

Sahlin, Monte (2003). *One Minute Witness*. Lincoln, NE: Center for Creative Ministry. (This is a small, 40-page booklet that could easily be used as a textbook for the series of units on Friendship Evangelism.)

Sahlin, Monte and Rittenour, Curtis (2001). *Friend 2 Friend: Sharing Faith with Secular People*. Lincoln, NE: Center for Creative Ministry. This is the video seminar for teaching Friendship Evangelism recommended by the North American Division. It is available with DVDs, participant book, instructor's guide and PowerPoint slides. A total of six sessions which are parallel in content to this series of units.)

## Additional Resources from Other Christian Sources

Harkey, W. G. (1988). *How to Share Good News Without Being Obnoxious About It*. Lima, OH: C.S.S. Publishing Company.

Henderson, Jim and Casper, Matt (2007). *Jim and Casper Go to Church*. Carol Stream, IL: BarnaBooks/Tyndale House Publishers.

Humphreys, Kent and Davidene (2000). *Show and Then Tell: Presenting the Gospel Through Daily Encounters*. Chicago: Moody Press.

Innes, Dick (1983). *I Hate Witnessing*. Ventura, CA: Vision House.

Martinet, Jeanne (1992). *The Art of Mingling*. New York: MJF Books.

McIntosh, Duncan (1984). *The Everyday Evangelist*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press.

McLaren, B. D. (2001). *A New Kind of Christian*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Mittleberg, M.; Strobel, L. and Hybels, B. (1995). *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (This is a video seminar with video cassette, instructor's guide and a textbook for participants. Can be presented in four two-hour sessions or eight one-hour sessions.)

Moore, Ralph (2001). *Friends: The Key to Reaching Generation X*. Ventura, CA: Regal.

Neville, Joyce (1983). *How to Share Your Faith Without Being Offensive*. New York: The Seabury Press.

Sweeting, George (1991). *The No-Guilt Guide to Witnessing*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

Action Plan  
& Presenter  
Notes

**Friendship  
Evangelism**

**Two:**  
Mingle with  
Others

## Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever known someone who was trying to cultivate your friendship for a specific reason? How did you know? How did you feel about it? What was the result?
2. How can we be sure we are “mingling with people as one who desires their good,” rather than mingling in order to press our own agenda on them?
3. What are three of the most important things your friends do for you? What matters most about your friendship?
4. In Luke 4, it says Jesus went to the synagogue, “as was His custom.” What can we extrapolate about what He had said or done in all those hundreds of times He’d been to the synagogue before?
5. How many years did Jesus “wait” to begin His ministry? What did He do during those years?
6. Do you find it easy or difficult to mingle with people outside the church in your community or at your place of work?

## Group Activity

**Purpose:** To think creatively about how mingling might help in making friends for God.

**Preparation:** Collect lots of magazines and put several on each table, along with scissors, glue, markers, etc., and one poster board for each participant.

**Assignment:** Divide the group into smaller teams at the tables and have each person sort through the magazines, cutting out pictures of people, places and things that represent where believers might meet seekers. Encourage openness to lots of options. Have them make posters or collages and share what they mean. They can take these home and display them where they do their daily devotions to remind them to be open to all the ways God might call them to be friendly each day.

**Debrief:** Allow as many as possible to share what their collages mean to them. You may also wish to encourage sharing of what people see in others' posters. They may come up with ideas the "artists" didn't think of.

**Time:** Allow 15 minutes at tables and another 15 minutes for sharing.

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

Group  
Activities

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others

10

# Handout 1

## Friendship Evangelism—Mingling

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests to others.” (Philippines 2:4)

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil in the world. ... I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:15, 18)

By adopting Isaiah 61 as his mission statement, Jesus declared (1) He was pro-humanity; (2) He cared about basic human needs; and (3) He led a humanitarian cause.

As his disciples, we are to mingle by:

- Caring
- Serving
- Being involved in the community
- Desiring good for others

Make a list of names in the following categories:

Circle of friends:

Work associates:

Community acquaintances:

Neighbors:

Relatives or close friends:

How recently did you have contact with each person?

What is the nature of your relationship with each person?

How can you show that you desire good for each person?

Keep this list in your Bible and pray daily for ways to demonstrate compassion and caring.

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

HANDOUT

**Friendship  
Evangelism**  
**Two:**  
Mingle with  
Others

## Handout 2

### Your Circles of Influence

1. Friends
2. Work associates
3. Community acquaintances
4. Neighbors
5. Relatives and close friends

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

HANDOUT

**Friendship  
Evangelism**  
**Two:**  
Mingle with  
Others

## Handout 3

### An Adventist Paradigm for Sharing Your Faith

There is an Adventist paradigm for friendship evangelism in our heritage. A paradigm is a model, framework, or example through which we see and act. Ellen White wrote a statement originally published in the book *The Ministry of Healing*. On page 143 she speaks of Christ's example as our model for ministry.

**“Christ’s method alone gives true success in reaching people.”** Notice the implication that some successful evangelism isn’t true success. Remember that category from the Church of Christ research of people who said that salesman brought them into the church but before a year was over they were back out?

As we continue with the quote, notice the verbs. “The Savior **mingled** with men as one who desired their good. He **showed** his sympathy for them, **ministered** to their needs, and **won** their confidence. The he **bade** them, ‘Follow me.’”

These five verbs progress deeper and deeper into a relationship; mingling, showing sympathy, ministering to needs, winning trust, and inviting people to follow Jesus.

iFollow  
Discipleship  
Series:  
Working  
with Jesus

HANDOUT

Friendship  
Evangelism  
Two:  
Mingle with  
Others