

Going Deeper

WITH

A LIFE THAT MATTERS



Six Magnets to Pull People to Jesus

BY RON HUTCHCRAFT

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"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

1 John 5:11-12

In a world that is looking for a life of significance, is there any more significant impact you could have in your little time on earth than to take some people to heaven with you? That is your eternal destiny. You are a child of the High King of heaven, and God has chosen you so you would tell about Him! 1 Peter 2:9 says, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Declare His praises to the people in your world.

Philemon 1:6 says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." You won't fully understand life as a Christian until you start sharing your faith. If you just consume everything and keep it to yourself, there are things you'll never understand about Jesus.

Your own love for Jesus grows when you start to tell people about Him. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "In your hearts set apart 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." Your bond with Jesus grows as you join Him in the work that He came and died for. God will break through where you are if somebody is willing to be the messenger.

The following are five reasons you should be willing to tell about your rescuer:

It's the overflow of your love relationship with Him. The experience of a life with Jesus Christ makes us want to tell all about Him. He's somebody you love and the only one who ever loved you enough to die for you and walk out of His grave. He gave you the power to change. There's always going to be something new He's done for you, because when He's Lord of your life, He's always showing you new areas of your life that He wants to change.

You can't be ashamed of the name. It can be easy to talk about God, your church, or even family values. When you start sharing about what has happened in your life, Satan makes you stop at the name of Jesus. Don't choke on Jesus' name. All the power is in Jesus' name, not just God's name. If you want to find out where somebody is spiritually, start to talk about what Jesus has done for you. You can't be ashamed of His name, because He hung on a cross not ashamed of you.

You are depending on a God takeover. God has promised that He will move in with words and with courage. No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him, and God can deliver His truth through your personality. It

doesn't matter if you're an introvert, an extrovert, or a culvert, God will use the personality He's given you to deliver His message. You're the one He picked for the people you know. There's destiny involved in your relationships, where you work, and where you live. You are depending on this being a total work of God that has been planned from eternity past; you plan on a God take over.

You are amazed by your message. All day and every day in heaven, the people who work with God are saying, "Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb!" The only thing Jesus brought back from earth was the scars. Seeing those scars, they keep singing "Worthy is the Lamb!" They can't get over what Jesus did and they are amazed. Speak of Him because you never lose the wonder that the Son of God died on a cross for what you did.

You have a heart for their eternity. Think about the fate and the eternity of people that you're with every day. What will be their eternal destination? Their final destination can change from hell to heaven today. Jesus was shut out from the presence of God the Father as He took their everlasting destruction, going through their hell on the cross.

Now let's discuss six magnets to pull people to Jesus.

1. A Life They Can't Argue With

The first magnet to pull people to Jesus is a life they can't argue with. 1 Peter 2: 12 and 15 say, "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us...For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men." The main reason people don't come to Christ is what they've seen in Christians. God says that if you do good, you can silence ignorant talk and live as free men. Live as a servant of God to win the respect of a hostile world.

One of the later emperors of the Roman Empire was a man named Julian the Apostate. He was really frustrated with the Christians. He said they were impious because they rejected the Roman gods, but more than that, they were under-cutting people's reliance on the empire. He depended on people turning to the empire for help. He said Christians were undermining the empire because they were doing so much good for people. They were living a life you can't argue with.

Think about those around you. Care about their kids, their hospital stay, the death in their family, their financial need and their loss of a job, their fears, their frustration, and the pain of their past so you can get them to care about their heart. Live a life and show a difference that they can't argue with. What would make you stand out as a different kind of person in your environment? Where you are, what would be an unusual, positive quality? Build them up instead of tearing them down. Have true generosity, being all about them and not all about you. Ask yourself this question: "What could I ask Jesus to do in me that the people around me would have to notice?"

They will be attracted to your Jesus if they get a better mother or father, a better son, a better friend, a better employee, or a better employer out of you being with Jesus. If Jesus does something they can see that really touches their life, you have a life they can't argue with. Remember to do it with gentleness and respect. There are an awful lot of people who try to represent Jesus and they're neither gentle nor respectful. When you represent your Savior, a person ought to feel more important not less important when you've talked to them. They ought to feel cared for and not torn down.

Offer Jesus gently with respect and live a life they can't argue with.

2. A Story They Can't Deny

The second magnet to pull people to Jesus is a story they can't deny. Talk about the One "who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." We call it a hope story—a story no one else on this planet can tell. You're the only one who has your hope story, and people need to know what difference Jesus has made in your life. When seeing a product advertised on T.V., people want to know the difference that product makes. What they want to know about Jesus is not necessarily the things you believe and about all the meetings you attend. They want to know what difference Jesus makes.

Find out their story. You know enough about them to know where the hurts are in their life, where the holes are in their life, and what concerns them most. There are things you know Jesus can do something about. Bridge from their story to begin to tell your hope story. Don't just tell about how your relationship with Jesus began, but explain what Jesus has done for you and the difference He has made in your life. Your hope story doesn't explain the Gospel.

No matter how good you've been in life, you have a hope story. Every Christian has a personal story of hope telling what their life would be like if it weren't for Jesus. Tell about what your stressful times would be like without Jesus. Tell about what kind of mom or dad you'd be if there was no Jesus. What kind of husband or wife would you be? How are the lonely times, the depressing times, and the hospital times different? Start with their story, move to your hope story, and then tell His love story.

The best way to present the Gospel is to embed it in your hope story. You might say, "You know, things did not change until I realized that my real problem was that I was away from the God I was made for. I hijacked my life from Him. It wasn't His choice to be away from me, but I had decided I could run my life better than God. The Bible calls that sin and I realized that there was a death penalty for running my own life. There was no way I could ever have a personal relationship with God unless that wall between me and God came down and that death penalty could be paid. God loved us so much He sent His Son to pay our death penalty. He died, but then He walked out of His grave. He's alive! The day I grabbed Him like a drowning person would grab a rescuer and put my total faith in Him, is when this change I told you about began." They'll listen to your hope story and they'll listen to His love story.

Your hope story is all about the Jesus difference. If you know Him, you have a story to tell. Listen to their story to win you the right to tell your hope story, and then embed in your hope story the love story of Jesus.

3. A Positiveness They Want

The third magnet to pull people to Jesus is a positiveness they'll want. 1 Peter 3: 15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." They will be attracted to the hope that you have, the Jesus glow in you, and to an unsinkable positiveness. Many times others will be watching when you are going through the worst storms of life—bad news from the doctor, financial trouble, trouble with your kids.

Let them see a Jesus that works in the darkest hour and a positiveness they'll want. There's no excuse for a crabby Christian, a sourpuss saint, or a bumbled out believer. When they see you, they should see hope like a lighthouse in a storm. There should always be hope shining out from you. They'll want to know where that comes from, and the darkest time is when hope will shine the brightest out of your life.

4. A Rock to Build a Life On

The fourth magnet to pull people to Jesus is a rock to build a life on. 1 Peter 2: 6 says, "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." This describes a wonderful characteristic of Jesus because a cornerstone means something to build around. Jesus offers the people you know something solid to build their life around. Everybody you know is a candidate for hope.

Everyone needs a rock to build their life on, and Jesus offers that. Colossians 1: 16 is a great place to begin to share the Gospel and it says, "All things were created by him and for him." USA Today did a national survey and they asked people, "If you could ask a supreme being one question and be guaranteed an answer, what would you ask them?" "What happens after you die" was at distant second. Number one by far was, "What is the purpose of life?"

People everywhere need a cornerstone to build a life on and you know where that cornerstone is. They were created by someone and they were created for someone. They will have a hole in their heart until they know that Someone, and you know Him and they don't! You have the information their eternity depends on while the people around you are building sand castles that will go down with the next high tide. You have the Rock they could build on that will withstand every storm. You can be a magnet to pull people to Jesus because you can tell about the Rock on which they can build their life.

5. A Jesus Who Died

The fifth magnet to pull people to Jesus is a Jesus who died for them. 1 Peter 2: 24 says, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

He took our place on the cross and died for us. Make much of the cross!

Charles Spurgeon once said, "When the church has not been ashamed to put the cross in the forefront, she's never had to be ashamed. For God has been with her and Jesus has drawn all men to Himself. A Living Savior men may love but a crucified Savior they must love." If they perceive that He loved them and gave Himself for them, their hearts are stolen away. Take them to the cross and let them stand at the foot of a blood red cross and say "For me. For me." That is the soul of your message. Don't encumber the Gospel with other things, because the importance lies in the cross and an empty tomb.

6. A Savior Who's Alive

The sixth and final magnet to pull people to Jesus is He's a Savior who's alive. We have been born again to a Living Hope and that hope is a person. When Jesus walked out of His tomb, He said to the women "Go tell the disciples and Peter." Peter was one of the disciples, but Jesus knew that Peter had denied Him. He knew that Peter felt like it was over. The one disciple He personally met after he came out of the tomb was Peter himself. When Peter knew Jesus was alive, it turned his life around. Jesus is a living Savior.

You don't have a religion to give them, you have a person. If Jesus can conquer death, He can conquer anything they're fighting in their life. This is not about a religion, beliefs, or rituals; it's about a person death could not hold. Stick to Jesus because it's all about Him.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Some people believe that we should spend a lot of our time and energies on culture wars as there are many battles. The early Christians believed that in the horrible morality of their day, which was worse than ours. They didn't picket and they didn't lobby. They just preached a crucified and risen Savior, and it rocked the empire.

With the eternity perspective, you look at the people in your world and you see not just co-workers, friends, or neighbors, but you see the future inhabitants of hell. When you're doing earth with a heaven heart, you see every person in your world as a forever person and not just a creature of time. You understand that they're headed for one of two destinations. The people in hell will look like the people you see every day. You have the decisive information that can take them from the list that says "lost" to the one that says "saved."

You are somebody who's within the reach of that person to literally be a magnet that pulls them to Jesus Christ. You could be a two-legged magnet playing a decisive role in where someone you care about will be for all eternity. They are not creatures of time; they, too, are creatures of eternity!

Move beyond your fear to be a rescuer, and bring people to Jesus. God has placed you among people whose lives are at stake and you are His assigned rescuer. Would you be more afraid of what will happen to them than what

might happen to you, and bring them out while there's time? Reach the lost for Jesus today!

About Ron Hutchcraft

Ron Hutchcraft is committed to communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost in their language and to motivating and equipping believers to communicate Christ to the lost in their world. In all he does, he seeks to reach the lost and the young with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

As President of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, Ron and his team specialize in developing authentic, relevant, and creative tools to reach people with the message of Jesus. A veteran of over 48 years of youth and family work, Ron has presented the Gospel across North America and around the world. Mr. Hutchcraft is also involved in work with Native Americans, and is founder of the On Eagles' Wings® Native leadership program.

For more information about Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, visit www.Hutchcraft.com.

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