

## DISCOVERY NIGHT – NEW CHRISTIAN’S TEAM TRAINING

It is awesome that every week, in every service, we give every person an opportunity to get their lives right with God through our altar calls and as a New Christian team we are able to take part in the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our altar calls are one of the most important parts of our services and we all get to play a major role in them so we should never underestimate that role as God by His Spirit saves and grants new life to precious people!

Please remember that as a team, we are viewed as the Church and can leave a lasting impression, so how we connect at this point is very important. We need to love and embrace (spiritually speaking) all the people God gives to us on a weekly basis!

Don't assume that everyone has a full understanding of salvation and God's plan for their life; so meet them at the level they're at. It's good to ask why they responded to the message as this will help you ascertain that level.

Also on a side note, recall that we are working closely with people so watch your personal hygiene, breath and body odour – we don't want to be remembered for our bad breath, but for our love for the individual!

### **Altar calls – In-Seat or Up-Front**

- Avoid as much movement as possible during altar calls.
- As soon as you move it says to a new person that doesn't know our church culture "it's time to go" and should they leave, will be robbed of the opportunity to respond.
- Section leaders need to avoid wild hand waving when pointing out a decision being made as it can be distracting to those around you.
- It is important that you **listen** to the MC/preacher's instruction before approaching someone who has just made a decision. Timing is everything. Moving too soon means you distract from what the MC is saying to the New Christian.
- Be discreet when moving to a person, remember this is all new and they are feeling very self conscious so don't "expose" them by being loud and drawing attention to what's going on.
- Moving too late may cause distractions and you could possibly lose sight of the person who has made the decision.
- Once you approach the New Christian, introduce yourself, congratulate the person on his or her decision and hand them a Bible.
- When altar calls are "in-seats" remember to work as a team with your section leader as well as with other sections in the auditorium.

- If the section you are sitting in doesn't have anyone responding, join forces with the section beside you which may have plenty of people responding to the call – work as a team!
- When the altar call is “up-front”, then confidently make your way to the front being mindful not to clog up the aisles – send the right number of team forward.
- Once you get to the front and notice every New Christian has been paired off with a New Christian team member, subtly move across the front rows to avoid congestion in the aisles.
- New Christian team members should always pair themselves off male with male, female with female and similar age groups as New Christians will be able to relate to another more readily with someone of the same gender and age.
- Once up front a gentle hand on the shoulder of the New Christian to show them someone is with them will suffice. Avoid hugs and back slaps which could offend a New Christian.
- Again you need to **listen** to the MC's directives as to when and where to move once the sinner's prayer is over and the MC has finished addressing the New Christians.
- In the case of a guest speaker's altar call, listen to their directives and follow their instructions carefully. They may do it differently from “our way”.

### **Decision Cards**

- This is the method we use to keep in touch with those that have made decisions and the accuracy of the information is vital.
- Ask the person if they could please fill out a decision card as this will enable us to help them make their decision count. Be sensitive to those that may not be able to read.
- If a person does not want to give out their details please explain that our desire is to help them move forward in following Christ. We are here to help, not hassle.
- Inform them that someone will be contacting them through the week.
- It would be a great idea to ask them what the best time to contact them is, during the week.
- Please check the card is legible, if you cannot read the details then there is a chance we cannot enter the details into the database.
- If you have made a great connection with the individual who has made the decision please feel free to take a copy of their number and inform them that you will be calling them during the week.
- If a person doesn't wish to fill out a decision card, please give them a Bible as a gift regardless and on the decision card please write “**No Details**” as we still need to hand in a card for every person that makes a decision.
- Please return the completed card to your team leader ASAP. We have found the sooner we can follow up a New Christian the greater the chance that we will connect with them and help them move

forward in their faith; whereas if we receive a card a week after the decision, the person may go change his or her decision for Jesus.

### **Discovering Christianity**

- Once the person has filled out the decision card be sure to personally invite them to our Discovering Christianity course.
- Discovering Christianity is a 6 week Bible course held in the Welcome Lounge after each service on the weekend as well as the Thursday nights at 7:30pm at both our City and Hills campuses – courtesy bus available.
- Convey the value, importance and power of Discovering God's Word, the truth that will set them free (John 8:32). Another reference is John 14:6. – Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!

### **Other helpful tips**

- Ask the person who has just made a decision if you can pray for them. Invite and take the person to the Welcome Lounge.
- Pray for those who have made decisions in past weeks and remember to pray in the service for those about to make a decision for Jesus.
- Look out for New Christians whom you may have spoken to in the past and invite them into your world - ask them to sit with you in a service, help them get into a Connect Group or volunteer in Church.
- Once a person has made a decision, or has sat through Discovery or just visited our Welcome Lounge, then we as a team should escort them to the doors of church and say goodbye which is simple courtesy shown to any person who visits your home.
- If possible be a part of our follow up phone call team, this will make contacting New Christians so much easier as you have already made face to face contact with the person you will be following up.