



41 DAYS
OF
W.O.W.

PRESCOTT CHURCH
WORSHIP * ONENESS * WITNESS

WEEK ONE

WORSHIP

Have you ever made a purchase, only to discover it was a great bargain? One of those once in a lifetime deals that seems too good to be true, but is true. If you have, you're probably thinking about it right now. Can you remember how you felt?

That is the feeling of Worship. God is the greatest bargain in the universe! He offers us a life that is beyond our imagination and the only thing He requires is that we commit our life to Him. Join us in the journey to better express all of these thoughts and feelings to our great God, so He can see, by how we live, how much He means to us!

Day 1

Today you are encouraged to begin a 41 day journey with your spiritual family at Prescott. We have a great God; He deserves us to be a great church, so, we want to become that church. What does it mean to be a WOW church? That would be a church of authentic Worship, genuine Oneness, and a dynamic Witness.

As we begin this journey together, let's establish a baseline. Please prayerfully evaluate yourself in these areas (WOW) and give yourself a rating using a scale where 1 is worst and 10 is best. Then, turn your mind to our church. Using the same scale, prayerfully evaluate those same 3 areas and give us a rating. It is our prayer that 6 weeks from now we will see a measurable difference!

Day 2: The Church is Born

As we strive to be a WOW church, let's make sure we understand how important the church is to God's plan for our lives and this world. Do you realize how many Christians do not go to church with any regularity? Their thought being church is unnecessary, because we have the Lord and our devotion to Him is what's important. We don't have to be in church to be with Him or worship Him. There is truth in those statements. Unfortunately, there is also very hurtful inaccuracies. The work of Christ results in the establishment of a new community where we hope, love, worship, and serve together.

This is why the scriptures can be fulfilled in 2 simple statements: Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. You will not find Christianity pictured as a "just me and God" spiritual experience in scripture. Christianity is about the triumphant, forward movement of the body of Christ, the church, in a way that the very gates of hell crumble before her, a story bigger than any of us. Let's take a look:

Read: Matthew 16:18, Acts 1:1-14, and Acts 2

Who said they would build the church? How would this happen?

On what would the church be built?

Describe the power of the church.

Explain where this power comes from.

What happened on the day of Pentecost?

What did the members of the community think?

What did Peter explain?

How was the crowd challenged to respond?

Describe what is happening in verses 41-47. What do we learn from this?

Day 3: Wholistic Worship

Today we begin focusing on the first element that defines a WOW church: Worship. There are many ways to define worship, but all of them eventually funnel into the idea of “worth” ship where a believer expresses what God means to us. Here is the thought for this day. Do not relegate worship to a time slot (Sunday morning) or set of behaviors (prayer, praise, etc.). Worship is a 24/7 lifestyle. There is no place we go; there is nothing we do that cannot be worship. Let’s look at scripture to reinforce that truth.

Read: Mark 12:28-34, Romans 12:1

What does it mean to love the Lord with all your ...

Heart?

Soul?

Mind?

Strength?

What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?

Day 4

Before we go any deeper in our journey, let’s take a moment to practice the truth. Let’s write a love letter to God. Let’s communicate what we’ve experienced and how we have been blessed in our relationship with Him.

Day 5: Diving Into Worship

Today we take a cautionary step in our journey to better understand and express our worship. You see, there are many dangers lurking beneath the surface when it comes to worship. Our scripture today will focus on “Spirit and Truth” worship. When worship is not anchored in truth it could spin out of control into a false belief system. When worship is not anchored in the Spirit it can be academic, mechanical, and dead. That makes me think of the Pharisees. Let’s strive for the balanced worship that God seeks.

Read: John 4:19-26

Write your own definition for worship.

Does God deserve our worship? Why?

Does God desire our worship? Why?

How does God define our worship?

What is meant by Spirit and Truth?

Day 6: Jesus ... We Have a Problem!

We just looked at the importance of balancing Spirit with Truth when it comes to worship. Today we will look at 2 stories that remind us what can happen if we fail to find this balance.

Read: Genesis 4:3-7, 2 Samuel 6:1-17

It is obvious that Cain’s sacrifice was unacceptable and could be seen as outside of truth, but why was he unwilling to bring an acceptable offering? What does this say about his heart? Could this be a “Spirit” issue?

What would happen if Cain had a change of heart ... if God’s Spirit ruled and led him to bring an acceptable sacrifice?

In contrast to Cain, David seems to have a pure heart. So, what went wrong when he sought to move the ark?

How did he recover, so he could continue his personal journey with God?

What can we learn in these stories?

Day 7: It's Sunday ... Yay!

Today we come together after a week of focusing on worship. Do you believe you have an awesome God who is bigger than anything you face in life? Do you believe His greatness demands a response, that He is worthy? If this is true of you:

As we sing as a congregation, concentrate on singing to Him from your heart.

As we pray as a congregation concentrate on your dependency and that you are so appreciative He is there for you.

As we look to scripture, appreciate the truth He has given that sets us free and directs us to experience life to its full.

A photograph of a road at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow and long shadows. Palm trees line the road, and their silhouettes are visible against the bright sky. The road has white dashed lines and a manhole cover is visible on the right side. In the background, there are some buildings and a street lamp. A decorative text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WEEK TWO
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WORSHIP

Day 8: Now You're Meddling

In today's story, we see a snapshot of spontaneous worship that took place on what we know as Palm Sunday. It's hard to imagine anyone having a problem with this scene. After all, we're talking about worshipping Jesus. As the text says, if this spontaneous worship had not occurred, the very stones would have cried out. Yet, people did object. Things haven't changed much. There are few areas in Evangelical Christianity that arouse the passions like a discussion of music/worship styles. James Dobson is on record as saying music is the most controversial subject they have ever dealt with at Focus on the Family. That is amazing thinking of the subjects they deal with (pornography, abortion, homosexuality & same sex marriage). Charles Spurgeon referred to his music ministry as the war department. I wish there was an easy answer for this, but experience tells me there is not. There are too many styles that appeal to a wide range of people. If we try to appeal to everyone, we will not please anyone. If we are going to be a WOW church, we will have to overcome this problem. This issue affects not just our worship, but our oneness and witness as well. With this in mind, let's do some soul searching.

Read: Luke 19:28-40

Is there a correct style favored by God? What is your opinion based on?

What makes a song suitable for worship?

Who & what should be the focus of our worship as a church? How does this connect to my personal taste?

A huge component in the worship style/music issue is how it relates to our ability to reach those outside of the church. Our music can touch people in a way a sermon never will, because it can pass objections and intellectual barriers and carry the message straight to the heart. We are trying to reach a future church. What does that mean for our music?

Day 9: The Heart of Worship

There are dangers we must avoid to have the kind of worship God desires. Our story today considers one of those dangers we better avoid, if we are seeking to please God.

Read: Luke 18:9-14

Why did Jesus share this story?

What's the back story?

What was in the heart of the Pharisee?

How did this affect his worship?

What was in the heart of the tax gatherer?

How did this affect his worship?

Where are you in this story?

What should you learn from this?

Day 10: Managing Our Emotions

Read: 1 Kings 18:20-19:18

Describe the events of 1 Kings 18:20-46

Describe everything Elijah could be feeling/thinking as this day unfolds. Have you ever had a day like this?

How did Jezebel's threat affect Elijah? Why? Have you ever had a day like this?

How did God confront Him?

What can we learn in this story that would help us be more in tune with God's voice?

Day 11: God Sightings

Keep a journal today. Make a note of different moments when you needed God, reached out to God, or noticed God entering into your day in some way. Record where and how He was active and the opportunities available to join Him in His work. Later, as the day draws to a close, talk to Him about your day, replay the details, then thank Him for spending the day with you.

Day 12: I Can Do This Forever

Do you have things in your life you think, “I could do this forever”? Things that energize you and you can’t wait to do again when they are over? I sure hope so! Have you ever thought about why you feel this way? May I suggest these are the things that reflect who and what you are deep within? They are a reflection of God’s unique design and purpose for you. I think this explains why there is so much diversity in things like careers, hobbies, and ministry. God has given each of us passion, a gift mix, and personal style so that we can be fulfilled in our lives. With that in mind:

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

What are you passionate about? Passions often revolve around causes, people groups, or specific activities. They direct you to where you ought to be.

What is your gift mix? What do you do well? These define where you will be most energized and effective.

What is your personal style? Are you more structured or non-structured? Are you more task or people oriented? Our styles allow us to get the best fit.

If we are God’s workmanship, what has He made you to do and be? Accept this as His gift to you and then offer it back to Him as an offering and get busy doing and being your true self!

Day 13: Idols of the Heart

One of the dangers Israel constantly battled was idolatry. They were surrounded by idolatrous cultures and the temptation to be like them was strong. The history recorded in the Old Testament shows they stumbled time and again. But, idolatry wasn't just an Old Testament problem, as our reading for today demonstrates. The New Testament church was to keep themselves from idols. Is it possible that we Christians would allow false gods to invade our hearts and control us? Sadly, the answer is yes; even more subtle, some of the things that take over our hearts are basically "good". Some of these idols are in the physical realm and quite visible. Others are immaterial and operate almost unconsciously in our hearts and minds. All are dangerous and must be avoided. With this in mind:

Read: 1 John 5:21, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

We can define an idol as anything that takes the place of God and begins to control us. Evaluate your life for pesky idols within:

Physical Desire

Thought Patterns

Emotions

Relationships

Habits

Schedule

Wallet

Everything/Everywhere

As an act of worship, cast out any idols you find and begin the process of restoration, so Christ would reign over this area as He should.

Day 14: The Greatness of God

This is Easter Sunday. For Christians it doesn't get any better. On this day we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. With that in mind:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

David Letterman has made a career out of top 10 lists ... make a personal top 10 list that describes the greatness of God, as you have experienced Him.

Share your list and explain it to someone at service today.

Think back to your initial rating of your worship and the worship of our church. Is anything changing? How?

WEEK THREE

ONENESS

Oneness for the church was introduced by Christ Himself and was a major focus of His prayer in John 17. There we find oneness is based in the relationship between The Father and Jesus.

That defines the oneness we seek; absolute submission to Christ just as Christ was totally submitted to The Father.



Introduction

This oneness is plain to see throughout the first century, despite the many obstacles the early church faced. Every believer, without exception, is rooted in Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

In scripture, we see believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation, sharing one future (Revelation 5:9-10). Then, why is there so much division and dysfunction in the present?

What can we do to address this? It is our prayer that over the next two weeks, we will better understand and experience the oneness God intends for Prescott Church.

Day 15: Christ on Oneness

As we begin our focus on “Oneness”, we must recognize there is only one foundation that can support true oneness: It is Christ. Until we have unconditionally surrendered to Christ with our past, present, and future, oneness is an elusive dream. Do you believe this? Can you support your reasoning with scripture? I do, and I can. This is important, because we live in a culture that is attempting to develop a different kind of oneness . . . a oneness that sacrifices truth. True oneness occurs when we surrender to Christ and His revealed truth.

Read: John 17

Oneness is mentioned 4 times in John 17:11, 21-23. How would you define this oneness? Who is the author of this oneness? What, if any, role did the 11 remaining apostles have in this?

The word “truth” or “word” is used 6 times: verses 6, 8, 14, 17, 19, 20. What role does truth play in oneness? Is it possible to attain the oneness Christ speaks of without truth?

Christ talks about protecting those who follow Him and those who would later follow Him (vs. 11-20). How did He do this while with them? How about after He left? What can we learn about oneness here?

Day 16: An Unlikely Union

Today we journey a bit deeper into the issue of oneness. In John 17, Jesus mentioned future believers. That was fine until those future believers turned out to be Samaritans and Gentiles. All of a sudden, the Christian movement was at a crossroads. Was there to be multiple churches (a Jewish, Samaritan, and Gentile church) or was there to be one church? The record of Acts teaches there was to be one. Ephesians 2:11-22 explains how this would be possible.

Read: Ephesians 2:11-22

In what ways were the Gentiles “far off”? How were they brought into God’s family?

The Jews had many spiritual advantages, but often those advantages were misunderstood and worked against them. Can you explain how this happened? How did it affect their worldview and ability to accept non-Jews into God’s family?

What is this dividing wall Paul mentions? How was it torn down?

If this is true, how can the church be so divided?

Day 17: Fragile: Handle with Care

There are many sources for division as well as many different categories for division. Division can be rooted in our sinfulness, our differences, and even our righteousness. The results can be anything from competing belief systems to minor intra-church squabbles. As a realist familiar with church history, I do not expect the competing belief systems of this world to suddenly unite around Christ and His truth. Intra-church squabbles are a different matter. We do have a realistic chance at minimizing them, if we are willing. With that in mind:

Read: Matthew 12:25, 5:23-24, 18:15-35

What danger does division bring to a church?

Where does this division come from? Why is there division in the church?

How important is it to resolve these divisions?

Who should initiate reconciliation, according to these scriptures? When? How?

Define the forgiveness Jesus describes? How should we seek it?
How should we grant it?

Are there places/people in your life that need to hear these truths? If so, what should you do?

Day 18: Taking Action: Forgiveness

Read: Ephesians 4:32

We have all experienced differences that have spun out of control and disrupted our relationships.

We have all hurt or disappointed others.

We have all been hurt by someone.

Evaluate the relationships in your life. Are there people you need to forgive? Are there people you should approach and seek their forgiveness?

Choose a person with whom you have had a relational disruption, make a plan to reconcile (think about what you should say, how to approach, etc.), execute the plan.

Day 19: Wedge Issues

Much of the division that disrupts the Christian community stems from a misunderstanding of the truth. The truth is not designed to be a club with which we beat each other up, as it is often used. Let me be clear, I am not trying to minimize truth or its importance. There are all kinds of truth. There are many ways to describe this reality – subjective & objective truth, black, white & gray truths, etc. At the risk of being labeled, there can even be some validity to a relativist perspective on truth, because of the nature of some truth is tied to how we experience it during the process of spiritual growth. You can probably see this in your own life; your views have changed because you've grown. With that in mind:

Read: Romans 14

Who are the weak and strong Christians Paul refers to?

What kind of issues affected them in Paul's day?

Despite their differences, how did Paul counsel them to get along? Is it possible to be so right, you are wrong? Explain this.

Do we experience similar problems today?

Do the answers we find in Romans 14 still work?

Day 20: Blessed are the Peacemakers

Jesus said this; could it be because peacemaking is very dear to the heart of God? I think so. Remember Christ spent some 30 plus years on earth. He knows what it's like. When we address the fragility of oneness, consider wedge issues, or how important and necessary it is to forgive; Jesus gets that. There is no doubt in my mind that the biggest part of peace making is the personal responsibility of the divided parties to work things out. Often they won't. Is this where we can play the part of peacemaker? I think it is. With that in mind:

Read: Matthew 5:9, 18:16, Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 4:1-3, James 3:13-18

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? Is this different than preserving the unity of the Spirit? Explain in your thoughts.

What are some of the means we can use in peacemaking mentioned in these scriptures?

What is the proper attitude/mindset of a peacemaker?

Think about situations you have witnessed over the years where things did get out of hand. Were there things you and others could have said or done to promote peace? Learn from this.

What can you do to prepare to play a peacemaking role?

Day 21: Make a Date

Read: Philippians 2:20

Do you have a kindred spirit? You should. Everyone needs someone like this in their lives (besides their spouse). Today is Sunday, a great day to make a date to:

Take your kindred spirit to lunch or coffee, or get some ice cream, etc.

Tell them the role they play in your life and thank them.

If you don't have a kindred spirit, make a plan to get one.

WEEK 4

ONENESS



Day 22: Together Everyone Accomplishes More

It would be a mistake to focus on oneness in the body without taking time to consider how oneness impacts our effectiveness. God has designed the church to be a fully capable self-sustaining organism. That can only become a reality when a church functions inter-dependently. When each body part makes a contribution to the functioning of the body in line with their passion, spiritual gifts and personal style, they will be more productive. As the acrostic TEAM suggests, Together, Everyone, Accomplishes, More. Think of the potential within our church, if & when we master this kind of functional oneness!

Read: Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

1. What was threatening unity in the church, in the Acts 6 story?
2. Do we still have problems like this?
3. What was the answer then . . . and now?
4. What was the result of applying this answer?
5. How does the teaching in 1 Corinthians 12 apply to these kinds of situations?
6. What should we learn from this? What should we now do?

Day 23: The One Anothers

Let's continue our focus on functional oneness. If we were to categorize the ministry of the church, we would no doubt classify some of that ministry as external (outreach oriented or focused on those outside of the church), while other ministries would be internal (focused on the ministries within the church and the needs of the congregation). I believe there is a phrase in scripture that really helps us understand how far reaching the responsibility we have to each other actually is within the body. That phrase is "one another" or "each other". There are some 59 uses that focus on over 30 responsibilities we have to each other.

Love One Another	Live in Harmony With One Another
Build Up One Another	Lay Down Your Life For One Another
Be Kind to One Another	Restore One Another
Be at Peace With One Another	Bear With One Another
Admonish One Another	Do Not Lie to One Another
Bear One Another's Burdens	Disciple & Teach One Another
Comfort One Another	Please One Another
Forgive One Another	Accept One Another
Confess Your Sins to One Another	Suffer With One Another
Show Hospitality to One Another	Rejoice With One Another
Give Preference to One Another	Honor One Another
Speak to One Another in Psalms & Hymns	Submit to One Another
Encourage One Another	Do Not Provoke, Envy One Another
Pray for One Another	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Have Fellowship With One Another	Serve One Another
Spur One Another on to Love & Good Deeds	Submit to One Another
Do Not Slander One Another	Be Patient With One Another
Do Not Grumble Against One Another	Be Humble Toward One Another

1. Read through the "one others".
2. Where do you need to grow?
3. Identify 1 or 2 action steps.

Day 24: Guarding Our Hearts

We have learned oneness hinges upon our unconditional surrender to Christ and His truth. Until that time, true oneness is not possible. This is not a once & done decision. The broken world we live in bombards us constantly at the level of our will to replace God with lesser things, with idols of our own making. This was true in the early church. James is perhaps the earliest book written in the church age. Within that short epistle, James refers to several threats to the oneness of the early church. These threats are very real to this day. We must not allow these kinds of threats to divide us.

Read: James 2:1-13, 4:1-8

1. What threats can you identify in these passages?
2. Are these threats real today?
3. What does that say about us?
4. How do we combat these problems?
5. Define the role you should play in this effort. Identify 1 or 2 action steps and get started.

Day 25: Honoring Our Skills

It should be pretty obvious by now that oneness is fragile. We will have to work at protecting it. Our differences, our sinfulness, even our righteousness can be divisive. We must learn to overcome the evil of divisive issues with the good of healthy conflict resolutions skills. Let me suggest 4:

- Compromise, Based in Christian love, not negotiation - Acts 15
- Concession - Philippians 2:4
- Coexistence – Romans 14
- Creative Alternatives – Acts 15:36-40

1. Where do you have conflict?
2. Recognize you control only one side of this conflict.
3. What can you say or do by way of owning & resolving this conflict?
4. Now, go do it.

Day 27: Thick & Thin

One of the great promises we have from Christ is His never ending commitment to us. I couldn't shake Him, even if I wanted to, nor could you. It is one of the most important truths for us to remember, because when life goes wrong it is easy to think we have been abandoned. This is not true, but we may feel like it is. Another component of oneness is the reality we do not just have an ever present Savior, we have each other. This may mean I must be more conscious of you & your needs. It may mean I must be more transparent with you & let you into my problems & pains. As we cling to God & each other, we will be better able to endure anything life sends our way. With that in mind:

Read: Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:5-6, Hebrews 10:24-25

1. Will Christ ever abandon you?
2. Have you ever felt abandoned by your church family?
3. Have you ever abandoned your church family?
4. What is the answer to this all too frequent occurrence?
5. How can you personally apply this in your life?

Day 28: Feeling Right at Home

Read: Acts 9:26-28

When Saul first came to the church of Jerusalem as a new believer, no one would have anything to do with him, out of fear, but then Barnabas befriended him & the rest is history. Today is Sunday. Be on the lookout for someone you do not know. Introduce yourself. Remember what it must feel like as a newcomer to our church. Everything is familiar to us and brand new to them. Get beyond a simple welcome & thank you for coming. Begin the process of making them feel right at home here at Prescott. We all play an important role in the process of going from a guest to a "belonger"!

WEEK 5

WITNESS

“You shall be my witnesses...” Christ now expects His followers, the Church, to carry on and fulfill His mission. Experience teaches us that this mission conjures up a number of uncomfortable and negative feelings within the believing community. Our goal in the next two weeks is to focus on our witness in order to overcome these feelings. Witnessing is truly a positive, exhilarating experience as we share the *“Good News”*!



Day 29: A Missional Mindset

Our witness as individuals & the church is essential to our success. Witness is an area that is in conflict these days. As individuals we grapple with internal issues like fear, inadequacy, the desire to belong & be accepted, & the avoidance of being labeled intolerant or narrow minded. Our culture hasn't changed much since Jesus said, "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." On top of this we have the organized church which seems to be struggling to find balance between a social gospel & the gospel of Christ. Add it up & this seems like a good time to consider our witness, so we can become the WOW church God deserves.

Read: Matthew 4:18-20 and 28:18-20, John 17:18, Acts 1:4-9

How & why has Christ sent us into the world?

As we follow Christ, He makes us fishers of men. What does this mean? How do we fish for men?

If our mission is to make disciples, what is the first step?

What power can we rely on to enable our success?

Outreach ministry is often uncomfortable, what obstacles must you overcome to be a fisher of men?

Day 30: A Sobering Reality

As society has drifted further away from absolute truth toward relativism, it has become increasingly more difficult for people to accept is the idea of hell; eternal separation from God. Even Christians have been rethinking this issue & all too often minimize this truth. With that in mind:

Read: John 3:16-18, 36, Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:11-15

What does it mean to believe not? What is the result of unbelief? Does this mean we are born into condemnation?

Why are people separated from God? Is this God's fault? What has God done about this? Describe God's wrath.

What is The Book of Life? Who is recorded in the Book of Life?

What do you learn in the story of the rich man & Lazarus?

What do you believe about heaven & hell?

Day 31: Getting Started

One of the goals for our 41 day focus on becoming a WOW church is to elevate a culture of outreach within the Prescott community. As a church, we are most powerful when we engage the people around us spontaneously, because it is natural to us as followers of Jesus. With this in mind:

Read: Acts 2:47

Look at our world. Who do you know, used to know, or should get to know, because to your knowledge they are not followers of Jesus? Make a list of 2-3 people.

Begin praying for them. Pray that God would draw them to Christ, that they would see Christ in you, that you could earn the right to be heard because you care for them, that you would sense divine appointments to share Christ with them, etc...

Begin cultivating an authentic caring relationship with them that can open doors of opportunity to share Christ.

Make a plan of action. Where & how you can share Christ, or what kind of event you could invite them to, in order to get the conversation started.

Be patient. Coming to Christ is a process.

Day 32: Just the Facts

To be effective as witnesses for Christ, we must be able to clearly articulate the basic steps necessary to becoming a Christian. There are many tools available to help us do this (the 4 spiritual laws, the basic facts of the gospel as explained in Evangelism Explosion). Another tool is known as the Roman's Road.

Read: Romans 3:10, 23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10,13, Romans 5:1, 8:1, 38-39

What do Romans 3:10, 23 teach about the state of man?

What is the consequence of sin? (Romans 5:12, 6:23a)

How does God engage this problem? (Romans 5:8, 6:23b)

How can we receive God's gift of life eternal? (Romans 10:9-10,13)

What are the results of receiving Christ? (Romans 5:1, 8:1, 38-39)

Day 33: Telling Your Story

One of the most effective ways to share your faith is by learning to tell your story. It is difficult to argue with our personal experience with Christ. When Christ has made a positive impact on our lives, receiving Christ is seen as something attractive & beneficial, so let's learn to tell our stories.

Read: John 4:39-42, 9:10-11,14-15,17,24-34

The Before Picture

Think about who you were & the problems you faced before you became a Christian. Telling your story becomes more effective when the individual you are sharing with, can relate to your story. We can all describe who we were & the problems we faced before we met Christ in multiple ways so as to better relate with our audience.

The After Picture

Think about the positive changes that Christ has brought into your life. Especially focus on the specifics you shared in the before picture & how Christ has positively resolved those issues.

Explain how the needs you experienced resulted in your reaching out to Christ, how you realized you needed Him because you could not address your problems on your own. Explain how Christ not only forgave you, but began to transform you. Be sure to explain Christ's transformation is not perfection, but progress.

If you became a Christian as a child, you probably do not have a dramatic before/after story. You can still follow this pattern by explaining:

I am glad that I have a personal relationship with Christ, because ... & then share one of the positive benefits Christ has brought to your life (peace, security, purpose, etc.).

Explain how this benefit has improved the quality of your life. The examples are endless here – when I face health issues, financial issues, lost a job, lost a loved one, etc... He helped me.

Finally, you can relate to them how they can benefit from a personal relationship with Christ in the same way you do, they simply need to accept Him as you did.

Day 34: God Loves the Lost ... Do You?

In Luke 15, Christ tells three stories that share a common theme; something precious has been lost; A coin, a sheep, and a son. He tells these stories to make the point that lost people matter to God, so they should matter to us. There was an all-out search for the sheep & coin, while the wise father never stopped looking & longing for the return of his son. The implication is, we are surrounded by people that God loves & wants a relationship with. There were people in the crowd who needed this lesson. Maybe you are at that same place. As you read the stories, think of what Christ is trying to teach you, so that your witness would be more in line with His will in your life.

Read: Luke 15

Why did Christ tell these 3 stories?

What does each story have in common? (Something of value is lost.)

In light of the lost object, what did people in the story do?

When the lost object was found/returned, what was the result?

How do these stories apply to the issue of witnessing?

What did you learn here? What should you now do?

Day 35: Practice Makes Perfect

It's Sunday, seems like a great day for some spiritual practice. Find a willing partner. Role-play a realistic situation where you would have an opportunity to share Christ. With practice you will become more comfortable, more confident, resulting in a more natural presentation.

Read: 2 Timothy 4:1-2, 1 Peter 3:15

WEEK 6

WITNESS



Day 36: Building Bridges

One of the problems many Christians face when it comes to being a witness for Christ is that most of their relationships are with fellow Christians. Over time we may find we have very few relationships with people who need Christ. To address this phenomenon, we should get intentional in our relationships.

Read: John 3:1-16

1. 3 Groups of People to Consider:

- People You Already Know
 - Include them in the activities you already do.
 - Throw a Matthew party (Luke 5:29)
 - Remember to barbecue first.
- People You Used to Know
 - Reconnect, renew the old relationship.
 - These can include schoolmates, work associates, former neighbors, & old friends.
 - Facebook & social media can really help here.
- People You Ought to Know
 - These can include civic groups, community organizations, sports leagues, classes, & clubs.
 - We can also target people through strategic consumerism. By frequenting the same stores, restaurants, gas station,

etc., we can develop relationships with those who work there.

2. As these relationships develop: Pray, listen, & look for common ground, interject spiritual things.
3. In time you will have a platform for spiritual conversations.

Day 37: Spiritual Conversations

One of the most common questions asked regarding witnessing is, "How do you begin a spiritual conversation?" Today we will introduce 3 options that can help you get the conversation started.

1. A Direct Approach (Examples)

- Do you ever think about spiritual things?
- Where do you see yourself regarding your personal spiritual journey?
- Do you think there is a difference between Christianity & religion?
- Do you believe in life after death?
- Do you know for sure that when you die you would go to heaven or are you still working on this?
- If you stood before Jesus at the door to heaven & He were to ask you why He should allow you to enter, what would you say?

2. An Indirect Method

- This builds on the current conversation.
- It takes the given topic & uses it as a bridge to a related spiritual topic.
- Examples:

- If discussing a problem, share how a passage of scripture or message at church helped you deal with a similar problem.
- If discussing things like entertainment (T.V., movies, music, favorite books) you can share how a Christian author, artist, movie has blessed you.
- Even something like the weather can be turned to a mention of God's incredible power as the Creator.

3. An Invitational Method

- Invite a friend to a relevant Christian event.
- Offer to pick them up.
- Do something together before or after the event.
- The conversation can begin with something as simple as "What did you think?"

Read: John 4:5-30

1. Think about your normal day . . . what you do, who you encounter, etc.
2. Anticipate a moment in the next week when you will have an opportunity to start a spiritual conversation.
3. Pray & prepare for this moment.
4. Trust God to use you & have that conversation!

Day 38: Light Bulb Moments

One of the most effective ways to communicate truth is using simple illustrations. One of the most common misconceptions regarding salvation is that it must be earned through spiritual good deeds. Often the idea of a balance scale is in heaven pictured where our good deeds hopefully outweigh our sinful deeds. The Bible is clear. Salvation is by God's grace through faith. Practice using the Do vs. Done illustration.

Read: Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Matthew 7:21-23

Do vs. Done

This illustration is a natural follow-up to the question "Would you like to know the difference between religion & Christianity?"

Narrative (the long answer)

The difference between religion & Christianity is:

Religion is spelled "D-O." It consists of trying to do enough good things to somehow please God, earn His forgiveness, & gain entrance into heaven. This self-effort plan can take on many forms, from trying to be a good, moral person, to becoming an active participant in an organized religion – Christian or otherwise.

The problem is, we can never know when we have done enough. Even worse, the Bible makes it clear that we can never do enough in Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God." Simply put, the "D-O" plan cannot bring us peace with God, or even peace with ourselves.

Christianity, however, is spelled "D-O-N-E." In other words, that which we could never do for ourselves, Christ has already done for us. He lived the perfect life we could never live, & He died on the cross to pay for each of our wrongdoings. Now He freely offers us His gift of forgiveness & leadership for our lives.

But, it's not enough just to know this; we have to humbly receive what He has done for us. We do that by asking for His forgiveness & leadership in our lives.

(At this point, ask them a follow-up question like: "Does this make sense to you?" or "What do you think about what I just said?")

Outline (the short answer)

Religion

Is spelled "D-O"

Trying to do enough good things to please God.

The Problem

We can never know when we have done enough.

The Bible says that we can never do enough (Romans 3:23).

Christianity

Is spelled "D-O-N-E"

Christ did what we could never do:

Lived the perfect life we could not.

Died on the cross to pay for our wrongdoings.

Our Response

It's not enough just to know this.

We have to receive what He has done for us.

By asking for His forgiveness & leadership in our lives.

Their Response

Does this make sense to you?

What do you think about what I just said?

Day 39: Be Yourself

One of the great hindrances to followers of Jesus actually sharing their faith is preconceived ideas. We picture witnessing as an obnoxious, pushy, insensitive, judgmental, spiritually arrogant conversation that we prefer to avoid. It doesn't have to be that way; in fact it should not be that way. We can be ourselves & share Christ in a very natural & nonthreatening way. To do this we should understand our personal style. Let me suggest 5 such styles that may help you identify your style. Consider which style best fits you, & then begin honing your skills.

1. The Proclamational Style (Peter in Acts 2)
 - This style is confident, assertive, & direct.
2. The Intellectual Style (Paul at Athens in Acts 17)
 - This style is inquisitive, analytical, & logical.
3. The Testimonial Style (Blind Man, John 9, Woman at the Well, John 4)
 - This is a personal, experiential, & very easy to relate to style.
4. The Serving Style (As Dorcus in Acts 9:36)
 - This style focuses on felt needs, is humble & patient in serving others.
5. The Inviting Style (As Matthew in Luke 5:29)
 - This style is relational, warm, & conversational.

Read: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

- What is the seed?
- What do the soil types represent?
- What causes the seed to grow?
- What can a farmer do to increase the likelihood of a harvest?
- How can this study help you to be a better witness?

Day 40: Crossing the Line

Without a doubt, the most crucial moment in the process of personal evangelism is that moment when an individual is ready to receive Christ. Remember Satan is active, so we must be on guard, so this moment doesn't become a false profession or empty religious experience. To help them cross the line & put their faith in Christ, we should proceed with care, & then take 4 steps forward as needed!

Read: John 4:35, Romans 10:17

1. Step 1: Access Their Readiness – Here we need to ask enough questions & listen carefully to their answers to gauge whether they understand what Christ is offering & their willingness to receive it. Remember this entails seeking God's forgiveness & submitting to His leadership. Make sure they understand what Christ offers & what it means to accept His offer, before you pray with them.
2. Step 2: Pray With Them – Start by praying for them & thanking God for bringing them to the place of faith. Then prompt them as they pray to ask God for forgiveness & yield to His leadership. After they have prayed, close by thanking God for His wonderful salvation.
3. Step 3: Celebrate Their Commitment – You may share Luke 15:10 with them, remember, not everyone will react the same or "feel" a certain way. What is important is they have placed their faith in Christ.

4. Step 4: Begin the Mentoring Process – So they can grow as new believers. This includes involvement with Christian friends, worship, prayer, Bible reading & sharing their new faith in Christ.

Day 41: The Rest of Your Life

Read: Philippians 3:12-14

1. Think back to the beginning of our journey. We established a baseline for ourselves & Prescott in the areas of worship, oneness, & witness. Using the same 1-10 scale, has anything changed? Why do you feel this way?
2. Now think of the rest of your life. What can you do to continue this journey & constantly improve in the areas of worship, oneness, & witness?
3. Take all that you've learned & apply yourself to making Prescott a WOW church.