



Ministry Visions

Leading Someone to Christ

This information will help the Altar Minister with knowledge that will assist in leading a responder to Christ.

First.....Apart from Christ, we are helpless and sinful. We are all sinners.

**** Nicodemus asked Jesus how could a man be born when he is an old man and does he have to enter the womb again?**

John 3:5. Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

**** What all sinners must do.**

Acts 2:38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

1. We are all born in sin.

Ps. 51:5. Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

2. We all, like sheep, have gone astray.

Isa. 53:6. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

3. All have sinned through Adam.

Rom. 5:12. Just as sin has entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Rom. 5:19. Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

4. Jews and Gentiles alike are sinners.

Rom. 3:9-12. What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Rom. 3:22-24. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

5. We are like lost sheep whom Jesus goes out to seek.

Luke 15:3-7.

6. We are like the prodigal son.

Luke 15:11-24.

7. Even our righteous acts are as filthy rags.

Isa. 64:6. All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

8. If you claim to be without sin you deceive yourself and even make God out to be a liar.

1 John 1:8-10. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

9. Apart from God's grace, our hearts are deceitful, beyond cure.

Jer.17:9. The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

10. In the light of God's holiness we see that we are very sinful. That is what happened to Isaiah.

Isa. 6:1-5. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the door posts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips

and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

We are in spiritual bondage.

1. By nature all are in sin's bondage. Christ sets us free.

John 8:31-36.

John 8:34-36. I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son I: belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

2. To continue to live in sin is bondage.

2 Peter 2: 19. They [false prophets] promise. ..freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

3. Jesus sets us free.

Rom. 6:16-18. Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

We are alienated from God.

1. Outside of Christ we are at odds with God.

Col. 1:21-22. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

2. Without Christ we are without hope.

Eph. 2:12-13. Remember that at that time [before salvation in Christ] you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Knowledge of sin comes by the law of God

1. Through knowledge of the law we become conscious of sin.

Rom. 3:20. No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

2. The law helps us understand sin.

Rom. 7:7. What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what it was to covet if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

3. Jesus gave us his summary of the law.

Matt. 22:37-40. Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

4. God has given us the Ten Commandments.

Exod.20:1-17.

God in his justice punishes sinners.

1. God first revealed his justice to Adam.

Gen. 2:16-17. The LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

2. The result of sin is death.

Rom. 5:12. Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Rom. 6:23. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. By nature we are all under a curse

Gal. 3:10. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

We cannot save ourselves in any way.

1. By nature we are at enmity with God.

Rom. 8:7-8. The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

2. By nature we are dead in sin and are objects of God's wrath.

Eph. 2: 1-5. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved.

3. We are saved only by grace, through faith.

Eph. 2:8-9. It is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.

4. God saves us through a rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-7. When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Jesus saves us by grace, through faith.

Jesus suffered and died for sinners; those who believe in him will be saved.

1. Isaiah depicts the suffering servant of Jehovah.

Isa.53:1-11.

Isa. 53:4-6. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered

him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. All who receive Christ by faith are saved.

John 1:12. To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

3. As was prophesied, God gave his only Son so that those who believe in him may have eternal life.

John 3:14-16. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

4. Jesus died for his sheep.

John 10:11, 14-15. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ...I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep.

5. His sheep hear Jesus' voice and follow him and receive eternal life.

John 10:27-28. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

6. We are redeemed through the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19. You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

7. Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.

Eph. 5:25-27. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

8. Jesus is the only mediator.

1 Tim. 2:5-6. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men-the testimony given in its proper time.

9. Christ died for undeserving sinners, for many gracious purposes.

Rom. 5:8. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Phil. 2:8. Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!

2 Cor. 5:21. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 1:29. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 John 4:9-10. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Gal. 3:13. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

1 Peter 2:24. 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.

1 Peter 3:18. Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

Heb. 9: 14. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

10. We are forgiven, justified, and cleared of all guilt and condemnation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Rom. 3:21-24. Now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom. 5:1. Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8:1. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 10:9-13. If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Everyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Examples of those saved by grace, through faith.

1. Levi, the tax collector.

Luke 5:27-32.

2. Zacchaeus, the tax collector.

Luke 19:9-10. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

3. The penitent woman who wept at Jesus' feet.

Luke 7:48, 50. Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven... Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

4. Many notorious sinners represented in Jesus' parables.

Luke 15: 1-2. Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:3-7. (the parable of the lost sheep)

Luke 15:8-10. (the parable of the lost coin)

Luke 15:11-31. (the parable of the prodigal son)

5. The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well.

John 4:1-26.

6. The murderer on the cross.

Luke 23:39-43.

Luke 23:43. Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

7. Saul, the persecutor of the church, who became Paul, the great missionary.

Acts 9:1-19. (Paul's conversion)

1 Tim. 1:13-16. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited

patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

8. The Philippian jailer.

Acts 16:25-26.

Acts 16:30--31. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household."

The Lord calls sinners like you and me.

1. God calls those who are spiritually hungry and thirsty.

Isa. 55:1-3. "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."

2. Jesus is the bread of life and the living water, and he calls sinners to come to him.

John 6:35. Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 7:37-38. On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Rev. 22:17. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

3. Jesus calls those who are weary and burdened.

Matt. 11:28-30. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

4. He calls us to enter through the narrow gate.

Matt. 7:13-14. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

5. He calls us to repent and believe the gospel.

Mark 1:14-15. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

6. Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Isa. 55:6-7. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

7. Today, if you hear his voice, don't harden your heart.

Heb.3:7-19.

Heb. 3:7-9. So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did."

8. The Lord will never turn a sinner away.

John 6:37. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Rom. 10:13. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

We are saved to joyfully obey and serve the Lord.

1. Offer yourself as a living sacrifice unto God.

Rom. 12:1-2. I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. We are saved to bear much fruit, through Jesus Christ, the vine.

John 15:1-8.

John 15:8. This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

3. We are saved to be dead to sin, alive to God, and slaves to righteousness.

Rom. 6:1-23.

4. We are called to live a new life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:1-14.

Eph.5:1-21.

5. The Holy Spirit helps us to bear fruit.

Gal. 5:13-26.

6. Christ died for us so that we should no longer live for ourselves but for him.

2 Cor. 5:15. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Notes: