

## POWER – CityLife Team Edition

Thoughts about living among those who need Christ  
By Al Engler

Overview:

People are busy and their lives are fragmented. They live with information overload.

- In the average home, the television is turned on seven hours a day
- Americans rent 3.5 to 4 million videos a year
- We now send text messages to somebody fifty feet away
- We're all overloaded

Why would anyone listen to us in the midst of all this frenetic activity and noise?  
Why would they pause long enough to hear what we have to offer?

They might if they have seen a life that stimulates curiosity – builds a bridge to hearing the Gospel.

As followers of Christ we are message-bearers. We carry the Gospel and whether we like it or not, the messenger and the message become inseparable for our non-believing friends. How the people around us view us often determines whether people are interested to hear what we have to say.

This guide offers some practical things that you can do together with your friends to create opportunities to share the good news about Jesus, *because people are asking you to do so*.

Over a two-week period you will look together at six practical ways to see the Gospel advance in your natural sphere of relationships. In Romans 1:16, Paul calls the Gospel, “the power of God for everyone who believes.” We’ve arranged these practical applications for living this out under the acrostic: POWER

P – Pray & Play

O – Offer Acts of Service

W – Winning Conversations

E – Examine the Scriptures

R – Resourced Through Teaming

### Pray for Your Friends

1. Read John 17 – What can we learn from Jesus' prayer for his followers? What specific insight does verse 20 give?
  
2. What do you see about the connection between our heart for people and our prayer for them? Acts 26:29, Romans 10:1
  
3. How should you pray when you don't know people's specific needs? Romans 8:26
  
4. Do one or more of the following:
  - a. Make a map of a one-block area of your neighborhood, as you meet neighbors, write their names down on the map and begin to pray for them.
  - b. Make a list of the people you work with on a 3X5 card, tape it to a mirror or the dashboard of your car and begin to pray for them.
  - c. Ask God to give you a list of people who you want to see experience Christ and create a tool to help you pray for them consistently.
  - d. (Share with your CityLife team what you are doing in this area and pray with them for your friends)

### Play with Your Friends

1. Read John 2:1-11 – What significance do you find in the fact that Jesus' first miracle was making wine at a party?
  
2. Read Luke 5:28-32 – What principles do you learn from Jesus about socializing with those who do not know Him?

3. Do one or more of the following:
  - a. Plan a party or other social event to which you can invite your friends.
  - b. Say “yes” to a social invitation from one of your “not yet believing” friends. If possible try to include one or more from your CityLife team.

### Offer Acts of Service

1. What insights do Jesus’ life of service give you as you consider helping your friends get to know Him? Mark 10:45
  
2. What relationship do you see here between the message and the messenger of the Gospel? 2 Corinthians 4:5
  
3. Do one or more of the following:
  - a. Identify and meet a need of one of your “not yet believing” friends.
  - b. Allow one of your “not yet believing” friends to meet one of your needs.
  - c. Recruit or join some of your friends to a service project such as serving in a homeless shelter or picking up trash in the neighborhood.

### Winning Conversations

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6. Why does Paul ask for prayer for his *proclamation* of the Gospel while urging the Colossians to have *conversation* about the Gospel?
  
2. What are the elements of a good conversation?
  
3. What relationship do you see between the way you live and the questions people ask you? 1 Peter 3:15

4. Do one or more of the following:
  - a. Take a friend out to coffee or a drink and ask them to share their unique story with you. Ask questions and resist sharing yours unless they are asking. Take a genuine interest in hearing about their unique journey.
  - b. Have a genuine conversation with one person about a life issue. Share about this with your CityLife team.

### Examine the Scriptures

1. Read the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:1-23). What do you see about the different responses people have to the word of God?
2. Colossians 1:3-8 outlines the spread of the Gospel into and through a community. What are the things that made this possible?
3. Why did John write his gospel? John 20:30-31
4. Do one of the following:
  - a. Pray and discuss with your CityLife team who potentially could decide to read the Bible with you.
  - b. Start a Bible reading group with your CityLife team, practice reading and discussing the Bible together in a way that would be friendly and attractive to your “not yet believing” friends.
  - c. Invite friends to read the Bible with you.

### Resourced Through Teaming

1. Read Romans 12:3-8. Why do you think God wants us to “team up” in reaching out to our “not yet believing” friends?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are your strengths in reaching out to those who don’t know Christ? What are your weaknesses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Do one of the following:
  - a. Discuss with your CityLife team the importance of knowing each other’s friends. How important is that to you? What are the advantages and disadvantages of helping our CityLife team friends know our other friends?
  - b. Decide on an activity that the CityLife team could do together to resource one another in reaching out. (i.e. help a friend move, have a party, pray together for our friends, serve together in our neighborhood, etc.)

- c. Has discussing how to work together in this area raised any tensions?

*Conclusion:*

Discuss how your CityLife team would like to apply some of these principles on an ongoing basis. Come up with a specific and reasonable plan of action.