

AN AWESOME WAY TO

# PRAY

LEADER'S GUIDE

Barry St. Clair

A N A W E S O M E W A Y T O

# PRAY



**LEADER'S GUIDE**

Mobilizing Students  
for  
Powerful Prayer

Barry St. Clair

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Barry St. Clair** desires to influence the younger generation to follow Jesus. He has been on the cutting edge of youth ministry for over five decades, equipping youth leaders, parents, and students in over thirty countries. Through his leadership, thousands of churches have implemented Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry strategies. He is the author of more than thirty books. As founder and president of Reach Out Youth Solutions he currently serves as Vice-President of Global Youth Engagement with East-West Ministries. Barry began and has led the Global Youth Coalition for ten years, and still actively participates in this collaborative partnership to reach and disciple the 2.3 billion unreached youth around the world.

After 28 years of marriage, raising four children, the death of his first wife, Carol, his experience as a single parent, his remarriage to Lawanna Busby for 23 years, blending a family, and now being a father of five married children and a grandfather of 14 grandchildren— he sees these life experiences as only the introduction to what God has in store for the future.

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# THANKS

Thanks to Chris Tiegreen for revising  
and editing the original text.

Thanks to my long time youth  
and campus ministry friends  
who originated the idea  
of producing  
"An Awesome Way to Pray"  
in digital format –  
Rick Eubanks, Chris Renzelman  
and Kevin Miles.

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# DEDICATION

**T**his book is dedicated to **Greg Simmons**, 1947-1988, my prayer partner and friend. He was a successful businessman, youth leader, creative genius, committed son, husband, father of five, and a lover of Jesus.

As college students, Greg and I disciplined ourselves to pray together every morning. Out of our praying together, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes began as a significant ministry to high school students on our campus, where many young people accepted Christ.

Really, this is where **An Awesome Way to Pray** was born—praying with Greg Simmons. My hope is that our prayer and evangelism legacy will multiply to millions of students who are just like we were.

— Barry St. Clair



AN AWESOME WAY TO  
**PRAY**

## Mission Statement

To lead and encourage students to develop a Matthew 18:18-20 Prayer Triplet strategy for themselves, their friends, and their school.

## Goal

For students to become more passionate, intentional, and persistent about:

- following Jesus wholeheartedly
- loving their friends unconditionally
- living out their faith genuinely
- telling their story boldly

**3** **Strategy**  
*Christians meet  
times a week to pray for  
non-Christian friends*

## Evangelism

Sharing Jesus is a partnership with God. He works in people's lives in His own way and in His own time to draw lost people to Himself. We are not responsible for someone's salvation, but we are responsible for faithfulness and obedience. This process most often occurs in the context of relationships.

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# WHY AN AWESOME WAY TO PRAY?

For several years, many communities, schools, and youth groups have participated in or made mention of See You at the Pole. While hundreds of thousands of students have had their faith stretched by praying at their flagpole, **An Awesome Way to Pray** is the next step—from event participation to practical experience—taking their faith from the pole to the locker. They will commit to pray with three Christian friends for at their school and for three specific non-Christian friends. And along with praying, they will look for opportunities to share Jesus Christ with them.

**Pursuing these specific goals**, students will become more passionate, intentional, and persistent about:

- following Jesus wholeheartedly
- loving their friends unconditionally
- living out their faith genuinely
- telling their story boldly

**As a result**, you will reap these benefits:

- Moving students from inconsistent to consistent prayer
- Activating an intentional expression of a Christian's love for their friends
- Sensitizing students to share the gospel in a way that connects with their friends
- Encouraging students to take relational risks
- Helping you triple the influence of your youth ministry in six months

Thank you for supporting your students in what, for many, will be their most significant spiritual challenge. They need your fervent prayers and consistent encouragement during these six weeks—and beyond—in order to pursue this challenge with enthusiasm and faithfulness.

IN YOUR HANDS IS EVERYTHING YOU NEED to have a successful eight-week “An Awesome Way to Pray” experience at your church and in your schools.

## WHY PRAYER TRIPLETS?

Many people have found Prayer Triplets effective for the mutual encouragement, accountability, and momentum they create. Kevin Miles, a youth pastor and National Network of Youth Ministries *South Central & Heartland Regional Coordinator*, describes his experience with Prayer Triplets and how they sparked a movement in his youth group:

We challenged our students to begin praying, not just for their campus but for specific friends. We launched them by allowing time for them to pray in their Prayer Triplets and urged them to PUSH—Pray Until Something Happens. My role became to encourage them to keep praying and not give up. Their goal was to pray for each person until he or she accepted Christ.

The students' prayers were not answered overnight. Some prayed for weeks, months, and even a year, but eventually they began seeing the friends they were praying for accept Christ.

One of our students, Hannah, was praying with two of her friends for a girl named Katie. Little did they know that in addition to being a non-believer, Katie was also thinking about ending her life. They prayed for Katie for months. Katie accepted Christ, began to be disciplined by Hannah, and even joined the prayer triplet when she found out that they had been praying for her. She wanted to be a part of praying for her non-Christian friends!

Prayer Triplets marked the beginning of a movement in our youth ministry. Students did not just see someone accept Christ at church or at an event. It became personal. They were empowered to pray and share the gospel with their friends.

God accomplished so much more when the students were praying in their groups rather than just praying together when we met in large group.

Some students carried the Prayer Triplet card (see below) with them as a visual reminder of their prayer partners, prayer times, and people they were praying for. Some attached luggage tags to their backpacks, with the names of their Prayer Triplet on one side and the names or initials of the people they were praying for on the other.

We added a visual element of a Prayer Target. We let students put each person's name on a target bulletin board—red for those who had not heard the gospel, yellow for those with whom they had shared the gospel, and green for those who accepted Christ. As names were moved to show they had accepted Christ, we noticed that every name of someone who accepted Christ had two or more people praying for them.

We have to teach students the power of prayer—that their prayers make a difference. They don't have to wait on the next event or gathering to see God answer a prayer. Trusting in God and His power always leads to victory!

One student said, "Before praying in our triplet, I was under the impression that much of the outcome was based on what I could do. I learned that God could do more in a minute of my awkward obedience than an hour of me figuring out how to say something perfectly."

This was a simple way to unleash students and help them feel empowered, not only to pray but also to share Jesus with their friends. No one is forcing them to pray—students must take the initiative—but once they do and see the power and changed lives, they realize it's all worth it and want to do it more.

### Prayer Triplet Practical Tips

- Challenge students to pray.
- Let them choose their prayer triplets. It makes scheduling time together easier.
- Let them "practice" praying together a few times in youth group times. Let them see what it might look like. This gets them started and makes their times outside of church even more powerful.
- Don't just schedule it. Model it.
- Check in on the groups and encourage them.
- Celebrate with them.

You can also read about Prayer Triplets at:  
[www.everyschool.com/resource/the-power-of-prayer-triplets](http://www.everyschool.com/resource/the-power-of-prayer-triplets).

Print and reproduce the card below for students to carry with them as a frequent reminder of their commitment to pray. Or, as Kevin's group did, have them use luggage tags with the names of their prayer partners on one side and the names of the people they are praying for on the other.

**PRAYER TRIPLET**

**3**

**Christians meet:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Times a week to pray for**  
**S M T W T F S**

**Non-Christians friends:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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# HOW TO MAXIMIZE THE AWESOME WAY TO PRAY EXPERIENCE

**T**his Leader's Guide is designed to help you mobilize for An Awesome Way to Pray (AWTP) experience. Though AWTP is often used in conjunction with See You at the Pole, it does not need to be tied to this or any other event. It can be effective any time during the school year or even in the summer to prepare for fall. Though AWTP is organized around six weekly sessions, it can also be adapted for a retreat setting or DiscipleNOW weekend if desired.

At this point you need to decide how you will use AWTP. Will you:

- Engage your entire church in this endeavor?
- Concentrate only on the younger generation ministry in your church—volunteers, parents, and students?
- Mobilize students by the school they attend and engage each group of students from each school?
- Or take another unique approach that works for you?

Depending on which option you choose, adjust the following instructions to prepare yourself and mobilize the appropriate people—your pastor, youth leaders, and students—for this experience.

## Countdown Calendar

The Countdown Calendar gives you suggestions to help you get your church staff, key youth, and key youth leaders on board. Use these suggestions and adapt them to meet the needs of your church and students (see p. 17).

## Introductory Meeting for Students

Use Group Session 1 to communicate to your students the significance of An Awesome Way to Pray and ask them to take the Prayer Power Team Challenge (see p. 21).

## An Awesome Way to Pray Prayer Guide

Church members can use this suggested prayer guide to pray for the students and their adult leaders who have committed to AWTP (see p. 72).

## Group Sessions 2–7

Each session consists of the following:

### Get Ready

The “Get Ready” section is for the youth leader’s preparation. Prepare early. Your students need to see you meeting with three of your friends to pray three times a week for three lost friends too. Begin now to get a head start on them. Lead by your example..

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

Goals are stated at the beginning of each session to keep you focused on the desired results.

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Each session is designed to take a minimum amount of preparation. The checklist alerts you to what you need to prepare for each session.



- **SESSION OVERVIEW**

- **OPENER**

- Focus your students on the goal of the session.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- This section provides activities for you to use in conducting the large group. Take a few minutes in each session to review the previous session and report on their Prayer Triplets.

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Use this time to have them discuss what they have read in their *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal* as well as other discussion prompts you give them when you meet.

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER**

- Use this time to challenge students in their commitment to pray and share their faith. Encourage them to ask questions about their Prayer Triplets and their efforts to communicate Christ to their friends.

End each session with them praying in their Prayer Triplets. Let them know that this counts as one of their three times a week to pray. Remind them that you and others in the church are praying for them.

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# COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

## 4 Weeks Before Launching An Awesome Way to Pray

### Get Your Church Staff on Board

Communicate to the church staff that AWTP is a great opportunity for the younger generation as well as the entire church.

1. Review *An Awesome Way to Pray* resources with them.
2. Explain the partnership opportunity for the entire church when adults come around students for this huge spiritual challenge of praying and sharing their faith. This experience can be new and frightful to those who have not done this before.
3. Show the staff the *An Awesome Way to Pray* prayer guide (p. 72) and have them break into Prayer Triplets to pray for the students.
4. Explain how each participating student in your youth group will be assigned an adult prayer partner for them before, during, and after the emphasis.
5. Plan a Sunday when *An Awesome Way to Pray* emphasis can be presented to your entire church.

### Get Key Student Leaders on Board

1. Communicate to these key leaders what AWTP is all about.
2. Enlist their help in getting your youth group (senior and junior high) and the entire church on board.

3. Explain that you and the adult volunteers will be challenged to participate. Adults praying for AWTP will receive a prayer guide to help them (p.72).
4. Give an overview and show a copy of *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal* and examples of *An Awesome Way to Pray Prayer Guide* (p. 72) to these key leaders.
5. Close by reading Matthew 18:18-20 and practicing praying in Prayer Triplets—pray for each other and three non-Christians.

## **Begin to Publicize An Awesome Way to Pray to the Entire Church**

1. Publicize AWTP to the entire church for the next four Sundays if possible.
2. Ask adults to commit to pray for the six-week period when AWTP begins.
3. Begin talking about AWTP to the youth group. Publicize the date, place, and time of the student Introductory Session.

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# INTRODUCTORY SESSION FOR STUDENTS

## 1 Week Before An Awesome Way to Pray

Now it's time to get serious—to take the challenge! Ask your students to commit to six weeks of An Awesome Way to Pray.

### Get Ready

- Review the *An Awesome Way to Pray Leader's Guide* before this meeting.
- Have your plan ready for how students divide into Prayer Triplets. Once students are committed to being a part of AWTP, either have them form their own groups of three or help identify groups who would be effective together. You may want to organize them by age, gender, school, or some other criteria. Choose whichever approach works best for your group.
- Have a sheet available for students to sign up indicating they will participate in AWTP.
- Ask the adults who have volunteered to pray for the students attend and assign them to a student.

### Session Overview

Review the mission, goal, and strategy of *An Awesome Way to Pray*.

**Mission:** To lead and encourage students to develop a Matthew 18:18-20 Prayer Triplet strategy for themselves, their friends, and their school.

**Goal:** For students to become more passionate, intentional, and persistent about:

- following Jesus wholeheartedly
- loving their friends unconditionally,
- living out their faith genuinely,
- telling their story boldly.

**Strategy:**

3 friends praying, 3 times a week, for 3 non-Christian friends.

**Potential Positive Results:**

- An inconsistent prayer life can become consistent!
- The fear barrier in sharing your faith can be broken.
- Some friends you pray for will consider and decide to follow Jesus Christ.

**Talk about how some of them might feel:**

- It will challenge their socks off!
- It will mean more prayer, often praying with others, than they have done before.
- As a result of taking a relational risk, some may feel fearful of being rejected by friends.
- Ask the hard question: If one of your friends expresses interest in following Jesus, can you explain how they can do that?

**Are you ready to start giving the answers?**

# Prayer Power and Prayer Team Challenge

**Give this Message to the Youth Group When You Introduce  
An Awesome Way to Pray**

## Prayer Power

The triangle is the strongest geometric unit. Engineers build buildings, bridges, and roads with the basic design of the triangle. God set it up that way in the physical world as well as in the spiritual world.

***“The most powerful form of energy we can generate is not mechanical, electronic, or atomic, but prayer energy. When we pray, we link ourselves with the inexhaustible power that binds the universe.”***

***—Alexis Carrel, French surgeon and biologist***

Look at what *Jeremiah 33:3* (note the triangle here—3, 3, 3) says about praying:

*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”*

**Pray**—*“Call to Me.”* Nothing will happen with your friends until you call out to God. He is waiting for you to do that.

**Promise**—God promises to respond: *“I will answer you.”* When you pray, God moves into action.

**Power**—When God answers, He goes all out to show you “great and mighty things” —things beyond your wildest imagination.

(Share an illustration of answered prayer, preferably one of a student leading another student to Christ.)

### **The Prayer Power Team**

In Matthew 18:18-20 Jesus challenges you to become a part of the Prayer Power Team.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

When we pray in groups of two and three, He comes into the group and makes His presence and power available to us. Then He sends us out in His name to be the answer to our own prayers. Incredible!

"So how do I get this going?" you ask. "I really want to see God work in the lives of my friends." Here's how.

### **Prayer Power Challenge**

**3** Christians meet  
times a week to pray for  
non-Christian friends

- **3 Christian Friends**

In your notes, write your name and two of your Christian friends' names with whom you would like to pray.

- **Meeting 3 Times a Week to Pray**

In your Journal notes, write the three best times for you to pray, then confirm that with your other two friends. You can arrange your schedule however you want. Meeting in person is best if you can work it out, but video calls and phone conversations work too. You can meet before school or work, before or after youth meetings, at lunch, after school or work, at night, on the weekend, online or over the phone. You get the idea. Work it out together. Flex with it, if needed. Just make sure you get 10-15 minutes together when you meet. Don't feel like you have to pray for everything every time. When it's time to go, go. You will be back together soon.

- **Praying for 3 Friends Who Need Christ**

Now write the names of three friends who need Christ. Describe their spiritual situation and write specifically what you want to pray for them.

Your prayer group is asking God to change the lives of nine of your friends. If that happens—and my guess is that it probably will—you will already have a small spiritual revolution.

(Share another illustration of a student coming to Christ through a friend.)

### **The Prayer Power Team Challenge**

Imagine! Your Prayer Triplet begins to see God work in your friends' lives. Other Christians in your group decide they want to begin a Prayer Power Team too. Soon the power of God is showing up all around you. People begin to accept Christ. The Christian groups begin to have enthusiasm and life. The momentum builds. More people come to Christ. Everybody knows something is happening. Now you have a Prayer Power Movement.



Take it one step further. Let's say that everyone who reads this starts a Prayer Triplet, and the same thing happens to them that is going to happen to you. Can you imagine? A Prayer Power Movement would take place all over this country. A prayer movement like this can change the world. And it all begins with you! *Will you take the challenge?*

**Before you finish:**

- Have them download the *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal* on their phones on the spot.
- Strongly encourage them to take notes and write responses to what they will be reading in the *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal*. This can be a notetaking app, in a journal, or whatever works best for them.
- Ask students to sign up on the sheet you have provided indicating that they will participate in AWTP emphasis.

*End the meeting with a time of prayer and a time of commitment.*

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# SESSION 1

## Get Ready

Just as God has been gearing up the students in your group to go beyond their comfort zones, He's been doing the same for you. With some exceptions, many Christian youth leaders have fallen out of the habit of spending time with non-Christians their own age. Their gifts and time commitments have focused them on building up God's flock—and that focus needs to be strong! When Christians stop giving, however, they often stop growing. No doubt, you haven't slowed up on investing your time and attention in other Christians. But if you're perceptive, you know that when you're constantly around Christians, you lose the edge. Even your heart can become indifferent toward those who don't know Christ.

**When Christians stop giving,  
they often stop growing.**

Evaluate your relationships this week. Read pages 22-23 of this Leader's Guide and write down the names of those near your own age group.

There are many areas where you need to set the pace and truly lead the charge. However, the area of persistent prayer and sharing your faith might be a struggle you can share with your students. Letting your group know that this emphasis is not just a challenge for them, but for you as well, will give credibility to An Awesome Way to Pray emphasis. As the students share their success and failure stories, you will be able to do the same.

# Love Your Friends

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

To help your students intentionally love their friends through:

- prayer partnerships with two other Christians
- selecting three non-Christian friends to pray for

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Screen projection for videos (if using)
- A sheet of paper and a pen for each student
- Copy of Action Handout “How Good a Friend Are You?” for each student
- A few student leaders to share the process of how they came to know Christ (ask them in advance to be prepared)

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (10 minutes)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals. If you are tying AWTP with See You at the Pole, you could show a SYATP video or use the “How Good a Friend Are You?” handout (see below).

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (15-20 MIN.)**

*Note: Most likely, not everyone in your group participated in See You At the Pole (SYATP). Be sure to include those who did not attend.*

1. Say, **When you close your eyes and recall one image from last year’s SYATP, what is it? Can you think of one good result that occurred because of SYATP?** Build up the importance of the event, but try to find out if the momentum it

created carried much beyond the actual day.

2. Explain that many students throughout the country are going to take the next step . . . taking their faith from the pole to their locker (example: praying for and sharing their faith with their friends).
3. Ask students, **What are the main obstacles to sharing your faith?** List these on a whiteboard or flip chart. Answers should include: fear; not knowing how to answer someone's questions; no heart for the lost/not caring; not knowing many non-Christians; not actually believing in a heaven or hell; and not understanding the process people go through before they say yes to Christ. This process includes:
  - See it
  - Consider it
  - Question it
  - Read about it
  - Hear about it
  - Ask others about it
  - Accept or reject it
4. Have a few students read two or three of these familiar passages: John 3:16; John 14:6; Romans 5:8; Matthew 6:25-27; Matthew 11:28-30. After each passage is read, ask the question, **Does anyone doubt the truth of this passage?** (Most will say no.) **Should we doubt that these verses were put in the Bible for us?**

Now have other students read two or three of these passages: Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Colossians 1:28-29; Matthew 9:37-38; John 15:16; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15; Romans 10:14-15. Ask, **Why is it more difficult to apply these passages to our lives than the previous ones?**

5. Ask one of your older student leaders to address the question, **What is the process you went through in getting to know Christ?** This will encourage your students to see that they are part of the process with their friends—and that it may take time before they come to Christ.

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 min.)**

1. Divide students into small groups. Ask each group to write their answers to these questions. When the groups are finished, have each group share a couple of their answers with the entire group.
  - Who are your friends most likely to listen to: you, or a balding adult? Why?
  - What friendship characteristics do you have that are attractive to others? Which ones do you need to cultivate?
  - What are some ways to start friendships where none exist?
  - What are ways to deepen your friendships that already exist?
  - What are some practical ways to love/serve your friends who do not have faith in Jesus Christ?

- **CHALLENGE (15 min.)**

1. Using a puzzle, illustrate how their words and their lives may only put together five percent of the faith puzzle for a classmate, but that effort moves that person five percent closer to eternity with Jesus (instead of the other place). That's a significant part of the puzzle.. Say, **As you love, pray, and share, and others do too, eventually all the pieces of the puzzle will fit together for your friend.**
2. Tell students you're not asking them to do anything you're not doing yourself. Describe your fears, past failures, and apprehensions. Then let them know what your expectations are for yourself. Say, **I don't know if I will have the chance**

**to say two words about the Lord to these three people I've chosen, but I know I will pray for them and I want to talk to them. It's up to God to create the opportunities, but it's up to me to pray, serve, love, and boldly speak to them about Jesus in a way that creates a thirst for God by what they see. And that's what we're supposed to do, be the salt that makes them thirsty for God (see Matthew 5:13).**

3. Issue a challenge—this can be given by you, another adult, or a student—and make some concluding remarks. Reiterate the commitment they made to pray with their prayer partners and give them time to make any adjustments they need to make with their partners regarding time and place to meet.
4. If you didn't use the Action Handout "How Good a Friend Are You?" (p. 30) as an opener activity, distribute it now. Briefly go through the handout with them and encourage them to do it.

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (5 min.)**

Encourage the group for their willingness to accept the challenge to love their friends and for getting involved in their friends' lives.

Remind them to read the Introduction and complete Session 1 in *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal*.

Call on one of your student leaders to pray that God will give them a deep love for their non-Christian friends.

## How Good a Friend Are You?

Part of sharing your faith comes with being a good friend—someone who cares enough to speak out. So let's check your friendship potential. Circle the response that best fits you. Add up your score and evaluate your friendship style by using the key.

*(Note: Some questions are written with male pronouns and others with female pronouns. Don't let that mess you up. Just answer every question as it would apply to you and your friends.)*

### 1. The main quality I look for in a friend is...

- a. someone who will stick by me.
- b. someone who I can do stuff with.
- c. someone who's always happy.
- d. someone my size so I can trade clothes.
- e. someone who shares my beliefs.

### 2. What can tear my friendship apart is...

- a. a friend who gossips about me.
- b. a friend who won't wear deodorant.
- c. a friend who won't return my calls.
- d. a friend who steals my boy/girlfriend.
- e. misunderstandings over nothing.

### 3. When my friend is in trouble or has started a bad habit, I'll...

- a. let her sink or swim. It's her life.
- b. call her mom and make sure she knows.
- c. pray for her.
- d. confront her the first chance I get.
- e. ask her about it and let her know I care.

### 4. When I catch a friend lying...

- a. I want to rip out his tongue.
- b. I'll let it pass until it happens again.

- c. I make sure he understands I know the truth.
- d. I'll tell everyone else he's a liar.

**5. Real friends never argue.**

- a. True
- b. False

**6. If a friend dumps me...**

- a. I'm devastated for a week; then I get over it.
- b. I try to get her back as soon as I can.
- c. I want to talk with her to find out why.
- d. I forget about it and find a new one.

**7. When my friend is moody...**

- a. I call her a geek and tell her to get right or get left.
- b. I leave her alone and hope she's better the next day.
- c. I try to find out what's wrong.
- d. I'll tell everyone to stay away from her.
- e. I give her a lot of attention so she'll snap out of it.

**8. Once you have a close friend, nothing should ever come between your friendship.**

- a. True
- b. False

**9. The goal of having friends is to...**

- a. have someone to talk to at school.
- b. make sure they aren't lonely.
- c. let them know how much Christ cares for them.
- d. learn how to be a friend.
- e. have someone to talk about behind their backs.



### 10. Being a faithful friend means...

- a. never rejecting him no matter what he does to you.
- b. confronting him whenever he does things that are wrong.
- c. never gossiping about him.
- d. defending him in front of others.
- e. being the type of person that others can share with.

**Scoring:** Give yourself points based on the answers you circled. Add up your score and look at the results.

1. A=2 B=1 C=-1 D=-2 E=1;

2. A=1 B=3 C=-1 D=-1 E=1;

3. A=-1 B=-1 C=3 D=1 E=3;

4. True=-1 False=1;

5. A=-2 B=2 C=2 D=-2;

6. A=1 B=-2 C=3 D=2;

7. A=-10 B=2 C=1 D=-2 E=1;

8. True=1 False=2;

9. A=-1 B=1 C=2 D=3 E=-2;

10. A=3 B=1 C=2 D=3 E=2.

#### 16-22 points—

You need to keep doing what you're doing! As a matter of fact, you ought to reach out more to others. People need friends like you.

#### 11-15 points—

You're on the way to becoming the type of friend people want to have. You probably relate well to people but are still a little selfish in your friendships.

#### Below 11—

Somewhere along the line, you may not have been given good examples of what a friend really is. Find a caring Christian adult and ask to learn some skills on how to be a friend.

---

## SESSION 2

### Get Ready

You will ask the students in your group to get themselves clean in all of their significant relationships: parents, friends, acquaintances, and God.

**Unconfessed sin works like brick and mortar, slowly putting a wall between you and God.**

Take some time to confess your sins to God in order to knock those bricks down completely.

Do a mental checklist of your family (wife/husband, parent, siblings, children). Does anything need to be cleaned up?

Now do that same mental checklist among your friends and acquaintances (neighbors, elders, people in the church, coworkers). Are you carrying a grudge against another? Has someone offended you in some way and you just can't forgive them? This week, go to them using *Matthew 5:23-24* as your guide. Ask forgiveness. Offer forgiveness.

If you need extra help and prayer support to tackle a tough relational issue, enlist one of your prayer partners.

# Live the Life

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

To help your students live the life by:

- identifying the hypocritical areas of their own lives
- taking the Live the Life Challenge
- relying on the Holy Spirit to take action this week in the most important areas they identify.

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Screen projection if using any videos
- See You at the Pole video—if available
- Copy of Action Handouts “Live the Life Challenge” and “Live the Life Challenge Assessment” for each student

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (10 MINUTES)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals. You could continue to use the next segment of the See You at the Pole video if timely and if you didn't use it in the last session.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (15-20 min.)**

1. Before you get into this session's topic, review the last session's main points. Ask those who attended to talk about what they remembered.
2. Most importantly, encourage consistent reports about their Prayer Triplets.

3. Ask, **Which actions/activities can discredit your testimony to non-Christian friends?** (Examples: drunkenness, sexual reputation, cheating, crude jokes, etc.)
  4. Ask, **How do you handle hanging out with non-Christians? Does that make you any less Christian?**
  5. Ask, **How do you spend time with non-Christians without participating in their lifestyle?**
- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (15 min.)**
    1. Divide the group into their Prayer Triplets. Present the following Bible references and questions—on a PowerPoint, with a handout, or whatever works for your situation—and ask them to discuss their answers.
      - When you hear the word *hypocrite*, what comes to your mind?
      - Can anyone truly not be a hypocrite?
      - Look up these passages and answer the questions below each one:

1 John 1:9

What specific sins don't apply?

What does that mean for you?

Acts 3:19-20

After repentance, what happens next?

How do you turn around?

Psalms 51:1-4, 17

What is one bottom line on God's response to us? (vv. 1-2)

What is the bottom line for us? (vv. 3-4)

If you've already blown it, what should you do? (v. 17)

2. Ask students, **Does living the Christian life mean you have to be perfect? Then what does it mean and how does repentance fit in?** Allow brief discussion.

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (15 min.)**

1. Distribute the "Live the Life Challenge" handout.. Go through the "Live the Life Challenge" (see below). Wherever you can, use personal illustrations to paint the picture of each point.

## Live the Life Challenge

Because Jesus Christ loves me and I love Him, I will...:

**C**ommit myself to a love relationship with Jesus Christ through praying, studying His Word, and allowing His Spirit to lead me each day (*Matthew 22:36-38*).

**H**onor Christ in my moral life...my thoughts, words, actions and relationships (*1 Timothy 4:12*).

**R**espect my parents and all authorities in my life...with love, honor, and obedience (*Ephesians 6:1-3, Romans 13:1*).

**I**nvolve myself by encouraging and uniting with other Christians... regardless of race, church or social status (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

**S**eek God through prayer...asking Him daily to bring spiritual awakening to my generation (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).

**T**ake the message of Christ to my school and world...by praying, living, and witnessing so that every student has the opportunity to know Christ (*Acts 1:8*).

2. Distribute a copy of the Action Handout "Live the Life Challenge Assessment" to each student. Briefly go through the handout with them and encourage them to do it right now.
3. Close in prayer for the students as they examine where they are in these areas, and ask the Holy Spirit to move them up another notch this week and in the weeks to come.

## Live the Life Challenge

Because Jesus Christ loves me and I love Him, I will:

**C**ommit myself to a love relationship with Jesus Christ through praying, studying His Word, and allowing His Spirit to lead me each day (*Matthew 22:36-38*).

**H**onor Christ in my moral life . . . my thoughts, words, actions, and relationships (*1 Timothy 4:12*).

**R**espect my parents and all authorities in my life . . . with love, honor, and obedience (*Ephesians 6:1-3, Romans 13:1*).

**I**nvolve myself by encouraging and uniting with other Christians . . . regardless of race, church, or social status (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

**S**eek God through prayer . . . asking Him daily to bring spiritual awakening to my generation (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).

**T**ake the message of Christ to my school and world . . . by praying, living, and witnessing so every student has the opportunity to know Christ (*Acts 1:8*).

## Live the Life Challenge Assessment

On a scale of 1 (not doing too great) to 10 (doing great), rate yourself on how you're doing with each point of the Live the Life Challenge. Key thoughts: (1) Realize that your growth in these areas is a process. (2) Ask God to show you what He wants for you in each area. (3) Rely on the Holy Spirit to move you upward.

**C**ommit myself to a love relationship with Jesus Christ through praying, studying His Word, and allowing His Spirit to lead me each day (*Matthew 22:36-38*).

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

**ACTION:**

**H**onor Christ in my moral life...my thoughts, words, actions, and relationships (*1 Timothy 4:12*).

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

**ACTION:**

**R**espect my parents and all authorities in my life...with love, honor, and obedience (*Ephesians 6:1-3, Romans 13:1*).

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

**ACTION:**



**I**nvolve myself by encouraging and uniting with other Christians... regardless of race, church, or social status (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**ACTION:**

**S**eek God through prayer...asking Him daily to bring spiritual awakening to my generation (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**ACTION:**

**T**ake the message of Christ to my school and world...by praying, living, and witnessing so that every student has the opportunity to know Christ (*Acts 1:8*).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**ACTION:**

Go back through each of these points and write down the action you believe God wants you to take on each point. Then choose one you will take action on this week. Right now, ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

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## SESSION 3

### Get Ready

**Y**ou probably won't be allowed to be with your students to pray with them at school. So what can you do? As a sign of solidarity with them, try some alternatives:

- During lunch period, park your car just off the school grounds of one of the schools your students attend. Make sure they know you're praying for them while they're praying for their friends.
- Enlist volunteer youth leaders and/or pastoral staff to form Prayer Triplets and pray during this week for your students. Let your students know your plans to for this.
- Gather with other youth pastors leaders in your area to pray.
- Pray for them during the day, and choose a time to fast for them once a week.

Check in with your students to see how they are doing and how they felt about SYATP.

Pray, pray, pray for your students.

# Tell Your Story

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

To help your students Tell Their Story by:

- praying on campus with Prayer Triplets
- praying for an opportunity to tell one non-Christian friend that they prayed for them

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Sheet of paper and a pen for each student
- Screen projection if using any videos
- See You at the Pole video—if not used already
- Copy of Action Handouts “Taking Action to Communicate MY Story” and “Taking Action to Communicate HIS Story” (see below) for each student
- A couple of students to share their experiences of talking with their non-Christian friends about spiritual matters (arrange with them ahead of time)

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (10 minutes)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals. You could use the last segment of the See You at the Pole video.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Before you get into this session's topic, review last session's main points. Ask those who attended to talk about what they remembered. Most importantly, encourage consistent reports on what is happening during the week, especially with their Prayer Triplets. Make this an up time where the good is being

emphasized and those who are discouraged or neglectful are being encouraged.

2. Say, **Maybe some of you have talked with your non-Christian friends about spiritual things before. Can a few of you tell us what it was like?** (You may have arranged for students to talk ahead of time.)
  3. Say, **Let's list the worst things that could happen to you when you talk about your faith.** (Use whiteboard or flip chart.)
  4. Ask, **What are the positives that could happen?**
  5. Ask, **How can something positive come from something that initially looks negative?**
- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**
    1. Divide into three small groups. Provide each student with a pen and paper. Have the groups look up these passages and answer the questions after each passage. Assign one third of the groups the first passage, one third the second passage, and one third the third passage.

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

What was Paul's problem? (v. 3)

What caused Paul to overcome his fear? (v. 2)

What did that fear do to Paul's ability to witness for Christ? (v. 4)

*John 20:19-22*

How did fear cripple the faith of the disciples?

How did faith conquer the fears of the disciples?

Acts 4:1-13

Why should the disciples have been fearful in this situation?

According to verse 13, why weren't they?

2. Ask students, **Is it okay to have a little apprehension/fear running through your veins?** Allow time for discussion.
  3. Ask, **What is it we're afraid of?** (Examples: rejection, being labeled religious, looking weak in front of the opposite sex, potentially losing a friend, being "canceled" or marginalized.) Remind students that God's desire to reach people is greater than our fears.
  4. Ask and discuss, **How does God turn our fear into faith?** Remind students that Spirit-filled Christians will never find themselves in a one-to-one witnessing situation because Jesus will always be with them.
- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (20 min.)**
    1. Distribute the Action Handout "Taking Action to Communicate MY Story" to each student.
    2. Say, **The best way to turn your fear into faith is to know your own faith story and be able to tell it simply and clearly. We are going to work on doing this now, and I encourage you to keep working on it this week. As you work on it, think about these three questions: What was your life like BEFORE JESUS? How did you ENCOUNTER JESUS? How has JESUS CHANGED YOU? Let's work on that for 10 minutes, then we will take 10 minutes to tell our stories to a friend. (Put these three questions on a screen or whiteboard.)**

3. Distribute the Action Handout "Taking Action to Communicate HIS Story" to students and ask them to begin learning it this week. You will explain this in more detail in Session 6,—see p. 65—but it will be helpful for them to get acquainted with the outline and verses before then. Over the next few weeks, they should become very familiar with it and know how to share with friends what Jesus can do for them.
4. As you close, have your students repeat after you and make this prayer declaration together:

JESUS CHRIST:

I STAND AGAINST MY FEAR.

I TAKE HOLD OF FAITH.

GIVE ME COURAGE

TO PRAY WITH MY PRAYER PARTNERS,

TO TALK TO A FRIEND ABOUT YOU.

IN JESUS NAME.

AMEN.

# Taking Action to Communicate MY STORY

**My Biggest Struggle**

**How I Met Jesus**



**How Jesus Changed Me**



## Taking Action to Communicate HIS STORY

Practice learning this and then memorizing the verses so you can tell a friend with confidence what Jesus has done for you and what He can do for them.

**Jesus Lived**

(John 1:14)

**Jesus Died**

(Romans 5:8)

**Jesus Rose**

(John 11:25-26)

**I Live**

(Psalm 139:13)

**I Die**

(Romans 6:23)

**I Rise**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)



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# SESSION 4

## Get Ready

**H**ow are you doing with your Prayer Triplet and being more intentional about personal evangelism? Keep focused on staying ahead of your students and setting the example for them in these two AWTP objectives.

# Love Your Friends Go the Distance

## The Big Picture

- OBJECTIVES

To help your students love their friends by:

- going the distance on the journey of loving their friends by seeing them now as lifelong friends
- recognizing and inquiring where their friends are in their “faith journey”
- identifying one action they will take this week to bring Jesus into a conversation with each of their non-Christian friends

Note: Encourage your students to have God’s perspective on the long-term influence of An Awesome Way to Pray. Help them realize that the three relationships with their Prayer Triplet and the love they show in the three relationships with their non-Christian friends will stay with them their whole lives and impact their friends for eternity.

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Screen projection
- Copy of Action Handouts “Taking Action by Continually Loving Your Friends” and “What a Real Friend Might Do” for each student
- Set up the Mark 4:1-9 illustration on a table that has four soils—a hard path, rocky place, thorny ground, and good soil.

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (5 minutes)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Review last session’s main points with student interaction and get updates from them about how their Prayer Triplets are doing.
2. Ask how they see the Lord using them to become His answer to their prayers for their three non-Christian friends.
3. Read Luke 19:1-10 to the entire group, then...

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Divide into three groups. Have each group discuss what they learned from Jesus about how to treat people who don’t know Him.
2. Bring the small groups back together to summarize the lessons they learned.
3. Now have the entire group make a list of questions, ideas, and insights about making Jesus the focal point of a conversation with your non-believing friends. How did Jesus do that with Zacchaeus?

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (10-15 min.)**

1. Using the illustration of the soil on the table that you prepared earlier, ask them to think about their three non-Christian friends, which of the four soils they are, and how they might till the soil to make it "good soil."
2. Read Mark 4:1-20 with one student each reading the verses about one particular soil. Have them identify which soil their three non-Christian friends seem to be. At the end, make the point that their friends may be more ready to receive the seed than we are to sow the seed. Encourage them to keep on by loving their non-believing friends unconditionally and sharing Jesus with them boldly.

Let them know that for some they are trying to reach, a few well-placed questions will get them interested in Jesus. Others will be less receptive soil and have harder hearts. But let them know that anyone can become rich soil to receive the seed of the gospel. Keep watering and fertilizing!

3. Go over the handout "Taking Action to Continually Love Your Friends" at the end of this session and help them decide what action they will take with each friend this week.

Path (Satan steals the seed.)

Rocky places (They receive the seed, but when troubles come, they fall away.)

Thorny ground (They choke out the seed with worries, pleasure, and desire for other things.)

Good soil (They embrace the seed and nurture it, and it bears fruit.)

The handout will help your students discover how receptive their friends will be to hearing their faith story and give them some ideas for their next steps.

4. Pass out the “What a Real Friend Might Do” handout so they have a few ideas on how to love their friends in a practical way.
5. Ask them to pray with their prayer partners in groups of three, praying for each non-Christian friend by name. Have them ask the Lord to soften the soil of their hearts.

## Taking Action to Continually Love Your Friends

Think of your three non-Christian friends. Match each friend with what type of soil that best characterizes the condition of your friend's heart.

The Heart Condition	Friend #1	Friend #2	Friend #3
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### **Path**

(Satan steals the seed)

### **Rocky Places**

(Receives the seed, but when troubles hit they fall away)

### **Thorny Ground**

(Chokes out the seed; worries, pleasure and desire for other things)

### **Good soil**

(Accepts the seed—nurtures and bears fruit)

## Ideas for Softening the Heart

After determining your friends' heart condition, check the idea(s) that you believe will best soften their hearts.

	Friend #1	Friend #2	Friend #3
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Continue to pray

You answer their questions

Ask your youth leader to answer their questions

Serve them in practical ways

Get them around other Christians

Stick with the friendship

Provide a Bible or other reading material

Other

As a result of thinking through the condition of my friend's heart, I will take action this week for:

Friend #1 \_\_\_\_\_ I will: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #2 \_\_\_\_\_ I will: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #3 \_\_\_\_\_ I will: \_\_\_\_\_

## What a Real Friend Might Do

(Ideas for Softening the Heart)

- Offer to buy a soda or some popcorn.
- Help do a job that will go quicker with two people (example: raking leaves, picking up the house, shoveling out their closet, cleaning the gutters, folding 10 loads of laundry).
- Send a quick handwritten note—here are a few samples:
  - *Dear Tami, I'm glad you're part of my world! You make me smile. Friends, Melissa*
  - *Bud! Missed you at youth group. Call me. Let's grab a Coke. –Doug*
  - *Cheryl, Thanks for making me that cake to take to the dinner. Let's grab a bite this week. –Susie*
  - *Tim—Thanks for helping me with all those boxes last week. Let's go shoot some hoops this Saturday. Greg*
- Thank them for things they've done for you. Don't ever assume people know you're thankful, verbalize it.
- Be available when there's a family emergency like an accident, death, or divorce.
- Share Christian music. This can communicate God's truth and God's Spirit can use it to point them to Jesus without you saying a word.
- Offer to pray for them if they need help beyond what you can give.

- Invite them to some of your family events if you are from a Christian family. This is perfect for someone in a single-parent situation. They may need to see how a family with a loving mom and dad interacts with each other.
- Go to a friend's special event: recital, choir concert, computer chess tournament, games, bar mitzvah, confirmation, whatever!
- Don't rag on their ideas all the time. There's nothing worse than having a friend that constantly has a better idea. Try things they came up with even if you think your idea is better.
- Tell the truth. That is:
  1. If you did something wrong, admit it and apologize.
  2. If they did something good (no matter how small), tell them.
  3. If they did well in school, congratulate them.
  4. If they got a present that's cool, don't ignore it or get jealous, tell them it's cool.
  5. If they got the courage to call that girl they've waited three months to call, mention that you admire that.
  6. If you notice them doing something nice for someone else, let them know you saw it, and you're glad you're their friend.
  7. If their clothes look good, dish out a compliment.
  8. If they're messing up their lives with alcohol, drugs, or an unhealthy relationship, find the right time and let them know you care about them too much to let this continue without saying something. Don't give them ultimatums, and don't hit the road just because they've started something destructive. That's the time they need you the most!



- Real friends are optimistic! Don't dwell on the negative and always be the one to point out what could go wrong. If you look for the good, you'll often find it.

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# SESSION 5

## Get Ready

**M**aintaining a close relationship with Jesus has many potential pitfalls. The goal of this session is to strip away the ways we can fall into the trap of living a superficial Christian life and point to and embrace one way we can't go wrong: relying on Jesus rather than our-selves.

The trap of “performance Christianity” is the attitude that as long as we do certain Christian activities—attending church, going to Christian activities, even reading the Bible, praying, and witnessing—we're doing good with Jesus. That might be the case, but maybe not. We are often more comfortable with a rule book (some people's perception of the Bible) than a relationship with the God of the Bible. Sometimes it's hard to tell when you've fallen into the trap of living by performance instead of by faith, but you don't want to live there!

We can get so focused on obeying the rules that we can forget that it is not us living the Christian life; rather, it is Jesus living the Christ-like life in and through us. How do we help our students grasp this?

1. We avoid presenting the Christian life as jumping through the right hoops.
2. We grasp the incredible reality that we have died to ourselves and that Jesus is alive and living His life in us.

This week in your daily time alone with God, read and reflect on John 15:1-17. Ask the Lord to show you the performance traps you have fallen into, and to show you how to “abide in Christ.”

# Live the Life Dig Deeper

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

To help your students go deeper in their understanding of how to live their lives “in Christ” by:

- learning that we can’t live the Christ-life in our own strength
- grasping that Christ lives in us to live His life through us
- discovering what it means to abide in Christ by continually confessing our sin and staying filled up with the Holy Spirit
- realizing that it is by abiding that we have the power of the Holy Spirit to boldly witness for Christ.

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Sheet of paper and a pen for each student
- Copy of Action Handout “Taking Action by Digging Deeper” for each student.
- Prepare a sign or slide with the words “Holy Spirit, I invite You to release Your presence and power in my life right now.”

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (5 minutes)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Review last session’s main points and talk about what they remembered. Most importantly, report in on their Prayer Triplets

experiences and what is happening as a result of their prayers for their friends. Make this a positive time, emphasizing the good and encouraging those who are discouraged or neglectful.

2. Say, **Of the four kinds of soil we talked about in last session, all “abiding in Christ” Jesus followers are “good and rich soil.” When we don’t nourish that soil, it can collect thorns, weeds, and rocks.** Some illustrations of that include bad attitudes, broken relationships, disobeying your parents, sexual sin, deceit, negative influence of friends, etc. Ask, **Is there any foolproof way to keep the ground of our hearts receptive to the seed God wants to plant?** List their answers on a whiteboard or chart.

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Divide into small groups.
2. Ask a student in each group to read aloud John 15:1-5. Then ask them to discuss it.
  - Who is the “vine”?
  - Who are “the branches”?
  - What does it mean to “abide”?
  - What is the “fruit”?

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (10-15 min.)**

Say, **This is the best news ever! You don’t live the Christian life. Jesus lives/abides in you. And when you abide in Him, He lives the Christian life through you. And His promise is that your life will “bear fruit.” He will produce fruit in your life, and He will produce fruit through you in the lives of your friends!**

1. “Abiding” is like breathing. It is constant, all the time. With each breath, we exhale carbon dioxide and inhale oxygen. That keeps us alive. (Demonstrate this!)
  - We exhale by confessing our sin every time we are aware of

it. (Read aloud 1 John 1:9.)

- Then we inhale, breathing in and getting filled up with the Holy Spirit. Read aloud Ephesians 5:18, explaining how He releases the power to live as He would live.
  - The result:
    1. We have joy. (Read John 15:11.)
    2. We bear fruit. (Read John 15:16.)
    3. We can do immeasurably more than we ever thought we could because of His power working in us. (Read Ephesians 3:20-21.)
2. Ask a student to read John 15:1-5 again. Say, **Read it every day this week and think about who you are as you “abide in Christ.”**

Close in prayer, asking students to actually exhale and confess their sins and actually inhale to receive the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Put these words on a slide or whiteboard and leave saying in unison: “I choose to abide in Christ and let the presence and power of the Holy Spirit bear fruit through me. Give me the courage to boldly witness for Christ.”

- Distribute and explain the Action Handout “Taking Action by Digging Deeper” (see p. 61).

## Taking Action by Digging Deeper

The following steps will help you abide in Him. Pray through each step as you ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

- **Recognize**—that the Holy Spirit lives within you permanently when you have asked Christ into your life. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What do you need to do? Why?
- **Realize**—that God wants you to be completely controlled by His Spirit. (This is the heart of allowing Jesus to be your Lord.) What command does God give you? Read John 15:4-5.
- **Repent**—of any sin in your life. Do certain things in your life displease God? Read 2 Timothy 2:22. What are you to run from and what are you to run toward? What sin(s) do you need to confess and get rid of right now?
- **Receive**—the fullness of the Holy Spirit in you by faith. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit and give you the power to do what you've been called to do.

**Write a prayer asking God to release the Holy Spirit into your life. Then begin to pray that prayer every day.**

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# SESSION 6

## Get Ready

Investing in your students to keep them “growing and going” is essential. How can you continue to plant seeds in them to be even better equipped prayer warriors and evangelists? What do they need from you to keep stoking the fire within them—for them to know that the best is yet to come, that they are just getting started, and that God desires to use them throughout the school year and beyond? The real payoff lies ahead. The AWTP sprint has helped set the pace, but now they need to settle into a stride that will carry them through. This session will challenge them to keep the pace with the people they’ve prayed for and shared their faith with over the long haul.

What about the “long haul”? Hopefully the last six weeks have been long enough to convince you that both you and your students need to keep this going and even increase the prayer and outreach. How can you build this into a long-term lifestyle for both you and your students?

The students God has entrusted to you may never see the value of praying for and intentionally trying to reach their friends without your ongoing influence. If they develop this as a lifestyle now, they will influence thousands over their lifetime. What a legacy for you to leave!

Use the final “Reporting Meeting” to applaud your students for their efforts and challenge and encourage them to continue praying for and evangelizing their friends. Help them see that An Awesome Way to Pray can continue in their lives and the lives of their friends—and in time impact their entire school!

# Tell the Story Keep On Communicating

## The Big Picture

- **OBJECTIVES**

Students will continue to be internally motivated about their need to tell the Jesus story over the long haul by:

- identifying the hang-ups and hindrances to telling their story
- having confidence to tell their story and the gospel story
- committing themselves to boldly mention the name of Jesus at every opportunity and tell their story to any non-Christian who will en-gage with them

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Whiteboard or flip chart
- Screen projection if using any videos or PowerPoint slides
- Copy of Action Handout “Taking Action by Continuing to Communicate His Story” for each student.

## Session Overview

- **OPENER (5 minutes)**

Pull your group together in the way that fits them the best so they will be receptive to the session goals.

- **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

1. Review last session’s main points, and talk about what they remembered. Most importantly, encourage them to report on their Prayer Triplets and conversations with their three non-Christian friends.



2. Ask four questions: **What have we learned so far about how your non-Christian friends think, feel, and act? Have you become convinced that they really need Jesus in their lives? Have you seen that God not only wants to but can use you to bring others to faith in Him? If so, what have you seen Him do?** Allow a few minutes for discussion.

- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10-15 min.)**

Divide into small groups. Ask:

1. **When are you going to be most tempted to give up taking your faith to your school in the next few months?**
2. **What will it take for you to press on in prayer?**
3. **What will it take to continue trying to reach your friends for Christ?**

- **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER (30 min.)**

1. Say, **Now that we're almost finished with our An Awesome Way to Pray emphasis, the temptation will be to put it behind us, smile at our success, forget about the struggles, and move back into the same patterns we had before An Awesome Way to Pray started.**
2. Read Acts 1:8 aloud. Say, **If you'll notice the progression, Jesus tells them to take the good news first to Jerusalem, then to Judea, and on to Samaria, then to the uttermost parts of the earth. This meant that bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ wasn't a six-week emphasis but a lifetime—and global—mission!**

**Your Jerusalem is your school and your friends. Would you be willing not only to keep your Prayer Triplet going but to start a new one with three other Christians who were not involved in these Prayer Triplets and to add**

three more non-Christians to your “prayer and share” list?

**And beyond your school, there’s a big world out there that needs Jesus. God wants you involved in the lifetime challenge to take your faith to the uttermost parts of the earth.**

**To do that, you need to feel comfortable telling the story of the gospel and telling your story.**

3. Distribute the Action Handout “Taking Action to Communicate HIS Story.” (Students also received this handout in Session 3 but may have lost it. Prepare and distribute this handout again.) Talk through their personal testimony with them.

## His Story

**What are we to witness about?** Ask rhetorically to get them talking. You will discover what the students know. Then thoroughly review “His Story” below.

### About Jesus:

**Jesus lived.** (Read John 1:14.) **We know that Jesus came to show us who God is in human form.**

**Jesus died.** (Read Romans 5:8.) **He wants us to know how much He loves us. He gave up His life so we could know His love forgiveness.**

**Jesus rose.** (Read John 11:25-26). **After His death, Jesus came bursting out of the grave alive and lives today.**

4. Talk through the "My Story" outline below with them.

## My Story

**I live.** (Read Psalm 139:13.) **You were born in the image of God Himself.**

**I die.** (Read Romans 6:23.) **But because you have sinned, you don't have a personal relationship with God, which brings spiritual death.**

**I rise.** (Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.) **When you receive Jesus, you have a personal relationship with Him that restores you to the image of God, changes your life now, and gives you life with Jesus for eternity.**

In Session 3, your students learned the basics of how to give their own testimony. Help them refine their story by walking them through this exercise:

- Say, **When a person has grown up in the church, they often think their story is boring. Not true! We just don't know how to tell it with enthusiasm.**
- Identify the one area where you have struggled and where Jesus has made a difference (divorce, low self-esteem, a tragedy, broken relationship, etc.).
- Give a few details of the story, showing how you struggled with it. Honesty is essential as you describe how Jesus helped you through the struggle.
- Tell the story of how you met Jesus Christ. Give the details.
- Talk about one specific change that Jesus has made in this area of struggle. Be specific. Be practical.

Close by having students pair up with a partner (not the same one they had in Session 3) to practice telling their story to each other. When they are done, have them pray for each other that they will represent Jesus well among their non-Christian friends.

## Taking Action to Communicate MY STORY

### My Biggest Struggle

How I Met Jesus



How Jesus  
Changed Me



## Taking Action to Communicate HIS STORY

Practice learning this and then memorizing the verses so you can tell a friend with confidence what Jesus has done for you and what He can do for them.



**Jesus Lived**

(John 1:14)

**Jesus Died**

(Romans 5:8)

**Jesus Rose**

(John 11:25-26)



**I Live**

(Psalm 139:13)

**I Die**

(Romans 6:23)

**I Rise**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

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# REPORTING SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS

## 1 Week and Beyond After An Awesome Way to Pray

Once finished with all of the Sessions, now is the time to think through how you will continue weekly to keep their “Prayer Triplets” in front of them. You can do this through in your first Reporting Session and then incorporating this into your youth group meetings.

- **OBJECTIVE—In the Youth Group**

As referenced earlier, you can create a “Prayer Triplet” board with reports from students on what is happening spiritually with their non-Christian friends. Visually move the student’s they are praying for up the board from red to yellow to green. If someone receives Jesus, celebrate that, invite them to come to the youth group and incorporate them into the fellowship. Keep this in front of your students every week and encourage them to keep praying and sharing with their non-Christian friends. Sharing these testimonies can create powerful momentum and carry the impact forward.

- **OBJECTIVE –If Planning to Report to the Church**

- Sharing by the students about the results they experienced from An Awesome Way to Pray
- Planning a Reporting Service to report results to the church of An Awesome Way to Pray

- Enlisting several students to give reports during the service to the church
- Planning recognition of parents and others in the church who prayed for these students
- Celebrating the results of An Awesome Way to Pray

- **MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Have the date and time nailed down of when the students can report the results of AWTP to the church.
  - Have simple refreshments available.
1. Remind students of how God used the body of Christ in unique ways by involving so many from different generations to accomplish the common goal of reaching teenagers.
  2. After the students have had a time of sharing, tell them the date and time set aside for reporting to the church. Ask for their help determining what needs to be reported to the church. Write down their suggestions.
  3. Begin planning an outline of an order of worship. Involve students in the planning. Include how God was working during AWTP, from the initial planning, implementation, results, reporting service, and even future plans. Also include plans to recognize and thank the parents and others in the church who committed to pray during AWTP.
  4. Ask for volunteers or assign parts (whichever works best with your group) to the students who will give reports to the church on what God did in their lives and the lives of their friends. Use this time for students to plan and write what they will say and do. You may want to include a parent or other church member in the service to give their testimony about AWTP.

5. Do a practice run of the reporting service with the students. You may need to plan an additional time with the primary participants to practice and go over all of the details before the service. Careful planning will help the reporting service go smoothly and will help students feel more confident about being in front of the church members.
  
6. Close this meeting with a prayer and challenge for the students to continue praying and evangelizing as a part of their lives.



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# APPENDIX

## **An Awesome Way to Pray Prayer Guide for Adult Leaders**

The students and student leaders in our church are about to launch into an exciting six-week emphasis.

If in the past the students in your church have attended See You At The Pole, they have seen how effective it can be at pulling together the greater body of Christ at each school around a common goal.

Now it's time to take this even a step further.

Our students have committed to pray not only for their school but also for three specific friends. And along with praying, they will be looking for ways to communicate the gospel to these friends. In essence, they will be taking their faith from the school's flagpole to their lockers.

We're excited you've agreed to support our students in what, for many, will be the most significant Christian challenge they have ever taken. They need your fervent and consistent prayer for these six weeks so God can work in their lives and the lives of their friends.

The following is a suggested prayer guide for you to use to pray for your student.

## Session 1

The students will be asked to select three friends to pray for during the emphasis. These selections are key because they may also be people who will begin to show interest in Jesus Christ in the weeks and months ahead. Pray that God would guide this selection process.

Begin praying that God will work in the lives of the principal, teachers, and coaches of your student's school, and open the students' hearts to Jesus Christ.

Pray for them as they use *An Awesome Way to Pray Journal*, that the Lord will speak to them and challenge them.

## Session 2

The students will be challenged to live the Christian life at even greater levels than ever. For many, this will mean going through the very hard process of asking for forgiveness from God and others. Pray that God would give your students the courage to face tough relational issues.

## Session 3

This week your students will face the very real fear of being "discovered" that he/she is a Christian by others at school. It's a BIG step for many. Pray that his/her faith in a big and loving God will be stronger than his/her fears of rejection by a few "friends."

Your student has been praying for three non-Christian friends for about two weeks. Pray he or she will press on to continue those prayers.

## Session 4

At this point, the temptation for your student will be to think AWTP has peaked. In reality, it's only halfway through. If your student has been faithful in prayer, there is a good chance at least one of the friends he or she has been praying for will show interest in and even come to Christ. Perhaps their friend will even ask a direct question about why your student goes to church or what it means to be a Christian. Pray that your student will have the courage to either answer the questions or find someone who can. Pray that their non-Christian friends will be receptive. The students are being told that evangelism is a process and that they shouldn't lose heart when "visible" results can't be measured. But some sort of "results in the right direction" would be encouraging for them.

## Session 5

Your student will be challenged to go the distance. In essence, he or she is being challenged to persevere with those he or she is praying for throughout the year and beyond. Pray that your student would be receptive to this challenge and would see the value of persevering for the long haul with the friends God has given them to pray for.

## Session 6

As the emphasis winds to a close, pray that the prayer and daily devotional habits formed by your student won't be neglected in the weeks and months ahead. Pray that they will be "courageous Christians" and boldly share Jesus with their friends at school. Pray that he/she will see the big picture that God could choose to use them for an entire school year or even longer.