

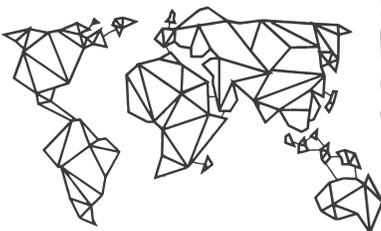


<sup>1</sup>A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous* (Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1993), 48-50.

Notes:

## GREAT COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

### HOMEWORK PACKET THREE



## LEADING BY FAITH

*The faith of Christ will command or it will have nothing to do with a man ... The only man who can be sure he has true Bible faith is the one who has put himself in a position where he cannot go back ... Pseudo faith always arranges a way out to serve in case God fails it. Real faith knows only one way ... For true faith, it is either God or total collapse.<sup>1</sup>*

**A.W. Tozer**

## BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is! From now on, we'll start each lesson with this reminder.

## MEMORY VERSE

*...for we walk by faith, not by sight...*

**2 Corinthians 3:18 [ESV]**

## GODLY LEADERS LEAD BY FAITH

Jesus taught about the importance of faith (Mt. 21:21). Abraham is a great Biblical example of faith. He believed God (Gen. 15:6), followed God into the unknown (Heb. 11:8) and was willing to give up anything for God (Heb. 11:17). There were many times Abraham's faith was inadequate (just read Gen. 12:1-17:18) but God saw Him as faithful because he had put his faith in Him (Rom. 4). Abraham so trusted God that he was even willing to give up his son, who he had waited all his life for. Christian leadership requires believing God, even when everything and everyone else says differently, following Him into new and uncharted areas, willing to give up whatever it takes, sacrificing personal desires to accomplish His Great Commission. Abraham exemplified these important characteristics of leading by faith and every godly leader will follow his example.

## WHY FAITH?

We are saved through faith (Eph. 2:8-9), live by faith (2 Cor. 5:7, Rom. 1:17), and cannot please God without faith (Heb. 11:6). Everything that does not come from faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). So, why is faith so important to God? Faith is so important to God because it is essential to



<sup>2</sup> Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2008), 232.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer* (Valley Forge, Pa: Trinity Press, 2012), 31.

Notes:

→ **How does your leadership line up with these definitions of faith?**

## THE OBJECT OF YOUR FAITH IS WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

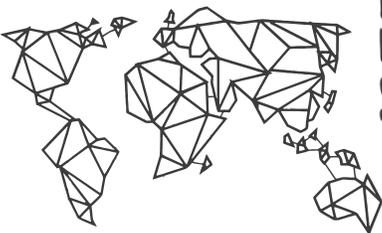
Faith is not the absence of doubt but the commitment to trust God in spite of your doubt. The object of your faith is what counts. People put faith in ridiculous things all the time; the economy is one great example. It is time for believers to live by faith, putting whatever faith they have in the right place - God and His Word. Timothy Keller puts it this way:

*Imagine you are on a high cliff and you lose your footing and begin to fall. Just beside you as you fall is a branch sticking out of the very edge of the cliff. It is your only hope and it is more than strong enough to support your weight. How can it save you? If your mind is filled with intellectual certainty that the branch can support you, but you don't actually reach out and grab it, you are lost. If your mind is instead filled with doubts and uncertainty that the branch can hold you, but you reach out and grab it anyway, you will be saved. Why? It is not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that actually saves you. Strong faith in a weak branch is fatally inferior to weak faith in a strong branch.<sup>2</sup>*

It is time to put whatever faith we have in the right place, living by faith in God and His Word. The opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is passivity and apathy. It is vitally important that you learn to grow your faith, getting past the failures of the past. Murray notes, "Let us not make the feeble experiences of our unbelief the measure of what our faith may expect."<sup>3</sup> Learn to grow your faith stronger by applying the following principles: applying God's Word, being faithful with little for the sake of the little, and trusting God for great things.

## GROW YOUR FAITH

Each of us has been given a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3). You don't need more faith and shouldn't expect to get more faith. Think of faith like muscles. If you want to get stronger the last thing you should do is look for new muscles. Instead, you should strengthen the muscles you already have. The measure of faith God has given you is sufficient. Now



Notes:

you must strengthen that faith! Jesus promised that faith like a mustard seed could move mountains (Matt. 17:20) so you have plenty (note that in Matt. 17:5 Jesus rebuked the disciples for asking for more faith). You don't need more faith, you need to grow the faith you have, just like a mustard seed grows (Matt. 13:31-32). Your faith should continue to grow (2 Cor. 10:15), more and more (2 Thes. 1:3), being made complete by being put into action (James 2:22). Faith grows incrementally as we are faithful with the step God gives us today, growing so we'll be faithful with the next step (Lk. 16:10). This is the process of growing what God has invested with us and it is what He expects of us (Matt. 25:14-30).

→ **How have you seen God grow your faith in the past and how was that related to applying His Word?**

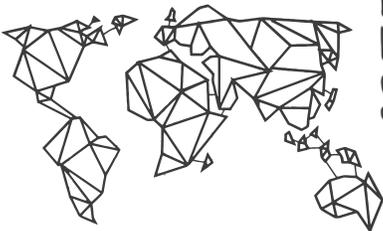
→ **How do you think this applies to leadership?**

### GROW YOUR FAITH BY APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Scripture says that faith comes through God's Word (Rom. 10:17). Faith grows through applying God's Word while failing to put it in to practice results in deception (James 1:22). Similarly, knowledge, without loving application, results in pride (1 Cor. 8:1, Jn. 14:15). If you want to grow your faith, live a life of learning and obeying, hearing and applying God's Word.

→ **Name an area where lack of application has led to deception in your life.**

→ **What scriptural truths do you need to start applying now?**



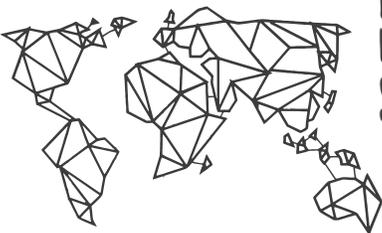
Notes:

## GROW YOUR FAITH BY BEING FAITHFUL WITH LITTLE FOR THE SAKE OF THE LITTLE

Lk.16:10 says, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much" (NIV). Basically, if you are faithful with little you'll be faithful with much. This includes being faithful both with actions and motives, being faithful with little for the sake of the little. Jesus modeled this growth for us (Lk. 2:52). Faithful with little for the sake of the little means that the little is not a stepping stone to the big. Faithful with little for the sake of the little involves walking by faith (2 Cor. 5:7), one step of faith at a time.

Leaders must be faithful with little for the sake of the little, doing everything they do for God and not for men (Col. 3:23). Only this type of determined obedience will grow your faith and ministry. That is why a minister must be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2) and won't be called to lead until they are (1 Tim. 1:12). On a side note, always plan to serve faithfully at your position until you have worked yourself out of a job and God has brought someone on who can replace you. You'll only find passion and joy in ministry when you serve faithfully (Rom. 12:11). No ministry should be too small or insignificant for you. Your joy should be found in co-laboring with Him (1 Cor. 3:9), not the approval of men (Gal. 1:10, Jn. 12:43). The goal is that no matter what doors God opens, the little will continue being your context and focus! Ministry success is not measured by results but by faithfulness.

- **What little areas do you need to be faithful with?**
  
- **What does faithfulness with little for the sake of the little practically look like in ministry?**
  
- **Do you serve with correct motives, serving faithfully as to the Lord, not men (Col. 3:23) or are you trying to use each step to get ahead? Explain?**



<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Edwards, "Quotes on Humility," <http://www.leadershipnow.com/humilityquotes.html> (accessed January 24, 2013).

Notes:

- **What are the results of faithfulness with little for the sake of the little in life and ministry?**

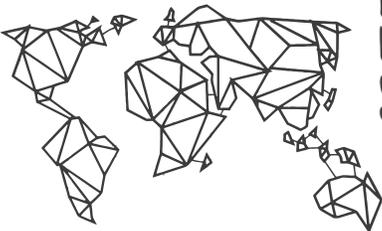
Faithful with little for the sake of the little entails submitting to the authority of the godly leaders God has placed over you. Heb. 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (NIV). God won't bless you or your ministry if you are fighting, disrespecting or gossiping about your leaders. Jonathan Edwards correctly observed:

*Some persons are always ready to level those above them down to themselves, while they are never willing to level those below them up to their own position. But he that is under the influence of true humility will avoid both these extremes. On the one hand, he will be willing that all should rise just so far as their diligence and worth of character entitle them to; and on the other hand, he will be willing that his superiors should be known and acknowledged in their place, and have rendered to them all the honors that are their due.<sup>4</sup>*

Faithfully serve where God puts you, blooming where your planted, honoring your leaders.

- **Have you fought, disrespected, or gossiped about your leaders? Make this right and don't do it in the future.**
- **Read 1 Thes. 5:12-13. How can you apply this passage?**

When we aren't faithful, disaster results. When leaders are "senseless" and don't follow the Lord, they fail and their flocks are scattered, and because they don't care, they trample down God's work, making it a desolate and parched wasteland (Jer. 10:21, 12:10-11). Unfortunately, the world has seen the results of many self serving leaders in the church. It is time for faithful leaders to lead faithfully. Even when we are



Notes:

faithless, He remains faithful (2 Tim. 2:13) but He won't stop calling us to a life of faithfulness and He won't bless our ministries if we won't walk by faith. When Ahaz, King of Judah, was attacked by multiple countries, God said, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Is. 7:9, NIV). That is just as true for every Christian leader today.

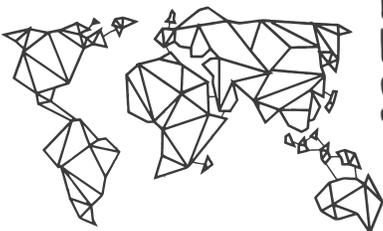
→ **How have you seen ministry "disaster" follow a lack of faithfulness?**

→ **How do you relate with Ahaz's situation (Is. 7:9)?**

→ **Will you choose to lead, in life and ministry, by faith alone?**

"Little" things often define ministry. Ministry is defined by the little things we schedule and do. Evangelism, discipleship, Bible studies, etc. The little is where many important things are formed, developed, realized and achieved. True trust, authentic motives, correct ministry expectations and perspective, perseverance, joy, and dependence on God all come out of being faithful with little for the sake of the little. If you want intimacy with God and His blessing in your life and ministry, learn to walk dependent on Him, by faith in all you do and in every area you lead. Remember, the ultimate goal of being faithful with little is to please God in every way (Col. 1:10) eventually hearing, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:21). If you'll be faithful with the little, you'll see Him do more than you could ever imagine or ask (Eph. 3:20-21), the really great! We need to quit pursuing "greatness" and start faithfully pursuing Christ, allowing Him to do great things that bring Him glory. God is working in every small thing He calls you to, don't miss what He is doing. Don't despise the day of small things (Zech. 4:10).

→ **What small things have made big impacts in your life?**



<sup>5</sup> John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You - 10th Anniversary Edition* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007), 169.

<sup>6</sup> Jerry Sutton, *A Primer on Biblical Preaching* (Bloomington, IN: CrossBooks, 2011), 67-68.

<sup>7</sup> Aubrey Malphurs, *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003), 53.

Notes:

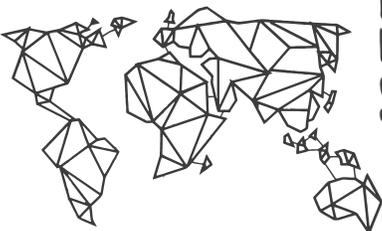
→ **What small decisions have produced the greatest changes in your life?**

→ **What small steps of faith had the most impact on who you are today?**

Credibility is necessary for leadership. People won't follow you until they see you as credible. Maxwell calls this the "The Law of Buy-In."<sup>5</sup> People buy into you before they ever buy into what you're doing. They won't follow you until they think you are credible. They won't view you as credible until they see you are trustworthy. They won't view you as trustworthy until they see you are faithful with little for the sake of the little. You'll never be able to do great things for God alone, you'll need a team. That team will only follow you, taking risks for God together with you, if you have built a foundation of credibility with them. Again, that requires a track record of faithfulness. Sutton writes that credibility derives from character, competency and consistency,<sup>6</sup> each important attributes of faithfulness. Malphurs says it usually takes people up to five years before they really buy in to a leader and view him or her as credible.<sup>7</sup> Pride, apathy, lack of integrity, selfishness and failing to lead by example, not being faithful with little for the sake of the little, all erode credibility (2 Cor. 6:3).

→ **How have you built credibility with those you lead?**

→ **What steps can you take now to build credibility with those you lead?**



<sup>8</sup> Neil Cole, *Ordinary Hero: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes a Difference* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008), 71.

<sup>9</sup> Chip Ingram, *Good to Great in God's Eyes: Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 121.

<sup>10</sup> Andrew Murray, *Humility and Absolute Surrender* (Provo, UT: Renaissance Classics, 2012), 136-137.

Notes:

## GROW YOUR FAITH BY TRUSTING GOD FOR GREAT THINGS

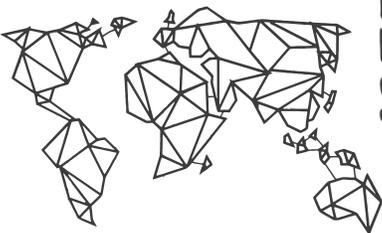
Remember the story of Jonathan and his armor-bearer who attempted the impossible for God, expectantly saying, "...perhaps the LORD will work for us..." (1 Sam. 14:6). As true as it is that we need to be faithful with little for the sake of the little, we must also attempt the great for the sake of our God. It is important that leaders attempt the great, relying on Him and taking risks in the power of His Holy Spirit. The walk of faith will never be comfortable and will demand you go places, do things and take risks you never imagined you would. Spurgeon described the Christian content with doing their best for God, saying, "Any fool can do that. He that believes in Christ attempts the impossible and performs it."<sup>8</sup> Cultivate a lifestyle of taking risks for God, trusting Him to do more than you can imagine—the impossible (Dan. 11:32)! Remember Luke 1:37, "...nothing will be impossible with God." Ingram reminds us that, "Where there's no risk, there's no faith; where there's no faith there's no power or joy or intimacy with God."<sup>9</sup>

- **What great thing do you need to attempt, in God's power and for His glory today?**

## LEADERS MUST WALK BY FAITH

Again, remember the charge, in Is. 7:9, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (NIV). This holds for those leading God's people today as much as it did for Ahaz. It is time for leaders to stand up and be counted, so to say, walking and leading by faith, taking risks for God and expecting Him to show up, being faithful with the little and trusting Him for the great. Faith and faithfulness are required for your growth into the leader God made you to be and they are necessary for developing the ministry He has called you to.

- **What step of faith is God calling you to take now?**



<sup>10</sup> Andrew Murray, *Humility and Absolute Surrender* (Provo, UT: Renaissance Classics, 2012), 136-137.

<sup>11</sup> C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry: Addresses to Ministers and Students* (BookAndSuchNW, 2009), Ch. 1, Kindle.

Notes:

→ **How will you trust God, taking a step of faith in ministry that has terrified you before?**

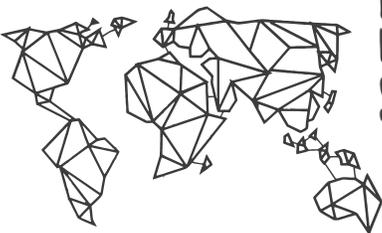
→ **How will you put yourself in a situation where you'll fail, lose and be humiliated if He doesn't show up? (Do it!)**

Walking by faith means coming to the end of your self and allowing Him to live His life through you. Murray reminds us that, "...Faith means utter inability and helplessness before God," and notes, "what a change comes when a man is thus broken down into utter helplessness and self despair, and says, 'I can do nothing.'" Spurgeon summarized this well:

*Our work especially requires faith. If we fail in faith, we had better not have undertaken it; and unless we obtain faith commensurate with the service, we shall soon grow weary of it. It is proven by all observation that success in the Lord's service is very generally in proportion to faith. It certainly is not in proportion to ability, nor does it always run parallel with a display of zeal; but it is invariably according to the measure of faith, for this is the law of the Kingdom without exception...*<sup>11</sup>

This is what Paul affirmed in Gal. 2:20, which states, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." You too can allow Christ to live His life through you, by faith! Walk by faith, applying God's Word, being faithful with little for the sake of the little and attempting the great for the sake of your God! Remember, "...this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 Jn. 5:4).

*Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!*



Notes:

## ACT NOW

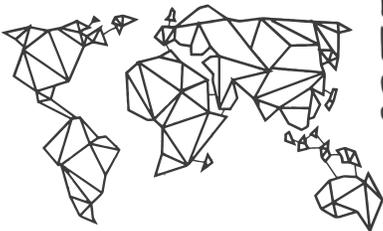
### GROW YOUR FAITH

→ List 5 small things you need to be faithful with and how you'll do that:

- » I need to be faithful with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - › I will do that by:
  
- » I need to be faithful with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - › I will do that by:
  
- » I need to be faithful with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - › I will do that by:
  
- » I need to be faithful with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - › I will do that by:
  
- » I need to be faithful with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - › I will do that by:

→ List 2 great things you need to trust God for this week and how you'll take each step.

- » I will attempt \_\_\_\_\_ for my great God,  
in His power and for His glory.
  - › I will do that by:
  
- » I will attempt \_\_\_\_\_ for my great God,  
in His power and for His glory.
  - › I will do that by:



<sup>12</sup> G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

## PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal<sup>16</sup> for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

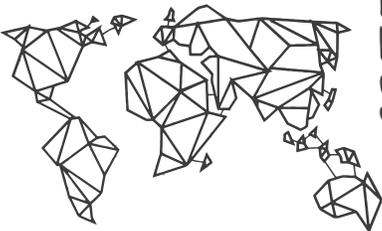
Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

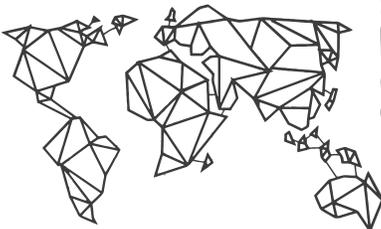
→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.



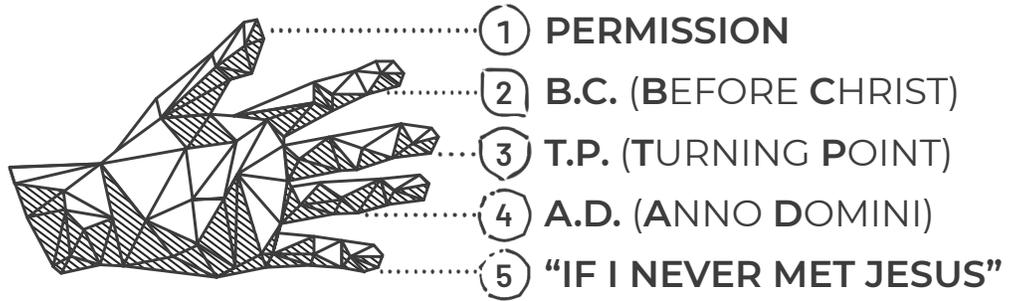
<sup>1</sup>Oasis World Ministries, "One-Minute Witness," <https://www.oasisworldministries.org/one-minute-witness> (accessed March 22, 2021).

Additional language versions of the One-Minute Witness are available for download at: [www.oasisworldministries.org/languages](http://www.oasisworldministries.org/languages)

Notes:



## ONE-MINUTE WITNESS<sup>1</sup>



### SHARE YOUR STORY!

#### ① PERMISSION | "MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?"

Begin by asking permission. Start by asking:

→ **"May I ask you a question?"**

If they say, "Yes," ask:

→ **What is the best thing that has ever happened to you?**

Listen, converse with them, and show them you care. Then, when they are done, ask:

→ **May I share the best thing that has ever happened to me?**

If they say "Yes," continue with your One-Minute Witness.

#### ② B.C. | YOUR LIFE BEFORE CHRIST.

Share three words or phrases that describe your life before Christ:

→ **There was a time in my life when...**

» 1. \_\_\_\_\_.

» 2. \_\_\_\_\_.

» 3. \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ③ T.P. | WHAT WAS YOUR TURNING POINT?

How did you hear about Jesus? Don't forget to include the key elements of the Gospel (God's love, your sin, Jesus's provision, and your decision to trust Him).

→ **And then one day...**

→ **When I realized Jesus died for my sins and rose again, I...**

<sup>2</sup> This resource is available online in multiple languages at [godtoolsapp.com/en/tools/knowning-god-personally/demo/](http://godtoolsapp.com/en/tools/knowning-god-personally/demo/) or on the GodTools app.

<sup>3</sup> The GodTools app can be found at [godtoolsapp.com](http://godtoolsapp.com) or in your phone's app store.

<sup>4</sup> The One Year Discipleship (OYD) tool is available to download for free in multiple languages at [greatcommissionalliance.org/oyd](http://greatcommissionalliance.org/oyd).

Notes:

#### ④ A.D. | YOUR LIFE WITH CHRIST AS LORD.

*Anno Domini (A.D.)* is Latin for "the year of our Lord," and is used, in the context of the One-Minute Witness, to describe the period of time after placing our trust in Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives.

Share three words or phrases that describe the change Christ has done in you (antonyms to the words or phrases from your B.C. can be good).

→ **Since I met Jesus, I...**

- » 1. \_\_\_\_\_.
- » 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- » 3. \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ⑤ "IF I HAD NEVER MET JESUS"

Briefly summarize what your life would look like without Christ in one concluding sentence.

→ **If I had never met Jesus, I...**

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Once you share your story, ask the person you are meeting with if they would be interested in knowing how Jesus could do something like this in their lives. If they say, "Yes," be prepared to go through the Gospel in more depth. (You may want to use the *Knowing God Personally* booklet<sup>2</sup>, the GodTools app<sup>3</sup>, or some other tool for this.)

When you are through, ask:

→ **Are you ready to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord today?**

If so, lead them in a short prayer, helping them verbalize their decision to the Lord.

If someone you share with puts their faith in Christ, schedule a time to meet with them in the coming week and encourage them in their new walk with God! (If they do not have a Bible, you can bring one for them at that appointment. You can also plan to meet with them regularly to work through the *One Year Discipleship* tool<sup>4</sup>, or the *30-Days of Growing* plan at [growingwithJesus.com](http://growingwithJesus.com).)

