



CoJourners Training Series : Level 1

Week 5: Asking Permission

Purpose:

To learn how we show respect for others by asking permission to share Christ with our friends.

Preparation:

1. Print out copies of "Guide" cards from last week in case any of your group members forget to bring them or were unable to attend the previous week's study.

Plan:

1. **Discuss** last week's assignment: Thank everyone for getting together with you to go over the training for the "How Would You Like To Know God Personally?" booklet.
2. **Read:** The entire card *Embarking Together* up until the action point.
3. **Discuss:** Ask if there are any questions on what you have just read.
4. **Action Plan:**
 1. Follow the "action plan" on the card.
 2. Review the four "Guide" cards once this week during your personal devotional time.

Next Week: Your group will look at the "Builder" role. You will learn skills to build bridges over the obstacles that cause many people to get stuck in their spiritual journey.

Embarking Together

COJOURNERS NO 3.2 | GUIDE

2 A guide shows the way for traveling companions. Spiritually, this can be done in a relationally sensitive manner. The key is to ask permission.

- Can I tell you a little of my story?
- Can I show you what has really helped me?

An important word to use when asking permission is "sometime."
• Sometime, I'd like to show you what has helped me understand my relationship with God and see what you think. Would you be up for that?

Asking to do something sometime (as opposed to right now) takes pressure off the moment. A positive answer expresses openness. Set up a time to talk over coffee or lunch. The prearranged time provides an ideal setting to talk. Both parties know the topic of discussion, so there is no awkwardness about bringing it up.

What if she says she's not interested? Asking permission has not harmed the relationship. Asking demonstrates respect.

4 Action Plan

Try it out. Break up into threes. Take turns asking permission of each other, with the third person observing. After each has had a turn, discuss the approaches. What was best? What suggestions do you have?

This week ask two people a "sometime" question. When they respond positively, set up an opportunity to talk. Enlist others from your group to pray for these discussions.

Summary

The place for a guide to begin is by asking permission.