

# Chapter 5 Study Guide: When Christians Love People

## Section 1: Overcoming Barriers to Faith

### Fill-in-the-Blank Scripture Questions (KJV)

1. **2 Corinthians 10:5** - "Casting down \_\_\_\_\_, and every \_\_\_\_\_ thing that exalteth itself against the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and bringing into \_\_\_\_\_ every \_\_\_\_\_ to the obedience of Christ."
2. **1 Peter 3:15** - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an \_\_\_\_\_ to every man that asketh you a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you with \_\_\_\_\_ and fear."

### Application Questions

1. How should Christians respond when they encounter intellectual objections or don't know the answer to someone's spiritual questions?
2. What role do emotional wounds play in blocking people's receptivity to the gospel, and how can believers minister to those who are emotionally hurting?
3. How can understanding that most objections fall into just a few categories help you prepare for evangelistic conversations?

## Section 2: Building Authentic Relationships

### Fill-in-the-Blank Scripture Questions (KJV)

1. **Proverbs 18:24** - "A man that hath \_\_\_\_\_ must shew himself \_\_\_\_\_: and there is a \_\_\_\_\_ that sticketh \_\_\_\_\_ than a brother."
2. **John 13:35** - "By this shall all men \_\_\_\_\_ that ye are my disciples, if ye have \_\_\_\_\_ one to another."
3. **1 Corinthians 9:22** - "To the weak became I as \_\_\_\_\_: that I might gain the \_\_\_\_\_. I am made all things to all \_\_\_\_\_, that I might by all means \_\_\_\_\_ some."

### Application Questions

1. What practical steps can you take to develop genuine friendships with unbelievers in your community?

2. How can joining activities or groups (like the basketball league example) create natural opportunities for sharing the gospel?
3. Why is it important to distinguish between loving people genuinely and having manipulative motives when serving others?

## **Section 3: Creating Safe Spaces for Ministry**

### **Fill-in-the-Blank Scripture Questions (KJV)**

1. **Colossians 4:6** - "Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be alway with \_\_\_\_\_, seasoned with \_\_\_\_\_, that ye may know how ye ought to \_\_\_\_\_ every man."
2. **Matthew 5:16** - "Let your \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ before men, that they may see your good \_\_\_\_\_, and glorify your \_\_\_\_\_ which is in heaven."
3. **Galatians 6:10** - "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do \_\_\_\_\_ unto all men, especially unto them who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith."

### **Application Questions**

1. How can believers "earn the right to be heard" through acts of service while maintaining pure motives?
2. What does it mean to speak "with grace, seasoned with salt," and how does this create safe spaces for spiritual conversations?
3. How can Christians balance being helpful and loving to unbelievers, regardless of their spiritual response, while still pursuing evangelistic goals?

## **Answer Key**

### **Section 1: Overcoming Barriers to Faith**

#### **Fill-in-the-Blank Answers:**

1. imaginations, high, knowledge, captivity, thought
2. answer, reason, hope, meekness

**Application Questions:** *Answers may vary*

1. **Responding to Objections:** Christians should humbly admit when they don't know an answer, saying, "I don't know, but I'll research that and get back to you." This honesty actually builds credibility and shows they are approachable. Most objections fall into just a few categories so that basic preparation can address most questions. The key is to share what you do know about Christ rather than focusing on what you don't know.
2. **Emotional Wounds and Ministry:** Emotional wounds can create barriers that prevent **individuals** from clearly hearing the gospel. Believers should approach hurting people with gentleness, ask open-ended questions to understand their pain, and be willing to listen without immediately pressing for a decision. Sometimes being a caring friend who offers the "medicine of the gospel" during difficult times is more effective than formal evangelistic presentations.
3. **Preparation Through Understanding:** Recognizing that most spiritual objections can be reduced to just 7-10 common questions helps believers prepare more effectively. Rather than fearing every possible objection, Christians can study answers to the most frequent concerns and be ready to address them. This preparation builds confidence and removes the fear that keeps many from sharing their faith.

## **Section 2: Building Authentic Relationships**

**Fill-in-the-Blank Answers:**

1. friends, friendly, friend, closer
2. know, love
3. weak, weak, men, save

**Application Questions:** *Answers may vary*

1. **Developing Friendships:** Believers can intentionally join community activities, sports leagues, hobby groups, or volunteer organizations where they can naturally meet unbelievers. The key is choosing activities you genuinely enjoy so the friendships are authentic. Look for places where you can serve others or share common interests, creating natural conversation opportunities over time.
2. **Natural Opportunities:** Participating in secular activities **fosters** ongoing relationships where gospel conversations can naturally develop. Unlike one-time evangelistic encounters, these relationships allow multiple conversations over time. When people see your character consistently and ask about your life, it creates organic opportunities to share your faith without seeming forced or artificial.
3. **Pure vs. Manipulative Motives:** Genuine love serves others regardless of their spiritual response, while manipulation serves with strings attached. Christians should help people because they are image-bearers of God who deserve love and care, not just as

evangelistic targets. While hoping people come to faith is good, the primary motivation should be obedience to Christ's command to love others, not just winning converts.

### Section 3: Creating Safe Spaces for Ministry

#### Fill-in-the-Blank Answers:

1. speech, grace, salt, answer
2. light, shine, works, Father
3. good, household

#### Application Questions: *Answers may vary*

1. **Earning the Right:** Believers earn the right to be heard by consistently demonstrating Christ's love through practical service and genuine care. This might involve helping with practical needs, being available during crises, or simply being a reliable friend. The motivation should be love for God and neighbor, not manipulation. As people witness authentic Christian character over time, they become more receptive to hearing about the source of that love.
2. **Grace and Salt:** Speaking with grace means being kind, patient, and respectful even when discussing complex topics. Being "seasoned with salt" suggests having wisdom, being interesting, and preserving truth without being harsh. This creates a sense of safety because people know they won't be attacked or condemned, making them more willing to engage in spiritual conversations and ask honest questions.
3. **Balanced Love:** Christians should love and serve unbelievers unconditionally while maintaining a genuine evangelistic hope. This means helping people, whether they ever respond to the gospel or not, because they are valuable to God. The balance comes from having evangelism "in the back of your mind" without making it manipulative or conditional. Serve because it's right, hope and pray for salvation, but don't make your love dependent on their spiritual response.