

A row of approximately 12 matches is shown against a dark, textured background. The matches have white heads and red-wrapped bodies. The match in the center is lit, with a bright yellow and orange flame. The other matches are unlit.

REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION  
OVER ONE MILLION SOLD

**PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE**

BECOMING A  
**CONTAGIOUS**  
CHRISTIAN

*Communicating Your Faith in a Style That Fits You*

MARK MITTELBERG  
LEE STROBEL

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*with contributions by*

**WENDY SEIDMAN and DON COUSINS**



ZONDERVAN

*Becoming a Contagious Christian Participant's Guide*  
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# INTRODUCTION

## 1995

The *Becoming a Contagious Christian* course is designed to help everyday Christians—like you and me—to confidently and effectively spread their faith to people they know. The emphasis is on natural approaches that work over time to bring family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors to the point of trusting in Christ.

If you are someone who thinks relational evangelism is very important but “it’s not really my area,” then we want you to know that this course is *especially* for you. We are convinced that, as you move through these sessions, you will sense a growing excitement about how God can prepare and use *you* to impact the lives of others for eternity.

Through a variety of formats including video vignettes, group discussions, role playing, and teaching segments, you will learn how to communicate the message of Christ in your own personal, God-given style. As you gain confidence and begin to put into action what you have learned, you will discover what thousands of people who have taken this training before you have found out: becoming a contagious Christian is an unparalleled adventure!

You will have the thrill of sensing the Holy Spirit work through you as you build strategic relationships, raise spiritual topics of conversation, express what God has done for you, and encourage your friends toward commitment. When God uses you as part of the team that leads someone across the line of faith, *watch out!* You

will never be the same again. You will experience the exhilaration that comes with knowing you have played a key role in fulfilling God's central purpose on earth—"to seek and to save what was lost."

So get ready, roll up your sleeves, and let the adventure begin!

*Mark Mittelberg*

South Barrington, Illinois

## 2007

It's hard to believe that it's been more than a decade and over a million people trained since we first introduced this course. But along the way we've learned a lot about equipping Christians—especially those who are convinced that evangelism is *not* for them—to naturally and effectively communicate their faith. We've applied those lessons to this revised and updated edition. Our prayer is that it will serve you and the people in your group well, and that as a result God will use you to reach many more for him.

Your partner in the gospel,

*Mark Mittelberg*

Trabuco Canyon, California

# SESSION 1

## THE **BENEFITS** OF **BECOMING** A **CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN**

### ||| **Who Is Jesus?**



**DVD:** *Who Is Jesus?*

Notes:



## III The Goal of This Course

To prepare us to be contagious Christians  
who are active in leading others to Christ.

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost  
(Luke 19:10).*

*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you (John 20:21).*

*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and  
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).*

## III The Benefits of Becoming a Contagious Christian



**DVD:** *Stories of Contagious Christians*

Notes:

When we help people find the forgiveness and leadership of Jesus, what are the benefits to us, to others, and to God?

Write down a few responses to each of these three areas of benefits.

■ To us?

■ To others?

■ To God?



III The Problem of Perceptions

Evangelism	
Negative	Positive

## Components of Contagious Christianity

Contagious Christianity is fueled by *love*.

It flows out of \_\_\_\_\_.

It's built on *relationships*.

It's expressed in both *actions* and \_\_\_\_\_.

*And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?* (Romans 10:14, NLT).

It is a *process*.

*My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow* (1 Corinthians 3:6, NLT).

It's always a *partnership*.

*Who is Apollos, and who is Paul, that we should be the cause of such quarrels? Why, we're only servants. Through us God caused you to believe. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us* (1 Corinthians 3:5, NLT).

A person's coming to Christ is like a chain with many links. . . . There are many influences and conversations that precede a person's decision to convert to Christ. I know the joy of being the first link at times, a middle link usually, and occasionally the last link. God has not called me to only be the last link.\*

CLIFFE KNECHTLE, author, speaker, and evangelist

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\*Cliffe Knechtle, *Give Me an Answer*, InterVarsity Press, 1986.



## **Individual Activity:** *Begin a Prayer List and an Impact List*

Turn to the last page and the inside back cover.



## **Groups:** *Praying for the People on Your Impact List*

### **Directions**

1. Pair up with someone near you, introduce yourselves if you don't already know each other, and share the first name of the person you wrote down on your *Impact List*, and what your relationship to them is (coworker, sister, brother-in-law, spouse, neighbor, parent, etc.).
2. Take a few minutes to pray together for the people you've both mentioned. To help you know how to pray, follow the simple prayer guide on the right side of the *Prayer List* on the last page of your Participant's Guide.