

CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD

Speaker: Adult Team Member

Time: Monday 12:15 p.m.

Length: 20 minutes maximum

Purpose:

Most TECites are excited to be active Christians, but they have some hesitation because of the obstacles they fear they will face. This talk should tell them in a practical way, “It can be done with God’s help, and I’m trying to do it.” Don’t minimize life “out there in the world.” Rather, explain in a modest and truthful way how you are trying in daily life to exercise Christian leadership.

Outline: Begin Your Talk Here

Scripture reading: Galatians 6:9–10

Response (ALL): Let us not become tired of doing good. (Galatians 6:9)

Introduction:

Mention the three themes of the weekend:

Saturday: DIE with Christ (Romans 6:4)

Sunday: RISE with Christ (Romans 6:8–11)

Monday: GO with Christ (Matthew 28:19–20)

I. We live our faith in the world through prayer and service.

- A. We communicate with God in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). Prayer is an act of worship. To pray means to talk with God.
 - 1. We offer up praise, honoring Him for all He has done for us.
 - 2. We confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.
 - 3. We thank Him for all that He has done.
 - 4. We ask Him for help. We bring our wants and needs, our griefs and sorrows.
 - 5. The Lord’s Prayer is a great example of how to pray, given to us by Jesus Himself.

- B. We serve God as we serve one another (Matthew 25:30; Galatians 6:9–10). Out of love for God and in the freedom and joy we have in Jesus, we help one another (Matthew 25:40–46).
 - 1. Think about the best meal, movie, or book you’ve ever enjoyed. What do you do? You tell others! Not because you have to—because you’re so excited you can’t help it.
 - 2. That’s a lot like living the Christian life. We have the best news ever! We can tell others in what we say and what we do. We do this because we’re so excited, we often can’t help it. Our love for others is NOT because we have to. But forgiven and loved and covered in the grace of God, we GET to. And we do it without fear because God continues to forgive us when we mess it up.

II. Living our faith means helping and leading others.

We get to witness by living out the Christian life in the world. But what does that look like?

- A. Your faith equips you to be a leader who

1. knows the way (faith in Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit)
 2. shows others the way (through example)
 3. goes the way (uses the talents God has given you to the best of your ability)
(Encourage TECites to write these three in their Arise Book. A visual aid may also be helpful here.)
- B. A leader uses influence for good wherever God places you: family, job, church, school, social media, sports, hobbies. (Use yourself as an example in living the Christian life OR use others as examples of those who proclaim their faith openly.)
- C. A Christian leader is open to change and growth for the good of the world, of the Church, of others, and of self.
1. Listens to and shares with other Christians. It's okay to say, "I didn't know that. I've learned something."
 2. Is open to going out into the world for Christ (perhaps even as a missionary or church worker, OR as an active participant in church or youth group).
- D. A Christian leader is realistic and humble.
1. Realizes they are not superior to others, avoids being distant or irrational.
 2. Talks and walks with others in the real world but avoids being brought down by sin. Maybe think of it as being a secret agent, working in some risky or even dangerous places with a clear mission: to share the truth.
- E. A Christian leader . . .
1. is rooted to Jesus. Because you are a branch of Jesus' vine, you are going to bear fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23).
 2. prays (for others and self). Think of yourself as an ambassador. You know the King of all creation! He listens to you. So talk to Him in prayer on behalf of those who don't know Him and don't pray.
 3. remains tied to Word (worship and Bible study) and Sacrament (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) in the Christian community. When this weekend is over, your local congregation is what remains! TEC doesn't happen every week like church does. But when you go to church, God promises to give you gifts to live out your week. (Here you may want to say what your congregation means to you.)

Conclusion:

You are a Christian in the real world! Be involved with people in the Body of Christ. Pray for help in touching the lives of people. Look around and see all that God has in store for you. "Let us not become tired of doing good."(Galatians 6:9).

QUESTION (asked by Lay Director following this talk):

How can I be a Christian in this world?