

CHRISTIAN LIFE

(15 minutes. Discussion, and summary sharing. No poster. This talk is given by an outside team member.)

Please limit your talk to the time allowed for this talk. In order to successfully complete the program every effort must be made to be on schedule. Time is of the essence and your cooperation is extremely important. If you are witnessing, please do it within the theme and within the outline of this talk.

Open with a short prayer.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this talk is to offer an explanation of what it means to live a christian life style. The secondary purpose of this talk is to show how a relationship with God is formed through knowing, loving and serving him.

NOTE: the talk must be constructed in such a way that the listener is not prompted to judge what he has observed in someone else. The presenter may use scriptural references but must only point a finger at himself, never at others.

Points to cover in your talk:

What are the misconceptions of piety?

1. "Holy Joes" -- Appearance is what counts: Folded hands, time spent on knees, etc., concerned only for self and not with the salvation of others.
2. "Mechanical Mikes" -- Only the letter of the law counts, minimum requirements performed out of habit or fear of punishment.
3. "Hypocritical Hal" -- Pretends to be what he is not: performed religious acts for human recognition, not out of the love of God.

What is the definition of Christian Piety?

1. Christian Piety shows a relationship with God through knowing him, loving him and serving him.
2. Knowing -- I am the son of God, brother of Jesus Christ. I have a need to know him, not just about him. Give examples of how you got to know him through scripture, christian reading, listening to christian music and attending liturgy.
3. Loving -- Because I love my brother I talk to him through prayer which can be spontaneous as well as formal.
4. Serving -- I try to live my life as God has called me to live it and this can mean something different to each one of us.

What are the characteristics of a life of piety?

1. Natural -- never phony, sincere expression of what we are like within. It will have the simplicity of a natural father - son relationship.
2. Courageous -- "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16)
3. Mature -- the more human I am, the more I am drawn to my ideal.
4. Joyful - The discovery of God in my life brings me peace and happiness.

Lead the men into the discussion of your talk. You can ask them to respond to a question and to write down that question. You can challenge them and offer a theme related to your talk for discussion. You can provoke and stimulate the discussion in the best way you can.