

What Everyone Brings to the Table

by Pastor Kurt Schroder

For many years Lori's family, those who are able, have gathered at her brother's home a couple times a year. This can involve well over twenty people. That is a lot of mouths to feed for several days. A few years ago, the decision was made that each family would provide some of the food for the meals. Whether they ordered pizza, made a fabulous Filipino meal, or made their family's favorite recipe, each family brought something to the table.

When it comes to those meals, I sometimes wonder what I can do. I am not a cook, but I can peel potatoes. I can run to the store and pick up a needed supply. It might not seem like much, but it is something that contributes to the benefit of others in the family.

Paul describes the church as the body of Christ in I Corinthians 12:12-27. In that passage he speaks of differing gifts in the body. Some are teachers, some have the gift of helps, some have the gift of administration, and the list goes on. Each is gifted by God to bring something to the table, contributing to the health and develop-

ment of the body.

The local church needs the contributions of each member. These contributions include their spiritual gifts, natural talents, and consecrated lives. We need each other to supply what every joint, every person, has been given from God so that the body, the family, will be nourished up in the Lord.

I Corinthians 12:20-25 tells us that no part can say to another, "I don't need you." Nor can they say your role is not as important as their role. No one is insignificant. No age is to be excluded. We don't wait until the kids grow up before they can contribute. No, every member of the family has a purpose and a place in the development of the group.

Your part in our local church is significant, whether you know it or not. Iron River Bible Church needs you to bring what you have to the table so that the body is nourished - growing to be better equipped to serve the Lord and maturing in love for the Lord. Whether it's peeling potatoes or preparing the main dish, God has placed in your hands the ability to contribute to the growth of others. May we all do our part.

What Is a Tract?

by Julian Hernandez

Here at the Iron River Bible Church, we have a large variety of Bible tracts on hand to equip people of all ages with an effective way of sharing the Gospel with others.

Even when you are not sure what to say, a Bible tract can say it for you. If you struggle with how to share your faith with people around you, simply pick an appropriate Bible tract, hand it to them, and pray that God will draw that person to Himself and that The Holy Spirit will do His work to save them. Remember that the power of the Gospel is in the Word, and not the worker. Most people do not realize that they are lost and need the Gospel, but, praise the Lord, Jesus came to seek and to save them that are lost. Luke 19:10

Quite a few Bible tract organizations in the USA have moved overseas to focus on other areas of the world, but there are a couple of wonderful organizations in the USA that still publish Bible tracts here, they are Bible Tracts Inc in Illinois, and Moments With The Book in Pennsylvania. We have many of their available Bible tracts on hand here at IRBC, as well as other organizations. We also have some excellent Bible tracts that have been written by Pastor Dan Waters, and a couple from Rex Dye.

Let's take a step back and make sure we understand and know what a Bible tract is. Here is what Paul Levin, evangelist and founder of Bible Tracts Inc, had to say about Bible tracts and keys to success in tract evangelism: "A Bible tract is a short, simple presentation of the Gospel message, printed in a convenient pocket size, designed for easy distribution and use." There is probably no easier, more convenient way to share the good news of Jesus Christ than through the use of Gospel tracts. Many have been led to Christ in this way.

Features of a tract ministry:

- There is no amount of time required - just whenever the opportunity arises.
- Tracts can be left almost anywhere and shared with nearly anyone.
- There are tracts for every occasion, for every need, for every type of person.
- Tracts can be distributed by anyone, regardless of age, or education.
- Tracts provide an easy way to "break the ice" or "open the door" to witness.
- Tracts eliminate the problem of forgetfulness or uncertainty of what to say.
- The message, since it is printed, can be taken home, read, and studied.
- Tracts can be passed along and can therefore be used over and over again.
- Tracts can be mass-distributed easily.
- Tracts are inexpensive and can be handed out liberally.

Key to success in tract evangelism:

- Success in witnessing is sharing Christ in the Holy Spirit's power and leaving the results to God.
- There is no substitute for prayer. Pray before, pray during, and pray after sharing a tract.
- Always have a variety of tracts available and be prepared to use them.
- Look for opportunities to use tracts. Take advantage of every situation.
- As in all things, be pleasant and polite in representing the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Distribute tracts plentifully and persistently.
- Be sure to follow up with those who have received tracts to answer any questions.

How to use tracts:

- The preferred method is to hand a tract to a person personally and at the same time to witness with words like, "May I share something with you?"
- Give tracts to friends and acquaintances everywhere, strangers in restaurants and grocery stores, baggers, gas station cashiers and workers.
- As you travel, share with people on buses, planes, trains, bank tellers, and door to door salespeople.
- When leaving a tip in a restaurant (at least 20%), include a tract.

Services & Bible Studies (Times and Places)

Every Sunday:

Sunday School	9:45 am
AM Service	11:00 am
PM Service	6:00 pm

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer
Youth Group/Kids Club

Men's Bible Study:

Men's breakfast is once a month.
Usually the 2nd Saturday at 8 am.

Women's Bible Study:

The ladies' Bible study will meet every other week. Monday morning at 9 am at the church and Monday evening at 6 pm at Sharon Rometti's home.

Books of Joshua & Micah Challenge

Your challenge is to read the books of Joshua & Micah. March has 31 days. Joshua and Micah together have 31 chapters. Try to read a chapter a day.

While you read the books, learn about God.

What does He say? What does He do? What is

important to Him? Learn about His heart.

As He works in the nation of Israel through Joshua and the prophets, we learn about God. Pray before you read each day. Ask God to reveal more about Himself to you.

Whatever you learn, share with others.

Summary of the Book of Joshua (from gotquestions.org)

Author: The Book of Joshua does not explicitly name its author. More than likely Joshua the son of Nun, the successor of Moses as leader over Israel, penned much of this book. The latter part of the book was written by at least one other person after the death of Joshua. It is also possible that several sections were edited or compiled following Joshua's death.

Date of Writing: The Book of Joshua was likely written between 1400 and 1370 B.C.

Brief Summary: The Book of Joshua continues the story of the Israelites after the exodus

from Egypt. The book chronicles the approximately 20 years of Joshua's leadership of the people after Moses anointed him at the end of Deuteronomy. The twenty-four chapter divisions of the Book of Joshua can be summarized as follows:

Chapters 1-12: Entering and conquering the Promised Land.

Chapters 13-22: Instructions for distributing the portions of the Promised Land.

Chapters 23-24: Joshua's farewell address

Summary of the Book of Micah (from gotquestions.org)

Author: The author of the Book of Micah was the Prophet Micah (Micah 1:1).

Date of Writing: The Book of Micah was likely written between 735 and 700 B.C.

Brief Summary: The prophet condemns the rulers, priests, and prophets of Israel who exploit and mislead the people. It is because of their deeds that Jerusalem will be destroyed. The prophet Micah proclaims the deliverance of the people who will go from Jerusalem to Babylon and concludes with an exhortation for Jerusalem to destroy the nations who have gathered against her. The ideal ruler would come from

Bethlehem to defend the nation, and the prophet proclaims the triumph of the remnant of Jacob and foresees a day when Yahweh will purge the nation of idolatry and reliance on military might. The prophet sets forth a powerful and concise summary of Yahweh's requirement for justice and loyalty and announces judgment upon those who have followed the ways of Omri and Ahab. The book closes with a prophetic liturgy comprising elements of a lament. Israel confesses its sin and is assured of deliverance through Yahweh's mighty acts.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- Tracts can be handed out in large quantities in parking lots, shopping malls, parks, sporting events, parades, and other places where people congregate, unless local ordinances forbid all forms of solicitation. Check with local authorities.
- There is almost no limit to the places where tracts may be placed. Leave them in conference rooms, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, shopping carts, book stands, magazine racks, tables, countertops, bulletin boards, lounge chairs, hat racks, but be sure to avoid littering.
- Place tracts in all mail, including personal and business letters, bills, statements, bank deposits, greeting cards, and packages.
- Hand out tracts to those that are hospitalized, in nursing homes, prisons, local jails, and habitual church absentees.
- Hand out tracts to people that have lost loved ones, newlyweds, and parents with new arrivals. Include God's Word in every occasion.
- Do NOT place tracts in post offices, nor mailboxes. It is illegal.

Suggestions for conducting a church or group tract ministry:

- Select a person to supervise the program.
- Encourage workers to make a definite commitment to this ministry.
- Conduct initial training for all workers on how to witness with tracts.
- Conduct regular prayer sessions for the program.
- Obtain a wide variety of tracts from different sources. There are a host of tracts for every occasion and every kind of spiritual need. Select appropriate tracts from among these and maintain sufficient quantities.
- Stamp or imprint tracts with address and phone number for follow up.
- Develop a follow up discipleship program for new Christians."

Here are ideas from Moments With The Book for why and how to share tracts with others:

- Tracts cross educational hurdles and are available on various "grade" levels.
- Tracts can communicate in languages that you do not speak.
- Tracts can address difficult issues (when written by an expert) on which you are not an expert.
- Tracts can directly address certain beliefs - like Islam, Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witness - and compare them with Biblical truth.
- Tracts can be placed in returned library books and puzzles.
- Tracts can be given out during appointments with doctors, and health care workers.
- Tracts can be left in laundromats, hotels, and motel rooms.

We can avoid offending people in our outreach ministry by following these simple rules:

- Don't leave tracts on houses or cars.
- Don't disobey local ordinances or guidelines when sharing tracts.
- Don't force tracts on people.
- Don't be rude when someone turns you down.
- Don't trespass - breaking the law is not Christ-like.
- Don't use tracts that you have not read. Make sure to study the message (and all referenced Scriptures) so you are familiar with what you are distributing.

Here are a few people that were saved by reading a Bible tract:

- The great missionary to China, Hudson Taylor
- A preacher of the Great Awakening, George Whitefield
- Founder of Stand to Reason, Greg Koukl

Remember our goal:

Reach as many people as possible with the Gospel, for: repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His

How God Saved Me

by Erin Goriesky

I had learned about Jesus at an early age as both of my parents were Christians. We attended church regularly. I was 5 years old, when I realized that I was a sinner and needed to be saved. I was baptized when I was 6 years old.

I wish I could say that everything after that was a bed of roses, but later that year, I lost my father in a plane crash. Life was turned upside down for a long time as we tried to find balance. I still went to church off and on as a teenager, but my heart wasn't in it. I was angry and rebellious.

But through the pain, I felt God's gentle pull at my heart. I knew I wasn't living right. I repented.

And I am so much happier. I cling to God's promises in His word. I especially like the verse in Romans 8:28 where it says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

name among all nations - Luke 24:47

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17

Many people who will never attend church nor open the Bible, will read a tract.

They will thereby hear the Word of God, and many will be saved.

Imagine that the Evangelist, Paul Levin, founder of Bible Tracts Inc, prayed this prayer to you:

"Dear Christian Friend, I pray that what you have just read will encourage you to become a laborer for the Lord. Perhaps you have been looking for that special way in which God would use you to witness. Maybe He is directing you now through this message to become a part of a Gospel tract ministry. Why not begin today and let God use you to help lead others to Christ?"

Don't be discouraged if you don't see any decisions. Remember these Bible verses:

- Isaiah 55:11 - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
- Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- John 4:3b - One soweth, and another reapeth.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6 - But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- John 20:13 - As My Father has sent Me, even so I send you.

Finally, please consider what the Bible says in Matthew 9:37-38 - When Jesus urges the disciples to pray for workers: **Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**

Kids' Corner with Miss Abby

Rainbow Slime (Myjoyfilledlife.com)

Materials

- 6 bottles clear Elmer's Glue (6 ounces each)
- ~ ½ cup warm water (for each bowl)
- ½ tsp baking soda (for each bowl)
- 1 T contact lens solution with boric acid for each bowl
- Food coloring, in red, blue, yellow, and green



Instructions

To get all the colors of the rainbow, you're going to be making six different colors of slime.

To make the colors of the slime, you'll need:

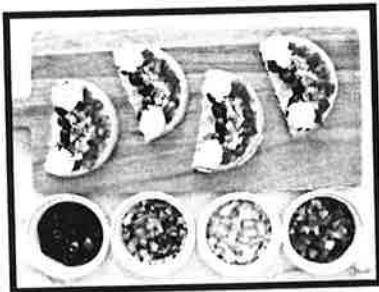
- Red, Green, Blue, and Yellow - 10 drops of each type of food coloring into each of the colors bowls
- Orange - 5 drops yellow food coloring plus 3 drops red food coloring
- Purple - 5 drops red food coloring plus 4 drops blue food coloring

Start by emptying out all the glue into one large bowl.

Once empty, take and fill the glue bottle about 1/3 full of warm water and put on the lid. Shake and then pour into the bowl and stir. Add in the baking soda and stir.

Put in the contact lens solution and stir. (Keep in mind that if you have glitter glue, it will require a bit more contact solution than regular glue) Make certain that you're adding it in slowly, mixing each time. You have to not add too much as you need it to be a soft ball by the time you're done. Take the slime from the bowl and be prepared for it to be sticky at that point. Start to play with it, knead it, and it'll start to come together. It's ready to play with when it's no longer sticky.

To keep it good, keep it in the fridge in a container with a lid.



Rainbow Waffles

- First, make your favorite waffle whether homemade or Eggo and cut it in half.
- Then cut your favorite fruits into very small pieces the more color the better.
- Add your fruits in the ROY G BIV order and top with whipped cream or butter clouds.

Bible Tie-in from Kid's Answers (answersingenesis.org)

"Have you ever wondered how a rainbow is made?"

Rainbows need two important ingredients to appear: water droplets and sunlight. Light from the sun travels to the earth in waves of the colors we see in a rainbow. When the waves of light hit drops of water, a process called refraction (ree-FRAK-shun) occurs. During refraction, the light reflects off the inside of the water and changes direction. Another process called dispersion (dis-PER-shun) also happens, separating the sunlight into all the colors of the rainbow. The different colors of light are reflected off the raindrop toward our eyes, creating a rainbow.

In Genesis 6-9, God sent a WORLDWIDE FLOOD as punishment for people's sins. After the flood, God put a RAINBOW in the sky as a promise to never again flood the whole earth. The next time you see a rainbow stretching across the sky, remember God's vow and thank him for being faithful to keep his promises.

Genesis 9:11-13 [11] I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." [12] And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."