

Practical follow up

Immediately someone becomes a new believer you should:

1. Help them think through on what they have done, and confirm their commitment by sharing Scripture verses, such as: John 5:24, 1 John 5:11-13.
2. Start them memorising these key statements, and check to see if they have done this next time you meet. Share your own current memory verses too so that they will see your example. Paul said, 'Therefore I urge you to imitate me' (1 Corinthians 4:16).
3. Start them off in a plan of reading the Bible, praying on the basis of what they have read, and expecting God to answer. (It always surprises me how God answers seemingly crazy requests of a new believer, probably just to encourage them.)
4. Pray together, *simply* and about basic issues, such as their new life, overcoming sin, their needs, and anything else they might think important.
5. Make another appointment for another friendly meeting, possibly with a meal.
6. Pray for the new Christian regularly and urgently.

Later you can:

7. Plan together some leisure activity that you would both enjoy. Later, you might work together on a worthy project. These build your relationship.
8. Provide fellowship with other Christians—perhaps a Bible study fellowship that you are running.
9. Encourage them to speak about their new faith. Help them to present their story succinctly, using Acts 26 as a model.

Hospitality is an important part of follow up. It shows you care for the person, especially if you do it more than once. Giving hospitality is a part of Christian living anyway (Romans 12:13).

Depending on the new Christian's background, you might have to be prepared to answer a host of **questions** about every issue under the sun. Do your best at the time, but if you don't have an immediate answer, admit it, and say, 'I'll do some study and give you the answer next time.' Genesis is an important book to introduce because it teaches creation, the starting point for all the Bible's doctrines.

Hillman Buckingham, Commissioner of the Salvation Army in New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, was quoted in *Creation* magazine recently (June-August 1999) as saying, 'I had always been a believer in Genesis—it is part of being converted.'

Today, evolution is a basic philosophy that permeates almost all of modern thinking and underpins science, religion and government. The fact is, however, you can't have evolution and God—they are opposed, and you need to be able to handle this question. If a young Christian is not instructed in the doctrine of creation they will have a weak foundation. It is the duty of the church network to see to that foundation.

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