



Free Evangelism Training
Article from Cadre
Missions

Letter from Emma

Here is a real letter received
from a student after summer camp.
Read her story and then explore
the questions that follow.

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Dear Bill,

I don't know if this will ever get to you or if I'll even finish this, but I'm writing this anyways. It's Wednesday night and this evening you told us about your childhood and what your mom's friend, Jerry, did for her, and about your family. Well, I have a dysfunctional family too, but not in the same sense as yours. My family is just... weird, like everyone else's. But I am the only one in my family that is remotely Christian.

I grew up wondering why we didn't dress up and go to church on Sunday mornings like all my friends families. I wondered what Sunday school was and why all my friends went there. Religion always was—until very recently—a distant and uncomfortable subject for me and my family. We aren't against Christ, he was just never really present in our lives. The gift of Christ's blood was never known to me.

A few special people tried to break through to me and tried to teach me, but I couldn't believe. Now, just this past year, I got very close to two very special people— my friends Gary and Jeanie, who have a very strong and loving relationship with God. When I was first getting to know them, they tried to teach me and show me God's way, but they knew it was an uncomfortable subject for me, and were confident in my ability choose, so they left it alone.

A little later on, when I had come to an extremely difficult point in my life, they were both still there, and both knew what to do. They knew that I needed to accept Christ as my savior, receive God's love, and be cleansed of my sins. They talked to me and taught me and took me to hear speakers. I went to Jeanie's youth group for a while, but I still needed that little extra push to accept Christ.

Jeanie invited me to come here to this camp with her. I was a little uncertain at first because I knew that it was a Christian camp, and that it would be centered around a topic that generally made me feel sick to my stomach. But I came, and it was the best thing I've ever done!

Sunday night at the first chapel, I was too nervous to pay attention to anything. The next morning though I really listened to you talking about God's love and Christ's gift. I struggled throughout the day knowing the truth of the fact that I needed God, but not being able to put my trust into something that I had never seen or never known.

Your words and your true love for the Lord pushed at me all through the evening chapel. By the time I got back to the cabin at night for the devotions, I was a mess. I had no idea what I was supposed to do, but by the end of the night, with some help and love from Jeanie and our cabin counselor, I was able to accept Christ and pray to God for forgiveness and mean it.

I'm now a new person and every day that I hear you speaking about the Lord and his Son, I can see my faith growing—along with my love for God. So this was really a long, drawn out, round about way of saying that your speaking and examples gave me that extra push that I needed to start a lasting and loving relationship with God. For that I thank you because it has changed my life.

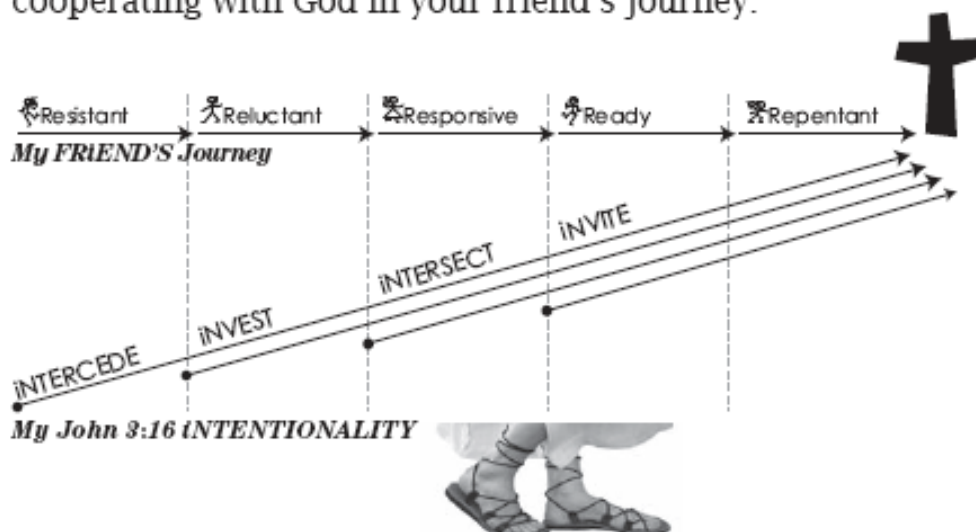
—Emma

How did God move Emma's heart?

Now read this excerpt below from Grow, Minister, and Lead —Book 2 and answer this question: How did God move Emma's heart from resistant to repentant? Be specific?

The Zacchaeus Principle: How?

In Cadre's *Evangelism Is Relationships* workshop, we train people to cooperate with God in the spiritual journeys of those in their relational sphere of influence. Take a good look at the diagram below—and note that there are really two journeys happening: One is the journey of your non-Christian friend and the other is your journey of cooperating with God in your friend's journey.



Think of one non-Christian friend in your life. Place that person's initials on the graph where you think this person is in his/her spiritual journey: resistant, reluctant, responsive, ready or repentant. Now, place your name next to what your response should be: intercede, invest, intersect or invite. Remember this:

My Friend's Journey	My Journey with My Friend
If they are resistant	...intercede for them.
If they are reluctant	...invest relationally in them.
If they are responsive	...intersect God's truth with them.
If they are ready	...invite them to trust Christ as Savior.