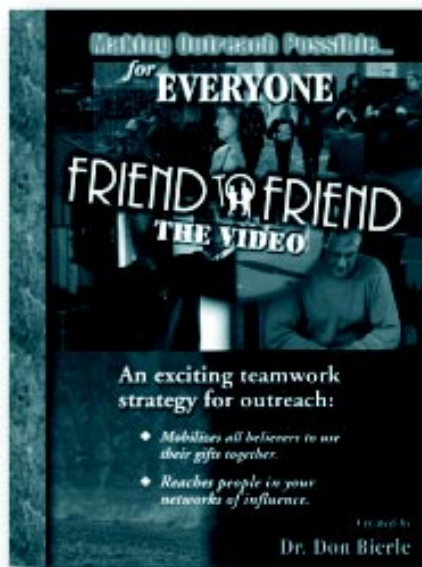


## Friend To Friend Video Ready for Release

After months of scripting, filming, and editing, the Friend to Friend video is ready for release! In this issue of *Reasons*, we'll introduce you to some of the features of this exciting new training series. This new tool allows church leaders across America to equip *all* their people to become involved in the Great Commission of Jesus—that is, if they have a TV, VCR, and a desire to reach out to their communities.

### The video is done, but we still need your help!

Although the filming is done, the real test is ahead of us: Spreading the word. How do we get the word out? Please pray with us that God will prepare the way to bring this video series to the attention of pastors and church leaders in communities across the country. We believe that once they view Friend to Friend, pastors will enthusiastically agree that it will effectively mobilize their congregations. And not just 5% or less—Friend to Friend mobilizes *everyone* in the process, regardless of maturity and giftedness.



You can help by giving this newsletter to your pastor. On page four, you'll find a message to your pastor from executive director Don Bierle. He is so confident of the value of Friend to Friend that he is inviting your pastor to view this video series on a free 30-day, no obligation trial. At your pastor's request, we'll send the complete video set, which includes four VHS tapes, a leader's guide, and a student

manual. Or perhaps you may want to purchase the Friend to Friend video series and donate it for your church's use. It's a gift that will continue for years to impact your church and community.

Join us with your prayers for God's blessing on this powerful ministry tool.

## What is Friend to Friend?

Long-time friends of the ministry will recognize the Friend to Friend name. It's the strategy that Faith Studies has been using for the last four years to help churches fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples in their communities. Executive director Don Bierle says, "The development of Friend to Friend grew out of my discovery that people are more likely to make a life-changing commitment to Jesus Christ when invited to a Faith Study by a credible friend. Bridging to unbelievers through relationships is a key concept of the Friend to Friend strategy."



Now the Friend to Friend strategy has become Friend to Friend: The Video. The series helps Christians see the many roles they can play in fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission to "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28). In eight sessions, Faith Studies teachers define the trends of change in today's society, how those trends impact our effectiveness as witnesses, and how everyone in the local church can contribute their different gifts in a team effort to see unchurched people experience new life through faith in Jesus Christ.

# FAITH STUDIES CLASSIFIEDS

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

*Part-time receptionist/administrative assistant to direct incoming calls, maintain contact database and coordinate mailings and greet visitors. 30-40 hours/wk. Call Todd Burdge, 952-401-4501.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Data Entry Volunteers.

*Three or four people are needed to enter seminar attendee information into our database. If you're comfortable with a PC and can give just a few hours a month, call Todd Burdge at 952-401-4501.*

### Prayer Foundation Coordinator.

*If you're motivated to pray for this ministry, and you'd like to keep in contact with other prayer volunteers, we may have a fulfilling ministry opportunity for you! Call Hasnah Burdge at 952-401-4501.*

## ITEMS NEEDED

### Network laser printer.

*We need a 1200 dpi, large-format (11 x 17), PostScript compatible laser printer. If it has a multi-tray feeder, it will greatly enhance efficiency and quality for both our front office and our media & communications departments.*

*Faith Studies International is an inter-denominational, not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting evidences for the Christian faith through the Faith Study seminar and its derivatives—including outreach and training seminars, media resources, and discipleship programs. Faith Studies International is not publicly or denominationally supported.*

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## It's a Changing World

We live in a post-modern world—a world in which truth is viewed as relative. Many people are therefore hostile toward Jesus' exclusive claim:



“I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.” Christians trying to share this claim with others are seen as intolerant and inconsiderate. As a result, “evangelism” is considered annoying. No wonder evangelism is avoided by Christians and non-Christians alike.

Session 1 of the Friend to Friend video addresses these issues of our changing world. It also identifies some of the consequences of current trends such as a growing biblical illiteracy.

## So What?

Many Christians wonder what the Great Commission means for them. With a traditional concept of evangelism in mind, many decide that Jesus wasn't talking to them, or that they lack the proper gifts to carry out his command. For many, “evangelize” has negative connotations. It brings fears of being asked to do something they can't do, or visions of confronting people in an obnoxious and insensitive style.

In session 2 of Friend to Friend, the Faith Studies team looks at these fears, and suggests an alternative to these stereotypes of sharing our faith: friendship. Jesus not only told us *what* to do, but *how* to do it. The Faith Studies team identifies three distinct activities in fulfilling the Great Commission: bridging, proclaiming, and nurturing. In subsequent sessions, the team explores how the church can create an intentional plan of teamwork to carry out these activities without expecting everyone to do the same thing.

## Unmasking the Myths

Several myths about sharing our faith paralyze our influence on others. In session 3 of the Friend to Friend video, the Faith Studies team examines three myths about being a Christian witness that keep most Christians from getting involved, much less being effective. By the end of the session, viewers will be equipped with three truths to help them be confident witnesses to the unchurched and uncommitted they meet every day.

## Bridging the Gap

A recent George Barna report indicates that more than 80% of people who came to faith in Jesus Christ did so because of the influence of a friend. Being a Christian witness doesn't require more activities in an already crowded schedule. It means living a credible life,



and developing genuine, caring relationships with the people around us.

How do we develop an intentional plan to do that? In session 4 of the Friend to Friend video, the Faith Studies team identifies the first three of five important action steps for participants to take. These steps include *identifying* unbelieving people in their networks of influence, *praying* regularly for them, and *building* relational bridges to them through friendship.

## It Takes a Team

So far, the training has emphasized how individuals can GO—by building friendships with the people they regularly touch. But what about Jesus’ second “how-to,” proclaiming? That takes a team. In session 5, participants learn how relationally-gifted individuals cooperate with



proclamationally-gifted people. Together they share the gospel message effectively with their friends. This is the critical fourth action step in the disciple-making process.

## Pushing Their Hot Buttons

Surveys of Americans have revealed that more than 82% desire a deeper relationship with God. Why then does it seem that most unbelievers are uninterested in spiritual things?

There are at least two important reasons. First, we are not sensitive to the right timing in an unbeliever’s life. We must patiently wait for a period of receptiveness. Second, we must meet people’s “felt” needs en route to opening their eyes to their spiritual needs. Many people don’t equate the struggles in their life—struggles with relationships, finances, or the multiple demands of a career and family—with a need to develop their spiritual life. In session 6, participants listen to inspiring stories about how churches have met the “felt” needs of a community, and thus gained the opportunity to minister to people’s spiritual needs.

## Now What?

By session 7, participants have a good foundation of the principles that shape the Friend to Friend strategy. But one step in the disciple-making process is still missing. And it’s an essential one.

Statistics gathered by Faith Studies International over the past two years reveal that nearly 60% of unbelievers who attend a proclamational event like The Faith Study with a friend affirm faith in Jesus Christ. But without the fifth action step new believers usually don’t become part of the church.



In this session the Faith Studies team shows the importance of spiritual nurturing. Here a Christian participates in a spiritual nurture group such as the *Owner’s Manual* Bible study with friends who make a commitment to Jesus Christ. Through this study a person grows as a disciple, assimilates into the church, and discovers how to reach out to friends and begin the process again.

The video seminar also shows how to maintain vital communication between all Friend to Friend team members to keep the church moving forward in this Great Commission strategy. Through regular team meetings and application of Friend to Friend concepts, churches can experience amazing spiritual growth within their communities.

## Knowing God

The final session of the Friend to Friend video presents seven biblical truths about a relationship with God. The truths, presented through testimonies of the Faith Studies teachers, will help strengthen participants’ faith,



and better equip them for telling others about their relationship with Jesus Christ. This important segment of the Friend to Friend video, provides answers to common ques-

tions and arguments many people are confronted with while sharing their faith.

The Friend to Friend video is an exciting complement to any church ministry as it equips believers to be effective witnesses in their community.

# Friend to Friend: A Proactive Approach to Evangelism in Today's Postmodern World

Evangelism isn't what it used to be—it's *harder!* Today's society insists that truth is relative, not absolute. To share Jesus' words, "I am *the Way...*" with someone will earn you the label "intolerant" or "bigot." We are also told that "faith" is okay as long as you keep it to yourself. And when only 7% of unbelievers are expected to enter a church this year, how do we reach them at all?

The Friend to Friend strategy responds to the problems faced by today's church leaders. Perhaps you've faced some of these difficulties yourself:

### Challenges Facing the Local Church

Postmodernism: relative truth, skepticism, for privatization of religion

The negative impact of aggressive, confrontational outreach methods on the image and credibility of the local church

The failure of traditional outreach methods/concepts to effectively grow the local church

Low participation by church members (5%) in community outreach

### Faith Studies' Convictions

In our postmodern society, a satisfied mind is often the path to a transformed heart

The local church is God's primary instrument for reaching communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ

The Great Commission is focused on a total process of making disciples—not a call to "decision" faith only

"Making disciples" is a process accomplished best by a local church team approach—not "lone rangers"

### Friend to Friend Strategy

Emphasizes apologetic evidences—the "why" questions about Christian faith

Emphasizes building friendship bridges to unbelievers within each believer's networks of influence

Emphasizes assimilating people into the church through an intentional process of friendship, proclamation and nurturing

Emphasizes the use of everyone's spiritual gifts and skills in the one mission of the church: to make disciples

Thousands have already seen live presentations of the Friend to Friend strategy in local churches of various denominations. I have personally seen the joy that fills the hearts of those who discover a way to make a spiritual difference in other people's lives. It has brought new hope and vision to pastors' hearts, too!

Would you like to see how Friend to Friend can make a difference in your church? Read this newsletter

for an overview of what Friend to Friend offers. Then mail us the coupon below or give us a call for your free preview. You'll be glad you did!

Looking forward to a ministry partnership with you and your church,



*Don*

**Dr. Don Bierle**  
Executive Director

## Yes! I want to preview this exciting new training series!

**Please send me my FREE\* 30-day no obligation trial of the FRIEND TO FRIEND video series.**

\*Offer available only to churches and organizations. Coupon must be filled out in its entirety (email, Web site and fax information not required). Church or organization will be invoiced for the entire cost of the video set, \$149 plus shipping and handling, unless Faith Studies International receives the entire video set at the end of the free trial period.

**Fill out this card and mail it to: Faith Studies International, PO Box 786, Chanhassen, MN 55317.**

**Or call us toll-free at 800-964-1447 (952-401-4501 in the Twin Cities).**

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FRIEND TO FRIEND** ...Making evangelism possible for **everyone!**