

# FRIENDS & COMMUNITY: Step into the Circle

February 19, 2012 ▶ Mike Linch  
Pray - Part 3



## 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

### 1. **LIVE IT OUT**

***“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.”***

*Pray that I would ...*

- Put Christ first in **every area** of my life
- Honor God with **every choice** I make

### 2. **BE READY TO RESPOND**

***“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks...”***

*Pray that I would...*

- **Actively look** to meet the Needs of Others
- **Be Sensitive** to the Spirit's Promptings

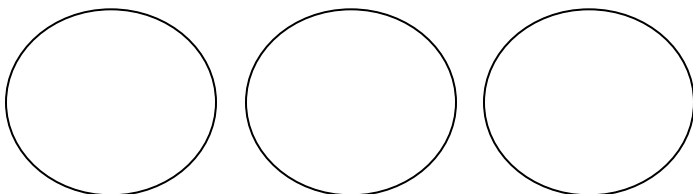
### 3. **KEEP SHOWING GOD'S LOVE**

***“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”***

*Pray that I would...*

- Give hope to others through **acts of kindness**
- Pray **without giving up** on those disconnected from God

***Three people I'm committing to pray for until they come to know Christ***



## Digging Deeper

*Spiritual Growth*  
AT NORTHSTAR

How do I use “DIGGING DEEPER? Spend a few minutes each day this week digging a little deeper into the scriptures that you have heard today by reading God's Word and asking yourself some introspective questions. Then, ask God to help you put His Word into practice.

**Monday** - Read 1 Peter 3:15 & James 4:7. **Who wears the crown?** When Peter uses the words “set apart,” he means that we should put Christ above all else in our lives. To set aside Christ as Lord means that we don't merely admit that He is Lord in a generic sense. Rather, remove the crown off your head and put it upon His head. This is something we do not only once when we first meet Christ but it should be a conscious act of our will each morning. There is only one crown in your life this morning. Who is wearing it? Ask God to help you keep the crown off your head and on Christ's head today and every day.

**Tuesday** - Read 1 Peter 3:15 & 2 Corinthians 5:17. **Are you ready?** What if someone came up out of the blue and said, “What is the reason for your hope?” Would you be ready to talk about the influence of Jesus Christ in your life? The truth is that if we are showing a changed life in front others, they are going to be curious at some point. They will ask because they see something in your life that is unexplainable. Is there something about you that is not explainable in human terms? Can they explain the life of (insert your name here) apart from Jesus Christ? Ask God to help you live a life that can only be explained by the life change that Jesus Christ is bringing to your life.

**Wednesday** - Read 1 Peter 3:15. **Are you kind?** Not only does Peter tell us that it's important to share “what” our hope filled life is attributed to, but “how” we do it is also important. Peter had already said Christians should be sympathetic, tender, loving, and humble (1 Peter 3:8); he had explained that we should not return insult for insult (1 Peter 3:9). Here, Peter says that if we are asked to explain our faith, we must do so *with gentleness and respect*. Believers were not to be arrogant, rude, or overly aggressive. They were to trust God for the outcome of any hostile situation (where they were being challenged), and they were to trust the Holy Spirit to work quietly in the hearts of their listeners. Ask God to help you respond with kindness to the negative and derogatory words and actions from others because of your faith.

**Thursday** - Read 1 Peter 3:16 & Matthew 5:14. **Are you light in a dark world?** Is your “good behavior in Christ” shining in the darkness of the moral culture in which you live? Being light in a dark world is not being proud or arrogant. It's not being confrontational and condemning. Light is warm. Light brings clarity. Light is attractive. What will it mean for us to be light in a dark world? We must out-love, out-live, out-give, and out-pray the people of this world. You should be different all the time. You should stand out all the time. Ask yourself, “Am I blending in to my surroundings or am I standing out with the light of Christ? Ask God to help you be light in a dark world so others might be drawn to Him.

**Friday** - Read 1 Peter 3:15. **Are you giving hope?** In order to give others hope of a better way, a better life, and a better future, we must first have hope. The word *hope*, here, does not mean “mere wish, fond desire,” but it means “rock-ribbed truth, based on the Word of God—divine certainty, based on the Word of God.” Are you living your life based on the absolute certainty that Jesus Christ is alive and is the only way to the Father? Are you living with the certainty that only He holds the key to a better tomorrow? Are you full of fear or full of hope? You can't give hope to others if you are full of fear. Ask God to fill you with hope, the certainty that Jesus is working all things together for your good and His glory.