

Persuasiveness

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been lost? In order to find your way back to familiar places, you need someone to give you directions. In a similar way, many have wandered away from the right path spiritually, and some have never been on it to begin with. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). By pointing others to Jesus, you help them to find the truth and the way of life. Through sharing God’s Word, you give them answers for difficult situations and decisions. You can also guide others in the right direction by staying on the right path yourself. When they see you not only talking about memorizing Scripture but also doing it with joy and success, they will be encouraged to follow your example.



Philip Guides a Traveler to Jesus

PERSUASIVENESS

Guiding vital truths around another's mental roadblocks

Persuasiveness Overview

What is Persuasiveness?

Read aloud, study, and discuss what persuasiveness means and how it applies to life.

The operational definition of *persuasiveness* is “guiding vital truths around another’s mental roadblocks.” Vital truths are those facts of life that all of us need to know for our good. Sometimes, however, people can have false, deep-rooted ideas that keep them from accepting or acting on those important truths. Such ideas are called “mental roadblocks.” Ignorance, fear, misunderstandings, and false beliefs can keep a person from seeing clearly what is true and right. To guide others around these obstacles, you must first understand the truth for yourself, identify the specific barrier, and discern how best to talk with them. Sometimes rewording the truth in a simpler way is helpful. Other times more explanation, wise questions, or examples are needed. You can also point out either the good results of right actions or the consequences of wrong actions. Agree where you can, maybe saying,



By shining light on the truth of God’s Word, a persuasive person helps others avoid obstacles along the way of life.

“That seems to make sense, doesn’t it?” before speaking the truth. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit as you lovingly steer others toward Godly conclusions.

The opposite of *persuasiveness* is *contentiousness*. A

contentious person is quick to argue in his attempt to persuade. He insists on debate, sometimes even elevating his opinions over the very truth he is trying to prove! Contention turns people away instead of

drawing them to the truth. Proverbs 13:10 states that contention only comes by pride. In contrast, Galatians 5:22 says that walking in the Spirit brings the pleasant fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and gentleness. Instead of trying to force the truth on people, “salt the oats” by making others curious about what you have to say. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6). As you learn to reason graciously with people, they will more readily accept the truth you share with them.



A contentious person seeks to force his opinion on others or “runs over” people to prove his point.

Every day is filled with opportunities

to be persuasive. Being an example by making your bed and putting away your pajamas can influence your brothers and sisters to do the same. You can motivate a struggling student by helping him understand his school work. If your friend grumbles that he doesn’t like his parents’ rules, ask him questions to help him picture what could happen without those guidelines. When a foolish conversation begins, gently change the topic to one that is more edifying, such as God’s recent answer to prayer. If you see people wasting their time, invite them to join you in a project that is constructive and helpful. Make the most of the opportunities you have each day to persuade others to live by God’s Word.

Persuasiveness in Scripture

Read aloud and discuss each verse, question, and concept.

Proverbs 2:1–6 says, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” What a privilege to study the rich truths of God’s Word, hide them in your heart, and apply them to daily life! These truths are priceless treasures, far above the value and beauty of rubies and diamonds. As you dig deeper into God’s Word, see Who He is, and allow Him to work in you, your life will be a radiant expression of His love. He will be glorified as His character is seen in you.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

We see examples of persuasiveness in God’s character in the following ways:

- With a simple question, God spoke to Cain’s conscience, shining a light on his wrong actions. (See [Genesis 4:9–10](#).)
- God uses His creation to present undeniable evidence of His truth and power. (See [Romans 1:19–20](#).)
- Jesus persuaded the disciples that He was the Son of God by revealing His authority over nature. (See [Matthew 14:32–33](#).)
- Jesus often used parables and stories as illustrations to help those with hearing hearts better understand spiritual truths. (See [Mark 4:30–34](#).)
- Jesus made application from the Law to show His adversaries that healing on the Sabbath was the right thing to do. (See [Luke 13:14–16](#).)
- Jesus’ words brought conviction that motivated the crowd to change their plans. (See [John 8:7–9](#).)

- The Holy Spirit is the One Who both guides us to all truth and enables us to have any wisdom in persuading others to that truth. (See [John 16:13](#); [I Corinthians 2:3–5](#).)

QUALITY IN MY LIFE

Now let’s examine some ways God wants us to live out persuasiveness daily.

- Do I prepare my heart to seek and obey God’s Word so that I am better able to persuade others of the truth? (See [Ezra 7:10](#); [Titus 1:9](#).)
- Why is it important to learn how to clearly share the Gospel? (See [Ezekiel 3:18](#).)
- Am I committed to handling the Word of God honestly and forthrightly as the Lord leads, so that Scripture itself is able to speak to another’s conscience? (See [I Corinthians 14:24](#); [II Corinthians 4:2](#).)
- Even when I am bold and confident, is the love of Christ evident in my words, attitudes, and actions as I approach others with the truth? (See [Ephesians 4:14–15](#).)
- Have I considered the needs or goals of my audience above my own? (See [Philippians 2:4](#).)
- Have I based my beliefs firmly on God’s Word so I can readily explain my convictions to others? (See [II Timothy 2:15](#).)
- Does my example influence others to act wisely? (See [Hebrews 10:24](#).)

PERSUASIVENESS KEY VERSE

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” II TIMOTHY 2:24

Bible Story

PHILIP GUIDES A TRAVELER TO JESUS

Stephen and Philip were two of the seven deacons appointed by the church in Jerusalem. These men fulfilled the responsibility of serving tables and ministering to widows. The deacons were men of hospitality, patience, and self-control. God used Stephen to preach and perform miracles. When certain men of the synagogue heard his words, they came under conviction. Unwilling to repent of their sin, they stirred up the people, brought Stephen before the council, and accused him of blasphemy. Closing their ears and hearts to Stephen's powerful testimony, they cast him out of the city and stoned him. After Stephen became the first

Christian martyr, the church encountered great persecution. The believers were scattered beyond Jerusalem and went everywhere, preaching the Gospel. Philip traveled to the city of Samaria. As the Samaritans heard Philip speak and saw the miracles he performed, they believed on Christ. The city was filled with joy! After Peter and John visited the new believers, Philip continued preaching in other Samaritan villages. Suddenly he was compelled to leave this ministry for a remote, desert location. Why did Philip go there, and whom would he encounter? Would Philip be sensitive to the traveler's spiritual needs and point him in the right direction?

BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

Read Acts 8:26–40 together and discuss the following questions:

1. **Who spoke to Philip and what instructions was Philip given? While following those instructions, whom did Philip meet, and what was this man doing?** (See Acts 8:26–28.)

In what ways can God get your attention? When God prompts you to go out of your way to speak to someone about Christ, how do you respond?

2. **What did the Holy Spirit prompt Philip to do next? How did Philip start a conversation with the traveler?** (See Acts 8:29–30.)

What questions can you ask to help a friend or sibling think through their choices?

3. **What specific Scripture was the eunuch reading while on his journey? What did he want to know about it?** (See Acts 8:30, 32–34.)

How can you prepare for a time when someone may question you about Jesus or the Bible?

4. **What resource did Philip use to answer the traveler's questions? Of Whom did Philip speak?** (See Acts 8:35.)

What Scripture can you use to point others in the right direction when they want to know how to be saved? When they are struggling with obeying their parents? When they are having trouble getting along with another person?

5. **What did the eunuch want to do next?** (See Acts 8:36.)

If someone asks you about the meaning of baptism, what verses can you share with him? (See Romans 6:3–4; Colossians 2:12–13.) What must a person do before being baptized? (See Acts 2:38.)

6. **What was Philip's wise response, and how did the eunuch answer?** (See Acts 8:37.)

When leading someone to the Lord, why should you take time to ensure that the person fully understands the decision he is making?

7. **What happened after Philip baptized the eunuch? What was an evidence of the eunuch's conversion as he continued on his journey?** (See Acts 8:39.)

Who has pointed you toward the Lord?

Memory Verse

II TIMOTHY 2:24

Play the game together to help the children commit II Timothy 2:24 to memory. In the section “Doers of the Word,” have the children record how they will apply the verse to their lives.

“And the servant of the Lord
must not strive; but be gentle unto
all men, apt to teach, patient.”

II TIMOTHY 2:24

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Memory Verse Ping Pong

Hold up the verse for the children to see. Read the verse together a couple of times. Then divide the children into two teams. The teams stand facing each other as if they were at a ping pong table. Each word of the memory verse, like a ping pong ball, is “hit” from one side of the table to the other. Team 1 says the first word of the verse, which is the “ball” served to the other team. Team 2 returns the ball by saying the second word of the verse. Go back and forth until one side forgets the word that comes next in the verse. If a team forgets or misquotes the next word, they have dropped the ball and the other team scores a point. Resume play by having the other team say the right word and continue the game until the entire verse has been said. The first team to score 11 points wins the game!

DOERS OF THE WORD

In the blank below, write how this verse could be applied in your life, e.g., “patiently listen instead of argue,” or “respond kindly to both believers and unbelievers,” or “explain the truth of God’s Word graciously.”

“Dear Lord, I yield to You and am willing to apply this verse. Help me to _____

_____.

I ask that You would develop persuasiveness in my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

When the Lord gives you an opportunity to apply this verse, write it in your journal to later recall God’s working in your life.

Activity

WORD SEARCH

INTRODUCTION

Enjoy meditating on and thinking about the words of the persuasiveness key verse and definition as you find them in the word search below. The underlined words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards.

N I T N A V R E S O M P T Y
Z J V G Z J V N K V L R X R
B V X E O I M U C G P L L R
K C M N R B U T O N P O C W
C V I T A L S M L I R K R D
G R S L L A T E B D P M N E
K B R E A N T P D I Y A H S
S S E N E V I S A U S R E P
Z H H I C T M R O G P O Y H
T C T D R E O T R F F U I J
C A O U N M T E V M F N E M
P E N T R A H S W E J D L T
F T A D O T Y V T M E N N I
O L H D G Q G X J N F T W H

II Timothy 2:24

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.”

Persuasiveness

Guiding vital truths around another’s mental roadblocks

If finding the underlined words is too difficult or frustrating for your child, assign only a few words to find, such as “the” and “men.” Younger children could point to the ABCs. Older children may enjoy the extra challenge of finding all the words instead of only the underlined words.

Craft

RIDING 'ROUND THE ROADBLOCKS

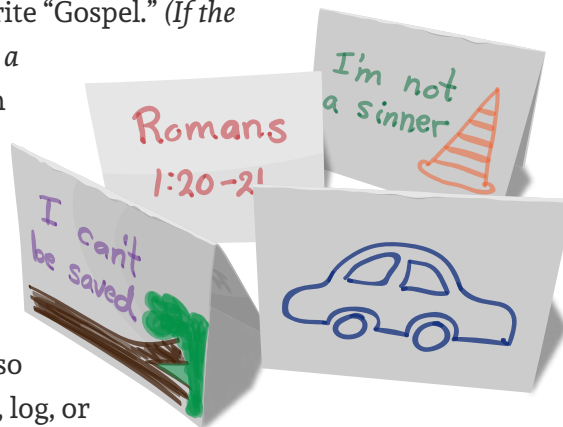
Supplies:

- Masking tape
- 5" x 7" Index cards (4 per child)
- Pencils
- Toy cars (optional)

Instructions

Let's create a road on the floor using the masking tape. This will be a "Romans Road" as we use verses from Romans to deal with any obstacles along the way. We will use two strips of tape, one for each side of the road. *This could be done on carpet, wood floors, or sidewalks. Test in a small area first to ensure that the tape will come off easily without leaving residue or damaging the floor.*

Give each child four index cards. Fold your index cards in half. On one card draw a car or bicycle on one side, and on the other side write "Gospel." (If the children do not enjoy drawing, a toy car may be used instead.) On one side of each of the other cards, write the following mental obstacles that keep people from seeing the truth of the Gospel and their need for Jesus. You may want to also draw a picture of a rock, deer, log, or other roadblock underneath the obstacle that you wrote. On the other side of the cards, write the Bible reference from Romans that you could share with those who have that particular mental roadblock.



- LIE: "There is no God." TRUTH: Romans 1:20–21
- LIE: "God doesn't love me! There is no way for me to be forgiven." TRUTH: Romans 5:8
- LIE: "I'm not a sinner!" TRUTH: Romans 3:23
- LIE: "I'm a good person." TRUTH: Romans 3:10
- LIE: "Eternal life can't be free." TRUTH: Romans 6:23
- LIE: "I can't be saved." TRUTH: Romans 10:13
- LIE: "'Confess and believe'? There's surely more to it than that!" TRUTH: Romans 10:9–10

Place your obstacle cards at different places along the Romans Road. Now drive your cars down the road until you come to an obstacle. This obstacle is a false belief that many people have that keeps them from understanding the Gospel and receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior. Look up the Bible verse on the back of the obstacle card. If you can quote or read

the verse aloud, you are able to join in the work of the Holy Spirit in helping remove that obstacle from their minds. In other words, you help clear the way for them to better understand the truth of the Gospel!

Are you prepared to share these verses with people that you meet? Not everyone will understand fully or come to Christ right away, but your responsibility is to simply point them in the right direction—toward Jesus! Pray for the people you talk to and ask God to work in their hearts so that they, too, can know Jesus.

Optional Activity

Philip was ready to go as the Spirit led him and to boldly share Jesus with the Ethiopian eunuch. Write out your salvation testimony to be ready to share with others how you came to know Christ and how you know that He is your Savior. Practice giving your testimony to your family and look for opportunities to introduce others to Jesus!

Philip Guides a Traveler to Jesus



“And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me?” (Acts 8:30–31a).

Hymn History

“Let Jesus Come into Your Heart”

Sing “Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart” and read about the persuasiveness of the hymn writer, Mrs. Leila N. Morris.

In times past, tent meetings usually lasted an entire week and were filled both with Christians seeking inspiration and unsaved who were simply curious.



Leila N. Morris (1862–1929)

Amid flapping canvasses, fervent preaching, and uplifting hymns, lives were changed.

Such was the setting in Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, in 1898. After an especially moving sermon by the famous evangelist L. H. Baker, many people responded, some timidly and some quickly, by repenting and receiving Christ. Among

them was a refined, upper-class woman. Kneeling at the altar, she tried to pray but was obviously struggling inwardly. Accepting Christ by simple faith was foreign to her. She wanted to do something more to merit salvation. Mrs. Leila Morris, one of the Christian women praying with those at the altar, saw the lady’s inner turmoil. Quietly she slipped an arm over the woman’s shoulder and prayed for her.

“Just now your doubting give o’er,” Mrs. Morris gently encouraged her.

Dr. H. L. Gilmour, the camp meeting song leader, also seeing and hearing the lady’s conflict, softly urged the woman, “Just now reject Him no more!”

The evangelist Mr. Baker, drawn to the spiritual battle, earnestly pressed the woman, “Just now throw open the door!”

“Let Jesus come into your heart,” Mrs. Morris implored. Persuaded by their urgent pleas, the woman’s heart found freedom! Repenting of her sin, offering nothing but herself, she found Christ and His salvation!

The words of the pleading Christians stayed within Mrs. Morris’ heart and mind. By the end of the camp meeting, Mrs. Morris had written the words to the hymn, “Let Jesus Come into Your Heart.” Notice the persuasive words of the three in the stanza below:

*If there’s a tempest your voice cannot still,
Let Jesus come into your heart;
If there’s a void this world never can fill,
Let Jesus come into your heart.*

*Just now, your doubtings give o’er;
Just now, reject Him no more;
Just now, throw open the door;
Let Jesus come into your heart.*

The well-to-do lady was reluctant to accept Christ, thinking that she must do something to be saved. Yet, with simple, persuading phrases, the three Christians helped her overcome her mental roadblock and accept Christ’s salvation!

Do you help others find the truth, guiding them around their hesitations and misconceptions in order to see Christ? Choose to use your words to help others, persuading them to trust in Christ as Savior and follow His ways!

Let Jesus Come into Your Heart

Leila N. Morris (1862–1929)

Leila N. Morris (1862–1929)

1. If you are tired of the load of your sin, Let
 2. If there's a tem - pest your voice can - not still, Let
 3. If you would join the glad songs of the blest, Let

Je - sus come in - to your heart; If you de - sire a new
 Je - sus come in - to your heart; If there's a void this world
 Je - sus come in - to your heart; If you would en - ter the

life to be - gin, Let Je - sus come in - to your heart.
 nev - er can fill, Let Je - sus come in - to your heart.
 man - sions of rest, Let Je - sus come in - to your heart.

Just now, your doubt - ings give oe'r; Just now, re - ject Him no more;

Just now, throw o - pen the door; Let Je - sus come in - to your heart.

Word Search Answer Key

N I T N A V R E S O M P T Y
Z J V G Z J V N K V L R X R
B V X E O I M U C G P L L R
K C M N R B U T O N P O C W
C V I T A L S M L I R K R D
G R S L L A T E B D P M N E
K B R E A N T P D I Y A H S
S S E N E V I S A U S R E P
Z H I C T M R O G P O Y H
T C T D R E O T R F F U I J
C A O U N M T E V M F N E M
P E N T R A H S W E J D L T
F T A D O T Y V T M E N N I
O L H D G Q G X J N F T W H

Hymn History Bibliography

George W. Sanville, *Forty Gospel Hymn Stories*, The Voice of Prophecy, Los Angeles, pp. 28–29.

Osbeck, Kenneth W., *101 More Hymn Stories*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, 1982, p. 173.

William J. Reynolds, *Companion to Baptist Hymnal*, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, p. 385.

Recommended Resources

- *2018 Biblical Character Illustrated Calendar*
- *Hymns for the Family* CDs (“Let Jesus Come into Your Heart” is sung to piano accompaniment on Volume 4.)
- *The Power for True Success*
- Character Cards
- Character Cards Memory Game
- *Character Sketches*, Volumes 1–3
- *Achieving True Success*
- *Heroes of Faith: Dwight L. Moody* in booklet or audio drama CD series
- “Preparing Wise Answers to Controversial Questions” (Message by Ray Comfort, available at embassymedia.com.)

To view these resources
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