

confessions

introduction

Ben was still a good person. He had made Christ his Savior and Lord when he was 10, but now he was 15. He was funny, friendly, and had a great family. However, in junior high he decided that church life was no longer for him, and Jesus Christ became an old, forgotten friend. Some thought he never knew Christ. Others thought he had fallen away from God. One thing was for certain, his Christian friends needed to pray for him. He was just not the same.

This story is very common in schools across the country. What happens when a Christian stops living like a Christian? What should we do?

message

1. Speak honestly to your friend. Be affirming and kind, but be specific about your concerns. Confrontation should always be mixed with a lot of love.
2. Remain true to your faith and to your friend. Many people who come back to Christ have testified that their friends kept on loving them.
3. Share Christ with the friends of your friend. Your goal is neither to condemn nor judge them. Let them know that Christ is important to you.
4. Include your friend in the activities of your campus club.
5. Pray regularly for your friend. Prayer is probably the most important thing you can do for them. Very few people can change someone's mind by talking or arguing, but prayer will change things.
6. Don't lose your faith while trying to reach your friend. Set boundaries for yourself. For example, you don't have to go to a party and kick back a few beers just because your friend is there. Trust God to provide opportunities for ministry.
7. After trying the above-mentioned ideas for several months, you may need to back off and get on with your own life. Keep praying for your friend, but don't let your friend's life consume all your time.

salvation appeal

Jesus Christ died for each of us. History records that it was a painful, agonizing death. Today, as you listen, that same Jesus is changing lives all over the world. He loves you and desires to have fellowship with you.

challenge

We are either a missionary or a mission field. Which one are you? If you have fallen away from the Lord and need to renew your relationship with Him, you can do it right now. If you are strong in the Lord, pray for and reach out to those who have fallen away.

