

One Year Challenge 10 TIPS

1. **HOW to ASK** someone to do the OYC with you (Tip # 1 is EXPANDED on pages 7-8)

2. **Do NOT try to IMPRESS** them with your insights. 😊



Do not try to PREACH or try to say the thing that will really 'GET to THEM'.

You are a **candle** shining in a dark world NOT an **irritating** flashlight. GLARING in their eyes



Let them see inside your heart and inside your own walk with Jesus. SHOW them how a Christian responds with humility, simplicity & joy to God's Word. Share personal small updates of your life. Share prayer requests. Show them your lighthearted humor. Thank them repeatedly for doing this with you. This will have great impact over months. This loving warm, safe real friendship with you is what opens their heart to God's Word.

You will be shocked at how much you will LOVE them.

I have a Pastor who is a very dear friend. This Pastor asked me to help him bring the *One Year Challenge* into his church – simply because he loves the concept. I asked this Pastor to FIRST get 1-2 people that he is personally leading through the OYC.

I shared the following illustration with this Pastor. I said to him....

No human words could have prepared you for the explosion of love that filled your heart when you held your first child the first time. No man is ever prepared to feel that much love that suddenly.

In the same way, there are no words to describe the explosion of love that you will feel for your seeker. It will burst upon your heart with shocking power and then grow every day.

- ⇒ This love is what opens their heart to God's Word.
- ⇒ This love is why you are GLAD for the OYC to last a year.
- ⇒ This love is also the reason why you usually do not want more than 1 or 2 OYC seekers at one time.

3. **Do I pick up an ADDITIONAL seeker ?**

- ❖ If you understand tip # 2 – then you understand that you can only take on an additional OYC seeker if you are assured you can have a deep "One on One" love relationship with each seeker.
- ❖ If you understand tip # 9 – then you understand that one OYC seeker a year – done right – produces 32,000 salvations in 15 years. However, if you take on more than one a year, you might not even last an entire year.
- ❖ If you do take on one more OYC seeker - most people have the additional person join them at the same spot in the reading of the New Testament where you already are with your first seeker. That way you can copy and paste your main scripture comments and then add a personal note to each seeker.

4. Do **NOT** try to answer all of their **QUESTIONS.**

If they will just keep reading they will be able to answer almost all of their own questions. You might consider encouraging them to write down their questions in a list so they can see how many of them have been answered by the end of the study. They will find it safer, richer and more fun to find most of their own answers.

5. **PACE**

A. Please go **NO FASTER** than **One Chapter** per **day** of the **N.T.**

Many of our people have made the **mistake** of letting the Seeker set the pace. The Seeker seems so zealous and hungry to read that they want to read MORE than one chapter per day. The Seeker is always welcome to read more than one chapter per day, but if you let the Seeker set a fast pace it will ALWAYS end in failure. Reading God's Word fast is like trying to swallow a whole steak without chewing. If you let them set this erratic pace, they will eventually stop reading.

You simply let them know that you are THRILLED for them to read ahead, BUT that YOU are going to plod along at your one chapter per day and will continue to send them your single thought on one verse from your chapter 5-6 times per week. Eventually they will come to see that a calm pace of one chapter per day is a pace that every Christian can set for a LIFETIME!

You have 260 rich chats about GOD'S WORD w/ a seeker. This is the great fulfillment of

*Philemon 1:6 I pray that you may be **ACTIVE** in sharing your faith,
so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.*

B. What if my **Seeker SPUTTERS ?**

This happens approximately **HALF** the time in a One Year Challenge. Please read this section very carefully. It will allow you to be prepared to fix your pace when it needs to be adjusted.

The first two weeks they are excited to read every day. Then they don't read hardly at all for the next two months after that. What do you do? Here are three thoughts that may help.

i. **They probably have not TIED their Bible reading to ANOTHER HABIT!**

If you help them make a comfortable connection of Bible reading to an established habit Bed Time / Toilet time / Breakfast etc. their chances of consistency increase greatly.

ii. **Love notes or Love notes with a gift can melt a person's heart and re-energize them.**

A well written note would tell them three things:

1. *that you know this is tough and how PROUD you are of them, along with a gift → very powerful.*
2. *a reminder comment about how much they are helping you.*
3. *what a gift it is to you to become closer to them through this process.*

iii. **MEET w/ them to ADJUST the format a bit to make them more comfortable.**

This fourth suggestion is the **most COMMON** and **most EFFECTIVE**. It is amazing how sitting and listening to them, allows you to hear their heart and win their heart. It is important to ask for this meeting as a chance for you to adjust the plan to make THEM more COMFORTABLE. Below is a portion of the email I sent to my OYC person when he had only sent me one 2 emails in five weeks.

Hi ??

I have a big favor to ask that would mean a lot to me.

I was wondering if I could buy you a cup of coffee this week. I would like to dialogue with you about some adjustments to our plan that might make it more enjoyable for both of us.

My main goal throughout this One Year Challenge was to provide a structure for us to become better friends and encourage each other as we both learn and grow.

I have greatly enjoyed sharing with you each day, but have hungered to hear your thoughts and to know how you are doing. I know that the more I shared consistently with you, the more I find my heart relaxing and sharing deeper thoughts. It takes all of us time to relax and to sort out all the issues in our heart.

Please know that I am flexible and will make multiple adjustments so that this is Easy, Enjoyable and Effective for both of us. Here are a few ideas I would like to discuss with you on Sunday night. We could:

1. **Slow** our pace to **five** chapters a week or even **three** chapters a week..
2. We could agree on **set days** that I email you and set days that you email me.
3. I could **copy and paste the entire chapter** in my email so that you can read the chapter on your phone and can then respond from your phone. I am sure there are lots of other hi-tech ways for us to read the same chapter. With your techy mind – maybe you can show me a few ideas. 😊
4. I could **call you once or twice** a week at a **scheduled time** to go over our thoughts on 1-2 chapters.
5. We could **meet once a week** for **10-30** minutes to chat and skip the emails.
6. We could switch from emails to texting.
7. We can adopt **variations** or **combinations** of **any** of the above.

I am also wide open to any suggestions or variations that you may suggest. Can you please let me know if you can meet with me Sunday? I really appreciate it.

In Today's chapter.... Have a Great Day! John

I followed up this email with a phone call a couple days later. We met and talked over these options. My OYC friend was THRILLED to make some adjustments. He WANTED to continue but felt bad that he had not been keeping up. It was his preference to switch to five days a week, where I email him five days a week and he emails me every Tuesday and Thursday. He has remained very faithful to this adjustment and we are both more joyful with this arrangement. We have also gone to a deeper level in our personal sharing.

6. **Please encourage your seeker to NOT try to CATCH UP if they miss a chapter.**

If your seeker thinks they have to GO BACK and read the 3-10 chapters they missed, it will KILL their desire to continue.

Please appeal to your Seeker to just SKIP those chapters if they miss a few days of reading. Explain to them that everyone has to read the Bible many times to begin to see all of the diamonds and riches in God's word. They can always catch that chapter the next time they read through the N.T.

This also begins to establish in their minds the possibility of reading through the N.T. multiple times.

7. **Make sure that they have a Bible that has **Life Application notes** right on the page.**

I have copies in my office that you can easily and cheaply purchase. It is easy for a mature Christian to forget how overwhelming the Bible is for someone who is reading it for the first time. These notes on every page make a huge difference in keeping your seeker encouraged.

8. **Please do **NOT** read the **Old Testament****

Some of our people have made the **HUGE mistake** of starting in the **Old Testament** with their reading with the Seeker.

The Bible says that the Old Testament is Typology and Shadows and the New Testament is the reality.

*Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a **type** of Him who was to come.*

*Galatians 4:24 These things may be taken **figuratively**, for the women **represent** two covenants.*

*Colossians 2:17 These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the **reality**, however, is found in Christ.*

*Hebrews 8:5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and **shadow** of what is in heaven.*

*Hebrews 10:1 The law is only a **shadow** of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.*

*Heb. 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a **type**.*

The Old Testament overwhelms a seeker. When I first got saved the Lord Jesus specifically told me to read the New Testament for five years before I was ready to study the Old Testament. In addition, when I studied the Old Testament, I studied it through the subject of Typology and thus was able to connect the shadows to the reality.

9. **15 years from now → 15 Salvations or 32,611 Salvations**

As Americans we want big impressive numbers – RIGHT AWAY. One of my biggest challenges with enthusiastic OYC people is that they want to start a web site and personally have THOUSANDS of people do the OYC with them at one time.

This misled enthusiasm misses the main point of the OYC. The power of the OYC is that “One on One” LOVE relationship, patiently MEDITATING through God’s Word in a year. If you start trying to “Mass Produce” large amounts of salvations in one year – you will not reach the heart of anyone and wind up quitting the whole idea in less than two years.

If however, you obey the Bible mandate in Mt. 28 to go and make disciples – you will realize that a “One on One” deep relationship can produce a lot more fruit than a web site with thousands of people who will move on to the next busy fad in two months.

God’s reproduction and God’s math is much better than our math.
Here is God’s math.

If you **PARTIALLY** disciple one person a year for 15 years → in 15 years, you will have led **15** people to Christ.

If you **FULLY** disciple one seeker a year for 15 years → in 15 years you will have led **32,611** people to Christ.

To FULLY disciple simply means to train THEM to lead SOMEONE ELSE through the OYC each year for the rest of their lives. This is God’s reproduction and God’s math.

My own OYC seeker is someone I love dearly. When we first started the OYC – I am almost sure that he was NOT going to heaven. After just a month – he was completely undone by God’s Word. He had assumed for many years he was going to heaven because he could parrot a few Christian clichés. Very quickly, he began to share with me how God’s Word opened his eyes to see that he has never counted the cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. He had never died to the lie that running your own life is satisfying. After 4 months, I am about 90% sure that he is NOW going to heaven – but he is only about 50% sure. I do NOT want to rush him through this process. I want him to allow God’s Word to truly and completely open his eyes. I want him to fully “*Count the Cost*”.

We still have 8 months left. (*Because we are only doing the OYC five days a week – it will take us a full year*). I love this man so much, that I am already feeling how much I will miss doing the OYC with him next July.

I have ALREADY begun to talk with him about whom **HE** will **LEAD** through the OYC next July. None of his siblings are going to heaven. He has many friends who are not going to heaven.

The reason it is NOT too early to talk about this is because it is PART of the PROCESS of BECOMING a Christian to realize that your only purpose on the earth – as a Christian – is to bring others to Christ. Talking about this has taken his meditating on God’s Word to a much deeper level.

Personally, I have my NEXT OYC seeker for next July about 90% committed. Having this taken care of – allows me to show my CURRENT OYC seeker how to patiently pray through each OYC seeker far in advance.

In the Armor of God – the EVANGELISM piece of God’s Warfare are called the “shoes of the PREPARATION of God’s PEACE”. By PREPARING for your next OYC seeker many months in advance, you are able to then emotionally focus your CURRENT seeker on what they will do after the year is over. By **PREPARING** in advance for your next seeker, you will walk in God’s shoes of great **PEACE**.

Here is how I set up my next OYC seeker so easily.

- I simply showed them the brochure and said that I like to do this with one person a year.
- I emphasized that I am PICKY and only do this with people I REALLY LIKE and who have a HUNGER to grow in truth – like I do.
- I sent him a copy of my OYC daily thoughts for a month so he could see how gentle, simple, gracious, respectful & easy it is. (*When I sent my FUTURE OYC seeker the daily thoughts - I deleted all personal references to my CURRENT OYC seeker to protect his privacy.*)
- We meet and chat regularly to keep our relationship alive & growing in anticipation of next year.

When you begin to contact some potential OYC connections for NEXT year 6-9 months into THIS year’s OYC – LOTS of POWERFUL things happen.

1. You are millions of time **more excited** about the **upcoming** year because you don’t have to LOOK for another OYC person after this one is done.
2. The chance of someone **accepting** is **higher** because you have given them a sense of **PRIVILEGE & HONOR** that you think so HIGHLY of them that you asked them six months in advance.

3. Those who commit will have a much higher rate of **FAITHFULNESS** because they have been **ANTICIPATING** this for six months.

You can regularly mention how much you are looking forward to this or how you apologize about them having to wait so long 3-4 times in the six months after they accept.

4. You have a much **HIGHER** chance of finding a great prospect; a *Non-believer, Weak Christian or Back-slidden Christian* because you have plenty of **TIME** to look.
5. Once you have YOUR OYC seeker lined up for NEXT year, you can work with your **CURRENT OYC partner** to help **them** find 1 person for THEIR next OYC. This allows you – through the OYC to:
 - a. Gently lead people to Jesus every year
 - b. Have the **people you lead** to Jesus – **lead OTHERS** to Jesus every year of their lives.

Imagine the eternal fruit you will have after only 15 years of faithfulness. Because it is so easy, gentle and deep – it is very realistic that every person YOU lead through the OYC will continue to lead SOMEONE ELSE through the OYC. If you only lead one person a year to a deep rich fruitful walk with Christ – after 15 years – if the Lord has not returned - you will have led 32,611 people to Christ. Over 32 thousand people in heaven thanking YOU for helping them come to heaven.



10. Ring on the Finger / Seal the Deal

Many times, both you and your seeker are not sure if they are CLOSER to becoming a Christian or have put the ring on their finger and have truly married Jesus as the Bride of Christ.

The scary part is that there are millions of people today who “Date” Jesus. They like him and have an attraction to them, but he is NOT the center and only focus of their lives.

I have two cd Bible studies that you can give to your seeker to help them sort this issue out easily. These two cd Bible studies are free downloads on our web site. http://www.libertychurch.org/streaming/audio/topical_series.php You may give these two cds to your seeker in the second month or the seventh month. It is totally up to you. They are:

1. **The CROSS – the story of the last 24 hours up to the cross.**

This is a Chronological study of the last day – hour by hour up to the cross. It combines all four gospels in a dramatic story fashion that includes the legal, spiritual, political and medical aspects. It covers all five trials, all seven sayings on the cross and the resurrection. Lastly, it has my testimony as the last study. This is easily the single most powerful and moving teaching I have done in 30 years of teaching God’s Word.

2. **ASSURANCE of Salvation**

This sorts our religious phrases like “ I Believe in Jesus” to see what the Bible means by the word “Believe”.

It is a two cd study of Romans 6, 7 & 8. It goes to the root that SIN is believing the lie that ME in charge would ever satisfy. It is the same lie that Satan believed when he rebelled against God.

Then it covers that committing to become a disciple of Christ involves committing to live our lives for the Single purpose of bringing others to Christ. This is part of the “COST” of becoming a Christian. It is important for people to weigh the cost BEFORE they make a commitment to Christ.

Covenant of Salvation Terms – **WRITTEN** study

http://www.libertychurch.org/scripture_studies/index.php

The Assurance of Salvation study tends to surprise people who have spent their life in church but have never studied the Bible for themselves. This 59 page written study has HUNDREDS of scriptures and answers most questions for serious students of God’s Word.

Tip. # 1 **HOW to ASK** someone to do the OYC with you

Do I talk to them face to face or write them an email ?

You will probably do BOTH many times.

If you will read carefully the suggestions for writing an email, you can then learn what style works best in each situation.

Writing your email or letter

A. Our church does this really fun thing called the One Year Challenge.

⇒ The fact that this is something that a LOT of people do – makes your offer feel more normal and safe.

⇒ You can attach or paste a OYC brochure to the email or include one in your letter
(You can download our brochure at our web site LibertyChurch.org)

⇒ People want the bottom line UP FRONT. . This opening is intentionally brief. Here is an example of an opening.

Dear ...

Our church does this really fun thing called the One Year Challenge. I have included the brochure, but I would love to take a minute to tell you why I am asking if you would consider doing this with me.

The idea is to ask a friend to read through the New Testament with you – one chapter a day and text or email each other one short thought of something that helped us.

We would not have to read every day. We could just do Monday through Friday if that is easier for you.

B. Why **YOU** are SO **SPECIAL** to me

As you know ☺ I am kind of a PICKY person! You see the One Year Challenge really opens up your heart to other people. You find yourself caring about them deeply and praying for them every day. I am just a bit cautious in friendship. I thought about you because you are a person whom I would love to know better. That is why I thought of you to ask if you would be willing to be my OYC partner.

While we are chatting, I have wanted for a while to tell you why I think you are so special.

Do a GREAT job with this section. If they are family member or close friend, pour on every legitimate compliment you can find. The secret to an effective compliment is to find the areas of their passions. People always work hardest on their passions and feel that others do NOT REALIZE how hard they work on those areas.

This section might of your email or letter might look something like this:

While we are chatting, I have wanted for a while to tell you why I think you are so special. You are one of the kindest, most faithful, hardest working people I have ever known.

I think often of that time when you..... tell a positive story about them.

I wonder some times if people realize how hard you work to: pick 2-5 that apply to this person.

- **Bring peace** to situations
- **Provide** for your family
- **Be nice** to everyone
- **Walk with wisdom**
- **Keep things organized**
- **Treat others with respect**
- **Give appreciation** to others
- **Smile** every day to every one
- Always **focus** on **others**
- **Understand truth carefully**
- **Be loyal** to your friends
- **Keep everybody smiling**
- **Make people feel safe**
- **Be such a positive** person
- **Do your work** with excellence
- **Be such a physically fit** person
- **Keep everyone else comfortable**
- **Be a GREAT** Parent, Husband, Wife, Friend
- **Be a faithful** friend, husband, father co-worker
- **Be a person who keeps** his word
- **Be such a success** in your job
- **Care** about other people so much
- **Be Enthusiastic** about **other** people

I would be thrilled to be HALF as good as you are in these areas. I really admire you.

You may also want to include PAINS in the email IF these pains they are a BIG part of the person's life.

Examples of pains are: **Confusion**, Feeling **Pushed**, Feeling **Judged**, **Sadness**, **Loneliness**, **Fear**, **Lost** your **passion** for Jesus (*for weak Christians who used to be passionate*)

The other reason I was really hoping you would do this with me is because I remember how you shared with me how you have battled _____ at times. I felt like the One Year Challenge might be the OPPOSITE of these past painful experiences for you because it is so..... Pick the right words

Respectful, Patient, Gentle, Safe, Encouraging, Clear, Not Judging but learning

c. Close with a comment about how **THEY** are doing **YOU** a big favor.

Thus, you would really be doing me a GREAT Favor. I am hungry to learn. I am eager to grow. I feel like we would both grow together. I feel like you would have fascinating insights. I could trust you.

CLOSING thought - **“SUCCESSFUL Experiences dissolve Fear”**

The One Year Challenge works beyond your highest dreams. In the first six months that our church birthed this ministry we made thousands of mistakes. How do you think we learned all of these great tips? 😊

Even with all of our mistakes, we saw well over 60-70% of the people we approached become EXCITED to meditate through the N.T. with a friend. This is over 400 unbelievers or weak Christians who responded positively to an offer to read through the N.T. with a friend. It SHOCKED all of us. We did not realize how hungry people are to be given a respectful, gentle practical humble way for them to read the Bible and understand eternal truths.

What we have seen is that once you have had ONE successful response, the second one is one thousand times easier.

I have different men say this to me with grins on their face:

If evangelism is like fishing, this is like fishing with dynamite. It is TOO EASY! 😊

Once you are successful and confident, you will discover that people who turn you down are simply NOT yet READY. You will soon be backlogged in OYC opportunities. When you get back logged it becomes very easy to be patient and to wait a year or two for someone to be ready.