

THE ELDERS AND DISCIPLESHIP

Volume 2

Section B

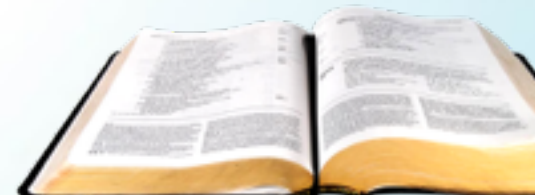


General Conference
Ministerial Association

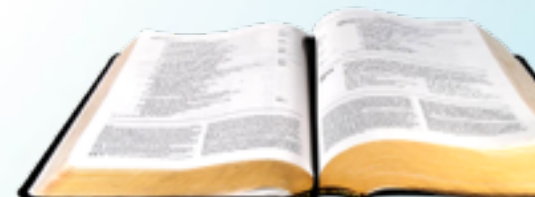


“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



The church has been
commissioned by Jesus to go
to all the corners of the
world to prepare true
disciples, and church elders
are not outside of that
mandate.

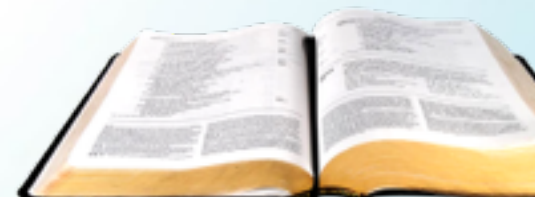


I. Each of the church
elders chooses to
seek a friend

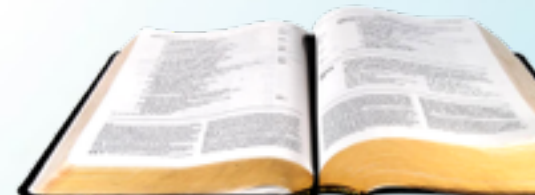


“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon...”

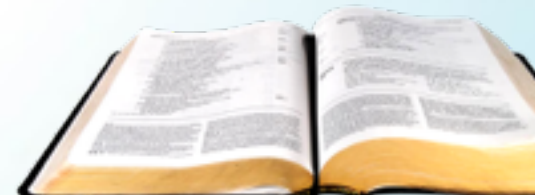
John 1:40-41



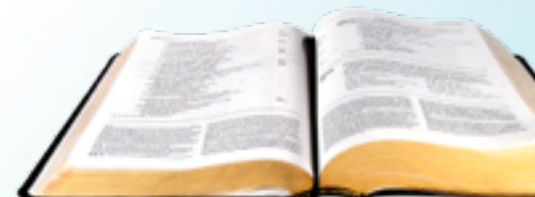
*“Philip, like Andrew
and Peter, was from
the town of
Bethsaida. **Philip
found Nathanael...**”
John 1:44-45*



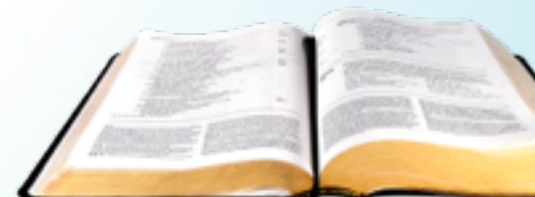
- The church elders may each consider a *family member* to be a future disciple.
- They could choose a *neighbor*.
- Perhaps they may find a *co-worker or fellow student*.



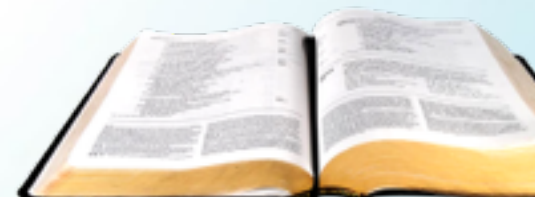
- They may think of a *friend* from all the ones which life has gifted them with.
- What is certain is that it is necessary for the church elders to each choose *a person* to be converted into a disciple of Jesus.
- They could take the example of *Matthew as someone worthy of imitating.*



“The calling of Matthew to be one of Christ’s disciples excited great indignation. For a religious teacher to choose a publican as one of his immediate attendants was an offense against the religious, social, and national customs...”

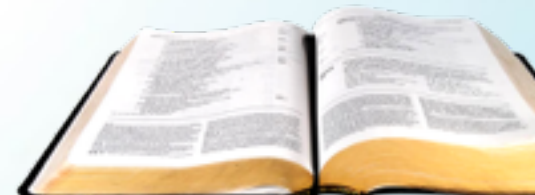


Among the publicans a widespread interest was created. Their hearts were drawn toward the divine Teacher. In the joy of his new discipleship, Matthew longed to bring his former associates to Jesus.



Accordingly he made a feast at his own house, and called together his relatives and friends. Not only were publicans included, but many others who were of doubtful reputation, and were proscribed by their more scrupulous neighbors.”

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II. Each of the elders
chooses to pray for
their friend and
their friend's family

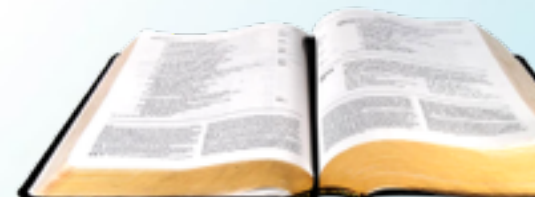


*“If you believe,
you will receive
whatever you ask
for in prayer.”*

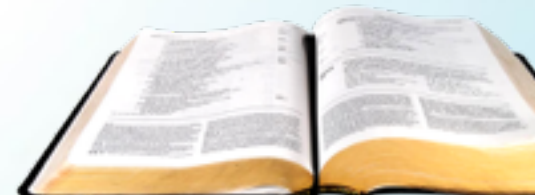
Matthew 21:22



- The elders pray with faith for their friend, confident that they will receive what they are asking for.
- They pray for their friend's *needs*.
- They pray for their friend's *family*.
- They pray for their friend's *health*.
- They pray for their friend's *conversion*.
- They reach out to their friends and assure them that they are *praying for them and for their family*.



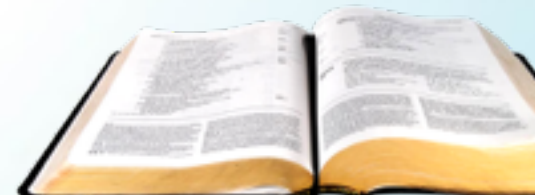
- They ask their friends for what specific issues they would like prayers.
- The elders ask their friend that if it is possible, to join in at the time they will be praying.
- If it is not possible to join in person or by telephone to pray, then each elder can ask their friend to join in spirit by praying at the same hour that the elder will be praying.
- They remind their friends of some Bible promises relating to prayer.
- They follow the example of Job:



Job and his three friends

“After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, ‘I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has...’”

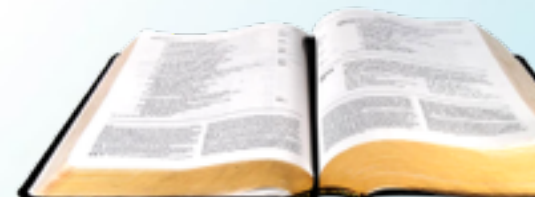
Job 42:7



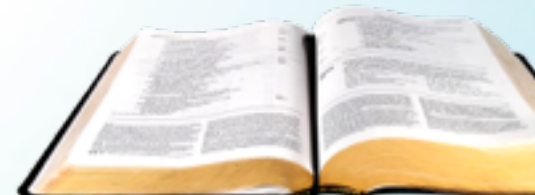
**Job prayed for them and
God forgave them**

*“So Eliphaz the Temanite,
Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar
the Naamathite did what the
Lord told them; and the Lord
accepted Job’s prayer.”*

Job 42:9



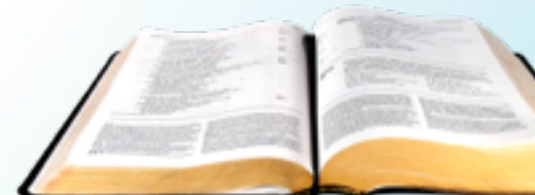
*“So Eliphaz the Temanite,
Bildad the Shuhite and
Zophar the Naamathite did
what the Lord told them;
and God undid their sin
for the sake of Job.”
(Ibid., paraphrased)*



Job reaped the benefits of having prayed for his friends

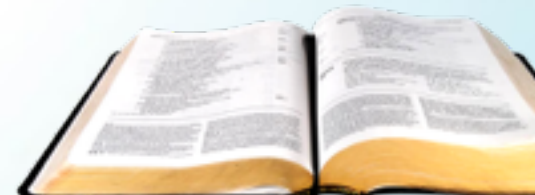
*“After Job had prayed for
his friends, the Lord
restored his fortunes and
gave him twice as much as
he had before.”*

Job 42:10



*“And the prayer offered
in faith will make the
sick person well; the
Lord will raise them up.
If they have sinned, they
will be forgiven.”*

James 5:15



III. The elders will not
take into consideration
whether their friends
are difficult or not



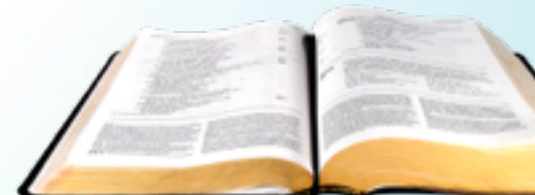
Andrew's friend

- Was Peter, his older brother.
- Peter clung to his false sense of pride.
“...you shall never wash my feet.”

John 13:8

- Peter was *arrogant*.
“I will lay down my life for you.”

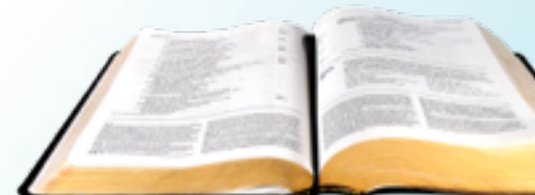
John 13:37



- Was known to be uneducated and ignorant.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished...”

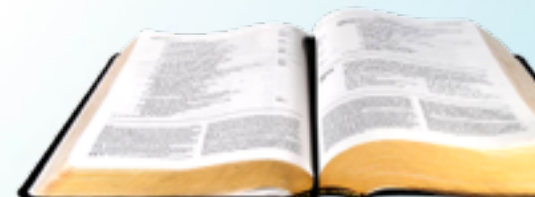
Acts 4:13



- Was dangerous, impulsive and violent.

“Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear.”

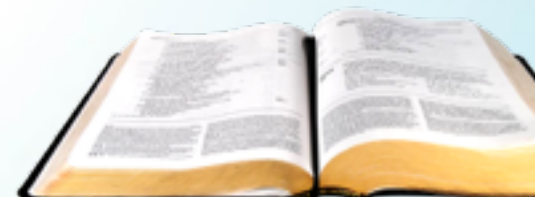
John 18:10



- *In spite of Peter's negative traits, Andrew felt the need for his older brother to become a disciple of the Master, and thus took him to Jesus.*

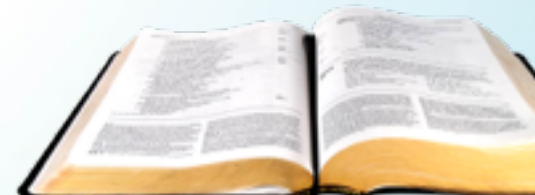
The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)."

John 1:41



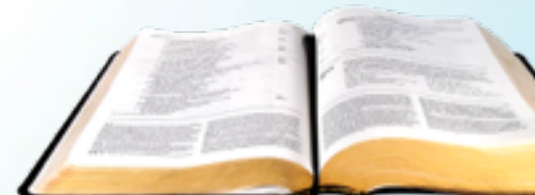
Philip's friend

- Nathaniel turned out to be incredulous.
- He was headstrong and peevish with Philip.
- He was filled with doubts.
- *He did not seem a good prospect to be a disciple of Jesus.*
- In spite of these negative traits, Philip did not hesitate to invite Nathaniel to be a disciple of Jesus and took him to the Master.



“Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’”

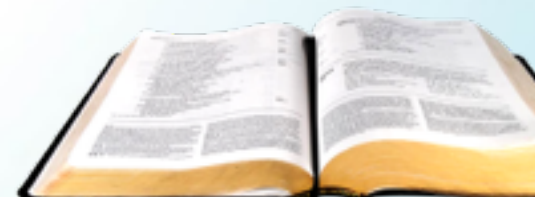
John 1:45



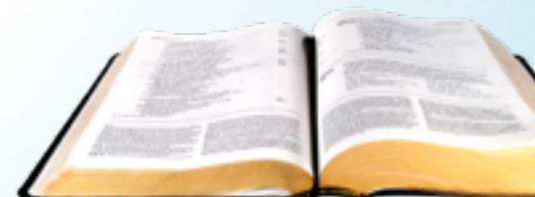
IV. The elders share positive things with their friends



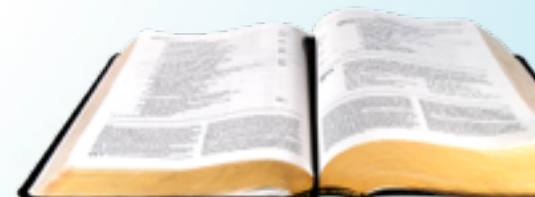
- They seek to nurture a good relationship with their friends.
- Share time with their friends.
- Gain the full trust of their friends.
- Share with them their own positive experiences.



- Andrew and Peter mutually confided in each other.
- They shared time together.
- They accomplished together their work as fishermen.
- They shared good news with each other.



The trust that Andrew had for his brother, as well as the trust Philip had for his friend, led each to think that they should be the first persons to learn about their discovery; and, without hesitation, they decided to share the good news and extend to them an invitation so that they too would meet Jesus. Such should be the attitude of all leaders, of elders who desire that others also become disciples of the Lord.

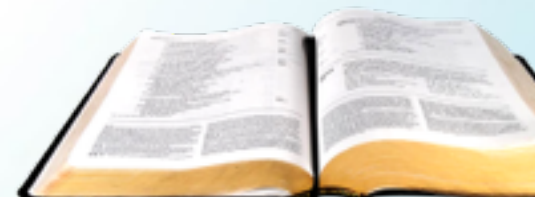


V. The elders exalt Jesus to their friends



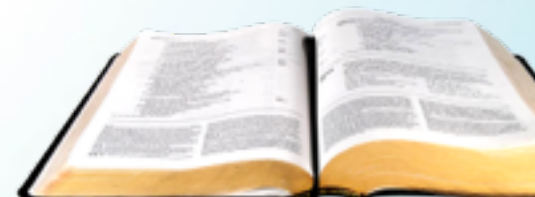
They show their friends:

- What Jesus has done in their life.
- What Jesus has done for their family.
- The joy that comes from following Jesus.
- The assurance that Jesus offers.
- The peace that comes from obeying Jesus.
- The miracle that occurred in the transformation of their own life.
- But they share Jesus first and foremost by their own example.



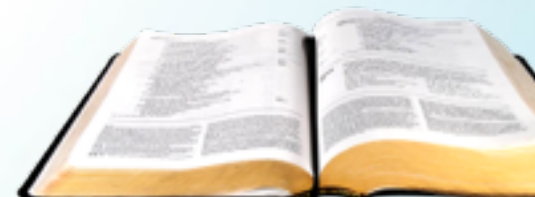
*“When you speak about Jesus, speak of a Christ that **does**, and not only of a Christ that **did**.”*

D. Doria



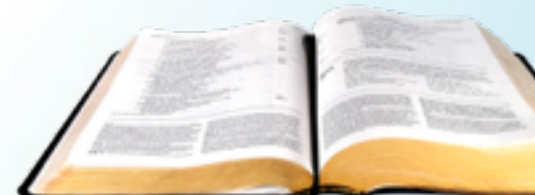
*“But since they could **see**
the man who had been
healed standing there
with them, there was
nothing they could say.”*

Acts 4:14



*“When John, who was in prison, heard about **the deeds of the Messiah**, he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”*

Matthew 11:2-3



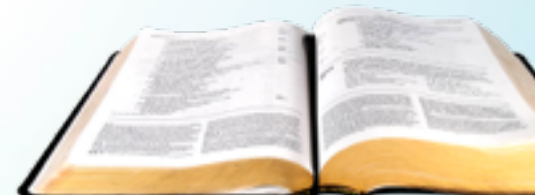
VI. The elders speak to their friends with full conviction



Andrew showed conviction

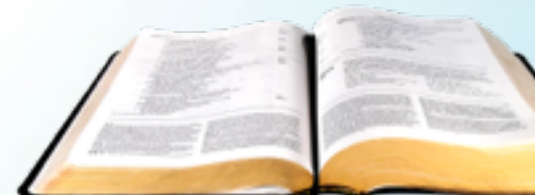
*“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘**We have found the Messiah.**’”*

John 1:41

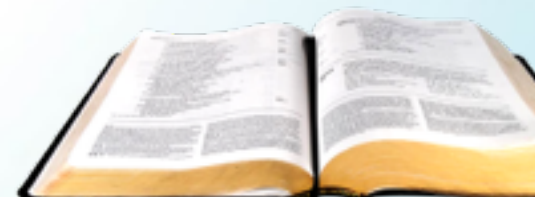


Philip showed conviction

*“Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘**We have found** the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—**Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**’”*
John 1:45



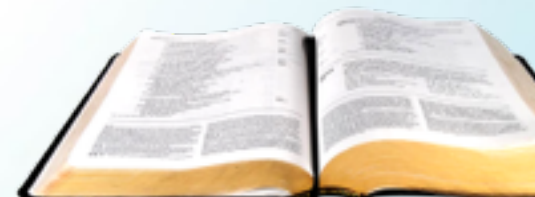
- Elders do not give rise to doubt in their own words.
- They come across as confident in the Lord.
- They speak with the assurance of those who have found Jesus.
- They convey the message with full conviction.
- They are positive when talking about Jesus.
- They share the message with joy.



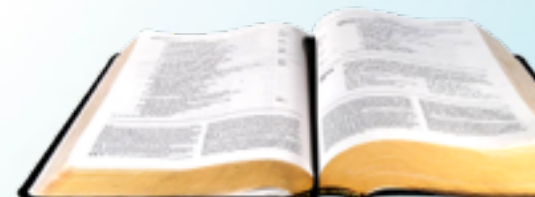
VII. The elders are not discouraged if their friends do not seem receptive



- The elders recall that making disciples for Jesus may possibly take time.
- Are understanding in spite of the possibility of their friends' unbelief.
- Develop patience, constancy and perseverance.
- Learn from the example of Philip with his friend Nathanael.



- Although their friends may seem very skeptical, they do not lose faith nor hope to bring them to Jesus.
- If their friends show little interest, they do not lose their joy.
- They remember that it is Jesus who will transform their friend, not them.
- They set out to do their part, knowing that the Lord will take care of the rest.



*“Nazareth! Can anything
good come from there?”
Nathanael asked.”*

John 1:46



VIII. The elders put their friends into contact with Jesus

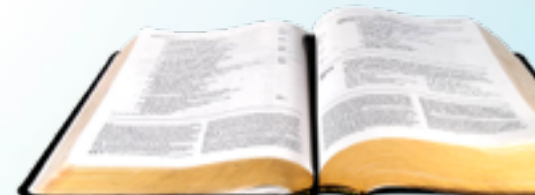


- *“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). **And he brought him to Jesus.**”*

John 1:41-42

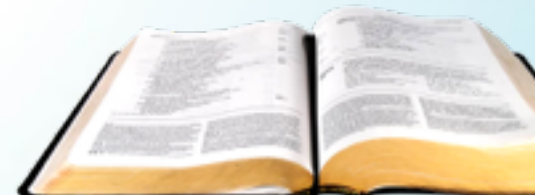
- *“‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. **‘Come and see,’** Said Philip.”*

John 1:46

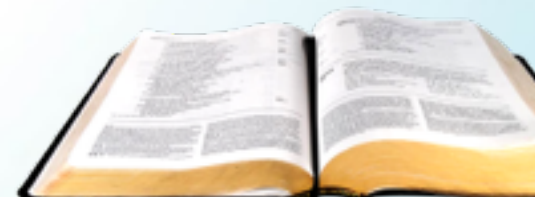


The elders do not forget that Jesus:

- Is more important than their own arguments.
- Is the One Who can convict of sin.
- Is the One Who can transform a darkened, non-receptive and rebellious heart.
- Is the One Who draws the sinner.



- Is the One Who saves.
- Is the first to be the most interested in the salvation of their friends.
- Is the only One Who can win them over.
- Is the One Who will reach them if the elders bring their friends before His presence.



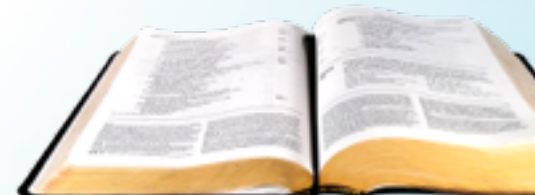
**IX. The elders
remember that
Jesus will help
them**



Andrew did not intervene any further

“And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).”

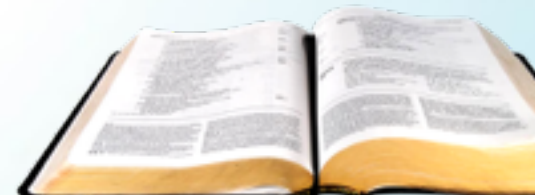
John 1:42



Philip did not intervene any further

“When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’ ‘How do you know me?’ Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, ‘I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Then Nathanael declared, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.’”

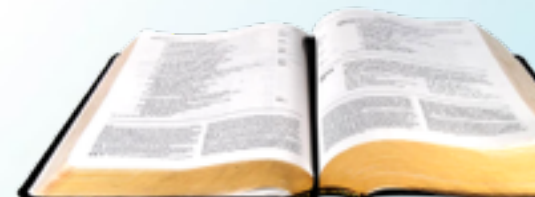
John 1:47-49



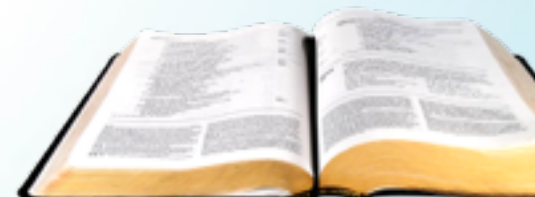
X. The elders continue being a friend and colleague



- The elders help their friends grow as leaders.
- Are not worried that their friends will surpass them as leaders. That will be their eternal joy.
- Keep a humble spirit.
- Allow the glory and honor to be for God.

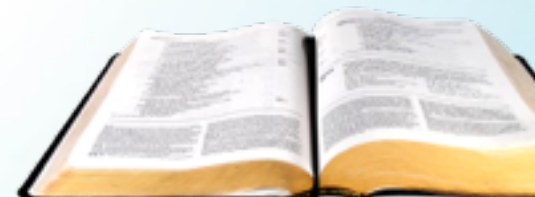


- Help them to also consider bringing a friend to Jesus.
- Guide them as to how they can win over their families to Jesus.
- Continue helping them advance in the knowledge of truth.
- Do not leave them on their own and do not neglect their friendship.



“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.’”

Acts 2:14

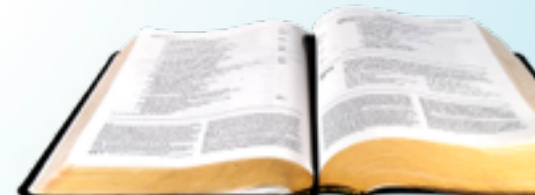


**Recapitulating
what we studied**



Cite 5 subject matters the elders can pray for on behalf of their friend.

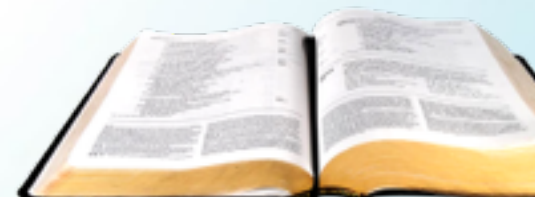
1. Their needs.
2. Their health.
3. Their families.
4. Their conversion.
5. Some special request of their friends.



According to Job's
experience, what happens
when a person prays for his
friends?

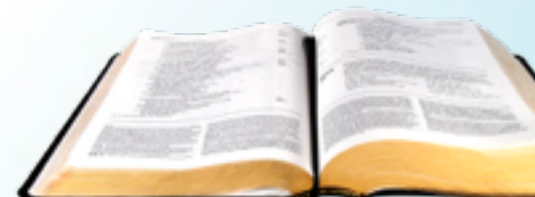
When Job prayed for his
friends, then God removed
Job's affliction.

Job 42:10



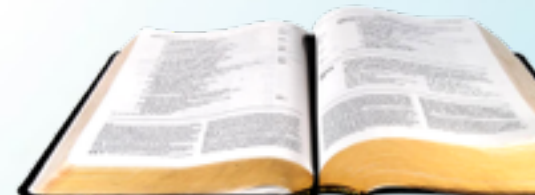
Cite 3 characteristics of Andrew's brother and 2 characteristics of Philip's friend.

- Peter, Andrew's brother, was proud, arrogant and violent.
- Nathanael, Philip's friend, was incredulous and peevish.



How should the elders speak to their friends?

- Demonstrating full conviction.
- Exalting Jesus, primarily through their own example.
- Sharing with them their positive experiences.
- Putting them in contact with Christ.
- Remembering that Jesus will come to their friends' aid and that Jesus is the One that will transform them.



“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Acts 2:41

