

**Captain/Rider Relationships**

Jeff Walters

### **Building Relationships With The Family**

1. Win every child you can to Jesus Christ, but always seek the parents’ consent before you talk to them.
2. Work at remembering names and use them in your conversations.
3. Lost and backslidden parents typically send their children to church–keep this in mind when interacting with parents.
4. Get into as many homes as possible and make friends with as many parents as possible.
5. Win the parents to Jesus Christ.
6. Explain the Sunday School’s purpose and rules to the parents.
7. When kids become teenagers, lost and backslidden parents quickly give in and give up.
8. We generally loose teenagers unless their parents are strong, or unless they are particularly close to the Bus Captain, a Bus Worker, or the Sunday School Teacher.
9. Primarily visit the parents on Saturday visitation.
10. Work at remembering certain details or items of previous conversations with parents and children, and ask about the matter in later conversations–birthdays, report cards, sickness, needs, etc.
11. Usually the older the child, the harder you must work at getting the parents in church.
12. Never stop inviting the whole household to church.
13. Give your cell number to the parents if your Pastor says it’s okay.
14. Make sure you have their phone number on the permission form.
15. The Bible clearly teaches that a child should be disciplined; therefore, report bad behavior to the parent. Be specific when reporting issues to the parent.
16. Give your bus riders spiritual homework–memory verse, take-home questions, coloring sheets, character assignments, etc.
17. Praise good behavior and positive character qualities. Look for the good.
18. Use food as a relationship builder and not just as meeting a need.
19. Helping your teenager riders:
	* Take them out to eat as a reward for personal achievements
	* Sponsor them for camp.
	* Pray with them at the altar.
	* Text them during the week. Ladies text females and men text males.
	* Help them with their clothes.
20. Insert Bus Route expenses into your personal budget.

The following email may help us to understand better:

This email may be kind of long but if you would take the time to read it, it would mean a lot to me.

A little history of me, I used to be a member of the church i attended from the time i was 2 or 3 years old until i was about 15 or 16, and i loved going to church it was an escape from my home life where my step father beat us and made us work harder than grown men, i miss the church and long to come back I looked up to a lot of people there the man I looked up to the most was Br, Dickerson my bus captain , he was my bus captain from the time i can first remember until the last time i ever attended i had other bus captains they would come and go but Br. Dickerson was always there, with a smile on his face and a song in his heart, if i was having a bad day he knew how to make it better.  i miss the preaching the singing the soul winning, and now I'm afraid i am so far away that i may never get to come back, i am now 25 years old, I am married with the woman of Proverbs 31, in the old testament, i have two beautiful daughters, and reside in Nuevo Laredo, tamp. Mexico, but i feel i have lost my way, and have slowly lead my wife away as well, she still reminds me to read my bible every day and that we need to go to church and to serve God, but i lack the spiritual strength, the job i have is in the oil field and i have no time to go to church i work 17 to 21 hours a day, and i am so far lost in the dark that i don't know if i can find my way back, i long to be not only a good father and a good husband but a righteous man but i have noticed a very bad pattern of things in my life, every thing i start i do not finish i play guitar and every song i start to learn on the guitar i never learn the whole thing every job i get i am there for a year or two and then i have to find another i can never finish what i have started, i am torchered in my mind constantly by the devil i have done some awful things that i wish i could take back, i don't know how i ended up here spiritually, i used to think i heard the voice of God in my life, i used to feel guilty when i did something wrong i used to not do the things i do now, i want to come back to the Lord but i don't know where to start i need council i don't know if i have the strength i don't know if God even wants me back, i don't even know why I'm writing this email, how could you help me from so far away, i guess i am just reaching out to the only church i ever knew just hoping ma-by some way some how you might be able to help me to get back to the Lord.