

WRITING HIS ANSWER SO SEEKERS WILL READ AND UNDERSTAND

HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO WRITE TO SEEKERS?

Francine Rivers-- Are going to be a "Christian writer" or a Christian who writes?

"What's the difference? A Christian who writes may weave Christian principles into the story, but the work can stand when those elements are removed. A Christian writer is called to present a story that is all about Jesus. The Lord is the foundation, the structure, and Scripture has everything to do with the creation and development of the characters in the story. Jesus is central to the theme. If you remove Jesus and Biblical principles from the novel, it collapses."

CHOOSING YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

THINKING LIKE YOUR SEEKING READERS THINK

Lee Strobel, former atheist, investigative journalist who became a Christ-follower and writes bestselling Christian apologetics including *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry & Mary: How to reach friends and family who avoid God and the church*. Makes several important observations:

1. "Harry has rejected church, but that doesn't necessarily mean he has rejected God."
2. "Harry is morally adrift, but he secretly wants an anchor."
3. "Harry resists rules but responds to reason."
4. "Harry doesn't understand Christianity, but he's also ignorant about what he claims to believe in."
5. "Harry has legitimate questions about spiritual matters, but he doesn't expect answers from Christians."
6. "Harry doesn't just ask, 'Is Christianity true?' Often he's asking 'Does Christianity work?'" "Strobel says: "We need to help Harry understand the absolute and unchanging truth of Christ, but we also should explain how Christ is available to him in practical ways to heal his hurts and help him deal with everyday living. We need to communicate that Christianity isn't just for the tomorrow of his eternity but also for the today of his life."

7. "Harry doesn't just want to know something, he wants to experience it."

DECIDING ON YOUR "CHRISTIAN" TERMINOLOGY

SHARING THE GOSPEL

- Sharing gospel in a way readers will understand, but without watering down its message. Move readers along chapter-by-chapter. Stories you share later which wouldn't have been as effective earlier. Make people thirsty, don't try to force-feed them. In fiction, don't just have everyone "get saved" and that solves all their problems. Give the Holy Spirit time to work on your readers.
- Sharing stories—or writing fiction—allows readers' spirits to be open to truth. Francine Rivers—"The purpose of Christian fiction is to whet readers' appetite for a close relationship with Jesus."

USING SCRIPTURE WELL

- Use different translations –NLT good; Bible Gateway.com . Paraphrases—The Message
- Let Scripture stand by itself—it is powerful
- **Francine Rivers**—"If you are going to be a Christian writer, it is essential to study Scripture. Immerse yourself in God's Word, and the Scriptures will flow naturally into your work. The Bible is filled with God's wisdom, and His Word will transform you as a person and as a writer. The goal is to have the reader experience God's Truth through story – to challenge, convict, encourage."

SELECTING YOUR TITLE AND COVER

PRAYING FOR YOUR AUDIENCE

WHAT DO YOU WRITE ABOUT AND WHY?