

But when given or left by someone gentle, kind, respectful, and generous they can change a life in a matter of just a few heartbeats. Tracts played a very major role in my own conversion but know and understand this, had I not been totally impressed with those who gave them to me I'd not have given them the time of day. So how then should they be used?

Let me say first how not to use them. You and your family are in a restaurant. Your children are loud and disrespectful, disrupting the meals of all those around you, yet you make no effort to correct them. The waitress politely asked you to quiet them and you are rude short with her. You stay there far beyond the time it takes you to eat your meal and when it comes time to pay the tab you leave no tip even though the waitress was very prompt, courteous, respectful and got your order perfect. Everyone just wants you to leave.

**Do God a favor,
DON'T leave a tract.**

Now this would be the proper way to use this tool.

You're at the bank late Friday afternoon, the line is horrendous and they are short on tellers. You finally make it to a window. As you approach the window you realize you have a rooky in front of you and you have a complicated transaction to perform. He's already flustered from the previous customer who was both rude and impatient with him. You smile and let him know it's okay to take a moment to regroup. You patiently endure numerous mistakes during the transaction all the while smiling and assuring him it's no big deal. The transaction is finally done with the help of a supervisor. You graciously thank them both for their efforts, wishing them a good day. As you gather your receipt you gently slide a tract into the window tray and graciously leave with a smile. Now who would be more likely to read what you handed them, the waitress or the teller?

**Now is the time
to leave a tract!**

The objective is not to impress others that WE may be noticed but to set the stage for others to notice Him. Matthew 5:16 puts it this way; "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Is your light shining? This is not to say we need to be perfect to hand out tracts but we do need to be conscientious of the kind of impression we are leaving on others.

Having said all that let's look at some practical applications. Basically every encounter you have with the human race **can be** an opportunity to leave good news in a tract form. The restaurant and bank have already been mentioned. But now you're waiting in the doctor's office and strike up a conversation with the person next to you. You learn that they have a very debilitating disease leaving them in a state of depression and despair. You hurt for them but feel inadequate to address what they are experiencing, then you remember a tract you have in your purse;