Personal Evangelism
School of Evangelism

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Personal Evangelism

WHAT IS PERSONAL EVANGELISM?

1. "Personal Evangelism" refers to everything a believer says and does to introduce and lead others to the good news of salvation made available through faith in Jesus Christ.
   a. It is called "**Personal**" evangelism because it refers to the evangelism of individual believers, as opposed to "crusade evangelism," "film evangelism" (for example, with the Jesus film), "radio evangelism," etc.
   b. "**Evangelism**" refers to everything related to the "evangel"—the "good news" of God's free forgiveness, salvation and offer of eternal life!
   c. Personal evangelism and friendship evangelism are similar but not identical, the difference being that in friendship evangelism there is the added dimension of an ongoing relationship with the person being evangelized.
   d. Evangelism is similar to "soul winning" and "witnessing," but with small differences of meaning between them. In this course these three terms are often used interchangeably.
   e. Another word that is related to these three words is the word "martyr." The word "martyr" comes from the Greek word for "witness." Early Christians were often put to death for their "witness" to Christ. Clearly these people were so courageous in their witness that they gave their lives for their faith.

2. The Bible calls us to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey everything Christ commanded. This is all part of the process of evangelizing. Matthew 28:19-20

3. Christians are called to be witnesses of their faith, first in their home area (their "Jerusalem"), then in their neighboring regions (their "Judea and Samaria) and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

4. What is the good news that we proclaim through our evangelism?
   a. The Bible teaches that all people are born in sin. Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1-3
   b. The Bible also says we will all be judged for our sin by a holy God. Rom. 6:23
   c. The Bible teaches that the only way to avoid this judgment is to repent of our sin and embrace Jesus Christ by faith. Ephesians 2:8-9

Discussion:
1. If someone we knew was dying of a disease and we had the cure for their disease, would we share that cure with them?
2. All people have a terminal, spiritual disease (sin), and, as Christians, we know the cure for that disease (Jesus). This truth should be great motivation for us to bear witness to the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. Knowing that those who reject the "cure" for their spiritual disease will spend an eternity in hell should motivate us to:
   a. pray for their salvation, and
   b. urge them to repent of their sins and accept Christ's forgiveness and promise of eternal life in heaven.

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YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

1. Not all believers are called to be preachers, but every born-again Christian is called to be a witness.
2. We should be witnesses:
   a. Because Christ commands us to acknowledge Him before men. Mt.10:32, 33
   b. Because God's love compels us to share the good news of His salvation with others. 1 Cor. 9:16-19
   c. Because the Bible teaches us to confess Christ with our mouths. Rom. 10:9
   d. Because many are in darkness and need the light of God. 1 Peter 2:9
   e. Because people need to hear the good news of freedom in Jesus and be reconciled with Him. 2 Cor. 5:18, 19
   f. Because a man's soul is worth more than the whole world. Mark 8:36
   g. Because many are looking for God and for hope. 1 Peter 3:15
   h. Because we have the only hope of salvation in a broken world. Phil. 2:15
   i. Because the testimony of His word is burning in our hearts, wanting to be expressed. Jer. 20:9
3. Proverbs 11:30 says that a winner of souls is wise.

Note: *"Soul-winning is a definite effort to lead a definite person to accept a definite Savior at a definite time"* - Billy Sunday.

Some different ways to be a witness:

1. We can be a witness <u>publicly</u> by speaking in church services, prayer meetings, and in other gatherings of believers, about our love for God and about how His salvation has transformed our character and our lives.
2. We can be a witness <u>privately</u> in our daily conversations with friends, relatives and neighbors. This is possibly the most difficult, yet also possibly the most fruitful method.
3. It is a public witness of our identification with Christ when we are baptized. The same is true of when we formally join a church, attend a church service, and/or partake of the communion elements. These are all witnesses of our faith.
4. Jesus said we are to be witnesses ("light") by our good works. Matt. 5:16
5. Peter tells us we are witnesses—and bring glory to God—by living good lives among unbelievers. 1 Peter 2:12

Note: Just as the water in a pond becomes stagnant and polluted if there is no out-flow, the Christian life will starve and die if it is not confessed and shared!

Discussion:
Who of your acquaintances is an effective witness?
How can believers be encouraged to witness?

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26 VERSES SOUL WINNERS SHOULD KNOW BY HEART

1. **John 1:12** We can become God's children.

2. **John 3:16** God loves us and offers us eternal life.

3. **John 14:6** Jesus is the only way to heaven.

4. **2 Peter 3:9** God doesn't want any to perish.

5. **Luke 10:27** The Great Commandment
   (Also found in Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:28-34, and in Deuteronomy 6:5)

6. **Matthew 28:18-20** The Great Commission
   (Also found, in different formats, in Psalm 2:8, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:45-49, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8)

7. **The *Wordless Book* verses:**
   a. **John 14:3** Gold – represents God's provision for us in heaven.
   b. **Romans 3:23** Black – represents our sin (verse repeated below).
   c. **1 John 1:9** Red – represents Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.
   d. **Rev. 7:14** White – represents our heart washed clean by God.
   e. **2 Peter 3:18** Green – represents growth in God's grace and favor.

8. **The *Roman's Road* verses:**
   a. **Romans 3:23** All have sinned and need forgiveness.
   b. **Romans 6:23** The penalty for sin is death.
   c. **Romans 5:8** God provided a way through the death of Jesus.
   d. **Romans 10:9** Confess sin, believe in Christ, and receive forgiveness.

9. **Ephesians 2:8-9** We are saved by God's grace, through faith, not by anything we do.

10. **Revelations 3:20** We receive Christ through personal invitation.

11. **1 Corinthians 10:13** God gives us the strength to resist all temptation.

12. **John 3:18** When we receive Christ we experience a new birth.

13. **Philippians 4:13** We can do all things with God's help.

14. **1 Corinthians 15: 3-4** Christ conquered death by coming back to life.

15. **John 10:10** God gives His children abundant life.

16. **Isaiah 41:10** We can live courageously because God is always with His children. He strengthens and helps us.

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YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Introduction: In John 3 we have a beautiful report of how Jesus explained the kingdom of God to a religious leader of His day. What principles can we find in this account that can help us be better evangelists today?

Read John 3:1-18

1. Sometimes it's not socially-accepted to be a follower of Jesus.
   a. Nicodemus, the high-ranking religious leader, came to Jesus at night because he didn't want people to know that he was with Jesus.
   b. In the same way, there are places in the world today where being a follower of Jesus is not accepted.
2. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the kingdom of God is not of this world. In the same way, we must help people understand that spiritual life, the path to peace with God, is available only through God's grace.
   a. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be "born again."
   b. Entering into God's kingdom (into His family) requires a spiritual birth, a birth other than our physical human (water) birth.
   c. This birth of the Spirit of God is a supernatural provision made available to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
   d. There is nothing we can do to merit or earn membership in God's kingdom (His family). It is not attainable through human birth and life. It is available only by being born of the Spirit of God.
   e. Even Nicodemus, a high religious leader, could not enter the kingdom of God (God's family) without being born again, born of the Spirit of God.
3. The question logically follows, "Why does a person need to be born again?"
   a. The apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:1 says, *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins"* (NKJV).
   b. To the Romans he wrote, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).
   c. Sinners are spiritually "dead;" when they receive spiritual life through faith in Christ, the Bible likens it to a rebirth. Only those who are born again have their sins forgiven and have a relationship with God.
4. How does that happen?
   a. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* When one is saved, he/she has been born again, spiritually renewed, and is now a child of God by right of new birth. Trusting in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means to be "born again."
   b. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17
   c. John 1:12-13 tell us *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

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WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT BEING A WITNESS

1. **"You are the salt of the earth." Matt. 5:13**
   a. Salt does two things: it preserves against decay, and it enhances taste.
   b. Similarly, God's Spirit in us, His children, helps to preserve the world from the forces of Satan and the effects of sin.
   c. Further, life on this earth is enhanced by the joy and peace, etc., that come to God's children when they are filled with His Spirit.

2. **"You are the light of the world." Matt. 5:14-16**
   a. Light overcomes darkness. In fact, the darker the room is the brighter and more visible will be the light, even from a distance.
   b. Just as a beam of light penetrates the darkest night, God's Spirit living in us brings light to the spiritual darkness around us.
   c. We are to let the light of Christ in us shine before men, *"that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

3. **We are to *"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in."* Luke 14:15-23**
   a. In this parable, Jesus equates the kingdom of God with a great banquet, a feast. This is the same image for heaven as prophesied in Isaiah 25:6-9.
   b. In Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet, many of those who were invited to the banquet were too preoccupied with the concerns of this life to accept the invitation. Likewise, today many are too busy or too preoccupied with the concerns of this world to accept Christ's offer of eternal life.
   c. When the man's friends made excuses to not come to the banquet he told his servant to *"go out … and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame."* Luke 14:21
   d. Even after this second invitation there was still room at the banquet table. So the master sent yet another invitation, so that the banquet table would be full. In the same way, we are to *"go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in"* to God's great eternal banquet table—eternal life with Him in heaven. Luke 14:23

4. **We are to bear much fruit. John 15:1-8**
   a. We read of several different kinds of spiritual fruit in the Bible; the first is the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, etc. Gal. 5:22-23
   b. Another kind of spiritual fruit is the new souls we bring to God. Matt. 13:8
   c. A third kind of spiritual fruit is our good works. Eph. 2:10
   d. Christ is the vine, we are the branches; we produce good fruit only as we abide in Him. John 15:5

5. **"You will be my witnesses." Acts 1:8**
   a. Just before His ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples to be His witnesses *"in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
   b. Similarly, we are to be His witnesses in our home towns, to the surrounding regions and to the whole world.

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OTHER BIBLE TEACHINGS ABOUT BEING A WITNESS:

1. **We are to declare God's glory among the nations. Psalm 67:1-7**
   a. Read through the chapter with the students and have them identify the three verses in Psalms 67 where we see the word "nations."
   b. Have them also identify the three phrases where the word "peoples" occur.
   c. God desires that His glory be known among all the peoples of all nations.

2. **We are to go where God sends us, when He sends us. Isaiah 6:8**
   a. When the seraph (an angelic being) touched Isaiah's mouth with the hot coal and the voice of the Lord asked him *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"* Isaiah immediately responded *"Here am I. Send me."*
   b. Likewise, when the Word of the Lord comes to us and instructs us to go or to do something, we must be ready and willing to do His will, without delay.

3. **We are to be His witnesses Isaiah 43:9-12**
   a. In this challenge from Isaiah God's children are exhorted to be witnesses of God's Truth. This is as relevant to us today as it was to the people of Israel in Isaiah's day.
   b. We have God's Truth in a world full of Satan's lies. We must be witnesses to our family, neighbors and friends of the God we know and love.
   c. We must witness courageously with our words and also with our actions—with our holy lives.

4. **We are to become all things to all people—to win them. 1 Cor. 9:22-23**
   a. The Apostle Paul encouraged us by his example to be adaptable in every situation in order to gain a hearing for the Gospel.
   b. In the same way, we must try to build bridges with those around us who need the Gospel, so that we can earn their trust and confidence and introduce them to God's grace and mercy.
   c. This doesn't mean we should be hypocrites, or be dishonest. It means we should adapt ourselves and our message as much as possible to the language and culture of the people whom we are trying to reach.

5. **We are Christ's ambassadors. 2 Cor. 5:20**
   a. We are representatives of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the eternal, all-powerful Creator of the whole universe.
   b. We go in God's power and grace to a dying, miserable world.
   c. We are children of the Almighty, Eternal Creator God. We offer peace with God to those who have no peace. We offer citizenship in His Eternal Trans-national Family.

Homework assignment: Have the students underline in Psalms chapters 96 through 100, all the following phrases: "all the earth," "all peoples," "the nations," "families of nations," and any other words that refer to all humanity.

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BEING KNOWN BY GOD and MAKING HIS GLORY KNOWN

by Stephen Liversedge

Introduction: What is the greatest thing you can do with the life God has given you?

- This is a question each of us must ask ourselves.
- We have one life to live and one life to give. For what will we live it? For what will we give it?
- Many things, good and bad, clamor for our attention. For the Christian the problem isn't so much choosing between the good and the bad but rather choosing between the good and the best.

1. When the seventy-two were sent out by Christ they came back with joy saying, "*Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."* Luke 10:17
   a. Jesus shared their joy, saying, *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."* But He added, *"…do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."* Luke 10:18-20
   b. It is a good thing to overcome the kingdom of darkness by the power that is ours in Christ.
   c. However, this is not the greatest thing; the greatest thing, the true cause for rejoicing, is to have our names written in heaven, to be known by God, to be His child. This is the greatest thing.
2. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 7:22-23 that many will be turned away from heaven. Mt 7:22-23
   a. Just imagine for a moment what it means to *not* be known by an *all-knowing God* or to be out of the presence of an *omnipresent Creator*. Living like this for eternity might even make the flames of hell pale in comparison. What utter loneliness! It causes me to shudder.
   b. What exactly does it mean to be known by God? In that same chapter in Matthew Jesus explains that only those who do the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven. Another way of saying "enter the kingdom of heaven" is "to be known of God": that is to have our names written in the Book of Life.
   c. If you have submitted to Him and given your life to Him, then you have already done the greatest thing you can do. Now what? Well, the second greatest thing is to make Him known and that's what the Great Commission is all about.
3. Jesus revealed His will for the Church on the evening of His resurrection. The Gospels record what He said. *"As the Father has sent Me, even so send I you."* Jn 20:21
   a. *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole of creation."* Mk 16:15
   b. *"Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations."* Luke 24:47
   c. This is a command of God. All of God's people and all of the churches that represent His body in this world are called to reach all nations, that is all ethnic groups, with all of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that *"this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* Matthew 24:14

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SPEEDING THE DAY OF HIS COMING

by S. Liversedge

Introduction: The Apostle Peter, in his two epistles, offers several words of exhortation to all believers concerning the purpose for which God has us here on earth.

1. Peter declares that we are a chosen generation. 1 Peter2:9
   a. I believe this is true of every generation, but particularly of this present generation, for I feel that this generation will see the Great Commission completed.
   b. We are a royal priesthood. In the Old Testament days priests were needed to represent the people to God and to be intermediaries between God and men. But now through the atonement of Jesus Christ we can approach God the Father directly, without depending on a priest.
   c. We are to be a holy nation, a people set apart and belonging fully to God. We are to live holy lives, victoriously resisting the sinful temptations of this world.
   d. What is the greatest thing we of this chosen generation can do with our lives? Whatever it is I know it will have something to do with completing Christ's injunction to take His good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

2. Peter exhorted us to live holy and godly lives in order to speed the day of Jesus' return. 1 Peter 3:11
   a. These verses make it clear that every one of us is called to work toward completing the Great Commission—to actually *speed the day* of Jesus' return to earth, when He comes to redeem His creation and take us into His eternal presence in heaven.
   b. Peter exhorts us to speed Christ's coming by living holy and godly lives, and by preaching the Gospel.
   c. Preaching without living holy and godly lives is empty and fruitless. But simply living holy and godly lives is not enough by itself. We must do both, whereby we hasten Christ's return.

3. Peter exhorted us to always be ready with an answer. 1 Peter 3:15
   a. The Apostle Peter exhorts believers to be ready for any opportunity to present a clear explanation of the free gift of salvation offered by God through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.
   b. This course is designed to help you become prepared to give a clear, powerful answer to those who would ask us about our faith.
   c. But remember that it is equally important to be spiritually prepared—that our hearts be ready to respond with God's supernatural love and grace to every opportunity presented to us to give an answer.

Conclusion: I implore you that whatever Christ tells you to do, do it.
- Do it for the lost.
- Do it for your joy.
- And do it for the glory of God!

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SOME PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR BEING A WITNESS

Introduction: It is one thing to want to be a fruitful evangelist for the King; it is quite a different matter to actually be a fruitful witness.

1. Some basic guidelines for being a fruitful witness:

a. Tell the simple story of how you found Jesus and the change in your life since you believed in Him.
b. Tell about answers to prayer you have received Psa.50:15.
c. Tell how Christ gives you peace and satisfies you completely.
d. Tell about personal victory over sin and temptations.
e. Tell about your favorite verses in the Bible, and how God recently spoke to you from a particular passage of Scripture.
f. Focus on Jesus Christ. Tell them about Him.

2. Some hindrances that keep some from confessing Christ:

a. Some have fears. 2 Tim.1:7
b. Some are ashamed. Romans 1:16
c. Some have impure lives. 1 John 1:9

3. Practice the following when you engage in personal evangelism:

a. Pray before engaging others with the Gospel, even as you walk and travel. Pray for God's leading about whom to approach and how to approach them. Ask other believers to pray for you while you're trying to witness.
b. Learn about the beliefs and practices of those you're trying to reach.
c. Build good relationships with them.
d. Share your story with them—about how God freed you from bondage and has transformed your life.
e. Make it very clear to those you're trying to reach how they can become children of God.
f. Offer those you're trying to reach, when you sense that they are ready, an opportunity to pray to invite Jesus Christ into their hearts.
g. Schedule a time in the next day or two to meet again with any who pray.

4. Avoid the following when engaging in personal evangelism:

a. Don't fail to proclaim God's good news. Ezek. 33:8
b. It is the Holy Spirit who prepares hearts for salvation: 1 Cor. 3:6-9
   - Therefore, don't argue with people.
   - Don't overwhelm them with too much information all at once, but instead allow time for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.
c. Don't belittle any person, culture, or religion. Mt. 5:22
d. Don't try to force a decision prematurely. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

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CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY WITNESS

Introduction: Every believer is a witness! (Sadly, some who call themselves Christians live in sin and are actually bad witnesses for God and the Church!) What are the characteristics of a good and godly witness?

1. A believer will be a good and godly witness for the kingdom of God if he or she:

   a. Recognizes and accepts the call of God to be a witness. Isa. 6:3-8; Lk. 24:45-49
   b. Is sanctified (separated unto God). John 17:17-19; 1 Cor. 1:1-2
   c. Is filled with the Holy Spirit of God. Ephesians 5:18
   d. Manifests the fruit of the Spirit in his/her daily life. Galatians 5:19
   e. Is a person of prayer. Ephesians 6:18
   f. Is a person who has God's Word in his/her heart. Psalm 119:11
   g. Is fully committed to Christ. Phil. 3:7-14
   h. Lives in harmony with and is united with other believers. John 17:20-23
   i. Is a person who faithfully draws near to God. Hebrews 10:22-24
   j. Has a deep and genuine love for the lost. 1 Cor. 9:19
   k. Flees from the evil temptations of this sinful world. 1 Timothy 6:11-12
   l. Is humble and teachable. Phil. 2:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:15
   m. Is a person who is willing to sacrifice for the kingdom of God, and does not conform to the world but lives a transformed life. Romans 12:1-2

2. In Luke 2:52 we read that *"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."* In the same way, to be good and godly witnesses of the kingdom of God we ought also to grow as Jesus grew. Luke 2:52

   a. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom, we must ask God for wisdom, and be life-long students of His ways. James 1:5-6, Matthew 11:29
   b. Just as Jesus grew in stature, we also must care for our bodies, eating healthy food, getting sufficient sleep, exercising occasionally and practicing good grooming habits. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Timothy 4:7-8
   c. Just as Jesus grew in favor with God, we also must strive to grow in His favor. Philippians 3:12-14
   d. Just as Jesus grew in favor with man, we also must strive to grow in man's favor, so that we might gain a hearing for the good news of hope and of God's salvation which we offer. Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12

3. Our witness is strengthened when we practice the following spiritual disciplines:

   a. Spending time daily in the Word Psalm 119:9-11, 105; Col. 4:16
   b. Memorizing the Word of God Psalm 119:11
   c. Practicing a life of continuous prayer Luke 11:1-4, 1 Thess. 5:16-18
   d. Worshiping Psalm 33:1-5; Hebrews 10:25
   e. Fasting Matthew 6:16-18, Mt. 17:20-21
   f. Serving Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10
   g. Tithing Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7
   h. Witnessing Acts 1:8

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SEVEN STEPS IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

There are seven simple steps that outline the process of introducing the good news of Jesus to others and of leading them into spiritual maturity:

1. **Learn about them:** Survey and research the beliefs and general spiritual condition of the person or people you hope to reach. Gather all available relevant information that will help you understand how to best present the good news in a way they will be able to understand.

2. **Pray for them**: Never forget that faithful, diligent PRAYER is a vital necessity for every step in this process.

3. **Establish relationship:** Establish healthy, sincere relationships with those whom you are trying to reach. (This may take months or only minutes, through the moving of the Spirit.) Allow the love of God in your heart to be expressed in your acts of caring and service to those in the community. 1 Peter 2:12

4. **Invite them**: Tell your story—about how Jesus delivered you and gave you a new life—and explain the great news of how Jesus can deliver them as well. Offer them the opportunity to pray to receive God's forgiveness and His eternal life. Romans 10:9

5. **Equip them:** Meet regularly with new believers, for they are like vulnerable baby sheep and must be faithfully nurtured and encouraged. Feed them "spiritual milk" from God's Word, teaching them how to walk and grow in Christ. Ensure that they spend time daily in the Word; if they're illiterate make sure they have some other source of daily spiritual feeding and encouragement. 1 Corinthians 3:2

   An important step in this equipping and discipling process is baptism. Encourage new believers to make the public statement of *"dying to the things of this world, being buried and being resurrected in Christ"* through water baptism. Mark 16:16

6. **Connect them**: Connect new believers with other Christ followers. Help them become faithfully involved in worshiping with others and in a prayer and Bible study group that meets at least once per week. Another helpful idea is to personally connect a new believer with a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" (men with men, women with women), who will meet with the new believer several times each week or as often as possible. The mature believer can encourage the new believer, and they can study God's Word and pray together.

7. **Lead them:** Help new disciples learn to tell their story—about how God delivered them and gave them a new life—and help them learn how to lead others to God and to offer their friends the opportunity to receive His forgiveness and eternal life.

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PRAYING EFFECTIVELY FOR THE LOST

Bible examples of praying for the lost:

1. Jesus prayed for those He sent out and for those who would believe their message. John 17:18, 20
2. Paul prayed for the Israelites, *"that they might be saved."* Romans 10:1, 2
3. Paul tells us in his first letter to Timothy that God wants all to be saved, so we know we are praying for His will when we pray that the unsaved will come to salvation. 1 Timothy 2:3, 4

Ten ways to pray for the lost, that they will come to Christ:

1. Ask God to open their spiritual eyes. 2 Cor. 4:4
2. Ask God to give them ears to hear. Matt. 13:15
3. Ask God to give them faith to believe. Acts 20:21
4. Ask God to give them the will to respond. Rom. 10:9
5. Ask God to send people into their lives to witness to them. Matt. 9:38
6. Ask God for ways to build caring relationships. I Cor. 9:22
7. Ask God for opportunities to witness. Col. 4:3
8. Ask God for boldness to witness. Acts 4:29
9. Ask God for an opportunity to invite them. Luke 14:23
10. Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity. 2 Tim. 2:25-26

Every believer ought to maintain a list of people for whom they pray every day, that they will find Christ and receive His salvation.

1. The list should have at least three names but may be much longer.
2. It is helpful to write the list on a piece of paper and to keep it in your Bible or in a place where it will remind you to pray.
3. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share the Gospel with the people on your list. 1 Peter 3:15
4. As people on the list give their hearts to Christ, cross their name(s) off and replace each with a new name.

Agreeing in prayer:

1. The early Church *"continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,"* and thousands came to salvation. Acts 1:14
2. Jesus taught that if two agree in prayer, it will be done. Matthew 18: 19, 20
3. There is supernatural power in prayer, and even greater power in united prayer.
4. Make it a habit to pray together regularly with other believers, whether with a prayer partner, with a prayer group, in triplets or in any other grouping.

Some other Bible teachings about prayer:

1. We are to pray with thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6
2. Pray with faith. Mark 11:24
3. Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
4. Pray in the powerful name of Jesus. 1 John 5:14, 15
5. Pray with a humble, righteous heart. James 5:16

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Personal Evangelism

TELLING YOUR STORY:

Introduction: A Sri Lankan church leader, Rev. D. T. Niles, is famous for having said, "Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

- Everybody loves to hear a story. And it's only natural to tell our friends and family the story about where and how we found spiritual bread.
- When we share with others about our love for God, and about how He has transformed our lives, we don't need to be argumentative; we are just telling our story.
- Like a beggar who was hungry for food, we were spiritually hungry, and we found the answer for our souls in Jesus Christ.

One of the most powerful witnessing tools is your own story—about your relationship with Christ—how He delivered you and how He has transformed your life.

1. After his healing, the blind man testified to the religious leaders, "*One thing I do know, I was blind and now I can see."* John 9:25b
2. Some people may object to Scripture, desiring to argue doctrine or points of view, but the testimony of a Christ-changed life can't be refuted.

When you tell your story, it should include three sections:

1. First, describe what your life was like before you became a Christian.
   a. Did God deliver you from any infirmities or bondage to addictions?
   b. Was your life plagued by feelings of emptiness and hopelessness, both of which are common to unbelievers?
   c. Be sure not to place too much emphasis on particular sins, so as not to glorify a sinful life.
2. Describe when and where you heard about Jesus, and why you made the decision to accept Him as your Savior.
   a. Describe the conviction that came upon your heart and mind.
   b. As you share, pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the life of the one with whom you are sharing, bringing a spirit of repentance and receptivity to the grace and forgiveness of God.
3. Tell how your life has changed since becoming a Christian.
   a. Share about the joy and peace that are yours as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.
   b. Be specific about the ways God has changed your life.

When you tell your story, be prepared to ask for a response:

1. As you tell your story, be in prayer, asking God not only to speak to the heart of the person with whom you are sharing, but also to guide you about how to proceed.
2. As you tell your story, it can be helpful to occasionally ask questions to help you see if the person you're sharing with is understanding. For example:
   a. "Does that make sense to you?"
   b. "Would you agree that …?"
3. Be prepared, when you feel God's leading, to ask the person if they would like to receive Jesus into their heart.

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CONVERSATIONS OF ETERNAL CONSEQUENCE

Following is a list of possible questions that can be helpful for steering conversations toward Christ and His salvation.

1. If you were to die tonight are you sure you'd go to heaven? Has anyone ever explained how you can know for sure?
2. People invest time and energy into developing their career, their bodies and relationships, but often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How do you actively pursue spiritual growth?
3. Do you think much about spiritual things? (This usually leads to conversation about what "spiritual" means–i.e. religion vs. relationship.)
4. We've been friends for a while now and I've never really talked to you about the most important thing in my life. May I take a few moments and do so?
5. How has this experience affected the way you look at God?
6. We've never had a chance to talk about your religious background. Where would you say you are in your spiritual pilgrimage?
7. I'd like to tell you how I found a personal relationship with God.
8. What is your concept of God? Do you view Him positively or negatively?
9. Have you ever come to a point in your life where you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, or do you think that is something you're still moving toward? May I share with you how I came to that point?
10. Do you find that faith and spiritual values play a role in your (work) (day) (marriage) (perspective on life)?
11. If you could be sure there is a God, would you want to know Him? Or if you could know God personally, would you want to?
12. How do you think someone becomes a Christian?
13. Can I share the thing I've found most important to me as a (dad, parent, etc)?
14. What do you think about when you go to sleep at night?
15. Most people say they believe in God. What does believing in God mean to you?
16. Before I came to know Christ personally, God was a vague concept that I could not relate to or grasp. How would you describe your view of God? What is your view of Jesus? Is He a reality to you or more of a vague concept?
17. Would you like to come with me this Sunday to worship God at my church?
18. I'd hate for you to come to my church and not understand what it's all about. Would you want to get together and discuss our basic beliefs?
19. Is church something that has had an influence in your life? Are you at a point now that you want church to be a bigger part of your life? What prompted this? Would you want to hear our basic beliefs so you'll know if that fits in with what you're looking for?
20. Suggested questions to ask a friend after he/she has come to your church or a Christian event:
    a. *What did you think of it?*
    b. *Did it make sense to you?*
    c. *Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing God personally?*
    d. *If you've never before asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your heart, would you like to so that now?*

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CALLING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE

Introduction: Repentance is an essential part of salvation a sincere turning away, in both the mind and heart, from self to God. When we are introducing people to Almighty God, we must not neglect this important requirement.

Simply said, repentance in the Bible means to change one's mind.
1. It is a turning away from – an about-face.
2. It often means a change in belief; for example, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter exhorted the Jews who had not believed in Christ to repent, to change their minds about who Jesus was.
3. In other cases it often means a turning away from the sin-ruled life to a life characterized by obedience to God.

God repeatedly calls people to repentance in His Word:
1. The words "repent" and "repentance" appear over 75 times in the Bible.
2. God repeatedly calls His people to repent in the OT. 1 Kings 8:47, Ez. 18:30
3. Jesus also exhorted people to repent. Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3
4. The Apostles preached repentance. Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30, Acts 26:20

Repentance and faith can be understood as two complementary facets of the same truth, or as two sides of the same coin.
1. It is impossible to place your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior without first changing your mind about who He is and what He has done.
2. Whether it is repentance from willful rejection of Christ or repentance from ignorance or disinterest, it is a change of mind.
3. Biblical repentance, in relation to salvation, is changing your mind from rejection of Christ to faith in Christ.

When people repent of their sin, God forgives.
1. God wants us to repent of (turn away from) our sinful ways. Luke 15:7
2. God forgave King David when he repented of his sin of taking Bathsheba and of having her husband killed. 2 Samuel 12:13
3. God is patient, wanting everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Discussion: Have the students read Psalm 51 then ask them the following:
1. Who wrote Psalm 51? (King David)
2. Why was David pleading for God's mercy
   (He had sinned by taking Bathsheba and having her husband killed.)
3. King David had committed the sins of adultery and of murder. Did God forgive him of his sin? (Yes)
4. Why did God forgive him? (Because David repented)
5. Why does God want us to turn from sin and live holy, righteous lives?
   (He wants His children to be holy and righteous because He is holy and righteous. He hates sin. He gives us His Spirit so we can live holy lives.)

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SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

Introduction: As we consider and pray about whom we will try to reach with the good news of salvation in Jesus, we should think in terms of five different relational spheres and four geographic spheres.

We live in, and must bear witness to people who are within any of five different relational spheres:

1. **Nuclear family** – What are we doing to reach our spouse, children, parents and siblings with God's salvation? Do we pray for them? Do we talk with them about God's love? Do we live in such a way that our family sees how our life has been transformed?
2. **Extended family** (cousins and other relatives) – Do our relatives know we are God's child, that we have been freed from sin and bondage and that our lives have been redeemed by His love? Are we praying for their salvation? What are we doing to help them find peace with God?
3. **Neighbors** – Do our neighbors know we are believers?
4. **Work (or school) associates** – Do our work (or school) colleagues know we belong to Christ? Can they see in the way we live that God is in us?
5. **Social networks** – Some Christian believers join sports clubs or community service groups such as the Rotary and Kiwanis in order to connect socially with non-believers in the community.

Jesus instructs His followers to take the good news to four different geographic spheres: **Acts 1:8**

1. To Jerusalem – In other words, to our hometown or capital city,
2. To Judea – to the people of our own nation,
3. To Samaria – to the people of neighboring countries (even to our enemies),
4. And to the ends of the earth – to people throughout the whole world.

We are not alone in our witness to the world. Consider how we might work in cooperation with the following groups to win the lost to Christ:

1. **Our church** (or cell group) – How can we work with others in our home church or cell group to bear witness to our community and region? Are we as a church praying for the lost around us? Are we a lighthouse? Matt. 5:14-16
2. **Our denomination** – What is our denomination doing to reach the lost and how can we contribute to such efforts, both on the national and international levels?
3. **Mission groups** – What mission groups are working in our area, and how can we contribute to their efforts to win the lost? (AIDA, YWAM, Bible Societies, Intervarsity, Campus Crusade, Navigators, Global Day of Prayer, Lausanne Conference, Evangelism Explosion, Global University and other international and local groups) Philippians 2:1-2

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THE PRAYER OF SALVATION

The "prayer of salvation" is the most important prayer we'll ever pray. When a person is ready to become a Christian, he is ready to have his first real conversation with God,

When you lead someone in a prayer to receive Christ into their heart you will want to include each of the following elements:

1. **Acknowledgement** that Jesus Christ is God; that He came to earth as a man in order to live a perfect, sinless life; that He died in our place, so that we would not have to pay the penalty we deserve.
2. **Confession** of our past life of sin -- living for ourselves and not obeying God.
3. **Admission** that we are ready to trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.
4. **Inviting** Jesus to come into our heart, to take up residence there, and begin living through us.

A sample Prayer of Salvation:

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

A MARKED NEW TESTAMENT

A marked New Testament is an excellent way to read pre-selected verses about salvation to a seeker.
(You may also place the Bible in the hands of the one with whom you are sharing, inviting him or her to read the holy text themselves.)

One recommended method for preparing your Bible is presented below.
(You may also customize this approach with your own favorite verses, using highlight pens of different colors to mark verses on different subjects ie: yellow for verses on salvation, blue for verses about heaven, etc.)

1. Underline or highlight the verses you will use to explain the way of salvation to someone.
2. Write the number 1 on a small piece of paper and put it, with the 1 showing, in the page for the first verse, ie: Romans 3:23.
3. In the margin of that page, write “See page ____ for 2,” indicating the page number in your Bible for the next passage, ie: Romans 6:23, where you have placed the next marker.
4. Continue in this way through the following verses, explaining each one: John 1:12; 1 John 1:9; Rev. 3:20; 1 John 5:10-13, etc.

Assignment: Prepare a New Testament with tabs and practice sharing the Gospel with a classmate, turning from one tabbed passage to the next.

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SOME TOOLS AND PLANS TO HELP US EVANGELIZE

In this lesson we'll be introduced to several popular tools that are very helpful in explaining the Gospel to non-believers.

1. **The "Four Spiritual Laws"** booklet is perhaps the most widely used witnessing tool today, and it is very effective.

2. **The Roman Road** is preferred by many. Point out the verses in Romans as you explain them.
   a. Man's need — Romans 3:23
   b. Sin's penalty — Romans 6:23
   c. God's provision — Romans 5:8
   d. Man's response — Romans 10:9

3. **The Wordless Book**, with its black, red, white, gold and green pages, is especially helpful with oral learners and children.
   a. Gold – represents God's provision for us in heaven. — John 14:3
   b. Black – represents our hearts of sin. — Romans 3:23
   c. Red – represents Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. — 1 John 1:9
   d. White – represents our heart washed clean by God. — Rev. 7:14
   e. Green – represents growth in God's grace and favor. — 2 Peter 3:18

4. **The Five Fingers Plan** is another way to present the Gospel, and is especially effective with children. No equipment or book is necessary; just point to the fingers on your hand:
   a. First finger - God loves you. — John 3:16
   b. Second finger- All have sinned. — Rom. 3:23
   c. Third finger - Christ died to pay for your sin. — 1 Cor.15:3
   d. Fourth finger- Believe Christ died for your sin. — John 1:12
   e. Fifth finger - When you believe, you receive everlasting life. — Rom.6:23

5. **One-Verse Evangelistic Plan – Using Romans 6:23:** Circle each of the following words and explain the meaning and/or significance of each:
   a. wages — We will reap what we sow.
   b. sin — Our sinful acts and thoughts have separated us from Holy God.
   c. death — The consequence of sin is eternal separation from God.
   d. gift — Unlike wages, which are earned, a gift is offered freely.
   e. God — Almighty God offers us an amazing, wonderful gift.
   f. eternal life — God offers us the opposite of eternal separation from Him.
   g. Christ Jesus — We can receive this gift by asking Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our heart.
   h. Lord — When we invite Jesus into our heart He becomes our Lord.

Assignment: Choose which of these plans you want to use. Learn the verses, then practice presenting it to one of your classmates. Conclude by asking them for a definite commitment, and then lead them in a prayer asking for forgiveness.

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THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

Introduction: The Four Spiritual Laws were written by Dr. Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International. It explains in a very simple, clear way that there are four spiritual laws that affect every person in the world.

- The Four Spiritual Laws method of evangelism presents hearers with the opportunity to consider their response to these four laws.
- Each law builds upon the previous law.
- Pamphlets of the Four Spiritual Laws are available for a modest price from Campus Crusade for Christ. It is also available for free on the internet at their website.

The Plan:

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so there are spiritual laws that govern our relationship with God.

1. **Law 1: God loves you** and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
   a. God's love — John 3:16
   b. God's plan — John 10:10
2. **Law 2: Man is sinful** and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
   a. Man is sinful — Romans 3:23
   b. Man is separated — Romans 6:23
3. **Law 3: Jesus Christ** is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.
   a. He died in our place. — Rom. 5:8
   b. He rose from the dead. — 1 Cor. 15:3, 4
   c. He is the only way to God. — John 14:6
4. **Law 4: We must individually receive** Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.
   a. We must receive Christ. — John 1:12
   b. We receive Christ through faith. — Ephesians 2:8-9
   c. When we receive Christ we experience a new birth. — John 3:18
   d. We receive Christ through personal invitation. — Revelation 3:20

In-class exercise: Have the students practice presenting the Four Spiritual Laws to each other, including looking up and reading the Bible passages.

Three-part Assignment:

1. Memorize the Four Spiritual Laws and the supporting Bible verses for each Law. (You should already have memorized the verses from the third lesson.)
2. Practice presenting the Four Spiritual Laws to at least three non-believers.
3. Be prepared to tell the class tomorrow about your experience of presenting the Four Spiritual Laws.

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THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION

Introduction: The path to salvation can be explained using verses from the Book of Romans.

- As in the Four Spiritual Laws, the "Roman Road" should be followed in order.
- The main advantage of this method of witnessing is that all the verses are located in only one book of the Bible, so that finding them is easy. (As said earlier in this course, it is very helpful to underline in advance the verses that will be read.)

The Roman Road: You can initiate conversations of eternal significance by asking questions then by telling the person with whom you are speaking how the Bible answers those questions. For example:

1. **Do you think you are good?**
   "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10
2. **Have you ever sinned?**
   "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
3. **Where did sin come from?**
   "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12
4. **What is the penalty for sin?**
   "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23
5. **Who paid the death penalty for you?**
   "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
6. **How can you be saved?**
   *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'"*Rom. 10:9-10
7. **God's Promise!**
   "For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'" Rom. 10:13

In-class exercise: Have two or three students present the Roman Road to the other members of the class.

Assignment: If you haven't yet done so, mark in your Bible the seven Romans passages that are quoted in the Roman Road (above) and commit them to memory.

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THE WORDLESS BOOK

Introduction: The Wordless Book tells a wonderful story from the Bible about the true and living God who made the world and loves us all.

THE GOLD PAGE reminds us of Heaven. The Bible tells us that in Heaven, the street of the city is pure, clear glass-like gold. Rev. 21:21

1. God tells us many other things about His home. There is no sickness or death in heaven, only perfect happiness forever. Rev. 21:4-23
2. The most wonderful thing about Heaven is that God is there.
3. God made everything, including you and me, and He loves you very much. The Bible says He loves each person--including you and me. John. 3:16
4. Because God made you and loves you, He wants you to be part of His family and to be with Him in Heaven someday. John 14:2

THE BLACK PAGE represents man's sin. Doing or saying or even thinking bad things is sin. Sin is disobeying the rules God has given in His book, the Bible.
Do you know that you are a sinner?

1. God's Word says that we all have sinned. Rom. 3:23
2. Sin separates you and me from God because He is perfectly Holy.
3. God has said sin must be punished. The punishment for sin is death--to be separated from God forever. Rom. 6:23
4. God knew we could not be good enough to please Him. But He loves us and made a way for us to be forgiven.

THE RED PAGE reminds us of Jesus' shed blood and death for our salvation. God loves us so much He sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth from Heaven. He was born as a tiny baby. He grew up and became a man.

1. Jesus was Holy, perfect. He never did even one wrong thing.
2. But one day wicked men killed Him on a terrible cross. The Bible says while He hung there, God put all our sins on Him. Isaiah. 53:6
3. But after three days the most wonderful thing happened. God gave Him life again. He raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is a living Savior. 1 Cor. 15:4

THE WHITE PAGE reminds us that we can be made clean from sin. Ps. 51:7

1. God tells us about this in the Bible. John 3:16
2. The Bible says that if we repent of our sin (that means turn away from them), they may be wiped out (Acts 3:19). It also says that if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ we will be saved (Acts 16:31).
3. Would you like to do that with me now? (If the answer is yes, pray with the listener to receive Christ as his Savior.)

THE GREEN PAGE reminds us of growing things, like leaves, grass and trees, and the everlasting life we can receive from God.

1. The Bible tells us to grow in our walk with God. 2 Pet. 3:18
   (Lesson 12, on the Seven Steps of Evangelism, includes suggestions on how to help a new believer begin growing in their Christian faith and walk.)
2. As we grow in God He'll help us to resist sin. Ps. 119:11

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FIVE-FINGER EVANGELISM

Introduction: The Five-Finger method of evangelism requires no special equipment or books. This simple plan of salvation is explained using the fingers of one hand. The method requires that you memorize the five Bible verses (which you already should have done by now), but is very practical because it will help you to always be prepared to share the gospel. If the hearer seems willing, and it seems appropriate to do so, you may hold his or her hand and point to each finger on his hand as you share what it means.

1. **First Finger** – God loves you. John 3:16
2. **Second Finger** – All have sinned. Romans 3:23
3. **Third Finger** – Christ died to pay for your sin. 1 Cor. 15:3
4. **Fourth Finger** – Believe Christ died for your sin. John 1:12
5. **Fifth Finger** – When you believe, you receive everlasting life. Rom. 6:23

In-class exercises:

1. Have all the students pair up into twos and practice presenting the Five-Finger evangelistic message to each other. By now they should know all the Bible verses and should recite the appropriate verse with each finger.
2. When all the students have had a chance to practice the presentation with each other, ask several to present it to the entire class.

Assignment:

1. If you haven't already done so, memorize the Five-Finger method and the supporting Bible verses for each finger.
2. Practice presenting the Five-Finger message to at least three non-believers.
3. Be prepared to tell the class tomorrow about your experience of presenting the Five-Finger message.

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HINDRANCES TO EVANGELISM

Introduction: Many believers want to be fruitful witnesses but are hindered for different reasons.

1. Some are hindered by fear:
   a. Fear of rejection: Some believers are afraid that if they try to witness to their friends, for example, that their friends will avoid them.
   b. Fear of Humiliation: Some are afraid that they will be embarrassed, even humiliated, if they try to share their beliefs with others.
   c. Fear of danger: Many believers have been persecuted for their faith. Some have even been brutally killed. Some believers are afraid to share about their faith because they fear such danger.
   d. Such people can ask God for courage to share their faith. 2 Timothy 1:7,8

2. Some are hindered by unforgiven sin in their lives:
   a. Unfortunately, some believers allow themselves to become slaves of sin, and their spiritual power for victorious living and witness is lost.
   b. Some believers are very immature in their faith and their lives are controlled by selfishness. They don't care about others enough to witness to them. They don't appreciate that a single soul is worth more than the whole world. Matthew 16:26

3. Some are hindered because they are shy or because they lack confidence.
   a. Some people are naturally very timid. They find it very difficult to speak up.
   b. Some believers are reluctant to witness because they think they don't know the Scriptures well enough. But the blind man healed by Jesus in John 9:25 shows us that we don't need to know the Bible well to be a witness. John 9:25
   c. The Samaritan woman at the well (in John 4) and the demoniac (Mark 5:19-20) are two more examples of fruitful witnesses who didn't know the Scriptures well.

4. Some are hindered by the mistaken idea that evangelism and witnessing are the work of pastors and evangelists only. But every believe is to be a witness. 2 Cor. 5:12

5. Some don't want to witness because they feel there are too many hypocrites in the church.

Conclusion:
   a. We must all be prepared to give a good witness. 1 Peter 3:15
   b. We must ask God to give us boldness in our witness. Eph. 6:18-20
   c. We must try to "persuade men" so that they might escape the coming judgment of God. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

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MAKING DISCIPLES **2 Timothy 2:2**

Introduction: Leading someone to Christ is wonderful. But it is just as important to teach and lead the new believer to become a true disciple of Christ.

Caring for new believers

1. A new believer is a baby in Christ and must receive tender loving care, just as a tiny newborn baby. The first week in a convert's life is extremely important, for Satan will do all he can to plant doubts in his or her heart. Visit with them every day and read the Word and pray together with them.
2. Make sure the new believer understands that God really loves them, and how to love God in return.
3. Model for them how to confidently share about Jesus with others. Teach them the basics on how to share their newfound faith.
4. The young Christian must be thoroughly saturated with the Word of God - it is the genuine milk that will allow him to grow (1 Pet. 2:2). Help them learn how to study the Word of God both on their own and with a Bible study group.
5. Teach them to pray—both to speak to God and to hear His voice.
6. Encourage them to join God's mission. Help them respond with God's love to the needs of those around.
7. Explore with them how God can heal their brokenness, where needed. Many come to Christ with addictions, bad habits or even, in some cases, psychological scars. God wants them to be healed of all such affects from their sinful past.
8. Help them consider what changes they might make in their lives to become more Christ-like.
9. Your church or denomination may have a catechism course for preparing new believers for baptism. If so, help him/her begin studying these lessons immediately after the confession of faith.
10. Here is the fine opportunity for a Big Brother/Little Brother or Sister pairing. Carefully match the new believer with a mature, caring Christian who can meet regularly with him and help him grow into the riches of God's love.

The role of the spiritual mentor (or "Big Brother" / "Big Sister"):

The mentor:
- models a life of prayer and holiness
- teaches true doctrine
- answers questions the new believer may have
- encourages the new believer to find a group of believers with whom to fellowship and worship regularly
- leads the new believer into a growing life of faith, witness and spiritual commitment.

Class Discussion: Ask the students to discuss the following two questions:

1. How can new believers in your care or congregation be spiritually encouraged and nurtured?
2. How can you set up a Big Brother/Little Brother (or Big Sister/Little Sister) mentoring pairing?

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HELPING OTHERS BECOME SOUL-WINNERS

Introduction: God calls us to take the good news of His salvation to the whole world!

- Through the Prophet Isaiah God asked, *"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"* Isaiah 6:8
- Jesus said *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."* Luke 10:2
- Jesus' last words of instruction to His followers, before ascending into heaven, were that they should make disciples in all the nations. Matt. 28:19
- That call still applies to God's children today. Now, more than ever, we must work for a spiritual harvest, for the *"night is coming, when no one can work."* John 9:4

What can we do to take His Gospel to people everywhere?

1. We should do all we can do (ourselves) to take the good news of Jesus to those within our spheres of influence.
2. We should also do all we can do to encourage other believers to also do everything they can do to reach those who are in their spheres of influence with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

There are four specific ways we as Christian leaders can help other believers become fruitful soul winners :

1. We can (and must) lead others by our example!
   a. We should make a serious effort to mentor younger believers—and those who are younger in the faith—to become soul winners.
   b. Dr. James Kennedy, the founder of Evangelism Explosion, didn't know how to lead someone to Christ until his pastor took him along on a house visitation. Dr. Kennedy watched his pastor lead a man to Christ, then he himself became a great soul-winner by following his pastor's example.
2. Those who are pastors can preach a series of sermons on the importance of soul-winning.
   a. The early lessons in this course can provide many helpful sermon outlines to encourage others to be witnesses of Christ's salvation.
   b. You can find other helpful sermon outlines on the internet and in books.
3. We can organize soul-winners' training courses.
   a. One advantage in a training course is that you can include outreach sessions, in which you go together with your students to proclaim the good news.
   b. Evangelism Explosion is one such excellent training course. Other good training courses are available on the internet.
4. We can find work-study books and articles on soul-winning, and Gospel tracts, and circulate them to others in our spiritual care.

Don't forget: It isn't enough to "sow the seed;" follow-up discipleship is just as important as winning the lost to Christ's salvation.

Assignment: How can we teach our people by example to be witnesses? Prepare three specific ideas.

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WHEN GOD SENDS US OUT **Luke 10:1-11**

Introduction: We can observe ten important principles about personal evangelism from when Jesus sent the disciples out in Luke 10.

Principle #1: Find someone and go. Luke 10:1

1. Jesus sent His disciples out two-by-two. There is symbiotic strength when believers work together.
2. As much as possible, don't be alone. Paul had Barnabas, Luke and Silas. Peter and John were often together. Even Jesus had His team.

Principle #2: Pray and ask God to add more members to your team. Lk. 10:2

1. Build up a team, invest in training, and equip others to help carry the load.
2. Provide opportunities for others to develop their spiritual gifts.

Principle #3: Expect danger. Luke 10:3

1. When we proclaim the Truth boldly, there will be opposition.
2. The enemy doesn't what us to take what he has held, but "*He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world*." 1 John 4:4

Principle #4: Travel light and stay focused. Luke 10:4

1. There are innumerable good causes—but there is only one Great Commission!
2. People urgently need the Lord. Don't be lazy and become side-stepped.

Principle #5: Offer God's peace. Luke 10:5

1. We come as ambassadors of the Prince of Peace. Offer God's peace.
2. God will judge the world in due time; until then, we come in His name offering the wonderful news of His mercy, grace, forgiveness, love and peace!

Principle #6: Look for a man (person) of peace. Luke 10:6

1. God is the One who prepares hearts; seek those whom He has prepared.
2. Shine the light of God's salvation brightly, so that those whose hearts are seeking peace with God will be able to respond.

Principle #7: Accept hospitality when it is offered. Luke 10:7-8

1. There's something powerful (almost supernatural) in breaking bread together.
2. Spend time with unbelievers. Open your hearts and lives to them.

Principle #8: Demonstrate and declare the Kingdom of God. Luke 10:9

1. Expect miracles from God and announce His glorious presence.
2. Every time God manifests His power it is an opportunity to proclaim His truth.

Principle #9: Expect opposition. Luke 10:10-11a

1. Those who belong to the enemy will oppose our message of Truth.
2. The devil will try to destroy messengers of deliverance and salvation, but God gives us the victory when we go in His name. Philippians 2:9-11

Principle #10: God will be there. Luke 10:11b

1. Even in the darkest hour of whatever we might be going through, God is there!
2. When we cry out to God in our hour of desperation—He is there!

CONCLUSION:

- God sends us out. John 20:21
- God will give us the victory! 1 Corinthians 15:57

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PREPARATION FOR THE MISSION FIELD

Introduction: God calls some to leave their home to take the good news to distant peoples and even, for some, to foreign lands. **Following are some helpful suggestions for those whom He calls to go as missionaries:**

Preparation for missionary service prior to leaving home:

1. Learn as much as you can about the people you will try to reach.
   a. Learn about the prevailing religious beliefs of the people.
   b. Learn some of their language, if possible.
   c. Learn about their culture so you (hopefully) won't offend unnecessarily.
   d. Learn about how the people regard those of your region, to help you appropriately anticipate and respond to any prejudices.
2. Practice spiritual disciplines before leaving home.
   a. Be a faithful participating member of your home church.
   b. Be faithfully involved in bringing people to Christ and in discipling them.
3. Develop a strong support team who will stand with you in prayer and in financial support.
4. If you are married, make sure that you will be able to provide adequate housing, medical and education arrangements for your family.
5. Develop a ministry strategy, based on your spiritual gifts, whereby you will:
   a. Present your message in such a way that it will be heard and considered
   b. Disciple new believers whom the Spirit entrusts to your care
6. Acquire all legal documents required where you will be ministering.

Getting started in your new mission field:

1. Establish a healthy diet and secure living situation. (It may be advisable for you to go into a new area ahead of your family in order to make arrangements for their accommodations.)
2. Familiarize yourself with local medical services (in case of medical emergency).
3. Fulfill any and all legal residency documentation requirements.
4. Introduce yourself to your neighbors, to civic and government leaders and others. Be friendly, approachable, warm, helpful, etc.
5. Become familiar with the area and the people, their customs, history, etc.
6. Make sure you do everything in complete compliance with all local laws and regulations.
7. If there are believers in the area, introduce yourself to the leaders and try to meet with them at least weekly for prayer and mutual encouragement.
8. Learn about any churches: what people groups they reach, their size, their spiritual vibrancy, etc.
9. Communicate faithfully with your support team back home, encouraging them to uphold you in prayer and financial support.
10. Continue learning the language of the people.
11. Seize on any opportunity to tell others about how Jesus transformed your life, and how He can also bring them freedom from spiritual bondage.

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FACING PERSECUTION

by Steve Liversedge

"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Tim. 3:12

Introduction: All who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

- Jesus told us that, *"In the world you will have tribulation…"* John 16:33
- Peter writes that we are even called to suffer. 1 Peter 2:21

Some pray that God will send persecution because they know that persecution often results in the salvation of many.

1. That prayer has been answered many times in India and around the world.
2. Every day Christians experience persecution to one degree or another. How do we face it?

A former M.P. named three ways Indian Christians are reacting to persecution:

1. by pressing for legislation,
2. by demonstrating against it, and
3. by accepting and embracing it. The most effective way, he said, was the third.

Paul teaches clearly how to react to persecution. His formula is not easy, but in the end it results in success; that is, it will lead people to Christ. Rom. 12:9-21

1. He writes that we must *"abhor what is evil and cling to what is good."* (vs. 9)
2. He exhorts us to be *"patient in tribulation …"* (vs. 12)
3. Paul goes so far as to tell us to bless those who persecute us. (vs. 14)
4. There must be no thought of revenge, of "paying back" people for the wrong they've done to us, for that is as wrong as the original evil act.
5. Paul concludes by exhorting us not to overcome evil by evil, but to overcome evil with good. (vs. 21)

Does all this mean that we should seek to encourage persecution, running toward harm's way? No, but it does mean that we can expect persecution and can find joy in the midst of it, and yes, we can overcome it.

1. The perfect example, as always, is Christ, who went willingly to the cross, experiencing the public shame of dying a criminal's death before friends and enemies alike. Hebrews 12:2
2. Here we see the greatest defeat in all of history, the death of God's Son, become the world's greatest victory as He rose triumphantly from the tomb, earning salvation for all who believe.
3. He still works this way today, and we need to understand, as He did, that those who killed Him were the objects of His loving sacrifice. In the same way, those who persecute believers today stand in great need of Christ and His salvation.
4. Let us pray that God will use the persecution we pass through to bring many to Himself, even and especially those who slander him and wield fists and clubs against us.

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GOING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 1:8

Introduction: When Jesus commissioned His followers to take His good news to the whole world, He preceded that command by first saying that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Acts 1:8

- Similarly, our labors for the Master will be in vain if the holy power of God's Spirit is not in us.
- We can do nothing of eternal consequence without God's supernatural power; we must rely wholly on the power of the Holy Spirit to produce fruit for our labors.
- We are exhorted to be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18, Acts 2:4, Rom. 8:9

The example of Peter:

1. Before Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit he was fearful and unfaithful to Jesus. Matthew 26:69-74
2. After being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), Peter was fearless and powerful in his proclamations. Acts 5:29-32

Three important instructions from Ephesians chapter 6:

1. We must put on the *"full armor of God"* before engaging in the spiritual warfare of announcing the good news of God's salvation to the lost. Eph. 6:11
2. We are engaging our mortal enemy, the devil, when we present God's grace to the lost. Eph. 6:12
3. We must cover all our efforts and our very lives with a blanket of prayer *"in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."* Eph. 6:18

As the Spirit of God lives in us He gives us spiritual gifts.

1. Spiritual gifts are exactly that; they are gifts, given by God's Spirit; they are not earned, deserved or purchased. That's why they are called gifts.
2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to His children for serving and building up the Body of Christ, the Church. Ephesians 4:12
3. There are three lists in the Scriptures of the gifts of the Spirit:
   (a) Romans 12:6-8, (b) 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 (c) Ephesians 4:11
4. Because the three lists of gifts are each different, many conclude that they are not intended to be comprehensive; in other words, it is probable that there are other Spiritual gifts as well, such as the leading of worship, that are not included in the three lists given in the Bible.

As the Spirit of God lives in us He develops His fruit in our lives.

1. The fruit of the Spirit is the manifestation of God's character within His children. It is described in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. Like fruit on a tree, the fruit of the Spirit grows and matures slowly with time, as the roots provide nourishment.
3. God's Spirit in His children produces fruit which enables us to radiate His love, grace, mercy, etc. to the lost of this world.

Jesus sends us out in the fullness of His Spirit.

1. When we go in His power God will do amazing things. Eph. 3:20-21
2. We will be victorious with God in the end. 2 Peter 3:8-13

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IT'S TIME TO HARVEST **John 4:35**

Introduction: Jesus tells us in John chapter 4 that the fields are ripe for harvest. Today is a day of sowing and of harvest.

Jesus often used examples from agriculture to explain spiritual principles:

1. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus taught that some "soil" (the hearts of some people) will receive the "seed of the Gospel" and bear much fruit, while other "soil" will not. Luke 8:4-15
2. Jesus explained several other spiritual truths using examples from agriculture, such as the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32), the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30), the Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-35) and the Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-9).
3. Jesus used these parables to teach the importance of bringing a good harvest of souls into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said the harvest was plentiful but the laborers were few. Matt. 9:36-38

1. When Jesus saw the crowds He had compassion on them. Matt. 9:36
2. It is imperative that our efforts to spread God's love and salvation to the lost be motivated by this same compassion of God in our hearts.
3. It doesn't matter how hard we work, or how much we sacrifice; if we don't do it with love, we are no better than a clanging cymbal. 1 Cor. 13:1

Jesus told His disciples to pray for more laborers for the harvest. Matt. 9:38

1. Just as it is imperative to have God's compassion, it is also imperative that we pray and ask God for workers for the harvest. Matt. 9:38
2. We should never be content to work alone; always be praying and looking for others to join you.
3. Only by prayer and the other weapons of spiritual warfare will we see the *"pulling down of strongholds."* 2 Cor. 10:4

Jesus encouraged His disciples to sow generously. 2 Cor. 9:6

1. A man reaps what he sows. Galatians 6:7
2. We will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9
3. Sometimes we sow in tears but the Bible promises that we will reap with joy. Psalms 126:5-6

The fields are ripe for harvest. John 4:35

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so send I you.'" John 20:21

A Prayer of Commissioning:

May the Lord lead and bless you and grant you much fruit and many souls, as you proclaim His love and salvation to those living in spiritual darkness!

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