

## Sharing Faith

### Lesson 5: Church Evangelism

The Great Commission gives the church a mandate to spread the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20). The mandate says the church is to make disciples, by going, and in the going sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Evangelism is the very nature of God being proclaimed. God is loving and gracious, therefore when disciples witness they are letting the world know that God loves them (John 3:16).

The church is not in the business of condemning and rejecting people. Our goal is not to alienate people but to lead them to reconciliation with God. As Christians it is our spiritual responsibility and joy. The church has the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19). It was God who reconciled the world to Himself through Jesus Christ. Since God did that believers are ambassadors for Jesus, seeking to reconcile those who are alienated through sin to Jesus. The church represents the interests of God and the citizens of His kingdom in the world.

What is Evangelism?

The English word *Evangelism* comes from the Greek word, *euggelidzo*, which is translated in English Bibles as “preach the gospel.” *Euggelidzo* comes from the word *Euaggelion*, which means gospel. Jesus Himself told people that He had to evangelism cities ( Luke 4:43).

Biblical References: Mt. 9:35; Mt. 11:5.

Christians should evangelism because:

1. Evangelism bears witness to the Lord Jesus Christ
2. Evangelism is converting persons to the Lord Jesus through soul-winning
3. Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel of good news
4. Evangelism is making disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ
5. Evangelism is planting and growing churches for the Lord Jesus Christ
6. Evangelism is initiating persons into the kingdom of God

## **Five Reasons to Evangelize**

### **Reason # 1: Evangelism is Following the Example of Jesus Christ**

Jesus spent time with His disciples because He wanted them to imitate Him. In John 20:21, He said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Jesus came to earth to save people of their sins. He said in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Jesus dealt with people in a personal way: The woman at the well in John 4 was a one-on-one interaction. Nicodemus, in John 3 was Jesus ministering one on one. In the one-on-one approach Jesus used variations of approaches in order to meet the needs of the people whom He was ministering too.

Jesus was lead by the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit empowered the ministry that Jesus conducted. In Luke 4:1, it says Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and lead by the Holy Spirit."

### **Reason #2: Evangelism is Obeying the Lord's Command**

Jesus told His disciples that He would make them fishers of men. In Mark 1:17, Jesus said come and follow me... and I will make you fishers of men. Immediately, the disciples left their profession of fishing and followed Jesus. They accepted the calling of God upon their lives.

### **Reason #3: Evangelism Meets the Needs of the World**

We find in Matthew 23:37, Jesus wept over Jerusalem because the people rejected Him. In our society today, we should weep over the lost people in our cities. People have so many different needs today: physical, emotional and spiritual needs, that believers with the love of Jesus ought to move to minister to those needs and share the good news of Jesus.

### **Reason #4: Evangelism Imitates the Early Church**

The New Testament model for church is found in Acts 2:41-47. After the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, they proceeded to tell people of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. However, this power and enthusiasm was shaped and fueled because the disciples and their families meet together to pray in Acts 1:12-14. The text says they were all on one accord of the same mind. Churches today need to be of the same mindset, as the early church, understanding nothing but the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what the early church believed and that's what their carried out to the rest of the world.

### **Reason #5: Evangelism is the Inner Compulsion to Share**

The apostle Paul wrote, in 2 Corinthians 5:14, "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." The love of Christ living in the hearts of believers hearts ought to move us with compassion to those who are lost and do not know Jesus. Jesus said in John 13:34-35, you prove you are a disciple by the way you love.

**Study Question:**

1. Write a personal definition of evangelism.
2. What is the aim of evangelism according to Matthew 28:19?
3. How does the church come together to do evangelism, Acts 1:12-14?

**Who Should the Church Be Seeking to Connect with and to Share the Gospel**

1. Second-time guests to your church
2. Close friends and relatives of church members
3. People going through marital problems
4. People who feel the need for a recovery program
5. First-time parents
6. Those suffering from sickness
7. Parents with problem children
8. Neighbors around the church
9. New residents in the community
10. Parents at recreation centers and children sporting activities

**Practical Ways to Conduct Evangelism****1. USING THE BIBLE**The Roman Road (The Gospel from Romans)

Romans 1:18 Explains the Power for salvation

Romans 3:23 Ask who has sinned? All have sinned

Romans 6:23 Penalty of sin is death. Separation from God

Romans 5:8 Explains with God's great love why we can be forgiven

Romans 2:4 Repentance is turning from one's sin to God

Romans 10:9 Confession: Do you believe in Jesus, that He died  
for your sins?

Romans 10:13 Acceptance: Asking Jesus to come into your heart.

**Appeal to Receive Christ**

Ask the person to pray to receive Christ into their lives by praying with them this prayer.

“Lord, I do believe in you. I know that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins. Please forgive me and come into my heart. I receive you now as my Savior and Lord. Help me to live my life for you. Thank you for hearing my prayer and coming into my heart.”

## Writing Out Your Testimony

Scripture Reference: Acts 4:20

Your testimony is your story of your conversion experience. It is how God saved you and only you can tell your story.

### Elements to Your Testimony:

1. Where were you? What were you doing before you accepted Jesus?

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Transition: You just wrote about your lost condition when you did not know Jesus.

2. How did you Find? How was Jesus introduced into your life? What was that moment like? Where were you? What happen for you to accept Jesus into your life?

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Transition: You just wrote about actually how you became a Christian.

3. What has been your experience since Jesus came into your life? What have you discovered about Jesus that makes life so much better than when you did not know him?

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Write out your complete Testimony. It should be able to be told in 2-3 minutes.

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## **You Can Share Jesus in a Nonthreatening Way**

People are to share Jesus because Christians possess a Christ-centered life. Therefore, Christians participant in ***Conversational Witnessing***, where witnessing can be done to people in all walks of life, in schools, airplanes, health clubs, restaurants, hospitals, and many other places.

The Guide for drawing out conversation out of a person, removing barriers, and creating openness is to use the acronym.

Start the Conversation by:

Ask about one's Family:

### **F – Family**

People enjoy talking about themselves, family, and background. Ask such questions as: Where did you grow up? Where are you from? How many children do you have? Where are they in school? Where do you live?

Be a listener. Gently move the conversation onto **Interests** by asking a leading question.

### **I – Interests**

Ask about their interests:

People also like to talk about what they do. Sports, school, hobbies, jobs, leisure time activities, goals, ambitions. Ask questions that will provide clues into a person's real purpose in life. Don't just ask questions, respond to their responses. The goal is to create a rapport.

Continue listening. After you know about a person's family, job or interests, introduce the topic of religion. This has to be done naturally so that the transition is not too abrupt.

Then ask, about religion:

## **R – Religion**

What's your religious background? Where do you worship? Do you have a place of worship? Do you think about spiritual matters?

Use creativity given by the Holy Spirit to introduce the subject of Religion.

Now, move from a discussion of religion or church to sharing the Gospel using a transitional statement: We've been talking about church. But it's possible for a person to join a church or every church and still not know Jesus Christ in a personal way.

**Key Question:** Have you come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way or would you say you are still in the process?

This is where you can share your **TESTIMONY**

Three possible answers:

### **“Yes”**

Ask: When and how did you come to know Him?

Allow the person to share his or her conversion, and if unsure, you may ask, “May I share with you how I came to know Christ?” Then present the plan of salvation.

### **“No”**

Ask: “May I share with you how you can come to know Him?”

“If the person is reluctant, you may ask, why the reluctance to discuss how to know Jesus Christ?”

At this time your testimony is important. This maybe an opportunity to pray with the person. You could also share a witnessing booklet or suggest reading the gospel of John, as a means to get to know Christ.

### **“Still in the process”**

Ask: “The person may have given some thought to it?” May I share with you how you can come to know Him personally?”

This is a time again to share your testimony. And a time to share the gospel.

## M – Message

Every human being has the right to live a meaningful and joyful life in Jesus Christ. You certainly have the right to be a part of the kingdom of God. **John 1:12** says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

As a child of God, you can also experience the love of God. No one will love you, like God loves you, the bible says in **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

We, as humans must realize we have dilemmas that prevent us from having a full life. The dilemma is called Sin. Sin is what separates us from God and His love. The bible says in, **I John 1:9**, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and (righteous) just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We must **ADMIT**, that we are sinners and need to be saved. That’s why the Bible says in Romans 6:13, “And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

As humans, we must **TRUST**, in the Lord because at times we feel we cannot turn our lives around for the better, but the Bible says in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Therefore, the only way to adjust our lives is to **BELIEVE** what the Bible says in **John 14:6**, that Jesus, “is the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Next, we must respond to God’s love with a decision. We must **CONFESS** that we sin and that we are sorry of the sin and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The Bible says, in **Romans 5:8** that “God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Next, ask the Lord to come into your heart by praying and asking Jesus to save you of your sins.

Dear Lord, I know that I am sinner, and that Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sin. Please come into my heart and save me right now in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

Congratulations! That means you are saved. You must join a Bible believing church where you can grow in Christ!