

## *Discipleship Lesson 22*

# **Evangelism**

*Key Memory Verse:*

*That 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.*

*Romans 10:9–10*



# Discipleship

## Lesson 22

### Evangelism

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. The church and her social programs, not missions, are what are important to God.
2. Missions are the responsibility of those individuals whom God has called to be missionaries.
3. The primary responsibility of missions is to meet the physical and social needs of the third world countries.
4. God is a God of love; therefore, He would not send anyone to hell.
5. Man can save himself by simply being a good person.
6. Living the gospel without sharing the gospel is sufficient to bring others to Christ.

#### **What Is Evangelism and Why Should It Be a Significant Part of My Life?**

Evangelism is the heartbeat of God. Without God's focus on evangelism, there would be no redemption of mankind; mankind would be lost and undone. Without evangelism there would be no local church. The responsibility of the church and the individual believer is to further the kingdom of God through evangelism.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this lesson is to instruct the Christian on the subject of evangelism by defining the responsibility of the local church as well as the individual believer.

#### **I. The Message—What Is Evangelism?**

- A. Evangelism is the proclaiming of the gospel—the good news—that is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for the forgiveness of sins (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)

Evangelism, put simply, is nothing more than one nobody telling another nobody about Somebody who can save anybody. Evangelism is an unbroken chain of burdens for our lost friends. The power of partnership begins with evangelism.

- B. Evangelism is the **heartbeat of God** (John 3:16).
- C. According to 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, evangelism can be called the ministry of

---

- D. Evangelism is missions. We will discuss this in detail later in this lesson.
- E. Evangelism/missions is church planting, believers reproducing believers, churches reproducing churches.

## II. The Mandate—Why Evangelism?

- A. What do the following verses tell us is the reason that **all** believers should be involved in evangelism?
  - 1. John 20:21
  - 2. Mark 16:15
  - 3. Romans 10:14–15
- B. In Matthew 28:19–20 we find the “**Great Commission**.” It is here that all believers have been given their marching orders to reach all nations with the gospel of Christ.
- C. From the following passage we see the beginning of the process of sending missionaries to evangelize and disciple, but where does this passage tell us we are to go? See Acts 1:8.
- D. What should be our **greatest motivation** in being a part of evangelism? See John 14:15; 1 John 4:10, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15.

## Notes and Questions



## Notes and Questions:

### III. An Unexpected Responsibility

When we make a commitment, we often discover some unexpected responsibilities that come along with that commitment. For example:

- When a woman gets married, she might later discover the unexpected responsibility of caring for in-laws.
- When a student enrolls in a chemistry degree program, he might later discover the unexpected responsibility of passing psychology class.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and Acts 1:8. What is one of the responsibilities God gives Christians?

In your own words, what is the job of an ambassador?

In a court room, what role does a witness play?

As ambassadors or witnesses for Christ, our job is tell others two foundational messages:

#### 1. **First, we are witnesses to the Gospel.**

Gospel means “good news.” The gospel is the good news about Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 gives a clear summary of the gospel. What are the three basic components of the gospel:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Believing the gospel is what makes a person a Christian. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

#### 2. **Second, we are witnesses to what God has done for us.**

Every believer has a personal testimony. Your testimony is the story of the change Jesus has brought in your life.

Read Revelation 12:11. Christians overcome the Evil One by the blood of the Lamb and what other weapon?

### IV. Your Testimony

Your testimony is your own story of how Jesus has changed your life. It can be as short as one sentence or as long as a book, but the main point is the positive change Jesus has brought in your life.

Answer the following questions. Use another page if needed.

### **Part 1. What was your life like before you met Jesus?**

Did you know something was missing? Did you feel you had a real purpose in life? Were you stuck in destructive habits? What did you believe your identity was?

### **Part 2. What happened to change things? In other words, how did you come to accept Jesus into your life?**

Everyone's salvation experience is different. Explain the events that led you to accepting Jesus into your life.

### **Part 3. What has changed in your life since you came to faith in Jesus? Focus on one or two positive changes in the area you mentioned in part 1 of your testimony.**

## **Fears or Concerns about Witnessing**

Some Christians avoid sharing the message of Jesus with other people. What fears or concerns might keep a person from witnessing? List at least three.

How do you think Jesus would respond to the following reasons people might give for **not witnessing**?

- What if the conversation is awkward?
- What if I don't know what to say?
- What if they ask questions that I can't answer?
- What if evangelism isn't my spiritual gift?
- What if the person rejects me?

## **When to Begin a Witnessing Conversation**

Anytime can be a good time for sharing the Gospel. Most people are happy to talk about spiritual things if they sense that you value them as a person and respect their right to make up their own mind.

However when major life events come, people are especially open to talking about God. Major life events include:

1. When a baby is born.
2. When a family member dies.
3. When a person or family member is sick.

## Notes and Questions:

4. When a relationship is under stress.
5. When major disappointments happen.
6. When major transitions occur such as getting married, moving, graduating, or changing jobs

### V. How to Begin a Conversation About Jesus

Dr. Jeff Iorg is a writer, seminary president, and chaplain to the San Francisco Giants. When a friend or family member experiences one of the situations listed above, Iorg recommends beginning a witnessing conversation with two simple questions:

- “How can I help you?”
- “Can I pray for you?”

These questions are usually appropriate for any of the situations listed above.

A person will rarely give an answer when you say, “How can I help you?” So ask again and let the person know that you’re serious. If the person mentions any need, do whatever you can to help meet that need.

A person will nearly always say “yes” when you ask, “Can I pray for you?” If they say yes, ask permission to pray for them immediately. Make your prayer concise and sincere. When you say amen, say nothing else for a few moments and see where the person takes the conversation. Be ready to share your own testimony and the three basic truths of the gospel.

### Keep Inviting People to Church

Never underestimate the value of inviting people to church. If you’re part of a church that intentionally presents the gospel each week, invite people often and repeatedly. Most people are willing to attend church if a friend invites them. And the most common place people make commitments to Jesus is at church.

## VI. The Presentation of the Gospel

The following is just one possible grouping of verses that could be used to lead someone to Christ. However, the points covered are essential.

### A. We must first understand the sin issue.

1. Romans 3:10–12 tells us that there are none

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Romans 3:23 says that we all have \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do these two truths mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. The second point we must understand is the judgment of God because of sin.

1. Romans 5:12 tells us that in Adam we all \_\_\_\_\_

2. Romans 6:23 tells us that “the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is death.”

3. Hebrews 9:27 says that all men will eventually die, but what does it say will come after?

4. If a person dies without Jesus in their life, where will they spend eternity? See Revelation 20:11–15.

### C. We have already seen that all men have sinned, and because of that sin God is going to judge all people. The third point we must understand to be saved is God’s grace in providing his Son who died for us.

1. Romans 5:8 and 6:23b state that God has given us a love gift. What is the love gift?

## Notes and Questions



## Notes and Questions:

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 describes how God's gift is given to us. In your own words, explain this verse.
3. We said in Lesson Two that the major difference between true biblical Christianity and any other form of religion is how we obtain eternal life. How does Ephesians 2:8–9 say that we get to heaven, and what do these verses rule out as being part of the equation?

Saved by \_\_\_\_\_.

Rules out \_\_\_\_\_.

- D. The fourth and most crucial point is that to truly be saved, we must not only believe **but receive**. The Bible tells us in James 2:19 that “even the demons believe—and tremble!” We must not only believe in Jesus Christ, but we must receive Him as our personal Savior based upon the finished work of atonement upon the cross.
1. Romans 5:17–18 tells us that though we all died in Adam, without any act of the will on our part, it takes an active part of the will to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ (John 1:12).
  2. Describe in your own words Romans 10:9 and 13.

You should have recalled this section from Lesson Two (Salvation). However, the intention then was to confirm how you were saved. Now, we have seen it from an outward perspective. Because someone shared the gospel with us, we should also share it with others.



Remember, you may not be an evangelist, but if you are saved, then you are, in a sense, an eyewitness to the truth of the gospel in your own life experience. You have been issued a subpoena by the highest court of all to testify to those who will hear.

Be prepared to discuss the previous section with your discipler. What are some of your questions, fears, and experiences in dealing with being a witness?

## VII. Practical Application

A. What responsibility does the church have in evangelism?

B. Rate what kind of a witness you are 1–10.

---

Have you ever led someone to Christ?

---

How can you improve in this area?

---

C. Write below a list of people you would like to see receive Christ. What part are you going to play in seeing to it that they hear the gospel?

D. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. 

---

2. 

---

**Notes and Questions:**

