

# Introduction to Evangelism

## Part 1 - For God so loved the world



### Leaders Notes

#### ***Lesson Purpose***

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the nature of evangelism

#### ***Main Points***

- Evangelism is a process, and not just an event.
- Skills and experience in evangelism can be developed.
- The process of evangelism is not complete until a more mature believer has begun to disciple the new Christian and help him or her to grow in the faith.

#### ***Desired Outcomes***

When the content of this lesson has been mastered, each participant should :

- Be able to understand the different ways evangelism can take place - and the call to be fishers of Men.
- Clearly understand the message of the Gospel.

## INTRODUCTION

Evangelism is important work for all believers. No matter what else we do as a church - this must always be on the agenda and important to us.

We can find hope for the process in Matthew 4:19, where Jesus challenged the disciples to follow Him with the words,

“Come, follow me . . . and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus wanted these experienced fishermen to use their lives to build His Church. As we follow Christ, observe His law and obey Him, He also desires to make us fishers of men, able to attract and win people to Himself. Only the Lord is able to make us effective fishermen for souls.

Jesus did not say follow me and then try your best to become fishers of men. No, He gave the guarantee for success when He told us who would do it.

HE will MAKE US fishers of men.

There are many ways to catch fish. We use large boats, complicated machines and huge nets to catch them by the thousands.

We cast smaller nets to catch several. And we use barbed hooks with bait or attractive lures to catch them one at a time.

We do not catch fish with every toss or cast, but we can be learning with each experience. We have to go where the fish are and choose an appropriate method in order to catch them.

As we learn - We can move from this:



TO THIS



It's very rare to catch a fish when you first try fishing. Experience brings with it the best methods - the best bait.

*(Feel free to mention you like that Pastor Luke did NOT catch a fish on the day this picture was taken... it's a photoshop fake - although the leaves he caught are real)*

In the same way, there are a multitude of methods to bring men, women, youth and children to Christ.

But there is, of course, only one true Gospel.

As we preach this Gospel, God's Holy Spirit convicts the world of guilt regarding sin, and righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:8) and brings people to life-changing faith. (That doesn't happen with normal fishing... where God causes the fish to leap into the nets)

Our task is to combine effective methods and strategies to win people to Christ and incorporate them into the church. Different methods work for different fishers and for different fish.

We will be considering some of these methods and strategies in this meeting.

#### QUESTION:

**CAN ANYMORE SHARE AND EXPERIENCE OF TIMES THEY'D GONE FISHING (SPIRITUALLY) AND CAUGHT NOTHING? HOW DID THAT MAKE THEM FEEL? DID THEY GIVE IN?**

## THE NATURE OF EVANGELISM

Evangelism means "telling the good news." The word Gospel means "Good News". Someone in classical Greek who shared the Gospel is someone who brought a message of victory or news that will bring joy.

The “good news” that Jesus Christ has made salvation possible and available as a free gift is the best news ever to strike the human ear and heart.

Evangelism involves assisting those outside of faith in Christ to move toward faith in Him.

However, evangelism is not the end of the process. True evangelism is like the first leg of a relay race. Once people are won to Christ they must be “handed over” to a discipler who will help them nurture their new lives in Christ.

The race is not complete until believing fellowships are planted and the body of Christ multiplies through further evangelism and discipleship.

Dropping the baton after the evangelism stage is not acceptable.

Decisions are not the goal. Lives planted and disciplined and transformed - that’s the goal.

## ***I. The Process***

This process of evangelism is one important way that the Lord involves Christians, in cooperation with the work of the Holy Spirit, to build the kingdom of God—the Church of Jesus Christ.

While the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men is invisible, the Christian’s efforts in evangelism are both public and private.

Evangelism begins in private, with prayer.

This includes both individual prayer and praying with other Christians. Encourage others to pray as you are engaged in the work of evangelism, following Paul’s example in

### **EPHESIANS 6:19-20**

and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Paul is asking for them to pray for boldness for Him. Paul!! Who always seems so bold when you think of him. Paul is also asking that they pray that God gives him the right words to say. If Paul needs that... we do too.

### **COLOSSIANS 4:2-6.**

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Paul asks for prayer for open doors.

We can offer prayer support for each other - and when we do - it makes a difference.

When we pray, we ask God to:

- Prepare the hearts of those to whom He wants us to speak
- Lead us to those who are prepared
- Help us present the Gospel in a clear and meaningful way
- Preserve the planted message

### **QUESTION:**

**HOW AS A GROUP CAN YOU SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN PRAYER FOR EVANGELISM? HOW COULD THAT WORK PRACTICALLY WITH YOU?**

So Evangelism starts in Private. In the secret place.

But it cannot stay there... it needs to move to something public. And this is - let's be honest - the harder bit.

Publicly, we capitalise on divine encounters to share our faith as we go about the ordinary activities of our lives. We pray for these encounters to happen - but when they happen we need to take them.

We initiate genuine relationships with people in our communities. We spend time with people so they can observe our lives and we can see theirs.

We build bridges of trust to individuals and families, expanding the testimony and influence of Christ.

Evangelism often includes specific activities designed to win a hearing for the Gospel.

It could be through simple acts of kindness or sharing a tract, or it could be as complex as organising a regional outreach effort using the Jesus film or a gifted evangelist - anything that can get the Gospel heard by people, so that they have a chance to understand and believe.

#### QUESTION:

**WHAT WAYS CAN YOU THINK OF AS A GROUP TO "GET THE GOSPEL HEARD?" MAKE A NOTE OF SOME OF THE IDEAS YOU HAVE. (AND PASS THEM ON TO PASTOR LUKE)**

## ***II. The Message***

In a letter to the newly established church at Rome, the apostle Paul wrote these words:

#### **RO 1:16**

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile"

The Gospel is something powerful - not something for us to be ashamed of, but so delighted in that we can't help but declare it - because it is the Power of God for the salvation of everyone!

What is the Gospel message—the "good news"—that we share?

Paul makes a clear and simple presentation of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7.

In this passage, he breaks the content of the Gospel into two parallel parts—repentance and trust.

Theologians are able to write countless volumes on the content of the Gospel. However the essence of the "good news" is summed up in this text.

click once for all

The parts of the Gospel are clearly seen if we print the verses as shown below:

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Christ died for our sins [according to the scriptures]

***that he was buried***

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that He was raised on the third day [according to the scriptures]

***- that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve . . .***

In this form it is easy to see the two main points—the death and resurrection of Christ. Both were accomplished "according to the scriptures" and each has a supporting proof.

The proof of His death was His burial, and the proof of His resurrection was His appearances to the believers.



Look closely at each of the main points.

## Repent – (because He died)

There is a lot packed into this statement. First of all, we must acknowledge that we are sinners before a Holy God.

If there was anything we could do to save ourselves there would have been no reason for Christ to die. If we wasn't because of a desperate need, His death was a needless tragedy.

But there is absolutely nothing we can do to gain favour with God. There is no such thing as a righteous person

**RO 3:10, 20**

as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

We must cast ourselves on His mercy. We need grace, and not justice

**EPH 2:8,9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

The death of Christ also means that His death was sufficient to save us. This would not be possible if He were not the Son of God—the God-Man—God in the flesh.

God could not die until Jesus took human flesh on Himself. But a mere man cannot die for everyone. He can only die for his own sins.

Therefore only Jesus, as God Incarnate, could satisfy the wrath of God against sin and offer salvation to us by grace.

The first part of the Gospel includes an admission of our utter unworthiness and of the deity and sufficiency of Christ.

No one is genuinely saved until they acknowledge the supremacy of Christ and repent.

## Trust Christ – (because He rose)

The second part of the Gospel involves trust. It is necessary to repent, but that alone is not enough to save us.

Many “Christians” believe Christ died for sin, but they think they need to do some kind of work to merit His salvation.

This was the heresy that Paul confronted in Galatians. Some taught that we must both believe and also keep the law in order to be saved.

Paul condemned that idea in the strongest possible terms (Gal 1:8-9; 2:15-16; 3:3,11). Christ's sacrifice was sufficient to save us. We need not and cannot add anything through our own effort.

The fact that Christ arose from the dead means His promise is true.

He has gone to prepare a place for us and will come again to take us home with Him (Jn 14:2-3).

Our salvation is settled when we trust Him.

We can indeed serve Him with our good works as a way of thanking Him and worshipping Him. But these actions are part of our sanctification and not of our salvation.

## **III. The Medium**

The most powerful presentation of the Gospel message is the one we authenticate with our lives.

The way we live brings life to the words being spoken.

You are the bible people can read every day. If what you do doesn't match what you say - people will take notice.

Our integrity, compassion and transparency and dedication to God are essential tools used by the Lord to make us "salt and light" right where we live. A simple poem challenges us:

You are writing a Gospel, a chapter a day,  
by the deeds that you do and the words that you say.  
Men read what you write, distorted or true.  
What is the Gospel according to you?

**QUESTIONS:**

1. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD COULD USE YOU TO REACH OTHERS FOR HIM?
2. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU PERSONALLY?
3. IF THAT IS TRUE, WHAT, THEN, IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IN LIFE TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE MANY PEOPLE YOU KNOW?
4. WHAT IS "THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST"? (2TI 4:2)