

BELIEVER BASICS 101

Session 4

A Christian and Their Witness (Leader's Version)

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Session Plan

Opening Prayer and Review Memory Verse (5 min)

Principles of the Lesson (30 min)

Putting it Together (20 min)

Practice Assignments and Closing Prayer (5 min)

Opening Prayer

Memory Verse

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor 5:20-21 (NASB)

Principles: 2nd Corinthians 5

1) Definition of Witnessing (v.16-21)

a) Witnessing means the sharing what God has done through the Gospel personally in your life (Gospel comes from Greek and means 'good news')

- i) The Bible speaks more on the Good News than on any other subject!
- ii) The Gospel that is to be proclaimed is the Good News of God concerning Salvation offered through Jesus Christ.
- iii) The 5 Necessary Parts of the Gospel are outlined by Jesus in (Luke 24:44-49)
 - (1) God the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) to be the Savior (v.45-46)
 - (2) Jesus suffered and died on the Cross as a payment for our sins (v.46)
 - (3) Jesus physically and bodily came back to life again on the third day gaining victory over death and sin (v.46)
 - (4) In order to gain forgiveness of sins and be saved, people must believe and repent (v.47)
 - (5) For people to be saved, the Gospel message must be told (v.47-49)

b) A Witness is one who testifies what God has done in their life and tells other that God can do the same for them.

- i) God Himself is an evangelist, for He "preached the gospel beforehand unto Abraham" (Gal 3:8)
- ii) Jesus Christ was an evangelist, for He also "preached the gospel" (Lk 20:1)
- iii) Paul was an evangelist as well as an apostle (Rom 1:15)

- iv) Philip the deacon was an evangelist (Acts 21:8)
- v) Timothy, the pastor, was to do the work of an evangelist (2Tim 4:5)
- vi) All the early disciples who, on being driven out of Jerusalem, "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4)
- vii) Every Christians is to be evangelical and to bear witness
 - (1) *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, 1 Peter 3:15*
 - (2) Jesus gave all Christians (and His church) what is called the Great Commission, *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Matt 28:18-20
 - (3) The Christian as a winner of souls, Prov 11:30, "And he who wins souls is wise."
 - (4) Literally, "he who snatches souls is wise" (cf. Jude 23)
 - (5) "fishing for men," Matt 4:19; Mark 1:17; "taking men alive," Luke 5:10
 - (6) calling men to repentance, Matt 22:3
 - (7) bearing fruit that remains, John 4:36; 5:8, 16 (cf. Rom 1:13):

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2) Reasons to Evangelize

a) Jesus Christ is coming back quickly! (v.1-5)

i) Old Testament Scripture Regarding the Coming Day of Judgment

- (1) *"The Day of the Lord is near,"* Isaiah 13:6, Ezekiel 30:3, Joel 1:15, 2:1, 3:14, Obadiah 1:15, Zephaniah 1:7.
- (2) *"Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly,"* Zephaniah 1:14.
- (3) *"The day is near,"* Ezekiel 7:7, 30:3.
- (4) *"Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be a swift witness,"* Malachi 3:5.
- (5) *"Before the Lord for He is coming; For He is coming to judge the earth."* Psa 96:13.
- (6) *"The Day of the Lord is coming,"* Isaiah 13:9.
- (7) *"Behold, the day! It is coming,"* Ezekiel 7:10 (v. 19, "the day of the wrath of the Lord").
- (8) *"Days are coming,"* Jeremiah 7:32, 9:25, 19:6, Amos 8:11 (Most other eschatological references to "days" in Jeremiah speak of the New Covenant in Christ, e.g. Jeremiah 16:14, 23:5, 7; 30:3, 31:27, 31, 38, 33:14).
- (9) *"For the Lord of Hosts will have a day,"* Isaiah 2:12.
- (10) *"In that Day,"* Isaiah 2:17, 20, Amos 8:9, Micah 5:10-15, Zech 12:3-9.

ii) New Testament Scripture Regarding the Second Coming

- (1) *"(Behold,) I am coming quickly,"* Rev 3:11, 22:12, 20.
- (2) *"For yet a little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay,"* Heb 10:37 (cf. Hab 2:3).
- (3) *"A little while, and you will no longer behold me; and again a little while, and you will see Me."* John 16:16.
- (4) *"For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night,"* 1 Thess 5:2
- (5) *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,"* 2 Pet 3:10.
- (6) *"Behold, I am coming like a thief,"* Rev 16:15.
- (7) *"I will come like a thief,"* Rev 3:3
- (8) *"Behold, the Judge is standing right at the door,"* Jms 5:9.
- (9) *"Recognize that He is near, right at the door,"* Matt 24:33, Mark 13:29.
- (10) *"For the time is near,"* Rev 1:3, 22:10.
- (11) *"The Lord is near,"* Philippians 4:5.
- (12) *"The kingdom of God is near,"* Luke 21:31.
- (13) *"Knowing the time ... for now salvation is nearer to us,"* Rom 13:11.
- (14) *"It is the last hour,"* 1 John 2:18.
- (15) *"The day is at hand,"* Rom 13:12.
- (16) *"The kingdom of heaven is at hand,"* Matt 10:7.
- (17) *"The coming of the Lord is at hand,"* James 5:8.
- (18) *"The end of all things is at hand,"* 1 Pet 4:7.
- (19) *"The things which must shortly take place,"* Rev 1:1, 22:6.
- (20) *"For the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will,"* Matt 24:44.
- (21) *"For the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect,"* Luke 12:40.
- (22) *"The master will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,"* Matt 24:50, Luke 12:46.
- (23) *"But as to the day and hour no one knows,"* Matt 24:36, Mark 13:32.
- (24) *"For you do not know which day the Lord is coming,"* Matt 24:42.
- (25) *"Be on the alert,"* Matt 24:42, 25:13.
- (26) *"Be ready,"* Matt 24:44, Luke 12:40.

- Do you believe that it is urgent to tell people about the saving Gospel?
- Why is it so urgent to share with them?

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b) The Lost Are Really Lost! (v.10)

i) The Lostness of Man without Christ

- (1) *For while we were still helpless,* Rom 5:6, Eph 2:12
- (2) *While we were yet sinners,* Rom 5:8
- (3) *While we were enemies of God,* Rom 5:10

- (4) *Both Jew and Gentile are under sin*, Rom 3:9, 7:5
- (5) *Dead in trespasses... sons of disobedience*, Eph 2:2
- (6) *By nature children of wrath*, Eph 2:3
- (7) *Spiritually dead*, Eph 2:1, 5, Col 2:13
- (8) *All have turned aside... and become useless*, Rom 3:12
- (9) *“For the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.”* Matt 7:13

ii) The Reality of Hell as the Everlasting Conscious Punishment of Unsaved Man

(1) Temporal Descriptions of Hell:

- (a) *“Second death,”* Rev 20:14, 21:8
- (b) *“Eternal destruction,”* 2 Thess 1:9
- (c) *“Eternal judgment,”* Heb 6:2
- (d) *“Eternal punishment,”* Matt 25:46
- (e) *“Eternal fire,”* Matt 18:8, 25:41, Jude 7
- (f) *“Unquenchable fire,”* Matt 3:11, Mark 9:43, Luke 3:17
- (g) *“Black darkness has been reserved forever,”* Jude 13
- (h) *“Tormented day and night forever and ever,”* Rev 20:10
- (i) *“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest day and night,”* Rev 14:11
- (j) *“Furnace of fire,”* Matt 13:42, 50
- (k) *“Eternal fire,”* Matt 18:8, 25:41, Jude 7,
- (l) *“Unquenchable fire,”* Matt 3:12, Mark 9:43, Luke 3:17
- (m) *“Lake of fire,”* Rev 20:14, 14, 15, Rev 19:20, Rev 21:8, Rev 14:10
- (n) *“And he cried out, ‘I am in agony in this flame,’”* Luke 16:24

(2) People are alive in hell:

- (a) *“These were thrown alive into the lake of fire,”* Rev 19:10
- (b) *“Where the worm does not die,”* Mark 9:44, 46, 48
- (c) *“Their torment goes up forever and ever,”* Rev 14:11
- (d) *“Tormented day and night forever and ever,”* Rev 20:10
- (e) *“They have no rest day and night,”* Rev 14:11
- (f) *“Weeping and gnashing of teeth,”* Matt 8:12 13:42, 50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30

- Do you believe that people are really lost with out the Lord Jesus?
- Is Jesus the only way to be saved?

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c) The Christian is Accountable for the Lost Whom He/She Should Reach! (V.6-15)

i) Accountability in the Old Testament

- (1) *“Rebuke your brother frankly so you will not share in his guilt.”* Lev 19:17 (NIV)
- (2) Accountability towards the sinner: To tell him that God’s Word says, *“You shall surely die!”* Ezek 3:18, 33:8
- (3) Accountability towards the righteous: *“To warn him,”* Ezek 3:20-21

ii) Accountability in the New Testament

- (1) Accountability to *obedience*, Matt 24:46-51, 25:21, 23, 26-30, 31-46
- (2) Accountability to *bear fruit*, John 15:6
- (3) Accountability for *every word*, Matt 12:36
- (4) Accountability for a *brother*, Matt 18:15, Luke 17:3
- (5) Accountability to following Christ in *fishing for men*, Matt 4:19; Mark 1:17
- (6) Accountability to *take men alive*, Luke 5:10

- What people can you name in your life right now that need to hear accept the Gospel?
- How can you get the Gospel to them?

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d) Time Is Limited and the Harvest Is White! (16-21)

i) The Fact of Limited Time

- (1) Psa 39:4, “*Lord make me know my end, And what is the extent of my days, Let me know how transient I am.*” (cf. Psa 90:12)
- (2) John 4:35, “*Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are ripe for harvest.*”
- (3) John 4:36, “*Already, he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal*”
- (4) John 9:4, “*We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.*”
- (5) “*Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name,*” Acts 22:16
- (6) Rom 13:11-12, “*And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*”
- (7) 1 Cor 7:29, “*But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on both those who have wives should be as though they had none.*”
- (8) 2 Cor 6:2, “*Behold now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is the day of salvation.*”
- (9) Eph 5:15-16, “*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil.*”

ii) The Preparedness of People to Hear the Gospel

- (1) *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.* Luke 10:2
- (2) “*Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 ‘Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 ‘For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 ‘I sent you to*

reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." John 4:35-38

(3) *Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—* 2 Cor 6:2

- What ways is your local church evangelizing?
- What ways this week can you do and support evangelism?

NOTES: _____

3) How to evangelize

a) When to evangelize?

i) All the time, *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence,* 1 Peter 3:15

b) How to evangelize?

i) Tell people the Good News (Luke 24:44-49), tell people that...

(1) God the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) to be the Savior (v.45-46)

(2) Jesus suffered and died on the Cross as a payment for our sins (v.46)

(3) Jesus physically and bodily came back to life again on the third day gaining victory over death and sin (v.46)

(4) In order to gain forgiveness of sins and be saved, people must believe and repent (v.47)

ii) Tell them your story/testimony and include all four parts into your story

iii) Ask them to make the same decision to repent and be saved

Putting it Together

Questions:

1. Are you an Evangelical? (Jesus was, Luke 4:43)
2. Do you believe that men are saved only through Gospel proclamation? (Romans 10:14-17)
3. Is there any wiggle room? Can they be saved some other way? (John 14:6)
4. Are you proclamational? (2 Corinthians 5)
5. Do you believe that proclamation is reserved for those inside of the church only? (1 Timothy 2:4, Ezekiel 18:23, 2nd Peter 3:9)
6. What of the 90-95% who will never enter your church? (John 3:18)
7. Are you committed to the Gospel to such a degree that you are willing to proclaim it outside the safety of your church? (2 Corinthians 5:11)

Practice Assignments

1. Read and write down any insights that God gives and any questions you have about the text.
 - a. Monday Ephesians 1
 - b. Tuesday Ephesians 2
 - c. Wednesday Ephesians 3
 - d. Thursday Ephesians 4
 - e. Friday Ephesians 5
 - f. Saturday Ephesians 6
2. Pray each day.
3. Write out your personal salvation testimony (A template is attached in the packet).
4. Tell someone this week about what Jesus has done for you and what He is doing in your life.
5. Participate in the worship service and take notes while listening to the Pastor's sermon about how you can apply the message that he preaching from God's Word in your life this week.

Memory Verse for Next Week

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." Romans 12:10-13 (NASB)

Coming Up NEXT

Week 5) A Christian and their Church (How to Serve)

Closing Prayer

MY TESTIMONY

Write out what your life was like when you were lost:

Write out how you learned of the Gospel and surrendered your life to Jesus:

Write out what your life has been like after being forgiven and saved by Jesus:

Tell them how they can be saved and ask them to make the same decision!
