

Lesson 10: Sharing Your Faith

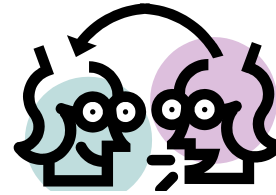
"How do I share the gospel with others?"

Some of Jesus' last words to His disciples were to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19 NKJV) The first step toward making disciples is to share the gospel, or good news, with people. The purpose of this lesson is to help you to learn how to share your faith, or witness, to the unsaved world around you.

What is "witnessing"?

Witnessing is simply the process of ...

1. Living out my Christian life in front of others. (Testimony)
2. Sharing the gospel with others. (Testifying)
3. Having faith that God will bring the results. (Trusting)



Witnessing is a normal Christian activity. It is not an extra spiritual activity that is only to be done by mature or "super" Christians. It is to be a part of each Christian's life as God gives each of us opportunities to share with others.

*Please note that witnessing is **NOT** "soul-winning". Christians are not called to win souls or save souls, we are called to share with others what Jesus Christ has done for us. God is the One responsible for the harvest. (I Corinthians 3:5-7)*

Some reasons why Christians do not witness...

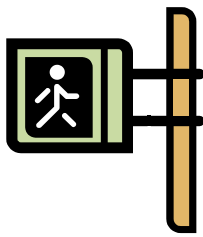


1. Fear of being rejected. When a believer witnesses and the gospel is not received, the believer is not being rejected, but rather Jesus Christ is being rejected. See John 15:20-21
2. Fear of offending a friend or a relative. Most people are led to trust in Christ by a friend or a family member. Fear of sharing the gospel with the people who we are closest to does not convey love for their souls.
3. Fear of not knowing enough. This is why we will cover presenting the gospel with others in the remainder of this lesson.

We must remember that in the same verses that Jesus commanded us to make disciples, He also promised His powerful presence in our lives at all times – even as we are witnessing for Him. (Matthew 28:19-20)

How does my testimony help me share the gospel?

At the conclusion of Lesson 9 we discussed that the believer should have a good testimony in the world's eyes. A good testimony, or a life lived in a godly way, is the first step toward sharing your faith. Let's look at two passages of Scripture that stress the importance of a good testimony.



- 🔦 Colossians 4:5-6 - We are told to walk wisely and speak with grace. These actions give us a forum to give answers to people who have questions.
- 🔦 I Peter 3:15 - Peter teaches us that when we live a sanctified life, or a life set apart from the world, that we will have opportunities to share with others the reason for the hope that is in us.

A growing testimony of godly living in your actions and your speech will give you opportunities to share your faith in Jesus Christ with your unsaved family members, co-workers, friends and acquaintances.

A Method for Sharing the Gospel

Introduction:

We get many opportunities to share our faith. For many, the hardest part of sharing their faith is getting started. The introduction should be viewed as the transition from "small talk" to "serious business." Below are several questions that are helpful in making the transition.

Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?

To you, who is Jesus?

If you were to die right now, do you know for certain that you would go to heaven or is that still something you are working on?

If you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?



After asking one or more of these heart probing questions, share with them that you have good news to share with them.

Gospel Presentation:

If the one you are witnessing to is receptive, then go ahead and share the gospel with them. If they are not receptive, we know that God is not opening their heart. Do not force the issue. It is a wise thing to have the verses marked in your Bible or New Testament and allow the person to whom you are witnessing to read the verses for themselves.

- 1. Man and Sin** We need to explain that all men are sinners in the eyes of God. We also need to explain the seriousness of sin.

- ☞ Romans 3:23 All have sinned and have missed the mark of God's holy standard.
- ☞ What is sin? Sin is breaking the law of God. For example, have you ever lied, ever stolen, ever treated someone in a mean way, etc...
- ☞ IF we only sinned 3 times a day, that would be over 1,000 sins a year, 70,000 sins in a lifetime!
- ☞ Romans 6:23 The payment for our sin is DEATH.



2. God's Love God loves man. God demonstrated His love for man by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to die in your place. Jesus died the death that each of us deserves.

- ☞ John 3:16
- ☞ Romans 5:8 – God demonstrated His love in Christ's death.
- ☞ Romans 6:23 – God gave us a gift, eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. Christ's Work Jesus Christ died in your place.

- ☞ John 14:6 – Jesus Christ is the ONLY WAY to the Father.
- ☞ Isaiah 53:5-6 – Jesus died the death that you deserved. Your sins were placed on Jesus when He died.

4. Faith You must trust in Jesus alone for your salvation.

- ☞ Romans 10:9-10, 13
- ☞ Acts 16:31

Commitment

1. Transition to this point with a question like "Does this make sense to you?"
2. Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life? Use Ephesians 2:8-9.
3. Review the plan of salvation, emphasizing a transfer of faith to trust in Christ alone for salvation.
4. If this is something that they agree with and what they want for their lives, then lead them in a prayer of repentance and faith.

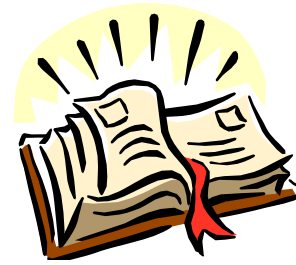


"Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I deserve to die for my sins. I know that You died for my sins and rose again from the dead and that You are the only way of salvation. I ask that You would forgive me for my sins and give to me eternal life. I am trusting in You and You alone to grant me forgiveness. Thank you for dying for me. In Jesus' name. Amen"

Assurance

If the person has accepted Jesus Christ, rejoice with them and read them some verses of Scripture that will give them assurance of their salvation.

- 🔊 John 6:47 – You have everlasting life.
- 🔊 John 10:27-29 – No one can take you from the Father’s hand.



Some Final Thoughts...

Sharing your faith with another person is a great privilege and responsibility that should be taken seriously and approached with much prayer. Remember that we are only called to share; we are not given the burden of producing results. Results are the work of the Holy Spirit. Hear these words from Jesus

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32-33



Homework

1. What is witnessing?
2. What are some reasons that Christians do not witness?
3. How does your testimony affect your ability to share the gospel?
4. Write out the main points in the gospel presentation including key verses.

Key Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

Congratulations!!! You have completed Discipleship 100. You now are ready to take the Discipleship 200 Series and then go on to Advanced Disciple-making. In Advanced Disciple-making you will receive further instruction on how to share your faith and how to answer objections.

Daily in the Word

It is important to spend time reading and meditating on the Word of God. Read each day's passage and answer the two questions for each day. As you read these passages, remember that these are God's words to YOU and that He wants you to learn more about Him by reading His Word.

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DAY 1 Matthew 28:16-20 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |
| DAY 2 John 15:18-27 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |
| DAY 3 I Peter 3:8-18 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DAY 4 Colossians 4:1-6 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |
| DAY 5 I Timothy 1:7-14 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |
| DAY 6 I Timothy 2:1-4 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |
| DAY 7 Psalm 91 | What is the Word saying? | How does this apply to me? |