

## *Discipleship on Witnessing*

### **I. The Definition of Witnessing**

To witness is to clearly explain the gospel message to lost sinners and give them an opportunity to accept God's offer of salvation through repentance and faith in Christ. It is telling others about what you have personally found to be true.



### **II. Key Verses on Witnessing**

#### A. *Ezekiel 3:18-19*



*"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity: but you have delivered your soul."*

◆ What does this verse say about those who know sinners who will die in their sins but fail to warn them or witness to them? →

◆ How can this verse be applied to your life today? →

#### B. *Matthew 4:19*



*"Then he (Jesus) said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"*

◆ What was Jesus' goal for His disciples? →

◆ What does it mean if they follow Jesus, He will make them "fishers of men"? →

#### C. *Matthew 5:16*



*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

◆ Along with sharing the gospel message, what else should you be doing? →

◆ What are ways to let your Christian light shine before unsaved men? →

D. *Mark 16:15 (The “Great Commission”)*



*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

- ◆ What specifically is “the gospel” we should be preaching? →
- ◆ Where are we supposed to take it? →
- ◆ What ages need to hear the gospel?

Notice the other verses in the gospels in which Jesus gives this “Great Commission” (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 24:47; John 20:21)

E. *John 16:7-11*



*“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”*

- ◆ Whose help do you need as you share the message of Christ? →
- ◆ What is it necessary for Him to do as you share the Gospel? →

F. *Acts 1:8*



*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

- ◆ What does it mean for us to be “witnesses” in our Jerusalem, Judea, and the rest of the world? →

## G. Acts 16:14



*"And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul."*

- ◆What kind of a person was Lydia before she heard the gospel? Was that enough to get her to heaven? →
- ◆What did the Lord do? →

## H. Romans 1:16



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*

- ◆Like Paul, what should we not be? →

## I. Romans 10:13-14



*"For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

## J. 1 Corinthians 9:16



*"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."*

- ◆How does God feel about us if we choose not to share the gospel? →
- ◆What does "woe is me" mean? →

## K. 2 Corinthians 4:4



*"In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

- ◆ Why do many unbelievers reject the gospel message when they hear it? →

## L. 2 Corinthians 5:18,20



*"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."*

- ◆ What does "reconciliation" mean? →
- ◆ What does it mean for you to be "an ambassador for Christ"? →

## M. Colossians 4:3-4



*"Praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak."*

- ◆ What part does prayer play in giving out the gospel message? →

## N. 2 Timothy 4:5



*"But you be watchful in all things, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*

- ◆ What does it mean to "do the work of an evangelist"? →

O. *1 Peter 3:15*



*"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."*

- ◆ With what attitude should we talk to others about Christ? →

P. *2 Peter 3:9*



*"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."*

- ◆ What is the Lord's desire? →

### III. Important Teaching on Witnessing

#### A. Teach the Believer's Responsibility to Witness

1. All Believers are commanded to witness to others, beginning where they live (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21).
2. Jesus said those who truly follow Him will become fishers of men (Matthew 4:19).
3. All Believers have been commissioned to be an ambassador for Christ with the task of reconciling the lost to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).
4. We are responsible to warn sinners of the coming judgment which they face (Ezekiel 3:18-19).

#### B. Teach the Necessity for the Lost to Hear and Receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. All come into this world as condemned sinners under the wrath of God  
John 3:18 →  
  
John 3:36 →
2. The lost face spiritual death unless they believe the gospel  
Romans 6:23 →

## C. Teach the Work of God Versus the Work of Man in Evangelism

### 1. The work of man in evangelism

The only “work” of man in evangelism is:

\*To pray for opportunities to share the gospel

\*To share the gospel message with the lost

Romans 1:16 →

Romans 10:13-14 →

Colossians 4:3-4 →

### 2. The work of God in evangelism

Salvation represents the whole work of God by which He rescues man from eternal ruin and the doom of sin and bestows on him the riches of His grace, including eternal life now and eternal glory in heaven.

It is the Holy Spirit who must work in the heart of man to bring him to the point of repentance and faith in Christ.

John 16:7-11 →

✓

✓

✓

Acts 16:14 →

1 Corinthians 3:6 →

Once we do our part in sharing the gospel with others, we must trust the Holy Spirit to do His part in convicting them of their sinfulness, convincing them of the truthfulness of the message that you shared with them, and of the reality of the judgment to come if they reject the gospel.

#### D. Teach How to Witness

1. Teach how to witness through a changed life. Help him understand that the real evidence of his salvation is from his own changed attitudes, speech, and actions (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Matthew 5:16 →

Note: Witnessing by your changed life is even more effective when you take the time to build a relationship with the people around you.

2. Teach how to evangelize through prayer

Since it is the Holy Spirit's job to convict of sin and convince of the truthfulness of the gospel, his prayers can be used to prepare hearts to receive the gospel.

1 Timothy 2:1,3 →

Note: Why not make a list of those you want to start praying for to hear and believe the gospel? Keep praying for them, and look for opportunities to be an answer to these prayers.

3. Teach how to witness through a personal testimony

Teach him how to write out and practice simple thoughts and verses which can be used to explain what happened in his life (4-8 minutes). As he gives some details about his background, he should bring out the following

Psalms 107:2 →

- a. How and when he came to recognize he was a sinner

- ✓ He should explain what sin is (give simple examples)
- ✓ He should explain what the punishment for sin is (death)
- ✓ Verse to share: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. How he came to hear and understand who Jesus is and what He did to save him

- ✓ He is the perfect Son of God
- ✓ He died in the place of all sinners
- ✓ He was raised from the dead three days later
- ✓ Verse to share: \_\_\_\_\_

c. How and when he came to understand his need to accept salvation by faith

- ✓ He should explain a condition/promise verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ He should tell when and where he did this
- ✓ He should invite the listener to do this too  
("Do you want to believe in Him today?")

4. Teach how to evangelize through one of various methods



- a. Use the Wordless Book
- b. Give someone a gospel tract or a New Testament to read (highlight verses)
- c. Give the Jesus film to someone
- d. Use the Evangel-Cube
- e. Use the "Gospel Flipper-Flapper"
- f.
- g.
- h.





### Training Disciples to Witness Through the Wordless Book

Spend time as you meet with your disciple to train him how to share the gospel through the Wordless Book. Teach him the basic message and verse to use for each color. This could be done in one or two sessions together, or you could teach it in 10-15 minute segments over several sessions. Here's a suggested schedule for teaching, but adapt it to your situation.

- ◆ Explain how to share truths from the gold page
- ◆ Explain the verse for the gold page
  
- ◆ Explain the truths from the dark page
- ◆ Explain the verse for the dark page
  
- ◆ Explain the truths from the red page
- ◆ Explain the verse for the red page
  
- ◆ Explain the truths from the clean page
- ◆ Explain the condition/promise verse
  
- ◆ Explain the truths from the green page
- ◆ Explain the verses used for the green page
  
- ◆ Explain how to counsel for salvation
- ◆ Explain how to counsel for assurance and growth



#### Additional Ideas

1. Be sure to **demonstrate** how to share it after you have taught him in each session.
2. Encourage your students to begin praying for the salvation of specific friends or family members that they want to share the message with.

#### E. Teach When and Where to Witness

After you have trained him to share his testimony and the Wordless Book, encourage him to . . .

1. Pray for God to open up opportunities to witness to specific friends, neighbors, or classmates. Prayer brings “ripe opportunities.”

Colossians 4:3 →



2. Always be ready and looking for those who need to hear.

1 Peter 3:15 →

Research shows that 95% of Believers never lead another person to Christ. Will you be in the 5% who do or the 95% who don't?

#### F. Teach about Possible Opposition to Witnessing

1. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers to the truthfulness of the gospel and tries to “snatch” the gospel seeds that you plant

2 Corinthians 4:4 →

Matthew 13:19 →

2. You Might be Persecuted for Sharing the Gospel

Jesus warned His disciples that there would be people who would treat them as cruelly as they treated Him. Others may mock or persecute those who witness to others.

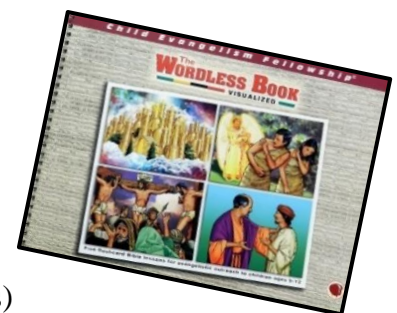
John 15:18-20 →

Acts 5:40-42 →

#### IV. Ways to Teach Witnessing

##### A. Through Specific Bible Lessons

1. Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-15)
2. Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4:1-42)
3. The Wordless Book Visualized (CEF Press; 5 lessons)
- 4.
- 5.



##### B. Through Special Lessons

1. Heaven and How to Get There (CEF Press)
2. Madugu (CEF Press)
3. The Gospel Glove or Evangecube
4. Which Ladder to Heaven?
- 5.



C. Through Music 🎵

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

D. Through Making a Counseling Tool about Stewardship

1. This tool can be made small enough to use with believing children or youth in one-on-one discipling situations.
2. This tool can be made large enough to use it before the entire class.



## Which Ladder Leads to Heaven

For PowerPoint visuals, go to <http://www.t2cl.com/evangelistic-lessons.html>

Do you think anyone could find a ladder long enough to reach to Heaven? (*No!*) You're right! But the ladders you see here remind us of different ways people try to get to God. Many people believe that if they just do good things for others and if they obey the Ten Commandments, God will someday let them into His Heaven. But God says all have sinned. All of us have broken His rules and no matter how many good things we do, we are still sinners (give some examples of sin; Rom. 3:10,23).



"Oh, I go to church every week," you may say. That's good. God wants you to go and learn more about Him, but going to church is not the way to Heaven. Are you thinking, "I was baptized." I must tell you that baptism will not make you ready for Heaven either. Titus 3:5 says it's "not by works of righteousness which we have done."

Perhaps you come from a Christian family. Do you believe God will let you go to Heaven because your parents are Christians? If you do, you are mistaken (John 1:12,13).

None of these ladders reach to Heaven, do they? No. They remind us that there is nothing we can do by ourselves to reach Heaven. Only the wonderful, loving and perfect God who made us is able to make the way to Heaven. And He did! God knew you could not be good enough to enter His perfect Heaven. He knows you have disobeyed His laws.



So God sent His own perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth to die for your sins and the sins of everyone else. Jesus died on a wooden cross to take our punishment for sin. Look! This cross reminds us that God has made the way to Heaven for us. When Jesus died there, He paid for all the sins of all the world, and in three days God made Him alive again (1 Cor. 15:3,5). God accepted the payment of Jesus' blood for our sins. He wants each one of us to have the gift of eternal life--to live in Heaven with Him some day.

This is what God says in His own words, "The wages of sin is *death* (separation from God), but the gift of God is *eternal life* (life with Him forever)" (Rom. 6:23).

Maybe you have been trusting in one of these "ladders" to get you to Heaven--your own good works, other gods, your church, or your family. Will you trust *Jesus* right now--the one true way? If you will, tell Him so. You can pray something like this, "Dear Jesus, I have sinned against You. But I believe You died on the cross for my sins. I trust You to forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. Help me to obey and serve You with all my life. Amen." (Explain a condition/promise verse like John 3:15; 3:16; 3:18; or 3:36.)



