



Lesson 1

Why Share Our Faith?

What the Bible says about sharing our faith.

John 3:16 GOOD NEWS...made simple!

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ONCE WE KNOW **WHY**, WE'LL FIND A **WAY**!

Look up verses in Bible

Comments

CALLED TO SHARE

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

Just as Jesus called the early disciples **He calls us** to follow Him. As we **follow** Jesus, He promises to make us "fishers of men".

It's a **process**. The early disciples learned from their "mistakes". So will we. Jesus will increase our skills, knowledge, wisdom and discernment as we follow Him in "fishing for men".

COMMANDED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt. 28:19-20

As we are going about life the church is commanded to **make disciples**. We are charged to help people **begin and develop** a relationship with Jesus Christ. One where they learn *of* Jesus and to *follow* Jesus according to His teachings in the Bible.

Jesus **promises** to *always be with us* as we seek to make disciples. This surely includes **witnessing**.

THE CURSE

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. John 3:36

Those who have not come to know Jesus by trusting Him alone to be saved will **not experience eternal LIFE**, now or forever.

Sin condemns us. For the unbeliever, God's **wrath** (judgment for sin) "remains on him". They are still under God's judgement of sin, destined for **eternal separation** from Him. A place of **agony** and **torment** apart from the love and light of God. (See Luke 16:19-28)

FACING OUR FEARS

By *faith*, we follow Jesus. Most feel anxious about witnessing but **He promises to be with us**. Remember, it's a *process*. One where we **learn to trust Him to lead** and guide us. One where we learn His **discernment**. One where we trust in **His power** to work in the hearts of those we share.

Let's look at what the Bible says about the **benefits we have to offer** others.

GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will share a meal together as friends. Rev. 3:20

I came that they might have life and life to the full. John 10:10

It's about relationship. As "**friends**" Jesus desires to relate with us. He loves and cares about everyone and wants us to experience this in **relationship** with Him.

Jesus wants everyone to experience His friendship - "life to the full" and know His **love, peace, comfort** and **joy** both *now* and *forever*.

GOOD NEWS FOREVER

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Rev. 21:3-4

When someone trusts in Jesus and comes into relationship with Him they are saved **forever**.

They will spend **eternity with Him** in heaven. A place where there is **no more death, mourning, crying or pain!**

GOD'S PROVISION

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have

Consider how God has provided for us to witness. The Holy Spirit **empowers, teaches** and **reminds** us of what to say and **how** to say it.

Then He uses the message to **convict** of sin and unworthiness and **convinces** one of their need of a Savior.

said to you. John 14:26

When he [Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. John 16:8

THE PRIVILEGE

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ [*God's part*] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation [*Our part*]: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors... 2 Cor. 5:18-19

THE REAL REASON

Consider it an **honor**, a privilege to represent God! We have been **committed with the Gospel message**. The message to reconcile men and women, boys and girls with their Creator.

Assisting God to help them **realize** their need of the Savior - Jesus. Helping **rescue** them from an eternity apart from God.

How precious you are to God!

The Lord is at work. As a Christian He has come to live in you by His Holy Spirit. **He is influencing you with the desire** to help others come to experience what you have in Jesus.

Because of His love, Jesus wants them to experience the **benefits of a personal relationship** with Him.

He wants to **save them** from the unnecessary **hardships** apart from that relationship both **now** and **forever**.

OUR GOAL:

TO GRACIOUSLY EXPOSE PEOPLE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE LEAVING THE RESULTS TO GOD

Romans 1:16, Romans 10:17 and 1 Peter 3:15 set the framework for this goal.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes... Romans 1:16

- We're not ashamed because we know the difference it's made in our lives. And exposing people to the **Gospel** message allows **the power of God** to impact their lives and save them for eternity.

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. Romans 10:17

- It is by hearing the Good News about Christ is the God's way of **giving people faith** to believe and make an **informed decision**.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15

- As we pray and watchful for those God brings into our lives, we need to be alert and ready to **graciously** seek to share the Gospel message **respectfully** and confidently trusting the Lord with the results.

Let's **be intentional** in seeking to **graciously share the Good News** and **trusting God** to use it as He has chosen for His glory.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING LESSON 1

Use the Leaders Notes to guide the session

Have participants use their Bibles to look up Scriptures

Make comments using notes provided and ask questions to illicit discussion