

John 3:16

Good News... made simple!



Workshop
Leader's
Guide

WORKSHOP LEADER'S GUIDE

(2 – 3 hour format)

This **Workshop Leader's Guide** will provide suggestions for conducting a successful workshop. It's especially designed for those facilitating their first workshop.

A workshop is aimed at equipping in 3 basic areas:

- I. **Why we should seek to share our faith**
- II. **How to start a spiritual conversation**
- III. **How to share a simple clear explanation of the Gospel**

Participants will be more inspired, better equipped and progressively intentional in sharing their faith.

Flexible

The workshop can be done in one or several sessions. It will take between 2-3 hours total depending on discussions, time allowed for role plays, demonstrations and the use of any "optional" material. Allowing between 40 – 55 minutes for each of the 3 areas works well.

Preparation

Copy for each participant:

- Training Handbook
- Worksheet (found in the back of this Leader's Guide)
- Witnessing Guide (handed out at the end)
- Gospel Booklet (optional)
- Prayer Bookmark (optional)

Note: Items above plus **PowerPoint** are free to download at www.christianwitnessingtools.com . Simply reference a **Training Handbook** along with this **Workshop Leader's Guide** to lead and facilitate an exceptional workshop.

Facilitating a

JOHN 3:16 Good News... made simple!

Workshop

Welcome

Goal: You will be *more inspired, better equipped and increasingly intentional* in sharing your faith.

General Overview:

- I. Biblical basis for why we should share our faith.
- II. Becoming more effective in starting a spiritual conversation, and
- III. How to explain the Gospel in a clear and simple way using John 3:16, the most familiar verse in the Bible.

Prayer

(pp.1-2) **WHY SHARE OUR FAITH?** (30-55 min.)

**The key to this section is to motivate and inspire participants to join God in expanding His kingdom.
When we clearly understand God’s WHY, He will compel us to find a way to do it.

(p.1) **The Call** – review the verses provided in Training Handbook.

- *Point out God’s promises, provision and presence.*

The Curse - review the verses provided in Handbook.

- *John 3:36 - shows the consequences of rejecting Christ*
- *Luke 16:19-28 – shows the realities of eternal separation from God (hell)*

Common Fears – talk or discuss the fears we face. Remind them it’s the devil’s key tool to silence us.

God’s Good News – review the material provided.

- *Revelation 3:20 – shows God’s desire of having a personal relationship*
- *“ 21:3-4 – shows realities of eternity with God in Heaven forever*

(p.2) **God’s Provision**

- *Acts 1:8 – the Holy Spirit empowers, convinces, convicts and saves*

Our Privilege

- *2 Corinthians 5:19-20 – shows the incredible honor of serving as ‘ambassadors’ for Christ*

A Key Question: **Do you know for sure you will go to heaven someday?**

- *Typical answers are: Yes No Hope So Maybe*

KEY TRUTH - God wants you to <u>know for sure</u> you HAVE eternal life 1 John 5:13

- *One can... by experiencing a personal relationship with Christ*
- *We share so every non-believer hears and has a chance to respond*
- *And...it’s important every Christian “knows for sure” or has assurance so they can be confident to share! (It’s hard to share what you don’t know you have.)*

Emphasize: ***In church, pastors, teachers, and small group leaders need to ask this question often. God sends people to churches who do not know for sure they will go to heaven. They deserve to know. They need to know! Ask, share and help them be assured.***

Diary of Sin

Before going to a short break, wrap up this section with some interactive fun. TEACH the Diary of Sin story noting the Helpful Tips provided.

- *Details are in the Appendix (p. 18) Demonstrate it. Then read it as participants do the motions. *Be sure to practice this yourself before demonstrating it to the participants.*
- *Have participants ‘pair up’ and practice telling this story to each other*

[Short optional Break – as appropriate]

**This is one of the most challenging aspects of witnessing. Don't rush through this section. These notes will help you facilitate discussion to discover everyday opportunities to glorify God in our conversations.*

God Stories – stories telling *how God has made a difference in your life*

- Go over the “**How God...**” bullet points listed.
- Then have participants *write down responses* to this question:

“How has God made a difference in your life...in what ways has your relationship with Jesus affected you?”

- Likely responses (topics) will be:
 - A sense of “peace”
 - “Loved” or more loving towards others
 - Being “forgiving”
 - “Not afraid of death”
 - Helped with (marriage, finances, other needs, etc.)
 - Able to be more “disciplined”
 - Overcame bad habits/power to change
 - More “confident” or “secure”
 - Greater sense of “purpose” in life
 - More “patient” or “forgiving”
 - Real “joy” or happiness
- Next ask participants to pick out 1 ‘difference God has made’ from their list and identify a specific event or *situation* when that was “real” in their life; when they experienced this first hand, e.g.

Example: A young mother - “*I’m more patient*”

“Real” situation: *“God has helped me be more patient with my son, Joshua. Helping him with his homework had been quite a challenge. I used to get so frustrated; I yelled a lot. But God has been helping me. He’s reminded me of how patient He’s been with me through the years. And it’s helped me be more patient with Joshua.”*

**It doesn’t need to be something ‘dramatic’, just a clear indication God is making a difference.*

- (Pair up) – Have participants pair up. Each picks one of the ‘differences God has made’ and share an *event* or *situation* showing how that was real in their life.
- (Group Interaction)
Next you will bring to light the common opportunities the Holy Spirit provides to share God Stories during everyday conversations.

- Ask someone to briefly share one of their God Stories
 - After they share, ask the group, “How many of you can identify with the basic topic/concept? (e.g. patience or, peace during a difficult time)
 - Then discuss when and how that topic/concept could be used as a God Story in everyday conversations with friends, co-workers, associates, at school, etc. Ask, ***What might our friends or associates bring up in conversation that might lead us to share a God Story of this nature?***
- Ask several others to share a God Story again asking *who identifies with it* and, *when and how it might come up in everyday conversation*. ***What might our friends and associates comment about that might lead us to share a God Story of this nature?***
 - *The goal is to help participants become more aware of common opportunities the Holy Spirit provides us to share a God Story thereby bringing God into a conversation and a means to start talking about spiritual matters.
 - *We need to be intentional, seeking the Holy Spirit to guide us, watching for these opportunities and telling others how God is real in our lives.
- Briefly read through the section, ‘**Pay attention to how others respond...**’
- In the next section, ‘**As you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you, take the initiative to ask:**’ point out the suggested ways to ***transition*** from a God Story to asking permission to “share the Good News”
 - Have participants pair up and practice asking each other if they had ever heard of the verse John 3:16, and ask permission to share what they discovered about the verse.
(It doesn’t have to be word-for-word, have them say it in their own words. It always helps to practice and actually hear what it sounds like coming out of our own mouths.)

(Optional or self-study material)

Value Questions

As time permits, talk through this section.

*The ‘Value Questions’ help to identify what is important or significant in a person’s life. They help us get to know others better.

*And asking ‘how their lives might change if they knew more about God or if He were more a part of their life’ will bring God into the conversation.

- Go over the “Possible transitions” and “Other options”. (Discuss or comment as time permits. They can study this more on their own or consider making this part of future training.)

(Optional or self-study material)

Other Lead-In Questions

These are simply provided as additional questions to use to start a spiritual conversation.

[Short optional Break – as appropriate]

Suggestion: Provide each participant a partially filled out WORKSHEET (see last page; only has John 3:16 and boxes with LIFE, WORLD, GOD, SON, BELIEVES, Review, Response). Or have them draw it out on a blank piece of paper. **They will use these like an outline, adding a few 'focus' words in each appropriate box to remind them what they will want to talk about when explaining the Gospel.*

(p.5)

- Point out the 5 Key Words in John 3:16 we'll focus on to more fully explain the Gospel
LIFE WORLD GOD SON BELIEVES
- Point out the 5 Key 'lead-in' Questions (also in the REVIEW section p. 16)
Option: Have participants write the lead-in questions above and/or below the appropriate box, i.e.
 - **What does God want us to experience?** (LIFE)
 - **What keeps us from experiencing it?** (WORLD)
 - **How does God feel about this?** (GOD)
 - **How did God solve our sin problem?** (SON)
 - **How do we begin experiencing 'real' life?** (BELIEVES)
- Point out that we'll be using each of these key words as key 'concepts' or 'talking points' to more fully explain the Gospel.

Note regarding pp. 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14:

These pages are meant to be 'interactive'. Instead of simply "telling" participants the answers, use these pages to help them 'discover' insightful truths to talk about when explaining each section or 'talking point'.

Suggestion: you can do the following sections as a large group or change it up by having them work through several sections in small groups or pairs.

Demonstrations: Consider doing several brief demonstrations throughout and/or one at the end.

**Ask participants NOT to peek ahead as the suggested answers are on the back of each page*

(p.6) "What does God want us to experience?" (Ask rhetorically) **LIFE**

- Work through the questions provided. Have participants identify a few significant 'focus' words to write on their worksheet that *remind* them (like an outline) of truths they will want to specifically share when talking about **LIFE**, e.g.

eternal – tells us a lot about what God wants us to experience.

- Reminds us we were created to **live forever** (Q1)
 - Forever in **heaven** or **hell** (Q2 & Q3)
- Reminds us of the life He wants for us **now** too (Q4 and/or Q5)
 - **'abundant'** life, life to the full – the fruit of God's Spirit

- Ask the group what ‘focus’ words they wrote on their worksheet in the LIFE box to remind them of what they want to specifically share about LIFE – what God wants us to experience.
- To summarize: *God wants to make a difference in our lives today and forever in heaven.*
- Point out that during our practice time, they will use their worksheets as a guide (outline) in sharing the Gospel. (It will help them from wandering; staying focused on each key ‘talking point’.)

(p.7) **Provides optional suggestions and verses for the LIFE section. It’s a good page to encourage participants to study further after the workshop.*

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(p.8) “What keeps us from experiencing this LIFE?” **WORLD** (sin)

Leader’s notes:

1. *The main point is for this section is the seriousness of **SIN**.*
2. *Also, some ‘focus’ words are appropriate in more than one section and may seem to be redundant. However, it’s OK to be repetitive as it helps in learning and to emphasize important truths of the Gospel. When sharing, you can always choose what to repeat and emphasize.*

- Again, work through the questions. Have participants note words in the World box of their worksheet to *focus* them on significant truths they will want to specifically share about the **WORLD** (us).

whoever – points to people, not things. People like you and like me. (Q1)

loved – reminds us that God loves you and me (Q2)

perish – reminds us of hell ; what we deserve because of our **sin**. (Q3)

life – reminds of the abundant life God desires for us now and the hope of eternity with God forever in heaven. (Q4)

*We are **all sinners**.

- Ask the group what ‘focus’ words they put in their WORLD box on their worksheet
- To summarize: *Our sin separates us from God.*

(p.9) **Provides optional suggestions and verses for the WORLD section. Again, encourage participants to study further after the workshop.*

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(p.10) “How does God feel about this?” **GOD**

- Work through the questions having participants note ‘focus’ words in the GOD box to remind them of significant truths they will want to specifically share about GOD.

loved – reinforces His love for us...a loving God. He loves the person we are witnessing to. (Q1)

so – indicates *how much* He loves us (Q1)

gave – reminds us God is *generous* and has taken the initiative to *reach out* to us. (Q2 & Q3)

KEY TRUTH – God gives the gift of eternal life, it's not something we deserve **Ephesians 2:8, 9**

(perish) – *can be used to remind us that God is the perfect Judge. He is holy, perfect and just and therefore sin must be punished perfectly.* (Q3)

- Point out these ‘focus’ words that could go in the GOD box of their worksheet
- To summarize: *God wants us to know He loves us but He must punish sin.*

(p.11) Suggestions and verses related to the GOD section.

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(p.12) “How did God solve our sin problem?” **SON**

- Work through the questions having participants note ‘focus’ words in the SON box of their worksheet to remind them of significant truths they will want to share about the SON.

*Son = **JESUS** – *always mention this. Don’t assume everyone knows that “Son” refers to Jesus.*

one and only – Key Truth: reminds us that Jesus is God in human flesh.

He’s special, unique in that He never sinned; therefore didn’t deserve to die. Instead He became our substitute suffering for *our sin*. (Q1)

***DIARY OF SIN** story – Now is a great time to demonstrate this story of how Jesus took upon Himself our sin and suffered in our place making it possible for us to be forgiven and enter into a personal relationship with Christ the Lord.

- Ask the group what ‘focus’ words they put in their SON box of their worksheet
- To summarize: *Jesus IS God in the flesh. (Jn. 1:1,14) Jesus died on the cross to pay our penalty for sin and rose again so we can experience eternal life both now and forever with Him in heaven.*

(p.13) Suggestions and verses related to the SON section.

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(p.14) “How do we begin to experience this ‘real’ Life?” **BELIEVES**

- Work through the questions having participants note ‘focus’ words in the BELIEVES box of their worksheet to remind them of significant truths they will want to share about BELIEVE.

have – reminds us that we can know for sure we HAVE **eternal life**; not ‘hope so’ or ‘maybe’. We can trust God’s promise and have *assurance* of our salvation and begin experiencing ‘real’ Life today. (Q1 & Q2))

in Him – reminds us we need to believe *Jesus is Lord* and trust that He died and rose again to *pay the penalty for our sin*. (Q3)

'not' perish – reminds us of the result for those who believe, trust and receive Jesus as Lord by faith. (Q4)

trust & faith – other words for 'believe' (Q5)

KEY TRUTH – It's more than just <u>knowing about Jesus</u> or God James 2:19 KEY TRUTH – We are saved by our faith... <u>not by works</u> , by being good enough Ephesians 2:8, 9
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- Ask the group what 'focus' words they put in their BELIEVES box of their worksheet
- To summarize: *We must believe (trust) in Jesus Christ alone to have eternal life. (It's not what we do but what Jesus has done.)*

(p. 15) Suggestions and verses related to the BELIEVES section

(p.16) **REVIEW**

When explaining the Gospel, now is a good time to briefly "summarize" what you've talked about.

- Ask for volunteers to read the 5 paragraphs (p. 16)
- Briefly point out how John 3:16 can be "personalized" (bottom of p. 16)

(p.17) **RESPONSE**

- Review the material provided

KEY TRUTH - A right motive for living for Christ is out of <u>appreciation</u> of His great love for us. Ro. 5:8 We yield our lives to Jesus as Lord because of <u>gratitude for what He has done</u> for us. 2 Cor. 5:15
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- *Note: A 'prayer of commitment' can be easily framed around the A-B-C's*
- Remind participants they'll want to do what they can to follow up and help new believers in their new relationship with Jesus.

PRACTICE: *(Note: If you have sufficient time, you can practice after each section. Also, you may want to do a short demonstration at this time or briefly after each section.)*

- Have participants pair up and using their worksheets, explain the Gospel to each other. Remind them to use the worksheet like an outline, using whichever 'focus' words they choose to more fully explain the message of John 3:16.

- Also, when sharing, it's good for both the presenter AND listener to be able to view the worksheet. That way the listener not only learns by hearing but visually too.
 - Remind those who are listening NOT to be difficult by asking lots of questions or objections.
 - Have them start by saying something like, **“Have you ever heard of the verse, John 3:16? Can I share with you what I discovered about this verse?”**

Wrap Up

- Pass out to each participant (free download at www.christianwitnessingtools.com):
 - Witnessing Guide
 - Gospel Booklet
 - Prayer Bookmark
- End with prayer, looking to God to lead and guide to opportunities to join Him in building His Kingdom.

<p><i>What does God want us to experience?</i></p> <p>LIFE</p>	<p><i>What keeps us from experiencing this?</i></p> <p>WORLD (sin)</p>	<p><i>How does God feel about this?</i></p> <p>GOD</p>
<p>For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.</p>		
<p><i>How did God solve our problem?</i></p> <p>SON (Jesus)</p> <p>[Diary of Sin story]</p>	<p><i>How do we begin to experience this?</i></p> <p>BELIEVES (faith)</p>	<p><u>Review</u></p> <p>What does God desire? Life What keeps us from it? Sin How does God feel? Loves How did He solve this? Jesus How do we begin? Believe</p> <p>[Respond]</p> <p>A – admit (sinner) B – believe (in Jesus) C – commit (to follow Jesus)</p>