

John 3:16

Good News... made simple!



Workshop
Leaders
Guide

WORKSHOP LEADERS GUIDE

(3 – 4 hour format)

This **Workshop Leaders Guide** will provide suggestions for conducting a successful workshop.

*All materials & Workshop PowerPoint are available to download at: www.christianwitnessingtools.com

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 3-4 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 Leaders Guide** to lead and facilitate an exceptional workshop.

***SEE the LEARN IT section on the WEBSITE for Additional “coaching tips” for each lesson.**

Facilitating a *JOHN 3:16 Good News... made simple!* Workshop

Welcome Participants

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

**The key to this section is to motivate and inspire participants to join God in expanding His kingdom based on the truths, commands and promises in the Bible.*

**When we clearly understand God's WHY, He will compel us to find a way to do it.*

(p.1) **The Call – 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".

The Command – Matthew 29:19-20

- 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 - 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.
- *Luke 16:19-28 – shows the realities of eternal separation from God (hell)*
 - 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.

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

- *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.

God's Good News – Revelation 3:20

- 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.
- *Revelation 21:3-4 – shows realities of eternity with God in Heaven forever*

- *John 10:10* - Jesus wants everyone to experience His friendship - "life to the full" and know His **love, peace, comfort** and **joy** both now and forever.

(p.2) **God's Provision** - *Acts 1:8, John 14:26 and John 16:8*

- 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.

Our Privilege - *2 Corinthians 5:19-20*

- 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!*

OUR GOAL:

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

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.

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 **know for sure** 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: **Pastors, teachers, and church 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 (see p. 18)

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]

(pp. 3-4) **STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION** (35–55 min.)

**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.*

General Principles

Prayer

- Seek God's help. He is working at drawing people to Himself. Let Him know you are willing and available.
- Colossians 4:2-6 provides Biblical guidelines in preparing your heart for sharing. *Devote yourselves to **PRAYER**, being **WATCHFUL** and **THANKFUL**. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray that I may **PROCLAIM** it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always **FULL OF GRACE** seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* (You may want to hand out the **Evangelism Prayer Bookmark** on website.)

Care

- Seek to **genuinely** care about others. Care about their physical, emotional and especially their spiritual needs. **Ask God to help** you.
- Be **empathetic** about circumstances they are facing. Be quick to **listen**.
- Caring about their spiritual well-being will help you be **sensitive** and watchful for opportunities to share your faith.

Ask Questions

- Get to know others better by asking questions. Questions that show you are **interested** to know more about them. What interests they have. How they **feel** about things. What is **important** to them? Find out what they **like** to talk about.
- Ask questions that "**draw them out**" and develop trust in you. Ask about how they "think" or "feel" about things. Ask questions using "what", "how", "when", etc. as they encourage more than simple "yes" or "no" responses.
- Genuine caring and being interested go a long way in building **trust**. Trust that will help them be **open** to your offer to talk about spiritual matters.

Be Sensitive

- Sensitive to the **Holy Spirit's promptings**. He will **guide** you in caring, asking questions and **showing** you openings to share on a spiritual level with someone.
- **Learn to trust Him**.

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

- They point out **God's help in times of need**
 - Short "testimonials" of how God has **helped** during a personal difficulty; how your faith in Him has made a **positive difference** during a struggle in your life.
- They **relate to where the other person is**
 - As you ask questions, you get to know other people. Often **they mention a problem**, difficult situation or **challenging circumstance** they are dealing with. It's likely you have had or may be dealing with a **similar situation**. However, **your faith** in God has been very **helpful** to you – He's made a difference.

For example:

*They may share about a difficult person at work. Perhaps someone you know and have had similar difficulties. However, the **Lord has helped you** with patience and forgiveness towards that person. You share a "Faith Story" telling how your faith in God has helped you deal with that person to have **peace**, be **patient** and be **forgiving** so anger doesn't control you.*

Next, go over the **Circumstantial** and **Emotional Issues** listed.

- Then have participants look at the lists and *write down responses* to this question:

“What are several ways you’ve experienced God’s help?”

- Likely responses (topics) will be:
 - A sense of “peace” when Anxious or fearful
 - “Loved” when rejected or more loving towards others
 - Being “forgiving” when I failed
 - “Not afraid of death” instead of fearing death
 - Helped with (marriage, finances, other needs, etc.)
 - Overcame bad habits/power to change instead of failing again
 - More “confident” or “secure”
 - Greater sense of “purpose” in life instead of empty or aimless
 - More “patient” or “forgiving” in difficult relationship
 - Real “joy” or happiness instead of depressed
- Next ask participants identify 1 **specific** *event* or *situation* when that was “real” in their life; when they experienced this first hand, e.g.

Another Example: A young mother needing patience in dealing with a child

“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 of God making a difference.*

- (Give them a minute to think about this...)
- Then have participants **pair up** and share with each other an *event* or *situation* showing how God was real, how He made a difference in their life.
- (Group Interaction)
Next you will show how the Holy Spirit provides opportunities to share Faith Stories during everyday conversations.
 - Ask someone to briefly share their Faith Story
 - 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 Faith 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 Faith Story of this nature?***

- Ask 2 more people to *briefly* share a Faith 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 Faith Story of this nature?***

*The goal is to help participants become more aware of common opportunities the Holy Spirit provides us to share a Faith Story thereby:

- **BRINGING GOD INTO A CONVERSATION, AND CREATE INTEREST AND CURIOSITY**
- Providing 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.)

COACHING TIP:

ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION TO SHARE

For example: “***May I share*** ...what God desires for us to have and experience?”

- It shows respect. Their answer will tell you if you should proceed.
- It helps you as a witness to not have to “force it to happen”.
 - If they say “no”, take it as an indication that God would not have you share with them at this time. Thank them and silently pray for an opportunity sometime in the future.

(Optional or self-study material)

Discuss or comment only as time permits.

They can study this more on their own or consider making this part of future training.

Transition Option: ...are you 100% sure you will go to heaven?

(Optional or self-study material)

Other Lead-In Questions – You can use to start a spiritual conversation.

[Short optional Break – as appropriate]

Suggestion: Provide each participant a partially filled out WORKSHEET (see last page) It 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

****These questions will guide their conversation so they must be memorized!***

- **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 each of these will **become key 'concepts' or 'talking points'** to 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 the questions to help 'discover' insightful truths.

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*

Remember to **ask permission to share. Then begin to explain the Gospel.*

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

- Work through the questions provided (PowerPoint and handbook). Have participants jot down 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** (Question 1)
 - 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 (*love, acceptance, forgiveness, purpose, security, hope, etc.*)

- 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 now 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 – this is a broken world because we sin - yet God loves you and me (Q2)

perish – reminds us of hell, reserved for sinners ; 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*. (Q2)

***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. If not, you “perish” – apart from God forever. (Q4)

trust & faith – other words for ‘believe’ (Q5)

KEY TRUTH – Believing is 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> or 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... now and forever. (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 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 raising 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 have and 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>