

# Lifestyle Witnessing

## • Lesson Two •

### Seize Opportunities

1. Find opportunities unique to you
2. Make the most of your circumstances

## Worship

Read responsively 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Luke 4:18,19.

A: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,

**B: So that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

A: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

**B: He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we were once darkness, but you have made us light. Help us live as children of the light, especially among those who cannot see your glory. As you came to earth to give sight, use us to proclaim your gift. Bless our desire and our attempts to show the difference you have made. Open our eyes to the opportunities you give us to proclaim your favor. Amen.

## Witnessing Activity Report

Spend a few minutes talking about witnessing joys and frustrations, triumphs and failures.

## Introduction

From the time she was a child, she dreamed of treating people in a hospital. Finally, her dream comes true. Her excitement builds as she drives to the hospital for her first day of official duty. But an accident ahead stops traffic. She gets out of her car and sees mangled bodies but does nothing. She retreats to her car upset that she can't get to the hospital to practice medicine.

She had the training. She had the skills. She had a heart for people. She just didn't see the opportunity.

Ridiculous? Imagine this: A baby becomes a child of God through Baptism. That baby grows physically and spiritually. Maybe he even goes to a Lutheran school for 8, 12, 16, or 22 years. He's thankful for all God has done for him and wants others to have what he has. He's heard that evangelism is the mission of the church. He isn't sure how, but he knows he should somehow share his faith.

On Monday a coworker says at lunch, "I don't know what to tell my daughter about her grandpa's death. What would you say?" He winces, "That's a tough one. I'm not sure."

On Wednesday the person cutting his hair asks, "I'm not very religious, but it doesn't seem like prayer does any good. What do you think?" He replies, "Yeah, seems that way sometimes."

On Friday his racquetball opponent admits, "I sure can feel myself slowing down. Guess we can't go on forever, huh?" He replies, "No, guess we can't."

On Sunday the man says to his pastor, "When are we going to do some door-to-door canvassing? Isn't that what we're here for?"

Like the doctor, this man had the tools. He probably had the skills. He had a heart for people. He just didn't see the opportunities—because he didn't have a door to knock on. As the body of Christ, we work together to share God's love in Christ. Churches call it an evangelism program. As individual members of the body of Christ, we all have opportunities to share God's love. Let's call it personal evangelism. How can Christians, gifted with the Word, spread the gospel? Let's see.

## **Studying God's Word**

### **Find opportunities unique to you**

**Read 2 Kings 5:1-19.**

1. Consider this story. It all started with the witness of one little girl. How were each of these people affected by her witness? How did others have a chance to bear witness to their faith or be the recipients of someone else's witness?
  - The young Israelite girl
  - The girl's parents
  - Naaman's wife
  - Naaman
  - Naaman's servants

- Elisha
- The king of Israel

### His Word in My Life

Illness can provide the opportunity for witnessing. Talk about a time either your illness or someone else's illness gave you the opportunity to let your faith show.

Sometimes it seems as if children are the best teachers. If you have ever seen a child simply speak his or her faith, share that experience with the group.

Adults who receive the gift of faith may not respond with life changes as quickly as you'd like. Old habits and patterns of thinking may take time to break. The Word will do its work, but sometimes not quickly. Think of the problems this may cause and how you might respond to each.

*The Lord gives us various opportunities to witness. Some situations may be pleasant, and some may be unpleasant. But if we are looking, we'll see plenty of opportunities.*

### Make the most of your circumstances

Read Daniel 1:1-16.

1. How was Daniel's life in Babylon different from the life he had known in Jerusalem?
2. In a single word, how would you characterize Daniel's lifestyle witness?
3. In what ways was Daniel willing to compromise and change his life?
4. What was Daniel unwilling to compromise?

### His Word in My Life

What unique witnessing opportunities might you find if you move to a new neighborhood?

Daniel could have been obnoxious about his desire not to eat Babylonian food, but he wasn't. There was something winsome about his way with the Babylonian official in charge. How does the old adage "you'll attract more flies with honey than with vinegar" apply to our lifestyle witnessing?

Talk about a time you were willing to compromise your preferences in order to present a more attractive witness to someone. Or, if you prefer, talk about a time you wouldn't change because it would have meant compromising your faith.

*It shouldn't surprise us that God blesses our witness. God plans opportunities for each of us, wherever we are and in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.*

### Summary

One child of God meets hundreds of people each week. Another meets no one except the mail carrier. One crisscrosses the country. Another never leaves town. Yet all are witnesses to their Savior. Give some examples of how each by his or her lifestyle can give testimony to God's love in Christ.

### Life with God

- Day 1: Ask the Lord to make you more committed to a witnessing activity this week. Ask the Lord to help you see the opportunities.
- Day 2: Read Psalm 66. How did the psalmist demonstrate his faith?
- Day 3: Read Psalm 62. How do these words encourage you to witness?
- Day 4: Read Psalm 112. In what different settings does the writer remind us to witness?
- Day 5: Read Psalm 139. You were unique from the beginning!
- Day 6: Plan your witnessing activity report for the group.