

Lifestyle Witnessing

• Lesson Eight •

Speak the Gospel: It's Our Goal

1. Make it natural
2. Be prepared

Worship

Read responsively Psalm 9:1,2,9-11.

A: I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart;

B: I will tell of all your wonders.

A: I will be glad and rejoice in you;

B: I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

A: The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

B: Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

A: Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion;

B: Proclaim among the nations what he has done.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for filling us with a desire to tell others about the wonders you have performed and the refuge you provide in Christ. Let the joy you have given us overflow to the people who hear your Word from our lips. Amen.

Witnessing Activity Report

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

Introduction

There are no Christians where there have never been any. That might seem like an obvious statement, but it's a reminder that faith doesn't come by spontaneous generation. It comes when people hear the message. For anyone to hear the message, someone has to speak it. That someone is you.

We have seen how our whole lives become a demonstration of the Spirit who lives in us. Our lives are meant to attract attention, not to us but to God. Finally, God gives us opportunities to

speak his Word. Today we'll discuss what we might say. First, let's discuss how we can interject Christ into our conversations and then consider developing our own personal witnessing strategy.

Studying God's Word

Make it natural

Read John 4:10-15,25,26.

1. The woman had asked Jesus for a drink of water. They talked about drinking water. Then Jesus made the transition from earthly water to living water. What is living water?
2. How did Jesus direct the woman to himself in verses 10, 14, and 26?
3. At first, the woman didn't understand what Jesus was driving at. What lesson does this teach us about our witnessing?
4. Follow how the woman changed over the course of her conversation with Jesus. Read verses 11 and 12, then verse 15, and finally verse 25. What change do you notice?

His Word in My Life

Jesus found the setting at the well perfect for starting to talk to the woman about faith. What are some good situations in which it is easy for you to talk about your faith?

Your neighbor makes the following statements. How might you take the conversation in a Christ-centered direction?

"My kids are driving me crazy."

"How's your year going?"

"The doctor doesn't know what it is."

Many people have found it helpful to memorize two questions to help them learn more about a person and to introduce their witness.

- If you were to die tonight, do you know for sure where you would go?
- If God were to ask you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" what would you tell him?

What information are the questions designed to uncover?

How might a person's answer shape your witness to him or her?

The more we talk about our Savior, the more natural it will become, both to us and the people we're speaking with. Almost any subject can lead to a witnessing opportunity.

Be prepared

Read Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

1. Any talk about God's plan to save people must include the message of God's justice and God's love. How do these passages describe God's justice?

2. How does each describe God's love?

3. Use the words of Romans 6:23 to complete this outline:
 - A. We have a problem. It's . . .

 - B. We try to solve the problem by *doing* something, but God solves it by *giving* us . . .

4. Now use the words of 2 Corinthians 5:21 to complete the same outline.

His Word in My Life

A parent expresses an interest in sending a child to your Sunday school but has some questions. "First," she says, "what's this God thing all about anyway?" In less than one minute, how would you reply?

Share with the group any outlines or methods for witnessing you've used or heard of. Why might a memorized outline help you speak naturally about your faith in Jesus?

The following are some reasons people give as to why they don't speak about Christ. Are any of them yours? As a class, discuss how you might overcome these fears.

- I might say something wrong.
- Religion is too personal.
- People will think I'm weird.
- I'm too shy.
- Someone might ask a question I can't answer.

Our witness doesn't have to be a canned speech or a memorized presentation. We don't have to quote the Bible by chapter and verse. We simply prepare ourselves to express the reason for our hope and let God guide us as we turn conversations to what really matters.

Summary

To summarize this lesson and this course, share with the class how this study has helped you. Consider the following areas:

How I live and reflect my hope in Christ.

How I express my hope in words.

How I use God-given opportunities to give Christ to others.

Life with God

As you read the Scriptures this week, discover important truths for your witnessing.

- Day 1: Read Acts 18:1-11.
- Day 2: Read Matthew 18:19,20.
- Day 3: Read Romans chapter 12.
- Day 4: Read Matthew 5:14-16.
- Day 5: Read John 15:12-17.
- Day 6: Read 1 Corinthians chapter 2.