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Are You Ready?

Lesson 1

1) Place an "X" on the line below to mark how prepared you are to share your faith with someone else.

Totally
Ready

Possibly

No
Way

2) When you hear the word "evangelism" what other words come to mind?

3) Are the following statements true or false:

- Evangelism is for preachers and priests _____
- Evangelism is a thing of the past _____
- Evangelism is in the Bible _____
- Evangelism is not for every Christian _____
- Evangelism is lots of work _____
- People get mad when you evangelize to them _____
- I am not responsible for evangelism _____
- I don't even know what evangelism is _____

4) According to the American Heritage Dictionary, here is the definition of evangelism. Rewrite the definition in your own words.

Evangelism: "Zealous preaching and dissemination of the gospel, as through missionary work."

5) Read **Matthew 28:18-20**. This passage is generally referred to as “the Great Commission”. What is Jesus telling his disciples to do?

How does this apply to us?

6) List some things that scare you about sharing your faith with others:

7) What are some things we can do to overcome these fears?

Fear

Possible way to overcome this fear

8) If someone were to walk up to you right now and ask you, “Why are you a Christian?” What would your answer be?

9) Take time to develop an answer. Here are a few guidelines:

- It should include what life was like before Christ was in your heart.
- It should include what life is like with Christ
- It should include why you remain a Christian
- It should not be longer than 5 minutes
- It should not include the “steps to become saved”

What was life like before you were a Christian?

What is it like now that you are a Christian?

Why do you stay a Christian?

Form partners with someone in your youth group and practice sharing this information. Try to memorize it if you can. Switch partners and try again with someone new.

It Doesn't Have To Be Quite So Hard

Lesson 2

Read **Colossians 4:2-6**

1) What are the first three verses talking about?

2) What are the last two verses talking about?

Prayer is talking to God about people.
Evangelism is talking to people about God.

3) What three “prayers” are described in the passage above?

a)

b)

c)

4) According to verses 5 and 6 there are two “behaviors” we should have towards non Christians. What are they?

a)

b)

5) If we constantly make every conversation end up talking about God is that good evangelism or a good way to lose friends? Explain your answer.

6) According to Paul's passage is evangelism about saying certain things or living a certain way? Explain your answer.

Our motive must never be to win a battle or prove ourselves right, but rather to live out a life of genuine, sacrificial love. We are called by God to serve people, not to argue with them.

7) According to verse 6 how should we answer someone?

8) Do we need to know what we are going to say?

9) Should we be prepared to preach to someone for 30 minutes? Why or why not?

10) How can we be prepared to give answers to those that talk to us?

11) What habits will you start to develop this week based on this lesson?

a) In prayer?

b) In preparation to share?

Problems And Solutions

Lesson 3

There are two difficult problems that face us as we attempt to share our faith with others:

- 1) Those we want to speak to aren't really interested because they all ready have beliefs of their own.
- 2) We don't really know what we want or need to say.

This lesson will focus on the answer to problem 2. We can't share the good news if we don't know or understand what it is.

1) Write down your definition of the word "salvation":

2) What is gravity?

The basic laws of gravity exist whether we want to believe they do or not. If we choose not believe in gravity that does not mean gravity will cease to exist or that it's laws will cease to exist. I can choose not to believe in gravity, but if I step off a roof top what will happen? Will I just float there because I don't believe I will fall? Not at all. And depending on the height of the roof top that could be a very hard lesson to learn.

God and his laws are a lot like gravity. You may not see God (or gravity) but God's laws are still there and in effect. When we break them we have to suffer the consequences. There is always pain. Sometimes the pain is immediate, and sometimes it does not happen for weeks, months or even years.

3) What are God's laws?

4) Read **Exodus 20:1-17**. Re-write each law in your own words.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

Laws 1-4 have to do with the way we act toward God. Laws 5-10 have to do with the way we act toward other people. Do you think any of these laws are difficult to keep? If yes, what makes them hard to keep?

- 5) Is it a big deal if we break any of these laws? Explain your answer.
- 6) What do you think will happen to us if we break any of these laws?
- 7) What is it called when we break one of these laws?
- 8) Read **Romans 6:23**. What does the Bible say will happen if we break one of these laws?

How long does this punishment last?

- 9) Now we know about God's laws and what happens if we break them. Besides Jesus, can you name anyone that has not broken any of God's laws? (or sinned as we call it)
- 10) Read **Romans 3:23**. Who does the Bible say has sinned?

We have learned what God's laws are and who has broken those laws. All we need to know now is how to escape punishment. Go back to question 1 and share your definition of salvation again.

The word "salvation" just means "saved".

- 11) How do you treat people when they constantly break your personal "rules of friendship"? You know the kind of stuff I mean, they talk about you behind your back, gossip about you, say they like you when you are around or when they want something from you but when you're gone they swear about you and put you down, or even worse, they don't even acknowledge that you exist. They treat you like a "nobody" or as if they don't even know you.

It's the same way with us and God. We have broken God's laws (God's rules of friendship) and, although he wants to be friends with us, he just can't stand to have us around while we are acting like that. It hurts his feelings. (Don't misunderstand things here. God loves all of us. He always wants us around. It's our actions that he does not like. He loves us.)

12) Read **John 3:16-18**. How do we get salvation?

Humans have a free will - we can pick what we want to do and don't want to do. If we choose not to accept Jesus what will happen to us?

Later, in another lesson, we will learn how to lead someone to Christ. This chapter is just to teach you fact that everyone has sinned and needs to be saved and try to make it simple for when you share the need for God with your friends. There is certainly a lot more that can be learned from the Bible about sin, its consequences, and what God is doing to help save us from sin. Actually - that is what the Bible is all about... It's the story of God and how he is trying to help us be his best friend.

Here is the simple message:

- 1 - God has Laws. (rules of friendship)
- 2 - There is sin in the world and sin is bad.
- 3 - Everyone has sinned (broken God's rules of friendship) and will receive death. (eternal punishment)
- 4 - God has provided a way for us to receive eternal life.
- 5 - We must choose Jesus as our savior and turn from our sinful life to receive eternal life with God. (and remove the punishment of death)

It would be very helpful to you if you memorized the following 3 verses:

We all have sinned - **Romans 3:23**.

We all will be punished by death - **Romans 6:23**.

God provided a way to remove that punishment - **John 3:16**.

Adoption And Childcare

Lesson 4

- 1) Can you remember the day you decided to ask Jesus into your life as your personal Lord and Savior? What were the events that lead up to that decision? (Were you at camp, church, alone in your room or somewhere else? What made you finally want God in your life?)

- 2) List one or two people that have had a significant impact on your decision to become a Christian. What was it about each person that had an effect on you?

- 3) Do you have any of those qualities? Do you have any different qualities that might make a person interested in being a Christian? List them below.

If a person comes to you and asks you to help them become a Christian (or a better Christian) then you have probably had a significant impact on their life. There are many versions of the “sinners prayer” or a prayer that is said to accept God into your life. A simple one has been listed below. It is a simple prayer that you can ask your friend to repeat, one line at a time, after you as you say it. (I would suggest that you have this, or something similar, memorized)

Dear Jesus:

Thank You for the sacrifice You made for me.

Please forgive me for all of my past sins.

I repent of these actions, and with Your help, I will change and not repeat them again.

I know I am not worthy; but, I willingly accept You as my Lord and my Savior, and I thank You for Your blessings over my family and me.

Amen

Now, your friend is a Christian, too. Be happy and rejoice with them. **They are now a child of God. They have been adopted into God's family!** The article "Dealing with post camp depression" will explain a little more about the emotions your friend may go through. The article is at the end of the packet. Next, you'll need to get your friend involved in a church.

4) What is it that you like best about your church and youth group? List at least three things - it can be people, activities, parts of worship or anything.

Share these things about your church with your friend. Ask them what would get them to be excited to be part of a church. Then, help them find a church... the first two recommendations are the easiest:

1) Recommend your church

2) Recommend a church that may have been in their family in the past. Make sure that it is a Christian church and not a cult church. Your youth pastor or senior pastor can help you there if you're not sure.

The third type of church you would recommend would take a little work. Take those things that your friend said would make them excited to be part of a church. Now, look for a church in your area that can meet those needs (even

if it is not your church). Again, you may need the help of your youth pastor or senior pastor to find a church that will best fit your friend's needs. The fact that you are willing to be a part of this process will mean a lot to your friend.

Lastly you'll need to check up on your friend from time to time to see how they are doing spiritually.

- 5) What do you do to stay accountable as a Christian? In case you are not sure what types of things can help you stay accountable - here are a few: Sunday School, Youth Group, Prayer Partners, Accountability Partners, Bible Studies. You may even have other programs you are a part of. List the one that works for you the best:

(If you don't belong to any of these things this might be a good time for you to get involved as well) My suggestion is to get an "accountability partner". That is someone you can trust to share your deepest needs, hurts, weaknesses, and joys with. You would meet on a regular basis. It could be weekly, every two weeks, monthly - whatever works out for you two. You meet to talk about what God is doing in your life, how you are doing, personally, as a Christian, and you pray for each other. Sometime people read the Bible and do other things - but basically it is just having another Christian to check in with. It may just be a 15 minute phone call once a week.

- 6) Do you have an accountability partner? If yes, what has that experience been like for you? Share it with the rest of the class.

If no, would you like one? This would be a good time to get a partner. If you need help setting up accountability partners talk to your youth pastor or pastor.

Reference Material

Primary Resources:

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult* (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1997) Chapter 1 was used largely to help create lesson 2.

Duffy Robbins, *Have I Got News For You* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1993) Chapter 1 was used to help create lesson 3.

Secondary Resources:

Dennis McLuen, *Volunteer Youth Worker Training Course* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1994)

Doug Fields, *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry* (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998)

N.J. and Mark Elliot Lindquist, *The New You - Welcome To Your Changed Life* (High Impact Publishing, Glendale, Arizona, 2000)

The Sinner's Prayer (<http://www.alaskrafts.com/sp.htm> - as of October 2003)

Definitions of words (<http://dictionary.reference.com/> - as of October 2003)