

LESSON 15: WITNESSING

GREAT COMMISSION

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- ▶ What is your responsibility as a Christian when it comes to witnessing?

If you do not have someone in your life that you are disciplining, then you are not living out what Christ wants you to live. You are responsible for sharing Christ with the people God has placed in your life.

Witnessing to someone can be scary. That is why we will discuss some objectives and principles that can be used when sharing the Gospel.

PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING

First off, you do not need to understand the Kenosis theory or the incarnation of Jesus to be able to share your faith. What they do need to understand is the difference between the lost person and the saved person.

1. Start out with God loves them. John 3:16 is a great place to start because the focus is on God and His love. Romans 5:8 focuses on sin and should be used later. You want to start with God's love for them.
 - a. **John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 3:16**
2. Stress that everyone has sinned. Sin violates God and not them. Sin is anything that violates God. It is important to bring up both of these points so that they will understand that they are not comparing themselves to others. It does not matter how you compare to others when it comes to sin, but how you compare to God when it comes to holiness.
 - a. **Romans 3:23**
3. Any problem you have can be cured by God. Stress these three things: death, eternal life, redemption of the victory. Death is not a ceasing to exist, but separation from God. It is important to emphasize that you will exist either connected with God or separated from God. The payment for sin is death, but Jesus took that payment for us on the cross.
 - a. **Romans 6:23 and Genesis 2:15-17**
4. Explain to them the blood of Jesus Christ and the need to trust Him and receive the gift of salvation. Grace is a gift from God and not a result of works. To receive salvation, you must believe that Jesus' blood pays the debt for your sin. Next, you should say with your mouth to God that you believe, accept, and want to ask Christ into your life.
 - a. **Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Romans 10:9-13**

SUMMARY OF WITNESSING

1. Tell them God loves them
2. They need to know that their sin violates God
3. Jesus Christ took their place on the cross
4. His blood is the payment for their sin
5. They now have the choice to accept or reject this

Repentance is an essential aspect of salvation. If they do not understand that their sin violates God, they will not understand the need for repentance. You have to be repentant to be saved. It is important to emphasize that sin violates God and cannot be ignored by God. If you receive His salvation, then your life will change. God's holiness comes in, the Holy Spirit indwells you, and you have repentance and forgiveness.

Read John 16:8-11

- ▶ What does this passage say about witnessing and salvation?

You cannot force anyone into salvation or make the decision for them. You present the Gospel and allow the Holy Spirit to convict them.

When dealing with young children, it is important that the Holy Spirit is the one convicting. It is a good idea to put the child off for a while. If the conviction is genuine, your child will continue to press you about salvation.

It is important not to argue but to answer questions. Your responsibility is to present the truth in love. It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convict people.

COMMON QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. *"The Bible is full of errors"*- A simple response is to ask them for an example. Most non-Christians cannot answer. Some Christians who read the Bible may be able to come up with some passages that are difficult to understand.
2. *"I don't want to be saved because there are too many hypocrites in the church."* Don't try to say that there are not hypocrites in the church. Jesus says that the enemy will sow tares among the wheat. You are going to have lost people who go to church and talk about Jesus. **John 2:23-25** talks about people that said they trusted Jesus, but Jesus did not trust them. One response you can use is "Yes there are hypocrites in the church. But I would rather spend a few years with them here than an eternity with them there."
3. *"I think that Jesus was a good man, but I don't know about what you are saying."* If this occurs, you need to tell them that is not an option and read them 2 verses: John 5:22-23 and John 14:9. Jesus is God, so if you believe in one, then you believe in the other. Jesus

equates the reverence that is given to God should also be given to Him. Therefore, Jesus was either a good man and lied about being God, or He is who He says He is.

4. *“With all the evil in the world, I have trouble believing God is good”* **Revelation 21:22** says that God does not like this world either. It is broken, but one of these days He will fix it. **Psalm 56:8**, God keeps every tear you cry because He hates what you are going through. He wants to be able to reward you for all the pain you went through in this broken world. God wants to fix this world, but He is waiting on people to decide what they are going to do with Him (**2 Peter 3:9**).
5. *“I don’t buy all that creation stuff; I think that we just evolved.”* You can respond with two statements: I am not going to argue scientific things, and I am not going to argue the anthropic principle or the law of human existence or entropy. You can even bring them to the point that if they believe they are a product of chance, then they have no real purpose or meaning in life. Make sure that you bring it back to the point that they have purpose and significance to God.

CONCLUSION

When was the last time you shared Christ with someone? Are there people in your life that you have felt from time to time you need to talk to about Christ but haven’t? I challenge you to go home and pray, “Holy Spirit, I don’t believe that there are lost people in my life by accident. Over the next week, give me the names of the people, in my life, with whom I need to share my faith.

All you have to do is present these four main aspects of salvation and Scriptures to back it up...

- God loves you
- You are broken, and we are both in this problem
- Jesus fixes that problem
- If I ask, He will come in and make it real in my life

Don’t try to fix them or convince them they need salvation. Present the truth and allow the Holy Spirit to work in their heart.

Be careful that you are not judging anyone when you witness. Someone may claim to know Christ, but the fruit of their life does not reflect that. Simply go to them with the verses about fruit and tell them what you see and suggest that they look into their own life.

Titus 1:16, Matthew 7:16, Matthew 12:33, Luke 6:43, John 15:5, and Colossians 1:10

Pray that the Lord will bring conviction into the lives those you know who are lost. That is the only way to salvation.