

Lesson 1. Introduction to the Module and Witnessing Guidelines

Introduction:

This class period will be spent in giving a brief overview of the module and some guidelines that are important to follow when witnessing.

Importance:

It is important for the students to see the overview of the module in order to understand the basic components of different evangelism methods and how they can be used to witness. Also, before they delve into the material, it is necessary for the students to begin with the right motivations, attitudes, and principles about witnessing.

Goals:

Through the study of this lesson, the students will:

1. Be able to state the three kinds of witnessing presentations which will be studied in this module, plus the five basic Gospel points which are used in witnessing.
2. Have an understanding of the correct motivation and attitudes about witnessing.

Outline:

Introduction to the Module

1. Explanation of the Contents of the Module
2. Importance of the Module
3. Outline of the Module
4. Use of Bible Verses in the Module
5. Brief Explanation of the Appendix (found in the student's book)

Witnessing Guidelines

Teaching the Class Session:

Introduction to the Module:

1. Explanation of the Table of Contents including the Five Basic Gospel Points

1. To begin with, we want to look at the overall content of this module which is called PRACTICAL EVANGELISM. The entire module is based on five basic Gospel points. The next 7 lessons will be used to give a detailed explanation of these Gospel points.
2. Look in your textbook at the ► **Table of Contents** (page 1) and find the titles of the first 8 lessons.
 - 1) Which lessons are used to teach Gospel Points # 1, # 2, # 3, and # 4? [Lessons 2, 3, 4, and 5] How many lessons are used for each point? [one lesson for each point]
 - 2) Gospel Point # 5 is Growth. Which three lessons are used to teach this Gospel point? [Lessons 6, 7, and 8]
3. In the subsequent lessons, different ways of explaining each of the five points will be introduced.
 - 1) These will provide many rich resources from which to draw when witnessing.
 - a. Some scholars say that a teacher should know at least ten times more than he teaches.

- b. Though you may not actually know ten times more than you share, yet it is important to have a wide variety of methods and examples to use when sharing the precious Gospel of salvation.
- 2) It is important to have many ways of explaining the Gospel because the people to whom you witness are of different ages and backgrounds. It is imperative that you consider the person to whom you are speaking.
- a. Some may be uneducated and not know how to read or write. Others might have much education and have many questions.
 - b. Some are happy to know just the basics, whereas others want to know everything in great detail.
 - c. The experience of your listeners will also vary. For different people, you will have to dwell on different points in greater depth.

2. Importance of the Module

Christian leaders must know how to express the message of salvation in a clear, organized manner to both Christians and non-Christians. Why? [Possible answers:

1. [Non-Christians need to hear a clear message of salvation to which they can relate.]
2. [Christians follow their leader's example in how they give the message of salvation.]

Let us look at Lesson 1, ► **Importance of the Module** (page 2). Let us read this together and fill in the blank.

Answer:

Christians

3. Outline of the Module

In this module, we will be learning three major kinds of Gospel Presentations. Look at the outline of the module found in Lesson 1, ► **2. Outline of the Module** (page 2).

1. Introduction
 - 1) Number 1 of the **Outline of the Module** says, "Detailed Explanation of the Five Basic Gospel Points." What are these five Gospel points listed there? [love, sin, substitution, belief/baptism, growth]
 - 2) Number 2 says, "First Type of Gospel Presentation." It is called the Complete Gospel Presentation.
 - 3) Number 3 says, "Second Type of Gospel Presentation." What is this second type called? [Short Gospel Presentation].
 - 4) Now look at Number 4. What is the third type of Gospel presentation taught in this module? [Lifestyle Gospel Presentation]

Now let us look at Numbers 2, 3, and 4 in more detail.
2. Number 2 is the Complete Gospel Presentation.
 - 1) In this presentation, how many points are included in the content each time? [five]
 - 2) Name again the five points. [love, sin, substitution, belief/baptism, growth]
 - 3) This kind of presentation should be used when a person has time and wants to hear the whole message.
 - 4) How many methods of this Complete Gospel Presentation are taught in this module? [five]
 - 5) What are the names of these methods? [Five Word Method, Wordless Book, Gospel Octopus, The Sweep of the Divine Plan, Romans Method]

3. Number 3 is the Short Gospel Presentation.
 - 1) In this presentation, not all of the five Gospel points are used.
 - 2) This method is used when a person may not want to hear a long Gospel presentation, but is willing to listen to a shorter version.
 - 3) How many methods of this Short Gospel Presentation are taught in this module? [three]
 - 4) What are the names of these methods? [God Loves You, One Bible Verse Method, Our God is Compassionate]

4. Number 4 is the Lifestyle Gospel Presentation.
 - 1) Though we might not sit down and talk with someone about the Lord in detail, there are many ways we can consciously take the initiative in being a witness to non-believers.
 - 2) These ways can be used in one's own home and daily life.
 - 3) How many methods of this Lifestyle Gospel Presentation are taught in this module? [four]
 - 4) What are the names of these methods? [Daily Life Conversation, Mealtime Prayers, Children's Witness, Special Occasion Witnessing]

Review:

Let us continue looking at our books at Lesson 1, ► **Introduction to the Three Major Kinds of Gospel Presentations** (page__). [Teaching note: Have one of the students read from the text and fill in the blanks.] In the future such exercises will be assigned for you to do for homework.

Answer:

Gospel, love

4. Use of Bible Verses in the Module

In this module, many Bible verses or parts of Bible verses are used to explain the Gospel.

1. It is not the purpose of this module to explain the whole Bible verse each time.
 - 1) Sometimes just part of the verse is used to show that what we are saying is from the Word of God.
 - 2) When only the first or last part of a verse is to be read, the text reference uses “a” (上) or “b” (下) to indicate which part of the verse is to be read. The “a” (上) means the first part of the verse and the “b” (下) means the last part of the verse. Thus if the reference is written Jn 3:16a (Jn 3:16 上) that means that just the first part of the 16th verse should be read. If it says Jn 3:16b (Jn 3:16 下), it refers just to the last half of the 16th verse.

2. Remember that the verse divisions and numbers were not included in the Bible until 1560.

3. Jesus and the apostles often quoted a phrase of the Old Testament to make a point.

5. Brief Explanation of the Appendix

Let us turn to the first page of the appendix located in the back of your books, ► **Appendix**, page__). We will start to use the appendix for the first time when we study Lesson 7. It is important that these materials should be preserved so all the pages remain clean and ready to Xerox. This means that you should not mark or write on any of the pages in the appendix.

Witnessing Guidelines

1. Always be ready to witness.

1Pe 3:15 According to this passage, when should we be prepared to witness? [always]

1. We should always be prepared with a message.
 - 1) Ac 7:2 Here a layman who was a deacon at the church in Jerusalem began to preach a long and well-organized sermon. What was his name? [Stephen]
 - 2) Glance at the rest of the chapter and tell what verses contain the sermon that he preached. [Ac 7:2-53]
 - 3) What did Stephen know very well? [the Word of God] He spoke the Word of God in an organized and clear manner.
 - 4) Thus, from Stephen's sermon, what two things do we see that are important when telling someone about the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - a. [to know the Word well]
 - b. [to be able to speak the Word of God clearly]
2. We should be ready to witness anytime and at the convenience of others.
 - 1) Jesus gave us a good example of how we should always be ready to witness, no matter how we feel.
 - a. Jn 4:7 With whom did Jesus talk for a long time? [the Samaritan woman]
 - b. Jn 4:6 How was Jesus feeling when He witnessed to the Samaritan woman? [He was wearied with His journey.]
 - a) In Jn 4, what verses tell of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman? [verses 7-26]
 - b) Was Jesus more concerned about His own weariness or about the woman's need to hear the Gospel? [the woman's need to hear the Gospel]
 - 2) 2Ti 4:2a From this verse when should we be ready to witness? [in season and out of season, that is--no matter what our situation.]

2. Do not be selective about the persons to whom you witness.

1. Jn 4:9 Jesus shows us by example that we should not be selective, but be willing to talk with anyone about His love for them. Let us look at this example.
 - 1) In Jesus' day, the Samaritans and Jews were enemies.
 - 2) What nationality was Jesus? [a Jew] What nationality was the woman? [a Samaritan]
 - 3) Was He still willing to talk with this Samaritan? [yes]
 - 4) Did Jesus want the Samaritan woman to be saved? [yes]
2. 1Tim 2:4 What people does God want to be saved? [He wants everyone to be saved.]
3. What kind of special people should be included in those to whom we should witness? [Possible answers: a loner, our enemies, people who are mentally slow, blind, uneducated, lame, elderly, etc.]

3. When witnessing, neither be discouraged nor proud.

1. Discouragement

‡Isa 55:11 What does God promise? [His word will accomplish the purpose for which God sent it.]

- 1) Do we always see those results right away? [no]
- 2) Should we be discouraged when we do not see results? [no] Why not? [because God will in due time accomplish what He sent His Word to do]

2. Pride

- 1) We are just instruments of God to proclaim His Gospel to others. ‡Jn 4:37-38
 - a. What does it mean to sow? [to tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ]
 - b. What does it mean to reap? [to be part of the experience of talking with someone when he comes to believe and wants to be baptized]
 - c. Who is more important—the sower or the reaper? [They are both equally important.]
- 2) It is the Holy Spirit Who gives us the Word of God to share with others. ‡Jn 14:26 Who teaches and reminds us what to say when we witness? [the Holy Spirit] We cannot take credit for saying just the right words or having a convincing personality that persuades people to believe.
- 3) When someone comes to Christ, is it usually just one Christian who did all the witnessing and can be proud of all his effort? [no] Why not? [Often the Holy Spirit leads many people to be involved in someone's coming to believe in Christ.] What parts might different people have had in leading a person to Christ? [Possible answers:
 - a. [prayed for him]
 - b. [brought him to church]
 - c. [gave him a Bible or Christian literature]
 - d. [introduced him to someone who could tell him clearly about Christ]
 - e. [witnessed personally to him]
 - f. [preached a sermon that he heard]

4. Have the right motivation for witnessing.

1. ‡Mt 18:12-14 Why did the shepherd go after the one sheep? [He loved it and did not want it to perish.]
2. ‡Ro 5:5 Why do we go after people and want them to be saved? [because God's love fills our hearts so that we love others and want them to be saved]
 - 1) If we find a place where goods are given out freely, don't we tell those whom we love about it in order that they can receive the free goods as well? [yes]
 - 2) In the same way, isn't it natural that we want to tell everyone about the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord? [yes]

[Teaching note: At the end of this lesson, there are some extra materials regarding wrong motivations. If there is time, you may also teach those materials.]

5. It is a joy to witness!!!

1. ‡Ac 13:48-52

- 1) What two people were being persecuted in Antioch? [Paul and Barnabas]

2) Were they still joyful? [yes] Why? [because the Word of God was spread throughout the region]

2. **Lk 15:6, 9, 23-24**

- 1) What three things were lost and found again? [the sheep, the coin, the son]
- 2) What was the reaction when they were found? [great joy and rejoicing]

3. **Lk 15:10**

- 1) Where is there joy when a sinner repents? [before the angels in heaven]
- 2) How do we naturally feel when we have a part in seeing a person come to Christ? [happy]

6. Be sure of your own salvation.

1. **Mk 16:16**

- 1) What is necessary for the person witnessing to have done or to plan to do before he proclaims the Gospel? [be baptized]
- 2) If the witness is not baptized and does not plan to be baptized, what will the listener think about baptism? [He will consider baptism unimportant.]

2. **1Jn 5:13** What must a Christian know about his own salvation before he witnesses to others? [that he, himself, has eternal life and is saved] If the person himself is not confident of his own salvation, can he lead someone else to be confident of his salvation? [no]

7. Be in a right relationship with Christ.

A Christian has a close relationship with Christ through the Word and the Sacraments.

1. How do we spend time with Jesus? [Possible answers: individual and group Bible sharing, prayer, and worship; receiving Holy Communion regularly]
2. If we do not want to tell others about Christ, what should we do? [spend more time getting close to Him]
 - 1) **Jn 4:28-29** After the Samaritan woman had been talking with Jesus for a long time, what did she naturally do? [went out and told others about Him]
 - 2) If we spend time with Jesus like the woman did, what is it natural for us to do? [tell others about Him]

8. Have good Christian character and behavior.

1. Good character **Gal 5:22-23** What does the Holy Spirit work in us as we spend time with the Lord Jesus? [the fruit of the Spirit--That includes the qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.]
2. Good works **Mt 5:16** What does this verse say that we as Christians should have in our lives? [good works] Who should get the glory for our good works? [the Father]
3. Not walking in darkness **1Jn 1:6-7** If you are walking in darkness, that is living in blatant sin, why is it difficult to witness to someone? [Because your words and actions do not match, and so it will be difficult for people to believe what you are saying]

Conclusion: To Whom Should You Witness?

1. Let us turn to Lesson 1, ► **Conclusion: To Whom Should You Witness?** (page___) and read the first paragraph together.
2. Now take a few minutes to think of a person (or persons) whom God brings to your mind. Write the name(s) in the blank, pray for them, and plan on how you might witness to them.
3. [Teaching note: Give the students a few minutes to fill in the blanks. Afterwards, tell them that they should continue using this paper to fill in more names of people as God brings them to mind.]

Homework Assignments:

Let us read the homework assignment together from Lesson 1, ► **Homework Assignments** (page___). This time you do not need to hand in anything, but you should be ready to respond orally in class.

[Teaching note: The blanks that the students filled in should be checked in class next time. The answers are below.]

Answers for Lesson 1

Witnessing Guidelines (page___)

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|--|
| <p>1. prepared, tired 2. woman, all 3. void, Holy Spirit 4. love
5. rejoicing 6. baptized, saved 7. Jesus 8. Spirit, sin</p> |
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[Teaching note: Here are some extra materials which are related to **Witnessing Guidelines, 4. Have the right motivation for witnessing.** If there is time, these materials regarding wrong motivations may also be taught as well.]

1. Why are the following motivations wrong? Use the Bible passages to answer.
 - 1) We want to receive rewards in heaven. ¶2Co 5:14-15 [This is a wrong motivation because it is the love of God that should control us, not our own selfish desire for rewards.]
 - 2) We are afraid that some day we will have to stand before the judgment throne of God and be embarrassed that we have not witnessed to very many people.
 - a. ¶Mt 25:31-36 When Jesus speaks of separating the sheep from the goats at the last judgment, does He mention the sins of the sheep (Christians)? [no] He only brings up the sins of the goats (the non-Christians). On Judgment Day God does not mention our sins.
 - b. ¶Isa 43:25b, Heb. 8:12b, 10:17 According to these verses, what has God decided not to do? [not to remember your sins 不纪念你的罪恶] This does not mean that He forgets and thus might remember again, but He actively decides not to remember them anymore.
 - c. At Judgment Day does God bring out in the open all the sins we ever committed? [no--He has decided to remember them no more.]
 - d. Thus should we fear to stand before the judgment throne? [no]

- e. Name two reasons why it is wrong to witness for fear of standing before God's judgment seat?
 - a) [God will not bring up our sins to us again. They are all remembered no more.]
 - b) [It is selfish to witness for fear of punishment.]

- 2. In summary, we should not witness because of selfish motivations, such as wanting to receive rewards in heaven, or being afraid of standing before the judgment seat of God and being embarrassed that we have not witnessed to many people. It is the love of God that moves us to witness, not our selfish hope of reward or fear of punishment (2Co 5:14-15). And it is important to keep in mind that God does not remember our sins. At Judgment Day He will not bring it up to us that we did not witness to someone (Mt 25:31-36, Isa 43:25).