

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Lesson Plan

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes, including objective)

- Christ tells us to “... make disciples of all nations.” (Mat 28:19). Discipleship begins when someone turns to Christ or is evangelized.
- Leading people to a saving faith in Christ is a core function of an MCF
- Personal evangelism is a joint work of God and man.
- There are many different methods of leading someone to Christ. This lesson will introduce the principles and illustrate just 3 methods
- Prayer is an essential component of all evangelism.

OBJECTIVE By the end of this presentation, each of you should be able to do the following:

- Define evangelism.
- State the 4 basic elements of the Gospel.
- Explain the gospel in your own words.
- Tell your own story of coming to faith.
- Pray with someone who wants to receive Christ into his or her life.

PRESENTATION (25 minutes)

A. Definition. Evangelism is a process which includes:

1. Telling someone about the Christian hope of eternal life provided by Jesus' death on the cross.
2. Part of the Great Commission from Christ (Matthew 28:19) that we are to “... make disciples of all nations, ...”.
3. A joint work between the evangelist and God. The evangelist may speak the words but the Holy Spirit convicts of the need to seek Christ.

B. The 4 basic elements of the Gospel are:

1. God's plan in Creation was, and is, to live in fellowship with humanity.
2. Humanity's disobedience and fall from grace came as we chose to go our own way rather than God's way.
3. Christ's atoning sacrifice is the only route that can bring us back into fellowship with God.
4. Choosing Christ as our Savior and asking Him into our lives restores us in fellowship with God.

C. Explaining the Gospel. One to one evangelism can be conducted in many ways and each must be tailored to meet the enquirer where he or she is. Three methods are below as illustrations:

1. Four Spiritual Laws (Abridged from booklet “The Four Spiritual Laws” produced by Campus Crusades for Christ and available from their National Director in most nations or from Military Ministry at email <paul.pettijohn@milmin.com>. Used by permission.)

- a. **Law 1** God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. (John 3:16 & 10:10)
 - b. **Law 2** Man is sinful and separated from God, thus he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. (Romans 3:23 & 6:23)
 - c. **Law 3** Jesus Christ is the only way man can reach God. He died for us. Through him you can know God and experience his love and plan for your life. He died and rose from the dead. (1Peter 3:18, Acts 1:3 & John 14:6)
 - d. **Law 4** We must each receive Jesus Christ as savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. We must receive Christ through faith. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8,9 & Revelation 3:20)
2. Roman Road. The Romans built straight roads without bend or deviation. They went up and down as the lie of the land dictated but still went straight to their destination. The good Christian life is a bit like this in that on their journey Christians will have to cope with ups and downs in life but God calls us to persevere and to keep going straight until we reach our destination – eternal life with him. The following compendium of verses in Romans tell the Gospel story in a straight forward way and is known as the Roman Road.
- a. **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - b. **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - c. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - d. **Romans 10:9,10** That is you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
3. God – Creator and Sustainer.
- a. God created the world and sustains it today. He alone is worthy to be the focal point of our lives. (Gen 1:1; 2:1)
 - b. Humanity, in choosing to be like God displaced him as the centre of our lives. (Gen 3) However, we can neither sustain our lives effectively nor eternally.
 - c. Jesus came from God and lived as man and as such provides the only bridge across the chasm between God and humanity. (John 1:12) He proved this by what he said and how he lived but ultimately how he died and rose again as the first to be resurrected.
 - d. We acknowledge God's rightful place at the centre of our lives when we accept Christ's work for us on the cross. (Romans 10:9, 10) With God at the centre of our lives we can trust that we will be sustained effectively and eternally
- D. Tell your own story in 4 parts to illustrate the Gospel message:
1. My Life before I was a Christian.
 2. How I realized I needed Jesus Christ.
 3. How I committed my life to Jesus.
 4. What it means to me now.

- E. Prayer of Commitment for someone who wants to invite Jesus Christ into his or her life:
Father God, I want to say sorry for my sins. For all those things I've ever said, done or thought that were wrong. I choose to turn from these things, I believe Jesus died to take my sins upon Himself so I could be free to know you. Right now, Jesus, I ask you to come and live inside me by filling me with your Holy Spirit, to change my life forever. Amen

PRACTICAL EXERCISE (15 minutes)

- A. Demonstrate telling someone the Gospel and your personal story using one of the methods in the Annex. It is best to use an assistant who has been primed to ask one or two questions of the type an enquirer might be expected to ask.
- B. Evaluate the exercise. Ask the class:
1. Were the 4 elements of the Gospel explained clearly?
 2. Was the personal story told in an appropriate way?
 3. Was the enquirer invited to pray the prayer of commitment?
 4. Were any questions dealt with helpfully and honestly?

SUMMARY (5 minutes)

- A. Personal evangelism is a joint work of God and man to lead someone to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- B. It is a core activity of MCF members.
- C. The 4 basic elements of the Gospel
1. God's plan in Creation.
 2. Humanity's disobedience and fall.
 3. Christ's atoning sacrifice.
 4. Choosing Christ.
- D. The Gospel can be conveyed in many ways.
- E. Telling your own story illustrates how the Gospel works.
- F. The prayer of commitment is the confirming act for the enquirer.

This lesson plan is for a period of 1 hour including a 10 minute break. It can be modified as desired.