

TRUTH
CENTERED
TRANSFORMATION

MODULE



EVANGELISM TEACHER GUIDE

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Before You Get Started

Preparing for Teaching a Lesson

1. Read through the **Teacher Guide** carefully, several times if possible. Highlight or make notes on the sides of the pages to remind yourself of important points.
2. Look at the **main ideas** for each lesson so you know what students should learn through the lesson.
3. Read all **scripture** passages ahead.
4. Check to see what **materials** are needed in each lesson and create the Visual Aids that are used in the lesson. You can choose to provide copies of the entire Student Guide to each Church to help them review and apply what they have learned. If you do not use the Student Guide, you can write verses and questions on a whiteboard or poster or write the verses on small pieces of paper for each group.
5. Make sure you are familiar with each **activity** in the lesson (role plays, games, visual aids). You can practice them with your family or friends.
6. Take time to **pray** for God to prepare the students, for the students to hear what God wants them to hear, and for Him to help you teach the materials. Remember that it is only through God's strength that we will see people changed.

Teacher Guide

1. **Key Ideas and Materials:** Each Lesson begins with this section.
 - a. **Key Ideas** - – These are the most important ideas that the students should clearly understand by the end of each lesson. At the end of the lesson take time to review and make sure the students understood these ideas.
 - b. **Materials** - The specific materials needed are listed for each lesson.
 - c. This Teacher Guide will indicate when to use these:
 - i. **STUDENT GUIDES** – will be labelled like this.
 - ii. **VISUAL AIDS** – will be labelled like this.
2. **Facilitator Instructions:** There are special instructions in the lesson to help you lead the training well. These are not meant to be shared with the students. Read these ahead so you are prepared to lead discussions and activities. Some questions will also have italicized answers to help you as a facilitator know what to draw out of the students. These are not the only good answers, just some good answers.

Visual Aids

The Visual Aids for this Module are in a separate document. Print and prepare them as indicated in the Visual Aids Contents page.

Student Guide

There are only a few Student Guide handouts for this module that are included at the end of the Teacher Guide. Make enough copies for the participants/groups as indicated below:

- Lesson 2: Writing My Testimony – make one copy for each participant
- Lesson 10: Obstacles and Tools Group Charts – make one copy of each chart and give one chart to each group.

Lesson 1: What is Evangelism?

Main Ideas

- Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.
- We are ALL called to evangelize.

Materials Needed

- None

Introduction: What is Evangelism?

The focus of this module is all about evangelism. Let's begin with a simple exercise.

- Please stand if you are an evangelist. *Make a point to count the number of people standing.*
- Please stand if you are a Christian. *Most, if not all, will stand. Make a point to count.*

Thank you. You may be seated.

It is clear that in our group here, many are Christians, but only a few are evangelists (*adjust this comment, if necessary, to reflect the reality of your group*).

Next, let's spend some time together thinking about what evangelism is.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (3-4 people)

Split the class into groups of 3-4 people.

In the next five minutes, prepare a one-sentence definition of evangelism. **Evangelism is.....**

REPORT BACK

Facilitator Instructions: Each group presents its definition to the class. As groups share, point out any common key ideas of sharing the gospel, speaking, doing acts of love, etc. This will help you to guide the group towards your SIMPLE definition below.

All of these are excellent explanations that have similar ideas. A simple definition that we will use together:

EVANGELISM IS <u>SHARING</u> THE GOOD NEWS OF <u>JESUS CHRIST</u> THROUGH OUR <u>WORDS</u> AND <u>ACTIONS</u>.

Facilitator Instructions: Read definition aloud and write it out clearly, underlining the key words underlined above.

GROUP ACTIVITY

We can remember this definition easily if we think about it in 4 parts:

- 1 – Evangelism is sharing
- 2 – the good news of Jesus Christ
- 3 – through our words
- 4 – and actions.

Facilitator Instructions: Split the class into four parts. Group 1 will be sharing, Group 2: Jesus Christ, Group 3: words, and Group 4: actions. When you point at each group, they stand and shout their word, then quickly sit back down. Do this in order a few times. Get faster and faster! For fun, you can point to groups out of order. Finish by repeating the whole definition together a final time.

Why is Evangelism Important?

Now that we've defined evangelism, we want to clarify why it's important! Does it matter? Is it necessary? Who should do it?

Let's find out what scripture tells us about evangelism.

Read 1 Timothy 2:4-6a.

"[God] **wants all people to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."

According to this scripture, we understand that evangelism is important because *God wants all people to be saved!*

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY – 4 groups

Facilitator Instructions: Assign each group a Scripture to read from the list below and discuss the question. After 5 minutes, groups present their scripture and answer in the order presented below. Suggested responses are listed after each verse.

What does this verse show us about why evangelism is important?

- **Acts 13:47**
"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that **you** may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."
(We are commanded to share with ALL!)
- **Mark 16:15**
"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
(We are told to go, it is for all.)
- **Psalms 105:1**
"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done."
(We are to proclaim His name!)
- **1 John 4:11-15**
"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen **and testify** that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God."
(God's love helps us to 'testify' that Jesus is the Son of God)

In these scriptures, we see clearly that we are commanded to tell and/or testify about our saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the following verses:

1. **John 3:16** – Here we see that Christ died so we can have a renewed relationship with Him.
 - What happens to those who have not followed Christ? *(Take a moment for people to think about the consequences of NOT following Christ, especially for those who we know and love.)*
 - Do we wish for this to happen to any of our family, friends or neighbors?
2. **Romans 10:13-15** Here we see that it is a beautiful privilege to BRING THE GOOD NEWS.

- How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?...

They cannot believe and be saved from eternal separation from God unless WE TELL THEM! ... It is a privilege and blessing to bring good news.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Reflect on the fact that **you were** invited to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because someone was obedient to the command to share the gospel with you! *(pause)*
- Think about this: you now have the privilege and responsibility to go and do the same for others! *(pause)*

Who Should Do Evangelism?

- Do you believe that YOU are called to use your words to communicate God’s message of salvation with others? *(Allow time for discussion.)*

Think again about the scriptures we just examined. Who were they written for? Only preachers, teachers or evangelists? No! They were written to all believers! They were written for us! If we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we are called to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through our words and actions! So, IF we believe, THEN we are called to be evangelists!

PRAY

Facilitator Instructions: *Take time to pray before moving on so that the Holy Spirit would change our hearts to believe that His Word is true: that we are each, indeed, called and commanded to share the good news of Jesus with our own words.*

Conclusion

Let’s remember what evangelism is:

Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

The act of evangelism is for ALL who believe to tell ALL of those who don’t yet believe!

The most loving thing we can do is to tell others that the God who made the world and everything in it loves them and is accessible to them because of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again!

Now that we understand that ALL believers are called to evangelize, let’s think back to the exercise we did at the beginning of the lesson. *(Remind the class how many people stood to say they were Christians and how many stood to say they were evangelists.)*

Now, let’s try it again:

- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, would you please stand up? *(Most, if not all, will stand.)*
- If you are (or if you should be) an Evangelist, please remain standing. *(ALL should remain standing!!)*

(Remain standing to Pray):

Let us pray a prayer of thanksgiving that someone told us about Christ’s ultimate “Act of Love,” and ask that we might be faithful to do the same for others.

Lesson 2: You Are an Evangelist!

Main Ideas

- We are ALL called to evangelize through our actions and our words!
- Evangelists should “be prepared.”
- Our personal testimony is a powerful tool of Evangelism.
- Practicing telling our story reminds us of God’s grace to save us and prepares us to tell others about Jesus.

Materials Needed

- Visual Aid – Introduction Role Play (make 2 copies – cut page in half)
- Student Guide (found at the end of the Teacher Guide) – Writing My Testimony—one copy per person
- Your testimony of how you came to know Christ

Introduction

LARGE GROUP ACITIVTY – ROLE PLAY

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AIDS:** Introduction Role Play and 3 volunteers and 1 cup or bottle. Two people are sick and one is VERY healthy and strong! It may be helpful to give them time to practice before the lesson starts.

(2 sick people talking)

Sick Person 1 – *(moaning looking very sick)* Oh, my body is so sick. I never have any energy these days.

Sick Person 2 – *(groaning, looking sick)* Yes, me too! I also feel sick ALL of the time. I wish I could find a cure so that I could be healthy and strong!

Sick Person 1 – Me too. But I don’t have time now. I need to get back to work... if I can.

(Sick Person 1 leaves / Healthy Person acting strong, healthy and energetic enters with a drink in hand)

Sick Person 2 – *(looking at Healthy Person)* Hello, I have noticed that you used to be sick, and now you have become healthy and strong.

Healthy Person – YES! I have found the cure to being sick! It is here in this special drink. If you drink this, you will feel healthy and strong. Would you like to have it as well?

Sick Person 2 – Oh, yes, please!

(Sick Person 2 takes a drink and becomes healthy and strong, thanks the Healthy Person. Healthy Person leaves stage. Sick Person 1 returns to see Sick Person 2 now healthy and strong.)

Sick Person 1 – Wow, you have changed! You look so healthy and strong!

Sick Person 2 – *(holding drink)* YES...I am! It is such a good feeling to be healthy and strong.

Sick Person 1 – I hope I can be healthy and strong some day.

Sick Person 2 – I will pray that you also will be healthy and strong soon. Well, I need to go. Now that I have so much energy, I need to prepare my field. Goodbye!

(Sick Person 2 leaves, drinking his new drink with a lot of energy. Sick Person 1 leaves moaning, still sick.)

- What did you notice in this role play?
- What was the difference between the Healthy Person who encountered the Sick Person 2, and the Sick Person 2 (who became healthy) and their encounter with Sick Person 1? *(Healthy Person offered to SHARE and Tell. Sick Person 2 did not Tell but kept the secret to themselves.)*
- How can Sick Person 1 ever become healthy and strong? *(Only if someone tells them and shares the drink.)*

We Are All Called to be Evangelists!

In our first lesson, we learned that the Bible makes it clear that if we believe in Jesus, we have the privilege and responsibility of sharing the “good news” with others.

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Perhaps you’ve never had the opportunity to declare that you believe in Jesus as your Savior. Let’s take this opportunity to do that by standing, saying our name, declaring that we believe, and stating that we are an evangelist. I’ll begin:

My name is _____. I believe in Jesus. I am an evangelist!

Facilitator Instructions: Invite all participants to stand one at a time and do the same.

Praise God! Be encouraged! Remember the promise that we read in 1 John 4:15: “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God!” Let’s pray and ask God that He would live in us and make us bold to testify to His good news!

Are You Prepared?

Now that you’ve realized you are called to be an evangelist, you may be wondering how to be one! Perhaps you feel like you need to be prepared. And you should be prepared! Hear these words from 1 Peter 3:15b:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

- What does this verse call us to do? (*Always be ready to tell others*)
- What does it mean “to give the reason for the hope that YOU have...”? (*To tell others about Jesus, because He IS our hope!*)

Some of you may feel nervous or think that you are not qualified to evangelize others. But this verse never says we need training first. It simply says to share “the hope that you have.” Be encouraged! You do not need any formal training! All you have to do is share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! There are many ways to do that.

One of the most powerful ways to give the reason for the hope that YOU have is to share YOUR own story. At one time, you chose to accept the gospel. Why? If you know why you chose to become a Christian, you may be more prepared “to give an answer” than you realize! Let’s spend some time thinking about the hope that YOU have...

How to Share Your Story

Sharing the story of how you became a Christian might be something you’ve never done before! That’s ok. You already know all that you need to know about your experience because it’s your experience, and that’s all the training you need! The following exercise will help you to “prepare your story/testimony.”

To make this easy, we can think about 3 stages of sharing our testimony.

We will think about our lives in 3 stages:

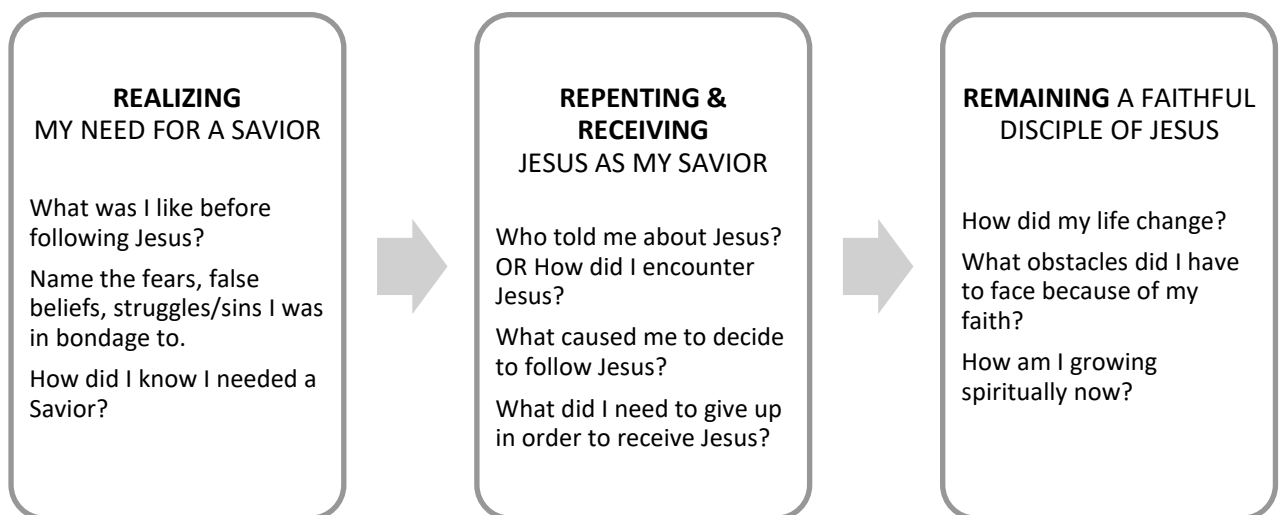
1. REALIZING my need for a Savior
2. REPENTING & RECEIVING Jesus as my Savior
3. REMAINING faithful to Jesus

LARGE GROUP DEMONSTRATION

Let me share my story with you.

Notice that when I tell my story, it isn't only how I received Jesus as my Savior. It is also important to share how I realized my need for Jesus as my Savior and how my life has changed and how I am continuing to grow.

Facilitator Instructions: Use the model above to share your own experience as an example. Walk to the far-right side of classroom. Answer the questions in the first box. Then take a step to the center of the room and answer the questions in the center box. Take another step to the far-left side of the room to answer the questions in the third box. The point is to demonstrate telling the simple order of how one's life was changed by Jesus from past to present. This exercise also lays the foundation for the Main Ideas that follow in Lesson 3.



INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY (10 min)

Now it's your turn! Take some time to consider these steps as they apply to your own life. Use this time to answer the questions on the **STUDENT GUIDE** for yourself in order to be prepared to share your story with others in the class in a few minutes.

Facilitator Instructions: Allow 10–15 minutes for individuals to prepare their testimonies using this exercise, or discuss in pairs for non-literate groups. If the group seems resistant to share their personal stories, this may be a time to pause and pray for open hearts. Remind them that this is **EXCITING** to remember and share how God rescued each of us! Praise God!!

Practicing is always a good way to become prepared! So, as we finish up the first lesson, we will practice sharing our stories with others in small groups.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (15–25 minutes)

Move into small groups of 2–3 and share your personal testimonies using the model above. This should only take 5-8 min per person.

Facilitator Instructions: Remind participants that their testimony does not have to be an overly detailed account of their experience. They may include details as they are comfortable, but they should be brief enough to allow all participants time to practice telling their own story.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- How did it feel to hear people's stories?
- How did it feel to share your own story? Was it difficult, or easy to share?

We are ALL called to share the truth that Jesus came to give us abundant life now and eternal life with Him forever. Our personal encounter of meeting Jesus is a powerful way to share this truth with others.

***Facilitator Instructions:** If time allows, invite participants to share their stories with the whole class until the end of the class time. You may want to ask if there are any particularly impactful stories that would be an encouragement for the entire class to hear. If so, ask if the person would be willing to share.*

Conclusion

Your story may be the encouragement someone needs to truly accept that their lives can be transformed by the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ! Be encouraged! God has equipped you with your own story to be used for His good purpose! Hear these words from Paul to the Philippians (2:12-13):

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

God gave you salvation, which you now continue to work out by growing in your faith, and God Himself works in you! Remember: your personal testimony belongs to Him! As with all things in our lives, our story can be used to glorify God and to “fulfill his good purpose.” Let us practice telling it so that it is ready and available to God to use as He chooses and so that we are always prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have in Jesus!

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Take time to think about who you can share your testimony with this week. You might want to practice one more time on your family. Or there might be a neighbor or someone else who comes to mind. Take a moment to think about who it could be.

Think about how you might start. It could be as simple as saying: This week in church we learned to share our testimony, and now we need to practice. Do you mind if I share my testimony with you?

WITH A PARTNER

Meet in pairs and share the names of the people that you are going to share with. Then pray for one another that God will help you to share your testimony with boldness and that He will prepare the heart of the person you are going to share with.

Lesson 3: Complete Evangelism

Main Ideas

- Evangelism is a process that causes others to:
 - **realize** their need for a Savior
 - **repent and receive** Jesus as the only Savior and Lord
 - **remain** faithful disciples of Jesus
- The four soils represent people's readiness to become Christ followers.
- Complete Evangelism results in faithful disciples, not just conversion.

Materials Needed

- Visual Aid – Role play: The Evangelist (Make 5 copies)
- Chart paper to record participant responses (see "Character Study" section)
- Ball (or something to toss if choosing "Option A" for group game)

Introduction

In the last lesson, we practiced sharing our own testimonies.

- Did anyone have the opportunity to share your testimony with someone else?
- What happened as you shared your testimony?

Facilitator Instructions – Encourage those who felt things went well. For those that didn't, remind them that God is able to use even our weak efforts. The apostle Paul also mentions (in 1 Corinthians 2:1, 3) that he thinks he shared with weakness and much trembling! Take time to pray for those who heard a testimony (or those we will share out testimony with this week), that God would use it to bring good fruit.

In this lesson, we are going to see how and why sharing about Jesus in actions and words does not always seem to produce the result we hope for: true believers and faithful disciples. I have invited an experienced evangelist here today to help us learn more...

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY – Role Play: The Evangelist

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AIDS:** Role Play: The Evangelist. You will need 5 volunteers for this role play. Before the lesson, give a copy of the script to each volunteer so that they have a chance to read through and rehearse. Ensure each person is in the correct place in the room for the role play to be acted out easily. Evangelist James and Farmer Peter will be in more role plays together later in this module.

Evangelist James: Hello, my name is Evangelist James (or participant's name) from Go-And-Tell Church. I love serving God and telling others about Jesus. I am definitely one of the best evangelists from my church and have some GREAT examples I can share with you!

In fact, a few weeks ago during one of my outreach services, one of my neighbors named Michael was passing by and heard me preach. What a success!! Michael became SO excited, he came forward and recognized his need for Christ. The next day he even came by the church and told me that he had not even been able to sleep that night because he was still so excited! Oh! Here he comes now. *(Michael stands/enters)*

Hello, Michael! I am so glad that you want to become a Christian. I was wondering if you would you like to come to church with me on Sunday?

Neighbor Michael: Hi, James. It's nice to see you. Uh, I don't think I can come to church with you.

Evangelist James: Why not?

Neighbor Michael: Well, when my family found out that I wanted to be a Christian, they became very angry, especially my mother. She was SOO upset! She said that if I didn't continue with our family religion and traditions, I would bring bad luck on everyone and we would ALL suffer. The neighbors would see how I have no respect for our family and we would be a disgrace in the whole community. I'm sorry, James. My family is right: I cannot disgrace my family and bring this trouble on them. I have to go... *(Michael exits)*

Evangelist James: I can't believe it!! He was so excited, and within a few days he has changed his mind?! This is so disappointing. At least my cousin Maria, who was converted several months ago, was baptized and is still a Christian. But now that I think of it, I have not seen her in church lately. Maybe I should go and see if something is wrong. *(He walks to other side of room and greets Maria).*

Hello, Maria! I have noticed that you have not been in church lately. Is something wrong?

Cousin Maria: Hello, James. Life has become so hard and busy these days—you know how it is sometimes. My son was sick and needed medicines and my husband has just bought a new bicycle, so we needed more money to pay our debt. We thought that if I worked at the shop on Sunday, we might be able to gain a lot more income, and we did!! And now we are planning to expand our shop to make even more money! Isn't that exciting?! I'm just so excited about how much money we will be making now—just think of what we will be able to buy! Maybe we'll be able to buy a motorcycle and build a bigger house and have more things. In fact, I'm glad you mentioned church! If you could tell the people at church that we are now selling fresh chicken eggs on Sunday, that would be great advertising! They can come and buy at our shop after the service on Sunday! Maybe we'll even set up a small stand right outside the gate!

Evangelist James: I'm glad to hear you have found some other sources of income, Maria! Praise God! But, if you are always working to earn more money, when do you think you will join us again for worship and Bible study?

Cousin Maria: Well, with our plans to grow the business, I know I'll be very busy for a while. Going to church was nice, but now I can see that money is the thing that is really going to make me happy. Well, I need to get back to the shop! Say hello to your wife for me! Goodbye. *(She hurries away...)*

Evangelist James: Wow!! What a shame. She was so faithful at first, always at every service; she even completed the baptism class and was baptized. Now it seems that she doesn't have time to even think about God and is only concerned about money!

I am not having a good day. It seems I'm not as good of an evangelist as I thought! I guess today is NOT the day to try to convince my mother-in-law to become a Christian...

Mother-in-law: *(from the back of the room...or outside the window in a loud voice)* I heard that, James!! Are you talking about me again? What makes you think you can convince me to become a Christian? You can't even seem to keep the converts you already convinced!! *(She laughs)*

Evangelist James: *(sighing)* Ah, you are here, mother-in-law. Yes, maybe evangelism is not as easy as I thought...

Mother-in-law: Like I told you, James, I allowed my daughter to marry you and become a Christian, but don't you try to convince me! If the two of you want to be Christians, that's good for you. You know that I believe ALL religions are the same anyway and teach people to do good deeds. So, stop wasting your time trying to convince me. You should have become a farmer like I told you. You would have more success with that *(She walks away shaking her head saying.... "He should have been a farmer...")*

Evangelist James: *(sitting down looking sad)* Maybe she is right. I am not good at this and I'm really not having good success. *(Looking up)* Lord, you know I want people to be saved and to give their lives to You. Please show me what it takes for my efforts to be successful!

Farmer Peter: *(walking past, sees James)* Hello, James! What's troubling you?

Evangelist James: Ah, Peter, my good friend! I am realizing that I am not a very good evangelist. My neighbor decided not to be a Christian because of his family pressure. My cousin has become so interested in making money that she is no longer coming to church, and my mother-in-law mocks me when I talk about Jesus and says I should have become a farmer. Maybe she's right—I'm not a successful evangelist after all.

Farmer Peter: That is not true, James. Do you remember before you became an evangelist, you helped me to become a Christian? I'd say that was successful!

Evangelist James: No, I don't really remember exactly. It was a long time ago. Remind me of what happened.

Farmer Peter: Well, it actually started with your brother. He became a Christian first, and the changes in him showed you how wonderful it was to follow Jesus. He told you about Jesus, and you became a Christian soon after. I told you I would never become a Christian, (*laughing*) but I was watching you and I saw how much YOUR life changed. You even started to help me in my fields. Do you remember that year? We had such terrible weeds and insects! You came every day to pull weeds with me. And when we were picking bugs off of the corn, you shared how Jesus had changed your heart.

Then when my wife was sick the next year, your wife went with her to hospital and some of your friends from the church even made food for us! No one in my family was as kind or caring as you and the people from your church! We could see how Jesus had changed you and we wanted what you had. When my wife was well, you invited us to eat with you and you explained what the Bible says about Jesus and how we can be saved from our sins. Then we understood that Jesus calls us to love each other, which was why you were showing us kindness!

We knew this was what we wanted, and we decided to become Christians! We wanted Jesus to be Lord over our lives, too. Immediately, you welcomed us into your Bible study group where we learned so much and felt loved by others, too. Because you shared your life with me and welcomed me to learn more, now I have stopped being angry, my marriage has improved, my wife no longer fears that her past illness came from evil spirits, and best of all, I have been able to tell my whole family about Jesus. We are ALL Christians now! Imagine if you had not told me about Jesus!

Evangelist James: (*smiling*) You were the very first person I ever told about Jesus! I guess that was when I really became an evangelist! That was such a wonderful experience! But now, it seems that my efforts aren't working. I must be doing something wrong... but what?

Farmer Peter: (*laughing*) Well, now maybe it's my turn to teach you! I know your mother-in-law isn't interested in becoming a Christian, but she's right about ONE thing: you should think about farming!

Evangelist James: You mean, you think I should become a farmer, too?

Farmer Peter: (*laughing*) Not necessarily. What I mean is, the Bible tells us that the work of evangelism is a lot like farming. Maybe the problem is that your fields aren't ready... (*Peter and James walk away together...*)

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

Peter is right! Jesus Himself told a parable about a farmer who went out to sow his seed. Let's read it together.

Read Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (10-15 min)

In groups of 3-4, re-read Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 and answer the following questions:

- What does the seed represent? (*the gospel*)
- Who is the sower? (*believers and the Holy Spirit, or Evangelist James from the role play*)
- What does the soil represent? (*our hearts/souls*)
- What were the four types of ground? (*hard path, rocky, thorny and weedy, prepared soil*)
- What happens to the seed in each type of ground? (*the gospel was rejected; the truth didn't take root; the good news was choked out; the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ took root, grew and produced an amazing harvest!*)
- Which soil was productive? (*the good soil*)
- How do you know which soil was productive? (See also Luke 3:8-9, John 15:5,8) (*it produced abundant fruit*)

REPORT BACK – Have groups share their answers for each question.

The Bible is clear in teaching us that following Jesus transforms lives! We can know that someone has truly come to know Jesus when they begin to “produce fruit.” In a moment, we will examine each of the characters from the role play to determine why some produced fruit and others did not. First, let’s play a game to remind us of the four types of soil.

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY – Game: Four Soils

Facilitator Instructions: Choose between one of the following two group games. You may decide to keep participants in their “soil” group for next questions.

Option A: Ball-Toss Elimination

Split the room into four sections. Divide participants evenly into each section. Name the groups: Hard, Rocky, Thorny, Good. Toss a ball (or crumpled paper) into one group. Call out a group name. The person with the ball has to quickly toss the ball to someone in the group that was called. For example, if you call out “Rocky!” the person with the ball tosses it to the “Rocky” group. If the person tosses the ball to the wrong group, that person sits out. If the person tosses it to the correct group, but that group fails to catch it, someone from that group sits out. Continue the game until there is only one person left.

Hard	Rocky
Thorny	Good

Call out the names very quickly to make it difficult and fun. If the game is taking too long, move on. The point is to have fun and remember the four types of soil. 😊

Option B: Body-Motion Elimination

Briefly teach four hand motions, one for each type of soil:

1. Hard Path: clap (hands flat together) or Stomp the ground
2. Rocky: two fists
3. Thorny: fingers interlocked (i.e. like hands folded in prayer)
4. Good: two thumbs up

Review the hand motions so that everyone can do them easily. Have everyone stand to play. Call out soil types (one at a time and in random order). After each type of soil is called out, watch for participants doing the correct corresponding hand motion. If a participant does the wrong hand motion, s/he sits down. Continue until only one participant remains. You may need to get faster and faster in order for participants to make a mistake! 😊

Character Study: Identifying Soils

From the parable, we know that the work of the sower reached completion when the soil produced good fruit. Now that we are familiar with the four types of soil representing the characters in the role play, let’s think about each of the characters and determine whether or not the work of evangelism reached completion in them.

Facilitator Instructions: Record responses for each character on chart paper to be used again in Lesson 8.

A. Mother-in-Law

1. What type of soil best represents the Mother-in-Law? (Like the Hard Path. Not ready to receive a seed. The seed cannot sink in because the soil is too hard.)
2. What kept the mother-in-law from being able to hear the gospel? (Believing lies; “all religions are the same.”)

Thinking Further (Record ideas and save for lesson 7):

- In your community/culture, what are some lies that would prevent people from believing?
- What are some “birds” that the enemy sends to keep people from hearing the gospel?

B. Neighbor Michael who gave up when his family were upset at his decision

1. Which type of soil represents Peter? (*Like the Rocky Ground—grew quickly but had no roots*)
2. Why did he not remain a Christian? (*He was excited, but at the first sign of opposition he gave in easily because he had no roots*)

Thinking Further (*Record ideas and save for lesson 7*):

- In your community, what type of Rocks (opposition/cultural practices) could convince people not to become Christians?

C. Cousin Maria who was busy earning money on Sunday

1. Which type of soil represents Maria? (*Like the soil with thorns and weeds.*)
2. Why did she not remain a strong Christian? (*The worries of life and deceitfulness of wealth choked out her beliefs. She started well and was growing at first. Then she became overwhelmed with worries. Her faith was “choked out” by the belief that money was the only solution to her problems...*)

Thinking Further (*Record ideas and save for lesson 7*):

- In your community, what type of thorns and weeds (i.e., worries, social pressures, expectations) could distract people away from Christ?

D. Farmer Peter

1. Which type of soil represents Peter? (*Like the Good Soil. It had been prepared, was ready for planting.*)
2. Why did Peter remain a Christian? (*Weeds and rocks had been removed so the plant could grow to be strong; he had support and follow up—discipleship*)

Thinking Further (*Record ideas and save for lesson 7*):

- How can you know that Farmer Peter truly accepted Jesus? *His life was changed and he evangelized others! He produced much fruit!!*

Complete Evangelism

How many of the four characters prayed and accepted Jesus Christ? (*2 of the 4*)

Two of the four prayed to accept Jesus, but only Peter truly accepted Jesus as the Lord of his life. We know this because his life was changed, and he began to tell others about Jesus.

Facilitator Instructions: Draw this on the chart paper or whiteboard.

Has NOT realized need.	Has REALIZED need.	Has REPENTED & RECEIVED Jesus.	Has REMAINED faithful.
Mother-in-Law			
Neighbor Michael			
Cousin Maria			
Farmer Peter			
----->			
COMPLETE!!			

Evangelism is a process. It is NOT complete when someone prays to accept Jesus, but when they allow Jesus to transform their lives and they tell others about Him. We can see this clearly in Peter:

1. The soil of Peter's heart was made ready: he **realized** he needed a Savior.
2. The seed of the gospel produced belief Peter's heart: he **repented and received** Jesus as his Savior.
3. Peter's life changed, he grew strong in his faith, and he told others: he **remained** faithful to Jesus.

The Spirit made the work of evangelism come to completion in Peter!

Conclusion

Let's review what we have learned today:

What is the definition of Evangelism? *Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.*

Evangelism is a process that causes others to:

- **realize** their need for a Savior.
- **repenting and receive** Jesus as the only Savior and Lord.
- **remain** faithful disciples of Jesus.

There are four types of soil that represent the readiness of people's hearts to become true believers:

1. The Hard Path

- People who do not realize their need for a Savior.

2. Rocky Soil

- People who realize their need for a Savior but do not receive Jesus as Lord of their lives.

3. Thorny Soil

- People who realize their need for a Savior, receive Jesus as Lord, but do not remain faithful.

4. Good Soil

- People who realize their need for a Savior, receive Jesus as Lord, and remain faithful and produce fruit!

Not everyone is ready to make the decision to follow Jesus! Be encouraged by remembering that evangelism takes time: for some, it may take a very long time to move through the stages of realizing, receiving and remaining. For others, it may only take a very short time. No matter the amount of time, evangelism is a process that involves our efforts in combination with the work of the Spirit. It is not OUR responsibility to determine when the Spirit chooses to ready people's hearts. Rather, it is OUR responsibility to always hold out the word of Life by sharing about Jesus with others through actions and words.

Lesson 4: The Work of Evangelism

Main Ideas

- Evangelism, like farming, is an ongoing process.
- The main “tools” we use for the work of evangelism are prayer, words and actions.
- The “tools” of evangelism will be effective for different people at different times according to their needs.
- God determines the timing of others coming to salvation; we don’t!

Materials Needed

- Ball (or other object to pass in game, see Introduction below)
- Visual Aid - Role Play: Tools of Evangelism Part 1 and Part 2 (Make 2 copies)
- Flip Chart / Markers

Introduction

In the last lesson, we understood that people are at all different stages of readiness to hear and receive the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The four soils helped us to understand the conditions of someone’s heart: those who do not yet realize their need for a Savior, those who realize they need a Savior, those who are ready to receive Jesus as their Savior, and those who have grown in the faith and remain faithful to following Jesus and making new disciples.

In this lesson, we are going to see how the work of Evangelism is ongoing, requires various “tools,” and comes to completion in different people at different times according to how the Spirit is at work in their lives. We cannot predict how and when the Spirit will do this, but we can participate in the work through our actions and words, ever-prayerful that—as **we** have already received the mercy of salvation—their lives might also be transformed!

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY – GAME

Facilitator Instructions: *Select a group of 8-10 participants to sit in a circle at the front of the class. If the class is small enough, this game can be played as a whole class rather than with only a select few participants.*

Round-and-Round

Let’s imagine that these are all people who are not yet faithful disciples of Jesus. We don’t know what is in each of their hearts—only the Holy Spirit knows the heart!

1. We will use this ball (*or another item that is easy to pass*) to represent our continual work of evangelism through prayer, words and actions, and the Spirit’s continual work to ready people’s hearts.
2. We will pass the ball around the circle and call out the four kinds of soils in the order we learned them in the last lesson: HARD – ROCKY – THORNY – GOOD! HARD – ROCKY – THORNY – GOOD!, etc.
3. Each time the ball is passed to the next person, we call out the next kind of soil: HARD – ROCKY – THORNY – GOOD!, etc.
4. Whenever we call out, “GOOD!” the person who has the ball stands up and steps out of the circle. He or she represents someone who has experienced the life-transforming work of evangelism and is now a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ!
5. We then resume passing the ball (i.e., continue our work of evangelism). The ball continues to move around the circle, eliminating one participant each time we shout “GOOD!” This continues until there is only one person left.
6. That person holds the ball as all four types of soil are called out, and he or she finally stands when all shout “GOOD!” for the last time!

This simple game is a wonderful example of several truths about the work of evangelism:

1. **Evangelism is ongoing** (*consider how the ball continually passed around the circle until the last player believed*).
2. **We cannot predict the timing of the Holy Spirit**, (*consider that we did not know at the beginning of the game who would “believe” first, second, last*), **but our continued commitment to prayer, words and actions** (*i.e., the ball continuing to move around the circle*) **allowed for more and more people to become disciples!**
3. **Some people experience the transformation to a life committed to Jesus in a very short time** (*consider the first person to “believe!”*) **while others may require many more “efforts” of evangelism before they believe** (*think about how many times the ball passed various participants before they finally came to a saving knowledge of Christ!*). **Only God knows the timing of this process!**

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- Did any of you come to Christ very quickly once you heard about Jesus?
- Did any of you come to Christ after a very long time?

Facilitator Instructions: Invite participants to briefly share a “short” and “long” experience.

Praise God that the work of evangelism continued in order to continually give you an opportunity to believe!

You remember that Jesus taught the parable of the sower. The prophet, Isaiah, also spoke about farming.

Let’s read together from the book of Isaiah 28:23-29.

(Read the passage or ask a participant to read it aloud).

Like our game, this passage points out three very important truths about evangelism. Like the work of farming...

1. The work of evangelism is ongoing.
2. The work of evangelism requires the continual use of many “tools:” prayer, words and actions.
3. The work of evangelism is completed in different people at different times.

Evangelism is Ongoing

Let’s read again verses 23-25 in Isaiah 28. Notice how the work is ongoing, always moving from one task to the next.

- What farming processes do we read about in these verses? (*plowing, leveling, sowing in the proper fields*)

As in farming, the work of evangelism is ongoing.

Just as each of the characters in the role play in Lesson 3 (Mother-in-law, Michael, Maria, Peter) were in different stages of becoming Christians, others we meet will be in all different stages as well! Remember that our efforts in evangelism help to move others closer and closer to a point of becoming faithful disciples! Our efforts must be ongoing!

The Main “Tools” of Evangelism

Listen again to verses 26-28. Notice all the different “tools” that are mentioned for the various processes of farming:

- What farming tools do we read about in these verses? (*sledge, wheel, cart, rod, stick*)

Just as farming requires many tools, we participate in the work of evangelism using the “tools” of prayer, words, and actions.

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY – Role Play

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AID:** *Tools of Evangelism Part 1*. Invite Evangelist James and Farmer Peter back to the front of the class. You can use the same people from Lesson 3 or two new people.

Evangelist James: I understand that each of my friends are like the different soils, but what can I do to help them?

Farmer Peter: Well, a good way to start is to collect the tools you will need to farm well. Some tools are for plowing, some for planting, and some for weeding, etc. Tools help you to make good progress and to address any problems you find in the field so that the crop can grow properly.

Evangelist James: So, how do you think “tools” will help me in evangelism? A plow won’t change my mother-in-law’s mind!

Farmer Peter: *(laughing)* No, but other tools will help....

Collecting the Tools We Need

As we prepare for the work of evangelism, let’s take Farmer Peter’s advice and gather the necessary tools.

- What are the tools that we have so that we participate with the work of the Holy Spirit? (prayer, words and actions)

Remember that we need to be in prayer throughout the work of evangelism!

God will direct our words and actions when we listen to Him in prayer! Let’s spend some time thinking of the many ways in which we can use our words and actions in the work of evangelism.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Facilitator Instructions: Split into three groups. Assign each group one of the characters of the role play in Lesson 2 – Mother-in-law, Neighbor Michael, Cousin Maria.

In groups, take 10 minutes to consider what “tools” you need for evangelism for this person. Answer the following questions:

- What are some things you think you need to **know** in order to pray?
- What are some things you need to **say** in order to evangelize?
- What are some things you need to **do** in order to evangelize?

REPORT BACK

Facilitator Instructions: Record all the ideas as you will use them again in later lessons. Try to categorize ideas under 3 headings:

- “Things to Pray for”
- “Words to Say”
- “Actions to Do”

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a look at the three lists.

- Did anyone use these “tools” to help you come to know Jesus Christ? How?

Facilitator Instructions: Invite participants to share a few personal stories of how others evangelized them through prayer, word or action. You may consider having people share their personal stories in pairs or small groups and then come back to hear a few examples as a large group.

We will keep these lists to help us in later lessons as we plan and prepare for how we can do the work of evangelism in our communities!

Evangelism Occurs According to God’s Timing

Finally, let’s read again Isaiah 28:28-29. Notice that there is a “right time” for the harvest.

- How can we know that the time for harvest has come? How do we know when the work of evangelism is complete? (*Remember Farmer Peter? He produced good fruit – sharing with others!*)

Just as God appoints the time of the harvest, He also appoints the time at which others come to salvation.

Be encouraged! The time of the harvest is God’s to determine! Your role is to be faithful to use your “tools” continually through the ongoing process of evangelism!

Read Isaiah 52:7 and 55:11. Be encouraged to continue doing the work of evangelism by Isaiah’s words:

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!””

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

You have already been doing the work of evangelism, and God has equipped you to continue to use the various tools you have practiced over the past years!

Facilitator Instructions: Pause to **pray** that we would be encouraged to realize how prepared we are to do the work of evangelism.

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AID:** Role Play: Tools of Evangelism Part 2

Evangelist James: I understand how all these “tools” of evangelism can be used to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and it is helpful to know that I HAVE been using some of my “tools” for evangelism. I can also see that there are some things that I can practice to be more effective in my work.

Famer Peter: Exactly! And, the good news is that—just like in farming—the more you use your tools, the more natural it feels to use them!! I’ve been farming for years, and the more I do it, the better farmer I become! I think the same will be true for you. In farming, I’m always learning. Some years I haven’t used the right tools or the right methods, and that has caused me to not have a very good harvest. But I’m always learning new ways to be a better farmer. Don’t give up—you’re learning, too! You’ve already gone out to the field! That’s a wonderful start!

Evangelist James: Thanks, Peter. I do feel encouraged. So, what’s next? You said earlier that maybe my fields aren’t ready. What did you mean by that?

Farmer Peter: Your “fields” are those you are sharing the gospel with! The next step of farming is to prepare their soil...

Conclusion

There are fields all around us! Our communities are full of people who do not yet know Jesus. Some people's hearts are ready for planting, and others' hearts are still hard and will need a lot of work.

Prayer, Words and Actions are the ways we can help others come to know Him.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect and see: is there one of these tools that you can try using this week? It might be praying for someone or showing them God's love. It could be practicing your testimony again.

WITH A PARTNER

Once you have decided what to do, take time to pray in pairs that God would help you to get it done.

Lesson 5: How Evangelism Prepares the Soil

Main Ideas

- The tools of evangelism (prayer, words, actions) are always useful!
- Those who do not yet realize their need for a Savior are like the soil that needs preparation.
- Our prayers, words and actions serve to clear, open and nourish the “soil” of people’s hearts.

Materials Needed

- Visual Aid – Role Play: Preparing the Soil (Make 2 copies)
- Chart paper or whiteboard (*Instructor will need to write out small group instructions and questions for three separate application points (see below)*)

Introduction

In Lesson 4, we learned that evangelism is work that is ongoing, and that the various “tools” used in the work of evangelism will ALWAYS be effective. Remember that ONLY GOD determines the timing of others coming to salvation; we don’t! **Our role and responsibility is to evangelize at every opportunity.**

Let’s review our definition of evangelism:

Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

Remember: we ARE ALL evangelists! We know that, like the mother-in-law, we will encounter many people who do not understand that they need a Savior. In this lesson, we will see how our efforts of **prayer, words and actions** can help others to realize they need Jesus Christ!

- How many people did something this week to practice their evangelism skills?

Facilitator Instructions: Choose a few people share.

- What did you do?
- What was the result?

Role Play: Preparing the Soil

Farmer Peter said that the ongoing work of evangelism is a lot like farming. Let’s see what he means...

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AID:** Role Play: Preparing the Soil. You can use the same people from Lesson 3 or two new people.

Evangelist James: You said that part of farming is to **prepare the soil**, right? Do you mean I need to dig holes for seeds?

Farmer Peter: (*laughing*). Not so fast! A good farmer takes time to prepare the soil carefully! He clears, plows and nourishes the soil! A farmer clears things that will harm the crop, like stones, weeds, or any garbage that is there. He opens the soil by plowing, and he nourishes it with manure or fertilizer so that it is rich for planting.

Evangelism James: Clear, Open and Nourish. I’ve got it!

- What are the three ways a farmer prepares the soil? (*clear, open and nourish*)

Evangelism through prayer, word and action accomplishes exactly those three things!

- **Our prayers quicken the Holy Spirit to clear people’s hearts,**
- **Our loving actions open people’s minds to the truth of Jesus, and**
- **Our words nourish others with the truth of God’s word!**

Our work of evangelism helps others to understand that they need Jesus!

Prayer Helps Clear the Field

Only the Holy Spirit can clear obstacles from someone’s heart so that they realize their need for a Savior.

Read Titus 3:3-7.

- What are some obstacles to becoming a Christian?
Some possible answers include:
 - *Desire to honor their family and follow the family religion*
 - *Fear of false gods – something bad will happen if they become a Christian*
 - *Belief that they are a good person so they don’t need God*
- Who removes them? (*the Holy Spirit*)

Think back to your own life:

- What were some obstacles that needed to be removed in order for you to realize your need for a Savior?
- How did you come to realize that you needed a Savior? Do you think anyone was praying for you?

We can see clearly from the passage that the Holy Spirit makes people’s hearts ready to realize their need for a Savior. We know that we participate in the work of the Spirit through prayer!

- Are we praying for those who do not yet know Jesus?
- Are we praying specifically that the Holy Spirit would cause them to realize that they need Jesus?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: Groups of 3-5

- Choose some specific people or groups of people who do not yet believe and for whom you would like to pray.
- Think about the obstacles that they may have to seeing their need for a Savior.
- Spend time praying aloud for them BY NAME – that the Holy Spirit would prepare their hearts to realize their need for a Savior!

We believe that prayer enables the Spirit to work in the hearts of others to clear obstacles and help them realize their need for Jesus! Your prayers are powerful!

Facilitator Instructions: Have participants remain in their small groups as you continue the lesson...

Loving Actions Open Minds to Christ

Remember the passage we just read from Titus? Verse 4 states that “when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us... because of his mercy.” Our own loving actions, which are an extension of God’s love to us, work together with God to save others! Is this because of the righteous things we do? No! It is only because of God’s great mercy. Our personal example and loving actions work to open the field because of God’s mercy.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Think back to James and Peter.

- What did James do to help 'plow the field' of Peter's heart?
 - *he was an example with his life*
 - *he took time to build relationship with Peter*
 - *he and his wife and members of their church showed love through their actions*
 - *he and his wife prayed for Peter*

Think back to your own life before you believed in Jesus (*Invite participants to share a few stories*):

- Did anyone model Christianity to you?
- Did anyone build a relationship with you that helped you understand Christianity?
- Did anyone show love through their actions so that you could understand Christ's love?

We can do the same! Here are two ways we can do this:

1. **Pray** that your life would be a living example of Christ's love to others. People do watch us and we want to be good examples of God's love.
2. **Model Christianity and Build Friendships/Relationships** – Getting to know people removes many lies which people believe about Christians. As you get to know people, you can see what other false beliefs they have, what cultural or social pressures will make things difficult for them to believe, and what habits or addictions will need to be overcome. Begin praying about these things when they become clear.
 - How can we develop relationships/friendships with non-Christians?
Some possible answers include:
 - *spend time with people*
 - *demonstrate love, go to where others are*
 - *be involved in the community*
 - *genuinely care for others*

Modeling Christianity and building relationships shows others that they are worthy of love, builds trust, and creates opportunities for the truth of Jesus to be shared. You will get to know others and you will gain a reputation in the community as a person who cares and is concerned about the well-being of others and the community. This gives God glory!

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In your small group:

- Remember the names of the 1-2 people that you each just prayed for.
- How can you model Christianity to them and build relationships with them? Share ideas!
- Pray in pairs that God would provide courage and opportunity for your partner to carry out his/her ideas of relationship building with this non-believer!

Facilitator Instructions: *Have participants remain sitting in their small groups as you continue the lesson...*

Words of Truth Nourish the Soil

Another way to prepare the soil is by teaching words of truth. As you pray, you will recognize opportunities to speak truth about their situations. Speaking truth is like nourishing their soil, making it rich and ready to receive the seed of the Gospel.

Some of the signs that a person is ready to hear truth are:

- When a person starts to be more open about their own personal life, struggles, successes.
- When a person asks for your help/advice
- When a person shows interest in what you believe
- When a person starts asking questions about 'why' you are different

When these things happen, take the opportunity to nourish others by speaking truth!

Here are three ways to create opportunities to speak truth include:

1. Asking Questions

- Why do you think farming (or their particular work) is such hard work?
- How can we know what is "right and wrong?"
- Did you know that we don't need to live in fear of ...?
- What do YOU believe about ...?

2. Sharing through conversations

- Show appreciation for God's creation, beauty, and goodness all around us.
- Quote scriptures and speak biblical truth in your conversations.
- Share how God is working in your life/marriage/family.

3. Offering to Pray with/for them

- If others share concerns, you can offer to pray for them and see how they react.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In your small group:

- Consider, again, the people you just prayed for.
- Has this person already shown an interest in what you believe? Share with your group if this person has already started asking questions or shown some interest in Christianity.
- What are some questions you might be able to ask this person in order to get them thinking about your belief in Jesus?
- How might you naturally have opportunity to share truth in everyday conversation with this person?
- Practice! With two of you at a time, practice a possible conversation that could take place between you and the person you are praying for. Have fun! Let other group members encourage you with helpful suggestions!

Optional: *If time allows, invite a few pairs from various groups to demonstrate their role play to the whole group.*

We have seen how our prayers (clearing the obstacles), modeling Christ (loving actions open hearts), and words of truth (nourishing others) help to prepare a non-believer to realize their need for a Savior!

Conclusion

Remember that we all, at one time, were lost in sin. But, be encouraged by these words from 1 Peter 2:9-10:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, **that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.** Once you were NOT a people, but now you ARE the people of God; once you had NOT received mercy, but now you HAVE received mercy!"

We do the work of evangelism so that this declaration can be true for those who do not yet believe! How would this passage sound if we inserted the names of those we prayed for today?

Re-read the passage replacing all the words “you” with a name or several **names of people** to be prayed for. For example:

“But our neighbors are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that our neighbors may declare the praises of him who called them out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once our neighbors were not a people, but now our neighbors are the people of God; once our neighbors had NOT received mercy, but now our neighbors have received mercy!”

Wouldn’t it be amazing if this passage were made true by the Holy Spirit together with YOUR EFFORTS of evangelism! Amen—may it be so!

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION

Individually think through this lesson:

- What is one thing that you can apply this week?

Share with the group what you have decided to do and then pray together for God’s help to complete your assignment.

Lesson 6: Recognizing Prepared Soil

Main Ideas

- Some people are not ready to receive Jesus because their hearts are not ready.
- Before we share with others, we need to carefully listen to them, be patient, and pray to ask God for the right words and an invitation to share.

Materials Needed

- Chart paper or whiteboard (*Instructor will need to write out small group instructions and questions for three separate application points (see below)*)

Introduction

Realizing their need for a Savior is so important for others to truly accept Jesus. If people do not realize their need for a Savior, they may find the idea of Jesus interesting, but it is unlikely that they will truly accept Him as Savior. We saw an example of this with James's neighbor, Michael. He heard about Jesus, but no one had evangelized him through prayer, words and actions. Our work in evangelism is important!

So, how can we know when the soil of people's hearts is ready? How do we recognize soil that has been prepared? Let's examine two examples from the Bible to find out.

Unprepared Soil

Let's first read about a woman who was UNprepared to receive the good news of Jesus.

Read John 4:4-26.

- What does the woman ask in verse 15? (*To have living water!*)

At this stage, most evangelists feel that their job is done! They celebrate that the person wants the 'living water.' But is this truly how evangelism ends? Let's examine what Jesus did next...

- What did Jesus reply in verse 16? (*Go call your husband and come back.*)
- Why does He ask this? Why did Jesus not just invite her to believe right then and there?

Jesus realized that the Samaritan woman was NOT truly ready to say the sinner's prayer because she wasn't aware of her own sinfulness. Her desire for "living water" was to take care of her physical need for water, not her spiritual need for forgiveness and lordship. Her sin needed to be addressed before she could accept Jesus as her Savior.

In this example, the woman had just met Jesus, yet she did not realize her need for a Savior. The soil of her heart still needed to be prepared for her to understand that she needed the forgiveness and lordship of Jesus in her life!

Facilitator Instructions: *After asking these questions, ask for people to share one or two of their experiences.*

- Have you ever met someone who seemed happy to accept Jesus, but who did not seem to understand that they truly NEED Him?
- Have you ever met someone who thinks that they can believe in Jesus as a way to go to heaven, and yet still continue in their life of sin?
- Do you believe these people have truly accepted Jesus? Why or why not?

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Think back to your own experience accepting Christ:

- What did you need to understand about yourself and about Jesus before you were ready to truly accept him as your Savior?

Remember the people you prayed for in the last lesson:

- First, recall their names.
- When you share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with them, what are some things they need to understand before you share the message of Jesus? (*Encourage discussion of this question*)
 - *they need a Savior*
 - *they are sinful*
 - *other gods are not powerful to forgive our sinful condition*

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (groups of 3-5)

Facilitator Instructions: Explain the first part and let the groups discuss the three questions below. Then after they have had enough time, instruct them to create a role play or two.

First, imagine that this Samaritan woman is your neighbor! Remember that our primary tools of evangelism are prayer, acts of love and words of truth. How would you prayerfully and lovingly reach this woman for Christ?

As you consider this, it may be helpful to look at the list of tools we made in Lesson 4 to think about how they may help you. Remember, she does not recognize her sin and she does not realize her need for a Savior!

1. How would you pray for her?
2. What would you do to build relationship, model Christianity and show God's love?
3. What would you listen for? What would you ask? What would you say?

Now that you have discussed a plan to use your tools, act it out! Imagine that you really did meet this woman somewhere in your community. Act out a few encounters with her that put your plan into practice!

REPORT BACK - Invite a few people to act out their conversation to the whole class. More role plays will be done later.

Now if we read the story, we see that in just her short time with Christ, she does become ready. Jesus wisely took her through the whole process of evangelism. He asks her questions and helps her to see her need for someone to save her. He demonstrates love to her by serving her at the well, even though this was shocking in their culture. Then He spoke words of truth.

Let's see how the story ends – Read John 4:39.

- What happened? (*Many Samaritans from the town believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony.*)
- Who has become an evangelist? (*The woman!*)
- How is she telling others about Jesus? (*She is sharing her own testimony!*)

This is truly incredible! The Samaritan woman believed in Jesus, and she immediately started the work of evangelism: she told others her testimony and they believed! She is producing fruit!

- What do you think will happen next? (*more people will want to know Jesus and she will be doing the ongoing work of evangelism*)

Before we invite people to receive Jesus as their Savior, we should keep a few things in mind:

1. **Listen to people** – Do they understand that they are a sinner? Do they understand that they need a Savior? Do they understand that they deserve punishment for their sins? Do they understand that they can't do anything by themselves to change their situation? If the answer is yes, then they are ready for the gospel message. This is not something that happens naturally, it is something that the Holy Spirit does through His power and through our works of evangelism (His power in us!). As you share with someone, be praying that God would work in their lives to bring them to the point that they are ready to hear the good news.
2. **Be patient, pray, and ask for an invitation to share** – Be in prayer for the Spirit to direct you. If the person is ready, they will often invite you to share. In some cases, you may need to ask for an invitation to share.

Prepared Soil

Now let's read some examples of hearts (soils) that were prepared and ready to truly receive Jesus Christ as Savior!

1. Read Acts 10:30-48: Cornelius, the devout centurion, and his household receive Christ
2. Read Acts 8:26-40: The conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- Why did the apostles go to the centurion/eunuch? (*God sent them*)
- Who had prepared them to 'hear' the gospel message? (*God had already prepared their hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit*)
- Do you think other believers may have prayed for them? Modeled a life of Christianity? Shown them love? Spoken the truth about Jesus? (*Allow for discussion*)
- Did the apostles ask any questions before sharing the gospel, or did they share immediately? What did they ask? (*"Why did you send for me," and, "Do you understand what you are reading?"*)
- Why was it important for the apostles to ask these questions? (*They knew that if the hearts of these men were unprepared, they would likely not be able to accept the truth about Jesus.*)

NOTICE: In each of these two men, the soil preparation was complete! The centurion and the eunuch realized their need for a Savior and the apostles were **invited to share**, and they did so! The seed was planted, it was received, and their faith in Jesus started to grow.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In your same small groups, choose one neighbor that you have been praying for. Discuss these questions:

- When can you be praying? What obstacles need to be cleared away?
- What can you do to show love to them?
- How can you be speaking truth?

Preparing To Respond

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Now imagine that your church has been doing the work of evangelism: praying for them, acting in love toward them, and speaking the truth about Jesus Christ. Imagine that they are becoming interested in knowing more about Jesus:

- What might they have noticed that is different about you?
- What kinds of struggles might they share with you?

- What kinds of questions might they ask?

Remember what from 1 Peter 3:15b says? “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

Think about how you might respond to these questions:

- When they describe a difference in your life, what reason would you give for your Christian lifestyle?
- When they share a struggle, what encouragement could you share with them from scripture or from your own experience?
- When they ask you a questions, what questions would YOU ask them to understand if the they TRULY understood their need for a Savior? (Think about the apostles asking the centurion and the eunuch if they understood what they had learned, were reading or been told).

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Now, put together a role play of your neighbor talking about the difference they see, their struggles and questions and your responses to each of these three topics:

1. They point out something that they have noticed about you that is different and you give a reason for the difference.
2. They share a personal struggle that they have and you offer them biblical encouragement or challenge their wrong belief lovingly.
3. They ask you a question about accepting Jesus and you ask a question to determine if they truly understand their need for a Savior.

REPORT BACK – *Invite a few people to act out their conversations with the whole class. Brainstorm together how to share the topics that seem most difficult.*

- Which of topics were difficult to respond to? Which were easier?
- What can you do to prepare to respond to these topics with confidence?

Remember, God uses all our efforts. And the more we practice evangelism, the more natural it becomes!

Conclusion

When people do not understand clearly that they need a Savior, they are not ready to accept Jesus! Our work of evangelism prepares others to understand their need and to desire the truth of the gospel in their own lives.

Practicing asking questions, listening, sharing encouragement, speaking truth, and sharing our own testimonies will work together with the Holy Spirit to prepare others’ hearts to receive Jesus.

Prayer makes us sensitive to know when others are ready to hear more! If we are in prayer, the Spirit will prepare us to do the right things and speak the right words at the right time. He will do the work of clearing, opening and nourishing through us!

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- What can do you this week to show love or speak truth to the person that you have been praying for?
- Do you think their heart is prepared?
- Pray again in pairs or small groups for the people you are evangelizing.

Lesson 7: Evangelism Sows the Seed & Brings It to Life

Main Ideas

- When someone receives Jesus as their Savior, it is like a seed coming to life!
- Receiving Jesus as Savior means giving ALL of their life to the lordship of Jesus.
- Part of evangelism is inviting someone to receive Jesus as their Savior!
- Only God can bring new life!

Materials Needed

- Visual Aid – Role Play: Sowing the Seed (Make 2 copies)
- White board/flip chart/poster paper
- Markers

Introduction

In the previous lesson, we examined how to recognize soil that has been prepared. That is important to prepare us for this next step of sowing the seed. Remember, in the parable of the Sower, the “seed” represents the gospel—the good news about who Jesus is and what He has done! You already know the gospel message. Today we will practice sharing it aloud.

Sowing the seed

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY – Role Play

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AID:** Role Play: Sowing the Seed. You can use the same people from Lesson 3 or two new people.

Evangelist James: Now that I understand a bit more about preparing the soil and recognizing when it is fertile, are we ready to move on to sowing the seed?

Farmer Peter: Yes! Sowing is a very hopeful time for a farmer! You already know that to plant a seed you have to put it into the ground and cover it with soil. The seed must be in FULL contact with the soil. Then, when the ground is watered, the moisture and nutrients from the soil cause the seed that is dead to COME ALIVE! This is called germination.

Evangelist James: That is a miracle!

Farmer Peter: It truly is! We cannot see germination because it all happens underground, but when a tiny sprout pushes out through the soil, we see the evidence of the miracle: the plant is growing! It's ALIVE!

Sowing the seed is when we share the gospel with someone! It IS exciting! It is also very important that we share the gospel clearly and accurately. If you have never done this before, today you will learn how and have a chance to practice.

Practice Sharing the Gospel

Sharing the gospel begins with **prayer**, asking that God would prepare others' hearts and that He would speak through you.

Facilitator Instructions: *Pause to pray or ask someone to pray that God would prepare others' hearts to hear and receive the good news of Jesus and that He would give us the words to communicate the truth of the gospel with courage and accuracy.*

Now, let's talk about three important things to share with others.

Facilitator Instructions: *This content is covered in Module 1 where we start at the beginning with Creation, the Fall, and 3 broken relationships—Man:God, Man:Man, God:Creation. If you think the class will not be familiar with this part of the Bible story or have forgotten the whole story, then take some time to review it. You can use Visual Aids from Module 1 – the first two pictures: Creation and Fall, or you can just draw them if you don't have them anymore. See who can remember what they represent.*

- 1. Our Broken Beginning:** As we share this, we want to help people to understand that without Jesus, we experience separation from God for eternity because of the brokenness called SIN. We are left in a state of sinfulness, guilt, shame, fear and a feeling of always having to balance out our bad deeds with good deeds or religious rituals.

Let's pause for a moment and practice how we would explain this in our own words.

- Do people typically understand what sin is? How can we help them understand if they don't?
- What sort of brokenness is common our communities?
- What are some specific ways that these sins (brokenness) has affected people's lives? For example, do they use money and things to appease the spirits in some way? Are families broken?
- How can we explain this part of the gospel message clearly to someone in our community? (in 2-3 phrases?) (*ask for one or two examples or demonstrate an example*)

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In small groups, practice sharing the idea of our broken beginning (in 2-3 phrases) in your own words – name a common example of brokenness and the negative result. Each person in the group should try so that you are better prepared to share with others in your own communities.

REPORT BACK (*ask 1-2 volunteers to share about the brokenness in our community and the negative effects*)

- 2. The Rescue Plan:** GOOD NEWS!! God put a Rescue Plan in place to save us from our brokenness. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God Himself, to make the final sacrifice for all of our wrongdoings through His death on the cross. He rose again to defeat sin and brokenness and to offer us new life in Him.

This IS the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have a choice: in order to be rescued from our sinfulness and the consequence of sin (death), we must choose to submit to the lordship of Jesus. We must give our whole lives to Him and follow His ways. Even though the cost may be great, there are many more blessings.

How would we explain this simply?

- Do people in our community understand who Jesus is? How can we explain Jesus to them clearly?
 - *God's Son who lived without sin and died as an innocent man to pay for our sin*
- What are some of the blessings of following Jesus?
 - *Forgiveness for our sin*
 - *God's unconditional love*
 - *God's presence and guidance for us on earth*
 - *Freedom from fear and shame and the need to try to appease the spirits*

- *The opportunity to live with God forever*
- What are some of the costs?
 - *We have to obey God with our whole life*
 - *We have to give up following all other spirits, going to the witchdoctor, etc.*
 - *We have to be willing to follow even when family or others may disagree*

Facilitator Instructions: Demonstrate sharing in 2-3 phrases the Rescue Plan and the good news of Jesus as our Savior.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

In small groups, practice sharing the Rescue Plan of the good news of Jesus Christ as our Savior (in 2-3 phrases) in your own words – simply share about Jesus, the benefits and costs of following Jesus. Each person in the group should try so that you are better prepared to share with others in your own communities.

REPORT BACK (ask 1-2 volunteers to share Rescue Plan in 2-3 simple phrases)

3. **Your Testimony:** You can share your own experience of being rescued, as we practiced in Lesson 2 (remember: Realizing, Receiving and Remaining). The importance of our testimony is that it shows how God does not leave us in brokenness. Once we realize our need for a Savior and we receive Him as our Savior, our LIVES and ACTIONS are different because we have new life in Christ! We also should be able to explain any obstacles we have had to face because of our faith (remaining). Be clear that receiving Jesus is not a just a way to get to heaven but a life-changing experience! Even now you are still growing and changing.

For our purposes today, share three simple sentences that summarize your testimony:

- **Realize** - Before I met Jesus, [describe one fact about your life before Christ].
- **Receive** - Since I have received Jesus, [describe how that fact has changed in your life].
- **Remain** - I had to give up, [describe one obstacle you had to face or something you had to give up]

Facilitator Instructions: Write these on a whiteboard or poster. Ask for a few examples of how they would fill in the following sentences:

WITH A PARTNER

With your partner, discuss what you would say for each sentence and then practice saying them to each other. Each one practice doing it twice.

Excellent! The more we practice sharing our testimony with clear words, the more natural it will become!

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (2-3 people)

Now, we will put this all together. When we share the gospel, we want to share three things – the brokenness and it's effects, God's rescue plan and our testimony. In small groups, practice sharing the gospel according to these three steps (2-3 sentences each) so that you are better prepared to share with others in your own communities.

1. Our Broken Beginning (2-3 sentences)
2. God's Rescue Plan (2-3 sentences)
3. Your Testimony – Realize, Receive, Remain (3 sentences)

Facilitator Instructions: Have these three points written and visible somewhere in the room. Encourage participants that they should use their own words to complete this task.

REPORT BACK – Invite one or two participants to share their simple gospel explanation with the whole class (Steps 1-3).

Excellent! It is important to practice explaining the gospel so that we are prepared when the opportunity arises! Of course, when you have an opportunity, you may want to say more than we did today. But, this exercise will help you to focus on the main points of the gospel message.

The Invitation to Receive

In the same way, if someone is not ready to FULLY give their lives to Jesus, they have not come alive in Christ! Listen to the words from John 12:24 (NASB):

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth **and dies**, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

The Bible is clear. Either we DIE to our past ways and give ALL to Jesus, or we are not ready to receive Him! Because this is such an important matter, a non-believer must understand what a commitment to Jesus involves:

1. **Realize - Acknowledge that Christ is the SAVIOR** – He is the ONLY one who saves you.
2. **Receive Jesus Christ as LORD** – Submit to His authority over ALL parts of your life, obey and trust His ways for you.
3. **REPENT** – Be willing to turn from anything that is not pleasing to Him. He will reveal His will to you as you grow in your relationship with Him.

Repeat these three points with me: **SAVIOR! LORD! REPENT!**

Facilitator Instructions: Repeat this several times. Split the class down the middle and have one side say it, then the other, over and over again. Or say it quietly, then louder, then louder, then louder!

For someone to be ready to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord they need to do all three of these steps.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Now, in your small group, imagine the person you prayed for has asked you to help them receive Jesus.

Practice asking them:

- **REALIZE** - Do you believe you need a Savior and Jesus is the **Savior** – the ONLY one who can save you from your sin?
- **REPENT & RECEIVE** – Are you ready for Jesus to be **Lord** in EVERY area of your life? Are you willing to surrender and submit all parts of your life and to live in obedience to God? Will you **repent**? Do you know of something NOW that you should turn away from?
- **REMAIN** – Are you willing to let God change your life? Are you ready to share your new faith in Jesus with others?

Well done! You are ready to INVITE someone to receive Jesus! The Bible reminds us that we believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths (Romans 10:10, 13). Here is a suggested prayer you may want to practice so that you are ready to pray with someone who wants to receive Jesus.

“Lord Jesus, thank You for Your gift of eternal life. I know I’m a sinner and can do nothing on my own to remove my sin. I believe You loved me so much, that You died and rose from the grave to forgive me of my sin, and to give me a hope for live now and eternal life with You. I now trust in You alone for

my salvation and to remove my sins. I give You my whole life and ask that You take control as Lord of my life. Thank you for forgiving me and making me Your son/daughter today! Amen.”

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Finally, practice how you might PRAY with a new believer to accept Jesus! Include in your prayer all of the points we have covered today: our brokenness, Jesus’ death and resurrection, repentance, forgiveness and eternal life!

We can rejoice with the angels over a new believer, knowing that they once rejoiced over us! (Luke 15:10)

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

SING AND PRAISE GOD with songs of praise for what He will do through you in your communities!!

PERSONAL APPLICATION – SHARE WITH A PARTNER

Make a plan to practice together with one or two other people how you can share the gospel message and how you can share your testimony. Practicing this together will make it more natural to share with a non-believer later. Determine now who you will practice with. Set your first time to practice so that you leave with a plan!

Share your plan with a partner and pray for each other.

Only God Creates New Life

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.

The Bible makes it clear that those who believe have new life from God. ONLY He can cause a person to experience new life. But, the Bible also makes it clear that our efforts work together with the Holy Spirit to bring new life to non-believers! The Bible says that we are “co-laborers with Christ!” Hear these words from Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians.

***Facilitator Instructions:** You may want to reread 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 passage, adding in names of participants in place of the names of Apollos and Paul. For example, “What, after all, is Josephine? And what is Steven? Only servants...” You may consider doing this several times to include several participants.*

Let’s pray together as a group that God would keep us obedient to our call to do the ongoing work of evangelism and ever-mindful that we are only able to join in this work because God, in His great mercy, saved us.

Conclusion

When we “sow the seed” by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, we are participating in an event that may truly bring NEW LIFE! It is important that we clearly understand and can explain the gospel message and the “cost” of following Jesus.

Just as a seed “comes alive” in a way that is not visible to us, so the Holy Spirit works silently in a new believer’s heart to make the Truth COME ALIVE. Like the farmer who is waiting for the seed to sprout, OUR role is to always be tending the soil of people’s hearts through the ongoing work of evangelism.

Only God can make new life! What a privilege it is to be counted as a co-laborer with Christ!

Lesson 8: Giving ALL to Jesus

Main Ideas

- To become a Christian is to be FULLY submitted to Jesus in ALL areas of our lives.
- We all face obstacles to receiving the good news of Jesus.
- To follow Jesus, we have to trust Him fully instead of trusting in other things.

Materials Needed

- Whiteboard / flipchart / poster paper
- Markers

Introduction

When we invite others to receive Jesus as their Savior, we must clearly explain what it means to become a Christian! Many will desire the 'living water' just as the Samaritan woman did, but they might not be interested in changing their lives at all! This is not conversion! Receiving Jesus as Savior involves putting our whole lives under His loving authority.

Do you remember what happens when a seed comes into contact with water and good soil? The dead seed comes to LIFE! Sometimes, however, the good news of Jesus does not "germinate"; some people want to accept only 'part' of the gospel, not all.

Giving ALL to the Lordship of Jesus

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Let's listen to a story about a missionary in Asia.

The Young Cambodian

Once there was a missionary in Cambodia. He had been sharing with a young man and the young man became distressed when he realized that he was a sinner and would go to hell as punishment for his sins. However, when he thought about giving up his way of life to become a Christian, he wasn't willing to make that sacrifice. Every week he would come to the missionary and say to him – I want to be a Christian. The missionary would reply – Are you willing to give up your own dreams, your own desires, and live for Christ alone? Are you willing to not sacrifice on the family altar but worship God? Are you willing to invest time into learning about God? Every time the man went away sad because he wasn't willing. However, he feared the idea of paying for his sins and going to hell, so every week he would come back and ask again, "Is there any other way to be a Christian?" The missionary would reply, "No, you either become a complete Christian and walk away from your life of sin or you don't become a Christian at all."

- Why was the young man sad?
- Why would the missionary not pray with him so that he, too, could be a Christian?
- Do you think that the missionary was right not to pray with him to become a Christian?

Eventually the man met another missionary and told him that he desperately wanted to be a Christian. The second missionary was happy – this man wanted to be a Christian!!

- What do you think will happen next in this story?
- What do you think will be the consequence?

The second missionary shared with him that all he needed to do to become a Christian was to say the sinner's prayer. The young man was so happy – there was another way! All he had to do was say a prayer! It was so simple; he couldn't imagine why the first missionary had been so "mean" and made it so difficult. He prayed the prayer and returned to his life of sin, happy in thinking that now he didn't have to worry about going to hell. Neither of the missionaries ever saw the man again.

- Was the man saved when he said the prayer? (Hint: Did anything change in his life?)
 - *NO – HE DIDN'T GIVE ALL TO JESUS. He may have said the words with his lips, but God looks into our hearts and knows what we really mean when we pray. However, the young man thought that he was saved and will not likely listen again to the gospel message. He has accepted something false.*

Obstacles to Receiving Jesus

This story of the young Cambodian is very similar to another story found in the Bible.

Let's read the story of The Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10:17-22.

Facilitator Instructions: *Optional Reading of the Rich Young Ruler in Mark with 2 volunteers. Ask one person to read the part of Jesus and another person to read the part of the rich young ruler. You act as the narrator and read the other parts (i.e., all parts that are not quotes). Use the Bible as the script. Then, write the following questions on the board/chart paper for discussion in small groups.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- When the man first arrived, what did he ask? (*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*)
- Is the man good or bad? Why do you think so? (*Bad, Jesus said, "no one is good", except the Father but this man thought he was good.*)
- Why do you think that Jesus asked him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor? (*He knew this was his obstacle and he wasn't yet ready to give all to follow Jesus*)
- Why did Jesus make it so hard for this man to be a Christian? (*Jesus wanted him to count the cost*)
- Why did Jesus let him leave without becoming a Christian? (*Jesus could see that he was not ready*)

REPORT BACK

Facilitator Instructions: *Allow all answers, and make sure the lesson will make these points clear. Small groups remain together as you address the whole class.*

This is a remarkable story because the man arrives wanting to be a Christian. He says he has followed the 10 commandments diligently. However, when he comes to Jesus, Jesus does not automatically tell him how to be a follower. Jesus knows that the man still has a problem: he wants to continue living just as he has before! He loves money more than God and is not ready to submit everything to the lordship of Jesus. In fact, the man has NOT truly kept the commandments because money is a god to him and therefore, he has broken the command, "You shall have no other gods before me." Jesus challenges him to give up his money, but the man isn't willing, and he leaves without becoming a follower of Jesus.

Jesus is not teaching here that money is bad, because money itself is not sinful. Jesus is not saying that He doesn't want the man to be rich—He never condemns the man's riches. The money is not the problem! The problem is that the man is not willing to give up everything to Jesus! Jesus is making a very clear point that He wants the man to be willing to turn everything in his life over to the lordship of Jesus, especially the thing he loves most: his money! He wants the Rich Young Ruler (and us!) to accept God's authority over the thing in his life that is most important to him. Money is his obstacle to salvation!

We all faced obstacles to believing in Jesus! Even after we believe, the devil still works hard to prevent us from fully trusting Jesus and giving Him authority in ALL areas of our lives.

- What are some obstacles that you think are common in your community? In your culture? (*family religious practices, political connections, ungodly relationships, ungodly habits, etc.*)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- What obstacles did you have to overcome when you first became a Christian?
- What things were difficult for you to give up or change? Why?
- What obstacles do you still face?

Now that you have discussed some of your personal obstacles, are there any obstacles we should add to our list of “common obstacles” in our community/culture? (*Add any suggestions to the list above*)

Facilitator Instructions: Write these on the whiteboard or chart paper to look at later in the lesson.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (4 people)

1. Each group will choose an obstacle from our list.
2. Imagine that one or two of you are the people in your community who struggle with this obstacle and are asking about how to be a Christian. The other two are Christians.
3. Act out in a role play what you would say when discussing how the person might receive Jesus as his/her Savior.

REPORT BACK – Invite a few groups to perform their role play for the class.

When presented with the gospel, people often try to negotiate and ask questions like, “Can I be a Christian and still...?” Or, “I don’t think God cares if I continue to...” But Jesus Himself makes it clear that there is a cost to becoming a Christian, which will be different for each of us.

In your groups, pray that we would all be FULLY submitted to Jesus in ALL areas of our lives. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict our own hearts of any obstacles that are keeping us from trusting the complete lordship of Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be at work to convict the hearts of even non-believers in our communities.

ALL or Nothing

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 14:25-33.

- What do these verses teach about the cost of being a disciple?
- What do these verses teach about the necessity of thinking carefully about the cost of being a Christian?
- According to these verses, how important is it that someone understands the cost of being a disciple before they become a Christian?
- Do we always make the cost clear to someone before they become a Christian? Why? Why not?

Jesus was not willing to negotiate with people about what it takes to be a Christian. There is an EXCHANGE that must take place—we must exchange putting our trust in other things for putting our trust fully in Jesus. To truly be Christians, we must TRUST that giving our WHOLE lives to Jesus is the BEST way—the ONLY way—to live in right relationship with God. Forgiveness and eternal life are promised to those who *believe* Him.

Remember that an EXCHANGE is when we give up something in order to gain something else. Look again at the list of obstacles. Some of you gave up these things to the lordship of Jesus in order to believe Him and follow His ways.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What have you have gained by giving up these obstacles/practices/beliefs?

Facilitator Instructions: Give them some time to think about the question. Then go through each point and ask for examples of how following Jesus has resulted in freedom from bondage to these obstacles.

The promise of Jesus is that ALL of our needs will be met in Him! It may be hard to give up the obstacles in our lives, but when give up those things that are standing in the way of right relationship with God, we gain love, joy, peace and everlasting life! Let us hold out this hope to our non-Christian friends and neighbors!

Optional Activity: Pray or sing in thanks to God for His saving power over obstacles in our lives!

Ongoing Evangelism

When the seed of the gospel has been shared, and the cost has clearly been explained, a non-believer has a choice to accept Jesus or not. Some people will be ready to receive Jesus right away because the Spirit has been at work in their hearts and other believers have been doing the work of evangelism. Other people will walk away without accepting Jesus. What can we do when this happens?

WE CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK OF EVANGELISM!!

Think back to the seed. When the seed has been planted but hasn't yet sprouted, does the farmer give up and walk away? No! He continues caring for the seed in the soil!

We do the same! When the gospel has been shared with someone, but they have not yet received Jesus, we continue to do the work of evangelism through prayer, words and actions. We pray that by the work of the Spirit and the example of our own changed lives, others will see that the exchange for following Jesus is abundant life (John 10:10), joy (John 15:11) and peace (John 14:27).

Conclusion

Following Jesus requires FULL acceptance of His authority over EVERY PART of our lives. Jesus made it clear that following Him comes at a cost. We have a responsibility to tell others the same.

REMEMBER: It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict and to bring a person to repentance and acceptance of the lordship of Jesus over their lives. While the Spirit is at work, OUR role is to pray for the seed to "come alive." Our continued use of other evangelistic tools (i.e., building relationships, modeling Christianity, speaking truth, etc.) are also EXTREMELY IMPORTANT at this time! We have an opportunity every day to demonstrate to others through prayer, words, and actions that following Jesus is WORTH THE COST!

Once the seed of the gospel has been planted, we wait in hope and we continue to act in hope that the seed of the gospel of Jesus will come to life!

Option: Let's end with this reminder of God's faithfulness when we put our hope in Him from Psalm 33:20-22:

"We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you."

Lesson 9: Evangelism Cares for the Crop

Main Ideas

- In order for believers to remain faithful disciples, they must be cared for.
- New believers need protection from threats. We participate in their protection through prayer, acts of love, and words of truth.

Materials Needed

- Visual Aid – Role Play: Protecting from External Threats! (Make 2 copies)
- White board / flipchart / poster paper

Introduction

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY - Role Play

Facilitator Instructions: Use the **VISUAL AID:** Role Play: Protecting from External Threats! You can use the same people from Lesson 3 or two new people.

Evangelist James: So, once the plant begins to grow, is the work done?

Farmer Peter: (laughing) Oh, no! A farmer's job is never done! A new plant is very vulnerable to external threats! You must care for and protect it! Imagine a plant like a newborn baby. It will need to continue to be fed and nourished with water and sunshine so it will grow strong. If it is not cared for, it will remain weak and not produce anything, or possibly even die. We call this stage of farming "Crop Care" until it is time to harvest.

Evangelist James: Of course! Like when I helped you pick insects off of your crops and we removed weeds together!

Farmer Peter: Exactly! Insects and other crop illnesses can damage the plant or make it not be able to produce fruit. And, weeds that were removed often return and can choke the small plant. If you care for the plant by protecting it from pests and removing weeds, the plant will mature and produce fruit! You will enjoy a bountiful harvest.

Evangelist James: (smiling) And that is exactly what we are hoping for!

- What do we learn from the discussion of Farmer Peter and Evangelist Peter?
- What were the threats to a new plant? (*Weeds, insects, and diseases, etc.*)

It would be foolish for a farmer to not tend his new plants! Similarly, it would be foolish to spend time building relationships, praying, and sharing the gospel only to leave a new believer alone to dry up from lack of nourishment, to be choked by weeds, or to be eaten by insects. New believers are vulnerable like new plants.

Remember in Lesson 3, we learned about "complete evangelism?" Complete evangelism results in FAITHFUL DISCIPLES. Our role in evangelism is to protect and nourish new believers by surrounding them with as much support and love as possible from the existing body of Christ so that they can become FAITHFUL DISCIPLES!

External Threats: Weeds and Pests

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.

- Who is the source of these external threats? (*Satan – God’s enemy*)
- Why does Satan want to attack new believers and us? (*He doesn’t want any new believers. He wants to steal, kill and destroy God’s people.*)

The Bible makes it clear that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion to uproot our faith. We know that he will threaten the faith of new believers with all kinds of weeds, insects and diseases.

As a class, let’s consider:

- What threats like the “weeds, insects, or diseases” might be present to new believers in our community or were part of your personal experience? These “threats” could be anything that might keep a new believer from remaining faithful. (Think back to the first role play: the Mother-in-Law, Neighbor Michael and Cousin Maria.) All these things come from the enemy.

Facilitator Instructions: List responses on chart paper or white board. Some examples might include: opposition like cultural and family pressure and peer pressure from friends; old habits of alcoholism, gambling, laziness, praying to other gods, going to places that are not good, hidden sins, thoughts, anger, greed, immoral behavior; worries of this life, greed for wealth, unhealthy relationships, doubts, etc.

- Can you give some examples of how some of these threats might make it difficult for a new believer to remain faithful? (*If the question is difficult, give an example or two and then give time for the class to come up with some examples from their community*)

Example: *If the new believer used to meet with his friends to drink and gamble every Friday, he will still be tempted to do so. It will be difficult for his friends to understand why he will not join them anymore.*

Example: *Old traditions or false beliefs will need to be replaced with new ones. Sacrifices to the gods or ancestors for good luck or a good harvest will need to be replaced with godly beliefs.*

We ALL will struggle against threats to our faith. The Bible can teach us how we can deal with the enemy and these threats.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

This tells us that all the threats we experience are from the “spiritual forces of evil.” It is all the work of the enemy! Paul goes on to tell the Ephesians to put on the “full armor of God.”

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Facilitator Instructions: Have the class stand and together “put on” each part of the full armor of God and discuss how each one can be used to protect from these threats. Some ideas for doing this:

- *Helmet of salvation – (use your hands to demonstrate putting on a helmet) Our salvation by Jesus our Savior who has died for our sins can protect our minds from lies from the enemy.*
- *Breastplate of righteousness – (use your hands to demonstrate putting on a breastplate) Jesus is our Righteousness and His Righteousness protects our heart from guilt and shame from our sin.*
- *Belt of Truth – (put on the belt) Jesus is the Truth and His Word is the truth and His Spirit reveals all Truth. The truth will set us free and it will protect us from shame (keeping our pants us).*
- *Shoes of the Gospel of Peace – (put on shoes) We are to be ready to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus that will bring peace and lead the way that we should walk.*
- *Shield of faith – (pick up a shield of faith) Our faith in God and the testimonies of His goodness in our lives can protect us from the attacks of the enemy.*

- *Sword of the Spirit – (demonstrate picking up a sword) The sword is the Word of God. It is our source of God’s truth and like Jesus, we can use it to defend and protect us from the enemy.*

What we have learned is that we can use the “full armor of God” to protect and care for new believers and all threats to our faith.

- Did you notice that the “full armor of God includes our tools of evangelism: prayer, words and actions?

It is our job to protect and care for new believers from threats from the enemy! We have done the work of evangelism and now we are also discipling new believers to become strong and mature! So that they can stand against the threats of the enemy.

Prayer Protects Believers

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- After putting on the “full armor of God, what else does Paul teach the Ephesian believers to do?
(Pray)

Prayer protects new believers because prayer quickens the work of the Holy Spirit. So, how shall we pray? Colossians 1:9-12 gives us a perfect example of how to pray for new believers.

Read Colossians 1:9-12.

Facilitator Instructions: Ask a participant to read Colossians 1:9-12 once. Then ask him to read it a second time, inviting participants to call out the things we ought to pray for. List their responses on the board. If any of the ideas below are missed, add them to the list on the board.

- What does this passage tell us we should pray for new believers?
 - ... be filled with knowledge of His will
 - ... have wisdom and understanding
 - ... live in a way that is pleasing to the Lord
 - ... bear fruit in good work
 - ... grow in the knowledge of God
 - ... be strengthened with endurance and patience
 - ... give thanks for being His people and belonging to His family

Being in relationship with new believers also helps us find out what their needs are! The evangelistic work of building relationships with new believers is necessary in order to pray according to their specific needs.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- When do we pray together as a church?
 - Are we praying for new believers?
 - Are we inviting new believers to join our church and pray with us?
- What things are we praying and not praying that we learned from Colossians?
- How can we be more effective in praying for new believers?

REPORT BACK – *Small groups share their findings and suggestions with the class.*

As a whole class, let’s practice praying according to the model of Colossians 1:9-12, which is written on the board/chart paper. (remind the group of the things Paul prayed and give enough time to pray similarly)

The Word Protects Believers

The word of God is called the “sword of the Spirit.” Jesus Himself defended Himself against Satan’s threats by using the word of God, which is scripture (Matthew 4)! Knowing God’s word is important to defend new believers against spiritual threats.

Read John 8:31-32:

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

Free from what? From sins, obstacles, temptations—all the things that threaten new believers! So, how do we gain knowledge of the truth? By studying God’s word.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- As a church, how are we learning God’s word?
- Do we invite new believers to hear, read, and study God’s word with us? What activities can they do to learn God’s word?
- What other ways can we help new believers gain knowledge of God’s word?

REPORT BACK – *Invite small groups to share their ideas with the whole class.*

In addition to reading and studying God’s word, our own words are also important!

Read Ephesians 4:29 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

- How can we use the Word of God to encourage new believers?
- How can our own words be used to build up the faith of others?

LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY

- What is something that you could say that would be encouraging to a new believer?

Facilitator Instructions: *It could be something like “Our God is the most powerful; there is nothing more powerful.” Or “We do not need to worry about anything; instead we can pray.” Encourage everyone to come up with two things they could say to encourage a new believer. Once everyone has 2 ideas, then get the class up and ask each person to tell two people the things that they thought about or toss a ball from person to person and the person that tossed the ball can share one word of encouragement to the person that caught the ball.*

- How did you feel when you thought of the two words of encouragement?
- How did it feel to receive the word of encouragement from someone?

Acts of Love Protect Believers

Finally, our goal in evangelism is for new believers to REMAIN faithful disciples who produce fruit by going on to show and tell others the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

- So, how can a believer grow in their faith so that they also produce fruit?

Jesus reminds us in John 15 that we are utterly dependent on Him:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

We can do nothing apart from the saving power of Jesus! So, how can we grow to be faithful disciples? Jesus Himself provides the answer in John 15, verses 4 and 10.

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

“**If you keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

Listen again and count how many times Jesus says the word “remain” or “abide” in these two verses!

Six times! Jesus states that we can remain faithful in Him by keeping His commands! Then He goes on (in verses 12, 17) to remind us what His command is:

“My command is this: **Love each other** as I have loved you.... This is my command: **Love each other.**”

How do we protect new believers from threats and help them to remain faithful disciples? We LOVE them! And we invite them to LOVE others!

Jesus takes care to warn us in verse 6 about what happens if don’t remain in Him:

“If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

- What Acts of Love has your church done that are specifically for new believers?
- Have you invited new believers to join you in doing Acts of Love?

REPORT BACK

If you do not have anything to list here, then it may be time for you to start some Acts of Love for new believers. Acts of Love are good for your own spiritual growth, the growth of the church body, and the growth of new believers in your community.

We must show God’s love to others in order to protect ourselves and new believers from withering in faith.

In your small groups:

- Identify at least three acts of love/activities could you/your church start to encourage new believers.
- Think about how to intentionally include new believers in future Acts of Love to help them grow?

Conclusion

Caring for new believers is absolutely necessary in order for them to grow in their relationship with God and to remain faithful disciples of Jesus. If we leave a new plant to grow on its own, it will likely die because of external threats. In the same way, a new believer will have a very difficult time growing in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ without the ongoing work of evangelism and discipleship through prayer, words and actions.

Above all, we are utterly dependent on Jesus Christ for our growth and our very lives. Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5)!

Let us encourage and build one another up in prayer, words and Acts of Love so that we remain in Jesus and bear much fruit. Remember His promise in John 15:11:

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete!”

Lesson 10: Evangelism Reaps a Harvest

Main Ideas

- A true believer produces fruit!
- The field of our community is ripe for harvest.
- When we do the work of evangelism, we join the celebration of the harvest!
- Each person can make a personal evangelism plan.

Materials Needed

- Student Guide (found at the end of the Teacher Guide) – Obstacles and Tools Group Charts – make one copy of each chart and give one chart to each group
- Paper and pencils for Personal Evangelism Plans
- “Tools of Evangelism” list from Lesson 4
- Flipchart / Markers

Introduction

Now that we have completed the training on evangelism, it is time to put our knowledge to work. This lesson will focus on preparing us to “Go and make disciples” in OUR OWN community!

Fruit Takes Time

In the Bible we see many people who make a decision to become a Christian immediately. But it is important for us to remember that while some might take a short time to make a decision, some may take a very long time. Think about the actual fruit that is grown here in your community as an example.

- What are some of the locally grown fruit in your community?
- How much time passes from the time the seed is planted to the time fruit is harvested? *Answers will vary from months to years.*

Some plants take a very long time to produce fruit, others take a short time, and still others fail to produce fruit at all! It is important for us to remember that not ALL of our efforts will produce the desired result of faithful believers in Jesus, but that doesn't mean the work was useless. Jesus's commands for us are always for our own benefit as well. Let's read on to examine the harvest.

The Fields Are Ripe for Harvest!

Jesus teaches that evangelism is an ongoing process that we all celebrate together. Remember the story of the Samaritan woman from Lesson 6.

Read John 4:34-38.

- Who is celebrating together? (*The one who reaps AND the one who sows*)
- What does this tell us about the work of evangelism?
 - *When we ALL do the work of evangelism, we ALL celebrate the harvest. Whether our effort prepares the soil, sows the seed or reaps the harvest, we ALL benefit from obedience to the command to do the work of evangelism!*
 - *Our prayers, words and actions should ALWAYS be at work (just like the sower and reaper work at the same time)*
- When the work of evangelism yields new believers, how do we all benefit? (*Encourage the group to think of ideas of how the community benefits from having more Christians.*)

- Whether or not the work of evangelism yields new believers, how might doing the work benefit you? (Allow for discussion. Here are some suggested responses: strengthens our faith, builds our relationships among each other, increases our joy, keeps us from being tempted by the obstacles in our own lives, etc.)

Remember that for some, the work of evangelism will take years and years to produce fruit, while others will produce fruit quickly! This is the work of the Spirit to determine, not ours. Our role is to join in the work continually, and we also will benefit from God’s blessings in our own lives!

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Jesus said, “... open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!”

- Where are the “fields” in your community? (Share ideas of locations and people who are unreached in the community. Perhaps write them down on whiteboard or chart paper.)

Let us begin the work of evangelism right now, starting with prayer. In small groups, pray that God would prepare each of these “fields” in our community to be ripe for harvest!

Facilitator Instructions: Divide the class into small groups and assign them a location or people that were mentioned in the last question above. Pray in groups for 5-10 minutes.

Preparing to Go

Before you leave this class today, we want to make sure that you will leave well prepared to begin the work of evangelism in your own community.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (3 groups)

Facilitator Instructions: Form 3 groups. Provide the **STUDENT GUIDE: Obstacles and Tools** charts prepared beforehand, as shown below. Each group will work on **only one** of the charts below.

Assignment: In the left column, write the obstacles we find in our community under each heading. You don’t need to add every obstacle possible, but the ones that seem most common. In the right column, choose from our list of ‘tools’ that may help you to address that obstacle. You might also think of additional ideas that are not on our list!

Group 1: The Obstacle of the HARD PATH

Things that stand in the way of others REALIZING they need a Savior

HARD PATH OBSTACLES found in our community	TOOLS to REMOVE Hard Path Obstacles
Human Sinfulness (list key sins we find in your community)	Prayer! and... (hint: list key verses that shine light on the sin which is mentioned)
Satanic Lies (List common lies found in your community)	Prayer! and...
Religious beliefs (list common religious beliefs that would keep people from becoming a Christian)	Prayer! and... (use key verses, introduce them to believers who had the same struggles, etc.)
Lack of knowledge	Prayer! and... Read scripture...etc.
Other? (List other examples)	Prayer! and...

Group 2: The Obstacle of ROCKS

Things that stand in the way of others RECEIVING Jesus as their Savior

ROCKS found in our community	TOOLS to REMOVE Rocks
Opposition from religious or political leaders <i>(list religious and political opposition found in your community here)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Societal pressures <i>(List examples of society pressure)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Friends <i>(List examples of opposition from friends)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Family pressures <i>(List examples of family pressure)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Other? <i>(List other examples)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>

Group 3: The Obstacle of THORNS and WEEDS

Things that stand in the way of others REMAINING faithful disciples of Jesus

THORNS/WEEDS found in our community	Tools to REMOVE Weeds and Thorns
Lack of supportive people or church	<i>Prayer! and...</i> <i>(who should be supporting)</i>
Addictions <i>(List common addictions in our community)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Old Habits <i>(List common habits found in our community, i.e., gossiping, telling lies, etc.)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Worries <i>(List common worries)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Desires <i>(List common desires)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Other? <i>(List other examples)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>

REPORT BACK

Facilitator Instructions: Have each group share their answers with the class. Facilitate a discussion to highlight the main issues that are present in your community for each category listed. Allow time for students to fill in answers in their student manuals and/or leave these Hard, Rocky, Thorns and Weeds Tables on the walls of your church in a visible place for people to use as needed.

Now Go!

Let us be reminded and encouraged by Jesus' own command and His promise to us.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. (*emphasize, "Go, make disciples and teach them to obey all I have commanded"*)

If you still feel that you are not ready to do the work of evangelism, take courage and comfort from Jesus' final words here: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Jesus Himself—the one who has ALL authority in heaven and on earth—has promised to be with us!

- If you have any fears about doing the work of evangelism, can you share them now?

Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to give each one wisdom, comfort and courage. *(Allow time for discussion and prayer)*

PERSONAL REFLECTION & PLANNING – Personal Evangelism Plan

We have been given the command by Jesus to go! You have prepared and practiced all through this module how to do the work of evangelism through prayer, words and actions. Now, make a plan!

Take 5-10 minutes alone to make a plan.

1. Think about one person/location you feel God may be calling you to share the gospel with.
2. Consider the soils and think about which soil represents that person/location best.
3. Think about any specific obstacles that you are aware of in these lives/areas.
4. Finally, list the tools of evangelism (from lesson 4, or others) that God may be asking you to put into practice with this person or place.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Share your plan in small groups of 3-4 people. Encourage each other with ideas of how you can effectively do the work of evangelism for these people and places TOGETHER. End your small group time with prayer for those people or places God may be calling you to reach.

Review

We have spent much time together learning about evangelism. Let's take a few moments to remember and share aloud what we have learned.

Share with the class:

- Something new you have learned
- Something that was particularly practical and useful
- Something that challenged your beliefs or your thinking about evangelism
- The most important thing you will remember from this module

Conclusion

We are evangelists! Jesus Himself gave us an example of how to do the work of evangelism through word and action. Our communities are ripe for the harvest! We know that we join the work of the Holy Spirit to reap a harvest of new believers and Jesus Himself is always with us!

Finally, be encouraged and spurred on to the work of evangelism by these words from Paul:

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?
As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

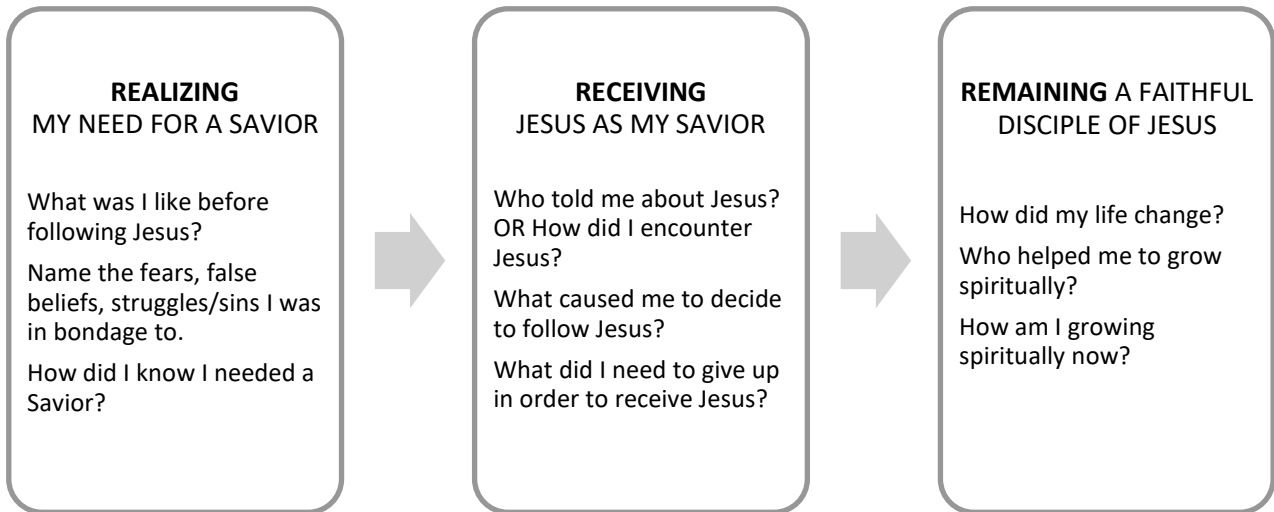
Now go! And share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through your words and actions!

STUDENT GUIDE

Facilitator Instructions:

- Lesson 2: Writing My Testimony – Make one copy for each person
- Lesson 10: Obstacles and Tools – Make one copy of each chart and give only one chart to each group.

Lesson 2: Writing My Testimony



Take some time to consider these steps as they apply to your own life. Use this time to answer the questions for yourself in order to be prepared to share your story with others in the class in a few minutes.

1. Realizing My Need for a Savior

2. Receiving Jesus As My Savior

3. Remaining A Faithful Disciple of Jesus

Lesson 10: Obstacles & Tools

Group 1: The Obstacle of the HARD PATH

Things that stand in the way of others REALIZING they need a Savior

HARD PATH OBSTACLES found in our community	TOOLS to REMOVE Hard Path Obstacles
Human Sinfulness <i>(List key sins we find in your community)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i> <i>(hint: List key verses that shine light on the sin which is mentioned)</i>
Satanic Lies <i>(List common lies found in your community)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Religious beliefs <i>(List common religious beliefs that would keep people from becoming a Christian)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i> <i>(use key verses, introduce them to believers who had the same struggles, etc.)</i>
Lack of knowledge	<i>Prayer! and...</i> <i>Read scripture...etc.</i>
Other?	<i>Prayer! and...</i>

Lesson 10: Obstacles & Tools

Group 2: The Obstacle of ROCKS

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ROCKS found in our community	TOOLS to REMOVE Rocks
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Friends <i>(List examples of opposition from friends)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Family pressures <i>(List examples of family pressure)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Other? <i>(List examples of family pressure)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>

Lesson 10: Obstacles & Tools

Group 3: The Obstacle of THORNS and WEEDS

Things that stand in the way of others REMAINING faithful disciples of Jesus

THORNS/WEEDS found in our community	Tools to REMOVE Weeds and Thorns
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Addictions <i>(List common addictions in our community)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Old Habits <i>(List common habits found in our community, i.e., gossiping, telling lies, etc.)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Worries <i>(List common worries)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Desires <i>(List common desires)</i>	<i>Prayer! and...</i>
Other?	<i>Prayer! and...</i>