**Presenting the Gospel**

**STUDENT GUIDE**

Class Outline

1. Introduction – Lesson #1
   1. This class is not focused on the why, but the what & how
   2. Prerequisites for the class.
   3. Objectives in Presenting the Gospel
   4. This will cost you something
   5. Benefiting from Each Other’s Successes and Failures
   6. Review four categories of efforts to be studied this quarter
2. Practical Techniques, Part 1
   1. Learning from Jesus’ Example
   2. Jesus’ Instructions to His disciples on teaching
   3. Jesus’ General Instructions applicable to teaching
   4. Learning from the examples presented in Acts
3. Practical Techniques, Part 2
   1. Strategies for finding prospects
   2. Strategies once you have identified prospects
4. Practical Techniques, Part 3
   1. Anatomy of your first meeting with an unbeliever
   2. Breaking down the schedule of events for each person
   3. Timeline approach
   4. Dealing with issues from the unbeliever
   5. Patience & Timing
5. Teaching Material for Unbelievers, Part 1
   1. Review structure and content of introductory lessons (God, Jesus, Bible)
   2. Practical – Putting it to use in groups
6. Teaching Material for Unbelievers, Part 2
   1. Review Structure and content of Overview of the O.T., N.T., Targeted Topical Bible Lessons
   2. Practical – Putting it to use in groups
7. Preparing to Overcome Adversity
   1. Satan will make you and the person you are studying with his target
   2. Not all will respond
   3. Not all will remain faithful
   4. Focusing on our job to scatter the seed
   5. Continue to grow spiritually
   6. Balancing our lives
8. Developing Courage
   1. Spiritual maturity
   2. Experience
   3. Fear of the unknown removed, we know how this ends already
   4. Brethren as a source of encouragement
9. Teaching New Convert Class, Part 1
   1. Review structure and content of “Fit for the Master’s Use”
   2. Teach Lesson #1 of the “Fit for the Master’s Use”
10. Teaching New Convert Class, Part 2 (Dec. 19, 2012)
    1. Teach 1st Half of Lesson #5 of the “Fit for the Master’s Use”
11. Putting It Altogether—Work the Plan—Costs
    1. Define the plan
    2. Work the plan
    3. Review the costs
    4. Review the rewards

**Introduction – Presenting the Gospel Lesson #1**

**I Peter 3:15**

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”**

1. This class is not focused on the why, but the what & how
2. Prerequisites for the class. We should already:
   1. Have an appreciation for what we have (Romans 1:16-17)
   2. Love others enough to share the gospel (Matt. 22:39; I John 4:7-21)
   3. Realize we are responsible for teaching as commanded by God (II Cor. 4:1-6)
3. Objectives for class on “Presenting the Gospel”
   1. Reach as many people with the gospel in our community as possible (Matt. 28:18-20)
   2. Assist each member of the congregation to realize their full potential in this effort (II Tim. 2:2)
   3. Give all the glory and honor to God for the results (Matt. 5:16; Luke 17:10)
4. This will cost you something (Matt. 10:39)
   1. We should structure our lives so that we can share it (I John 2:3-6)
   2. Sacrifices will have to be made, but not as hard as you might think (Matt. 6:33-34)
   3. Knowledge must be gained (II Tim. 2:15)
   4. Fear must not be an excuse, so you might be uncomfortable at first (Matt. 25:25)
   5. There is no time like the present. There will always be a reason (excuse) to not present the gospel to another person. (Matt. 13:7)
   6. Be Honest about what we do and don’t know (Heb. 4:13)
   7. Be Honest about what we do and don’t do (James 1:22-25)
5. Benefiting from Each Other’s Successes and Challenges (Acts 14:27-28)
   1. Two lesson approach taught several years ago here
   2. Wanted to rush into the plan of salvation without any foundation
   3. Impatient when the student would not respond
   4. Did not follow up with more studies on a regular basis after conversion
   5. Did not hit issues head-on like I should have once a person became a Christian
   6. Your own personality must not get in the way of the truth of God’s word. Don’t convert them to you, but to Christ.
   7. None of us are competing with each other. All of us will receive the same reward in the end (Matt. 20:1-16; James 1:12). If you are competing with others for praise of men then you have already received your reward (Matt. 6:2).
   8. Successes began to be realized when using the approach that will be taught this quarter
6. Review four categories of efforts to be studied this quarter
   1. Prospecting - Asking effectively
   2. Teaching Unbelievers – What & how to teach unbelievers
   3. Teaching New Converts – What & how to teach new Christians
   4. Teaching Growing Christians – How to teach mature Christians

**Things To Do This Week**

1. Restructure your schedule to set aside two hours a week for a weekly Bible study with someone beginning in two months
   1. What day of the week are you going to devote to this? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. What time of day can you commit to each week? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Make a written list of five people you know who are in need of salvation
   * 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Pray for wisdom and opportunities to teach God’s word to others
4. Read the Book of Matthew.

Write down one thing you learned from Jesus in the reading that will help us understand how to present the gospel to others. How did Jesus present it?

**Practical Techniques, Part 1 Lesson #2**

**Matthew 9:37-38**

**“Then He said to His disciples,’ The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”**

1. Jesus’ example in teaching the gospel.
   1. Preaching and saying, ”Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt. 4:17)
   2. Spoke with acquaintances (Matt. 4:18-22)
   3. Teaching in their synagogues and in the cities (Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 11:1; 13:54)
   4. “Then He opened His mouth and taught them” (Matt. 5:2)
   5. “,…He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7:29)
   6. Jesus feels and shows compassion for people and their needs (Matt. 8:3,7,15; 9:22; 9:36; 14:14; 15:31-32; 20:34)
   7. Jesus said what was needful even if it hurt someone’s feelings (Matt. 8:22)
   8. Did not let others prevent him from continuing on His mission when they did not accept Him or they ridiculed Him (Matt. 8:34; 9:34; 10:14)
   9. Sought to call sinners to repentance. Ate with tax collectors and sinners (Matt. 9:12-13)
   10. Jesus rebuked the cities and those who would not repent (Matt. 11:20; 15:13-14)
   11. Taught using logic and illustrations (Matt. 12:3-8, 11-12; 25-30; 15:3-11)
   12. Jesus was concerned about how His disciples understood the things He said (Matt. 16:11)
   13. Jesus sat daily with them teaching in the temple (Matt. 26:55)
   14. Jesus answered their questions even if the disciples’ were slow in their understanding, or could not fully understand yet. (Matt. 16:5-12; Matt. 24:3)
2. Jesus’ instructions to His 12 disciples.
   1. Disciples were told to preach as they went about, not converting people by their example only without a word being spoken (Matt. 10:7, 14)
   2. Disciples were to be, “…wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (Matt. 10:16)
   3. Told not to fear those who would persecute them, but rather rejoice in the persecution (Matt. 5:11-12; 10:26-31; 16:24-27)
   4. Warned against denying Christ before men (Matt. 10:32)
   5. Warned about family divisions for Christ’s sake (Matt. 10:34-37)
   6. Told to sacrifice for Christ (Matt. 10:38)
   7. Told to lose their life for Christ’s sake (Matt. 10:39; 16:24-27)
   8. “Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” (Matt. 11:6)
   9. They were to humble themselves as a little child (Matt. 18:4)
   10. Should not delay in our duty as servants (Matt.24:45-51)
   11. Cannot claim benefit from the work others are doing to prepare (Matt. 25:1-13)
   12. Will be judged as profitable servant based on performance & growth (Matt. 25:14-30)
   13. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing, teaching (Matt. 28:18-20)
3. Jesus’ general instructions applicable to teaching
   1. We will be judged by every idle word that comes from our mouths (Matt. 12:36-37)
   2. Parable of the sower (Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23)
   3. The knowledge of the Truth that we have access to is something that many prophets and righteous men desired to know. (Matt. 13:16-17)
   4. Not everyone will respond to the gospel (Matt. 7:6; 10:14-15; 13:18-23; 24-30)
   5. Must serve others as if they were Jesus (Matt. 25:31-46)

**Things To Do This Week**

1. Pray for each of the five people you listed as needing the gospel last week
2. Commit to a certain day in two months when you will begin devoting 2-hours a week to teaching others the Gospel. Write down the date here \_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Read the Book of Acts

**Practical Techniques, Part 2 Lesson #3**

**John 1:45**

**“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’”**

**Introduction**

1. How do we find people interested in studying the gospel?
2. What do we do once they say “Yes”?
3. What do we do when they say “No”?
4. **How To Find Prospects Interested in Studying the Bible**
   1. People that visit with us
   2. Get a copy of the visitor cards filled out from Chris Milton
   3. **Personal contacts** you already have: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors
   4. **Impersonal contacts**: people you do not know yet, but could very easily
      1. Showing kindness where ever you go will get you noticed
      2. Ask people about themselves
      3. Bridge the formality gap by opening up about yourself too
      4. Praying before you eat a meal even with acquaintances
   5. **Referrals**: Personal contacts of your personal contacts
5. **Suggestions on How to Ask**
   1. **General Recommendations**
      1. Ask questions
      2. Offer something that is structured, do not waste their time
      3. Be ready to deliver. Do NOT offer studies to more people than you have the capacity to deliver studies to or have others study with.
      4. In-person works a lot better than any other method in my experience. If not in-person then over the phone. Lastly over email or some other form of written communication.
   2. **Personal Contacts**
      1. “I’ve begun teaching one-on-one Bible studies would you be interested in studying with me? It takes about an hour a week and lasts for about 10-weeks. We could arrange a time that would work for your schedule. Are there certain days of the week that are better for you than others?”
      2. “When I was in my early twenties someone took me aside and showed me how the Bible fit together. There’s actually a common theme that strings the whole thing together and when you know the fundamental chronology it makes it so much easier to understand. Would you be interested in studying together where I could show you the same thing? It will really help your understanding of the Bible from this point forward.”
      3. “Do you have any plans this weekend?” Depending on the response you could say,”I worship God every Sunday morning over in Lewisville. Would you like to come worship with me on Sunday? We could spend some time studying the Bible after services that morning too. It would only take about an hour or so. I really want to show you what I’ve been studying lately.”
      4. “How is your faith these days?” for those who have become weak or seem to have lost their focus and turned back toward the worldly things.
   3. **Impersonal Contacts - Visitors at Our Worship Services**
      1. After some brief introductions, name, where they are from, what brings them to Lewisville, etc.
      2. “I really appreciate that you’re here and have an interest in spiritual things. Would you be interested in studying the Bible with me sometime? I’ve got a really good Bible study that takes you through the whole Bible in a few weeks. Ever since someone helped me like this with a Bible study it took my understanding of the scriptures to a whole new level. Are there certain times during the week that work better for you than others? Each study only takes about an hour or so.”
   4. **Impersonal Contacts – Strangers or Acquaintances** 
      1. After some brief introductions: name, where they are from, and conversation about where you are and what has brought you to the same place, etc.
      2. Simply ask, “Would you be interested in studying the Bible with me sometime?”
      3. “Someone shared the good news about Jesus with me and it has completely changed my life. Would you be interested in studying the Bible with me sometime?”
   5. **What to do when they say “Yes”**
      1. Set the appointment right then, even if they say they may need to change it.
      2. Give them confirmation that they made a good decision.
      3. Request that the student commit to one Bible study per week and attend the worship services at the local congregation every Sunday morning.
      4. Walk away,…do NOT over-do it. They agreed to study and that’s all you can do right now.
      5. Be excited about it. Tell others who are engaged in personal work to encourage them too.
   6. **What to do when they say “No”**
      1. Appreciate the fact they will not be wasting your time by agreeing and then not showing up.
      2. Respect their ability to make their own decisions but do not forget that people can change their minds.
      3. Put them on your list to ask again in 3 months or less; or when you have your next opening for a study if longer than 3 months.
      4. No pressure or guilt should be applied. That usually just pushes the person away and they will avoid you like the plague. Continue to talk with them just like you used to as you will definitely be asking them again. We are not there to force them to listen, but to offer to share it.
      5. If the person is belligerent or offended by the request then make sure they know that nothing negative was implied by the invitation and

you had hoped to learn something during the study too. You always do learn something one way or another when engaged in studies.

* + 1. “Let me tell you a little bit more about what you’re going to get out of the study,…” Go into a more detailed description of what the study involves and what they will come away with.
    2. Ask more and more questions
       1. “Have you ever wondered why we see all those dinosaur bones in the Smithsonian and where those came from? The Bible has those answers to these kinds of questions.”
       2. “Have you ever wondered how the whole Bible fits together? That’s what you’re going to come away with after we finish these series of studies. Each one only takes about an hour.”
       3. “Do you sometimes find that the Bible is hard to understand? It was hard for me to understand too and still is sometimes, but when you know how it all fits together it makes so much more sense. Won’t you reconsider studying with me? Let’s at least get together one time so you can figure out if it’s really worth your time.”
       4. “Sure, you can open the Bible and start reading Deuteronomy or some other book but what’s the unifying theme throughout the Bible? That’s what I want to share with you.”
       5. “I remember wondering about where all these different denominations and churches came from in America. Have you ever wondered about that? How can they all be studying the same Bible?”
    3. Your final response: “Well,…just know the offer is always there if you ever change your mind. Thanks for considering it.”

**Things To Do This Week**

1. Review cards filled out by visitors that are handed out at the Visitor Care Group Meeting at the end of services on Sunday evening, or have your email added to receive a PDF of the list each Monday.
2. Introduce yourself to at least one person who is visiting our services this week and be prepared to let the class know about them.
3. Practice with a friend, spouse, or your children how you would go about asking someone to study the Bible with you. Make it fun by having them act like they are the various categories of people you would ask.

**Practical Techniques, Part 3 Lesson #4**

**Acts 17:19-20**

**“And they took him and brought him to the Aeropagus, saying, ‘May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.’”**

What do we do once someone says “Yes” and we’re ready to study for the first time?

1. **Anatomy of Your First Meeting.**
   1. General Recommendations
      1. If the person you are studying with is of the opposite sex it is strongly advised that you have your spouse there or another sister in Christ present (vice versa for women who are teaching). If it is possible to refer that person to another sister in Christ for a one-on-one study that is also a good idea. Aquila and Priscilla worked together as a team in teaching others the gospel (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3).
      2. Meet at the church building where there are not any distractions from spouses, children, pets, electronics, etc. if possible.
   2. Ask Questions To Determine Where to Begin
      1. Philip asked questions of the Ethiopian eunuch to determine where to begin studying with him (Acts 8:30). Paul asked questions of those in Ephesus when he met them in Acts 19 asking them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” and “Into what then were you baptized?” Paul asked King Agrippa, “Do you believe the prophets?” already knowing that he did believe (Acts 26:27).
      2. “Tell me a little bit about yourself, I know we’ve seen each other at work a lot but I really don’t know much about you.”
      3. “So tell me, what do you believe about God. Who is He and what are some of His characteristics?”
      4. “Do you believe God created the universe and everything in it? Do you believe in the theory of evolution as an explanation for where mankind came from?”
      5. “Do you believe in Jesus? Tell me what you know about Jesus from history, the Bible, etc.”
      6. “Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe that he was resurrected or raised from the dead? Was Jesus a ghost when he was resurrected or did His body really come back to life?”
      7. “What do you believe about the Bible? Have you ever read it or parts of it? Is it from God?”
      8. If the person does believe in God, Jesus, and the word of God then I ask them if they have been saved from their sins. If they say “yes” then I ask them when it happened and how.
      9. “Do you have any particular questions about the Bible that you want answers to?”
      10. Consider, if appropriate, asking, ”What denomination were you brought up in?” or “What denomination do you attend now?”
      11. Drawing out a timeline of their life on a piece of paper is sometimes a good visual.
   3. Decide Which Lesson to Study During this First Meeting
      1. Based on the answers to those questions and where their answers lead you will determine which lesson we start studying and how much extra materials we bring prepare for our study schedule.
      2. Write down how the person believes they were saved from their sins
      3. Write down any specific questions the student has proposed.
      4. Remember to stick to a plan of study and do not get overly distracted with all the various questions and lack of depth of knowledge on the part of the student.
   4. Teach the Lesson That Fits
      1. Cover the best lesson that fits the scenario you are presented with by the student.
      2. Start where they are, not where you are or want to start.
      3. Paul started with the Jews by reasoning with them from scripture (Acts 17:1-4), but started with who God is when teaching the Gentiles in Athens (Acts 17:22-24).
   5. When You Finish the First Lesson
      1. Ask them if it was helpful and if they would benefit from studying once a week like this.
      2. Tell them that you want this to be beneficial for them as it is already beneficial for you as the teacher. Thank them for their interest in spiritual things.
      3. Encourage them to begin reading God’s Word from the beginning in Genesis as this will help them later when you go through an overview type chronological study of the Bible.
      4. Show them how the books of the Bible all breakdown in their table of contents and how to find Bible passages if they do not know how.
      5. If you started with the Overview of the Old Testament, then at the conclusion of the class map out on the board the timeline so far and see if you and the student can quiz each other on it. Review the electronic chart version and give them a hard-copy of what you’ve studies so far.
      6. Pray and go home. Do not drag this out. I often times spend a few minutes talking with the student after the study outside to get to know them better and make sure they know I really do care about them as a person. This is not just an exercise and routine but we sincerely love people as they are God’s creation and God desires that all should be saved.
   6. After the Student Leaves
      1. Breakdown the schedule of events for each person when you get home to plan out the next few classes for the student and what will be covered.
      2. Which lessons to be studied when
      3. How many weeks you anticipate studying
      4. Special topics identified
      5. Evaluate if the time being spent is accomplishing what the student needs and wants to know
2. Review Timeline Approach
3. Dealing with Life Issues from the Unbeliever
   1. Remember our mission to give a reason for the hope that is within us. We are not family/marriage counselors, physicians, or psychologists.
      1. Family problems
      2. Health problems
      3. Marriage issues
      4. Ineffective time management – patience is required
      5. Self-deception (James 1:23-25 compares the word to a mirror as it shows us what we really are as compared to its standard. Let the word do its work.)
   2. Patience and Forgiveness
      1. Paul taught people in Corinth for 1½ years (Acts 18:11)
      2. Paul spent 2 years in Ephesus (Acts 19:10)
      3. Paul & Barnabas taught people in Antioch for 1 year (Acts 11:26)
      4. Paul studied in the synagogues reasoning with people diligently and some cases on a weekly basis (Acts 13:5,14; 14:1-3; 17:2; 18:4, 19)
      5. People will sometimes sin during the times we study with them and sometimes even sin against us. Don’t let this stop you from teaching them. (Matt. 18:21-35) Forgive 70 x 7. We have been forgiven much therefore it should be easy to forgive the slights taken from unbelievers for the Lord’s sake.
   3. Spend Time Preparing
      1. Practice lessons before you deliver them
      2. Study topics outside of the general course of study to present when needed
      3. Provide the proper reminders to the student about the studies
      4. Prayer
      5. Consistency on your part as the teacher is critical
      6. Willingness to never give up as long as the student is making progress

**Things To Do This Week**

1. Practice with a friend, spouse, or children what questions will need to be asked during the first meeting before you choose which lesson to begin teaching.
2. Review Lessons on God, Bible, and Jesus from David Dann
3. Practice discussing the basic timeline of the Bible

**Preparing to Overcome Adversity Lesson #5**

**Philippians 4:13**

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

**Introduction**

1. Light affliction of Paul (II Cor. 4)
2. Adversity faced by those who taught and received the gospel in the first century
   1. Jason dragged out of his house (Acts 17:5-9)
   2. Paul stoned (Acts 14:19)
   3. Stephen stoned to death (Acts 7:59)
   4. Peter thrown into prison (Acts 12:5)
   5. Paul was hunted down after he himself hunted down Christians before his conversion (Acts 17:13; Acts 8:3)
3. It is difficult to define what we will go through as true adversity or persecution, so it is more appropriate to discuss what we will overcome are objections and discouragement. There are very few sufferings we endure for preaching the gospel, unless you include: frustration, relating to and with people, endurance to keep working, or harsh words spoken towards us as really suffering.

**Understanding the Facts Helps**

1. Satan will make you and the person you are studying with his target
   1. I Peter 5:8 – Satan is seeking after prey that are still alive spiritually, he already has the others in his clutches
   2. I Timothy 5:6; Col. 2:13 – Someone can be dead spiritually, yet alive physically
2. Satan has been objecting to God’s truth from the beginning (Gen. 3:1-5). There are those who will want to argue or desire to take the opposing position just to be against you.
3. Not everyone will respond (Matt. 22:14 - Many are called but few are chosen)
4. Not everyone will remain faithful (Matt. 13:3-8 – Parable of the Sower)
5. We will still have some of the same personal challenges either way (health, work, financial, family, etc.)

**Overcoming Objections and Discouragement**

1. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:7)
2. Put on the Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-20 – Truth, Righteousness, Preparation of the Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, Word of God) How will these help us?
3. We are speaking God’s words and not our own when teaching God’s truth, although we may be personally attacked. Seek to meet every objection with scripture such as Jesus met every temptation from the Devil with scripture (Matt. 4). Just because someone denies the truth does not nullify the truth (Rom. 3:3; 2 Tim. 2:13).
4. Focus on limited task to scatter the seed and water; the power is in God’s Word not us
   1. II Tim. 2:1-2 – Teach others who then teach others
   2. I Cor. 3:5-8 – Paul planted, Apollos watered, God gave the increase
   3. Rom. 1:16 – Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation
   4. Heb. 4:12 – Word of God is living and powerful
   5. Kris Milton studied with Dave after Kurt invited him to worship a couple of years ago.
   6. I asked Jesus Salas to study with me for 3 years before he finally agreed. There will be setbacks.
5. Appreciate the fact that our service to God is not in vain (I Cor. 15:58; II Cor. 4:16-5:1; Gal. 6:9)
6. We cannot give up and be pleasing to God (Gal. 6:9-10; II Thess. 3:13; II Tim. 2:3)
7. Practice Patience. Things will not always happen when we want them to.
   1. Abraham became impatient with God’s timing, married Hagar and conceived a child with her that was not according to promise (Gen. 16).
   2. King Saul rushed ahead and offered sacrifices instead of Samuel and lost his right to serve as King of Israel (I Sam. 13).
   3. God is patient not willing that any should perish (II Pet. 3:9).
8. Encourage each other (Heb. 10:24; Heb. 3:13; I Thess. 5:11)

**Common Issues for the Unbeliever**

1. “If I obey the gospel that means my mother is going to hell because she never obeyed the gospel.”
   1. We do not determine the fate of another by whether or not we obey or not. We can only affect our own spiritual condition by our obedience (Ezek. 18:20). Whether you are baptized into Christ or not, this will have no impact on your mother’s soul one way or the other.
   2. The rich man wanted his brothers to know the truth after he had died (Luke 16:27-28), and so would your mother. Your mother loved you and would want what is best for you.
2. The person does not have the right to be married to the person they are with.
   1. Topic of Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage is introduced in Lesson #5 of the New Convert Class material “Fit for the Master’s Use” so it sometimes comes up in that class.
   2. Engage in a separate study on this after a foundation has been laid down.
   3. Study how to establish Bible Authority first before studying the topic.
3. Sins that a person is not willing to give up
   1. Continue to study as long as the person is willing to study.
   2. When you finish the prepared lessons (Counting the Cost) intended for teaching unbelievers choose a book of the New Testament to study together.
   3. Compare the temporary pleasures and consequences of the sins versus the eternal reward and lack of consequences while here on earth.

**Developing Courage Lesson #6**

**II Timothy 1:7-8**

**“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to**

**the power of God,…”**

**Introduction:**

1. Courage is the confidence to do what God has required in spite of opposition, persecution, or struggles. Webster’s Dictionary defines courage as “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.”
2. Twice Paul writes by inspiration of the power of God telling us where he places his confidence.
3. How do we develop the courage we need when teaching others the gospel?

**Developing Courage**

1. Pray for Courage - **Acts 4:23-31** – Peter, John and their companions pray for boldness to speak God’s word. (focus on v29)
2. Spiritual maturity
   1. **Hebrews 10:35-39** – We must remain faithful and true to Christ and not pull back away. God has no use for cowards. (context is going back to the law of Moses, but also giving up after having endured trials; most likely persecution of Acts 8:1-3)
   2. **Ephesians 6:10** – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the **Lord** and in the power of **His might**.”
   3. **2 Cor. 5:6-8** – We walk by faith and not by sight. We are spiritually minded and not enamored by the physical things of this life. (we look forward to resurrection and heaven)
   4. **II Tim. 1:12** – I know, I am persuaded, I have committed. These will bring about confidence and a lack of shame in teaching Jesus to others.
   5. **Acts 28:31** – Paul preached the word for two years in Rome with all confidence under house arrest. This was after he had made several preaching trips and taken many stands for the Truth. Experience may have contributed to his confidence. (If we are working to teaching others experience will be gained. Notice it does not come with merely getting older.)
3. Understanding Our God-Given Role
   1. **Romans 10:15** – (Isa. 52:7; Nah. 1:15) You want to have beautiful feet! It is essential that we go and deliver the message. Man’s part is the “go” in **Matt. 28:19** as God has already provided the message to be delivered. Our feet will carry us from place to place. The message is God’s so God does not need our tremendous intellect to improve on anything, someone who looks a certain way, or a savvy speaker; just a delivery of His inspired word to others. The desperate need for the gospel in the lives of others will bring courage when we realize we are God’s chosen means of delivery. We should not get puffed up or nervous about it when we realize we are to use our feet and then deliver God’s message when we get there.
   2. **I Cor. 1:17** – What was the problem Paul was facing from the Corinthian brethren? We are not sent out to gain a following through some charismatic approach or through a presentation of how smart we are, but to preach the gospel. This should give us courage as the message has already been established. We’re just preaching what we’re told by God and it’s all about His plan, not something we have to develop.
   3. **2 Cor. 4:5** – We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. (along the same lines as previous passage)

1. Brethren as a source of encouragement
   1. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works
   2. **I Thess. 5:11** – Brethren are to edify (or build up) each other
2. Fear of the unknown is removed as we know how this all ends. God will always win.
   1. **Phil. 1:19-26** – We must be willing to put it all on the line for God’s purposes knowing that our hope is sure.
   2. **Acts 5:26-42** – (Read v26-32; 41-42) We are to obey God over men. The same Truth Peter and the other apostles were teaching is what we have today and it needs to be taught to others. The apostles believed it was something to rejoice about when being counted worthy to suffer for Jesus’ sake. They continued to teach in the temple and every house Jesus as the Christ.
   3. **Matt. 10:24-39** – Preach the word from the housetops! We should expect some to oppose us as they did Christ, but we should not fear them. We should be willing to lose our lives (set aside our will) here in service to God (obeying His will) to gain the true fulfillment God has for us here and in the life beyond this world in eternity. God always wins, and we are on God’s side, so we are ultimately going to win.
   4. **I Sam. 17:37** - One man and God make a majority. Remember David and Goliath.
   5. **Romans 8:31,35-39** – If God is for us, then who can be against us? Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God. **Nothing!!!**

**Putting It Altogether – Work the Plan Lesson #7**

**Matthew 9:37-38**

**“Then He said to His disciples,’ The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”**

**Objectives**

1. Reach as many people with the gospel in our community as possible (Matt. 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,…”)
2. Assist each member of the congregation to realize their full potential in this effort (Acts 8:4 “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”)
3. Give all the glory and honor to God for the good fruit born in this continual effort (I Cor. 3:7 “So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”)

**Strategy**

1. **Inviting Others to Seek the Truth**
   1. Identifying and inviting all visitors at our services for Bible studies
   2. Identifying and inviting all family, friends, and neighbors for Bible studies
   3. Soliciting Bible studies from the community at-large via phone calls, face-to-face encounters at colleges, fairs, social media, etc.
   4. Track progress made on each one who visits as to whether or not a Bible study has been offered, etc.
   5. Suggestion: Request that the student commit to one Bible study per week and attend the worship services at the local congregation at every opportunity.
2. **Teaching Unbelievers**
   1. One-on-one Bible studies using David Dann’s series of lessons modified to include basic timeline of events and lineage of Christ
   2. Two-on-one Bible studies using the same material where one individual is a brother or sister in Christ who serves as a silent partner and essentially a second student in the class for the purposes of learning to teach others
   3. Optimally studies are taught men to men, women to women
   4. Venue is typically the church building
   5. Frequency is typically 1-1.5 hours once per week for three months
   6. Suggestion: Before the student is baptized go through the lesson on counting the cost of discipleship so that the person truly understands the commitment they are making to Christ. Also, teach on the possibility of falling away and losing one’s salvation. It is pointless to be baptized if one does not commit to make changes in one’s life to follow the law of Christ morally and religiously.
3. **Teaching New Converts to strengthen their faith, knowledge, and relationships with brethren**
   1. Group Bible studies consisting of eight or less individuals in the class using the Fit for the Master’s Use series of ten lessons. Questions dealing with topics pertinent to the lessons are handled in these classes. Other questions are handled in Item #4 below.
   2. Two to four students will be new converts to Christ
   3. Two brethren will serve as teachers and alternate from week to week
   4. Two brethren will participate as students to learn how to teach the material and guide study groups of their own and/or serve a supporting function for those brethren teaching
   5. Groups are mixed with men and women (especially if a woman is present for the class)
   6. Venue is typically the church building
   7. Frequency is typically 1-1.5 hours once per week for three months
4. **Teaching Believers**
   1. One-on-one or small group studies teaching on particular topics that are of concern by either new or mature Christians in our congregation
   2. Elders want to be involved in the process and teach these subjects to allow a relationship to build between these brethren and our Elders. The Elders would also offer a depth of understanding that others may not be able to provide.
   3. This is covering selected topics or assisting the new convert who has finished the new convert class with various areas of concern or with difficult lessons taught in the Sunday and Wednesday night Bible classes.
   4. We encourage the brother or sister in Christ to involve themselves in the studies going on at our regular service times and to participate as a student in the new convert classes again if they would find that helpful.
5. **Involving the Whole Congregation**
   1. Invitations have been offered to brethren to participate in each of the items above
   2. It is most often best to start by inviting a brother or sister in Christ to participate in Step #3 - Teaching New Converts because those are structured lessons and very non-threatening as the New Converts are eager to learn the Truth.
   3. This allows the brother or sister from the congregation to start building good habits in devoting time to the effort and it also builds their confidence in the word of God and their ability to share it with others.
   4. Invitations should be offered for others to participate as silent partners in ongoing One-on-One Bible studies
   5. Brethren should be encouraged to invite their family, friends, and neighbors for Bible studies
   6. Brethren should be encouraged to participate in the other prospecting efforts, but not the prospecting efforts alone as we could easily overwhelm our capacity to teach the gospel to others.
   7. If many Bible studies are going on at the building some might just be there to man the lobby to allow women to conduct studies at the building and feel safe.  Not everyone we study with is someone who is familiar to us.  Many are complete strangers when we first meet and begin studying.
   8. Encourage the brethren to invite all new Christians in their homes to be an encouragement to them.
   9. Lessons are being taught from the pulpit and encouragement from the Elders is being provided on how to deal with immature Christians. Many Christians may expect a level of maturity from newly converted Christians that will be a discouragement or not understand how to help strengthen immature Christians.

**Concerns Expressed by the Elders**

1. Making sure that individual dogmas do not weave their way into the studies.
2. Not to become a discipling movement where students are subjugated to their teachers and must seek permission from superiors for things they do.
3. Not the psychologist’s couch.