

Evangelism

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The great urgency for soul winning

Lesson 1

A. God gave His all for you and me

Read John 3:16

1. Thank God that He loved the world so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us.

There is no greater price that any being can pay than to let his only and most precious son die.

2. Notice too that God says that **whosoever** believes in Him should not perish. This means that God desires that everyone in the world should be saved.

To God every soul is valuable; rich or poor, great or small, of every tribe and every tongue. We must ask God for a revelation of this fact in our spirits, so that we can become effective tools in God's hands for evangelism.

Illustration: A great man of God once said, regarding the value of one soul, "I believe that if an angel were to wing his way from earth to heaven and were to say that there was one poor, ragged boy, without father or mother, with no one to care for him and teach him the way of life, and if God were then to ask who among them was willing to come down to this earth and live here for fifty years and lead that one boy to Jesus Christ, every angel in heaven would volunteer to go. Even Gabriel, who stands in the presence of the Almighty, would say, 'Let me leave my high and lofty position and let me have the privilege of leading one soul to Jesus Christ'".

There is no greater honour than to be the instrument in God's hands of leading a person out of the kingdom of Satan into the glorious kingdom of God.

A passion for souls is rare among church members today and we believe there are several reasons for this!

B. We do not realize that every unsaved soul is utterly lost

Read Matthew 5:29-30

Here Jesus emphasizes the awfulness of hell. He knew how awful it would be for a person to land in this place created for the Devil and his demons.

We must also understand how desperately important salvation is. Not to be saved is to go to hell.

General Booth of the Salvation Army once said that he would like to send all his officers to hell for twenty-four hours, as the chief part of their training. Why? Because it is not until we realize how awful hell is, that our belief will drive us to action. We must recognize that all who are outside of Christ are lost, irrespective of their family background, religious beliefs or good character.

Jesus, the manliest of men, wept for lost souls and Paul, the brave, begged men night and day with tears to be reconciled to God. Should we do any less?

C. We do not realize the great value of a soul

Read Mark 8:36-37

Christ gladly exchanged the shining courts of glory for a life of poverty, suffering, shame and death, rather than let one human soul perish.

Every soul is of great value because of:

1. **Its nature and origin:** Man was made in the image of God, and into him was breathed the breath of God. Man is an immortal being.
2. **Its powers and capacities:** The capacities of the human being even in this life seem limitless, but its greatest capacity is fellowship with God.
3. **The duration of its existence:** The human soul will exist eternally, either in the glorious presence of God or in the awful place of hell.
4. **Its great cost of redemption:** Neither silver nor gold could pay the price of man's redemption; only crimson drops of precious blood from the broken body of the Son of God.
5. **The struggle required for its possession:** The unregenerate human soul is the battleground of both God and the Devil, the one motivated by love and the other by hate.

D. Great reasons why we should be soul winners

1. **Read 1 Timothy 1:15 – I am a soul winner because Jesus was one.**

Jesus came to save sinners; that was His mission. He mixed with sinners, He witnessed to them and He convinced them and won them.

2. **Read Matthew 9:36-38 – I am a soul winner because the harvest is so great.**

The great masses of the world are scattered as sheep without a shepherd. They are bewildered by superstitious religions and the foolish ideologies of men.

The harvest is so great yet the labourers are so few. Pray to God to send out labourers into the harvest, for the fields are white, already to harvest.

3. **Read Mark 16:15 – I am a soul winner because of the Great Commission.**

The last thing Jesus commanded us to do was to go into all the world and preach the gospel. This was not a suggestion or request, but a command.

Christ did not tell us to go to church and ring a bell, or engage a special speaker but rather to "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled". Luke 14:23.

A fisherman does not go fishing in his bathtub. If he expects to catch fish he must cast his nets in the streams and dams and seas where the fish are.

4. **Read Ezekiel 33:6-9 – I am a soul winner because I do not want the blood of sinners on my hands.**

Whilst this is not a law that binds the Christian as it did Ezekiel, Christ has commanded us to preach His gospel. Can we let souls perish when we know the consequences? Paul said, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel". 1 Corinthians 9:16.

5. **Read Daniel 12:3 – I am a soul winner because there is a great reward for all those who win souls.**

Soul winners will shine as stars forever and ever and experience the great joy of God in all eternity.

6. **Read John 17:3 – I am a soul winner because of my own experience.**

To know God and His Son Jesus Christ is eternal life. No other form of life is higher than this. To experience the glory of God's life in my heart daily, to see my life changed by His power, is to have found the pearl of great value. May God give us grace to share this joy with others.

E. We are Christ's body on earth

Read Ephesians 5:30

1. Christ ministers through His body, the church, today just as He ministered through His own physical body 2000 years ago. He could have sent angels but instead He has sent us, human beings, to preach the Good News – what a wonderful privilege!
2. We will grow deeper in Christ by witnessing. He will become more real to us as He ministers through our body – His church – His temple.

Finally, let us close this aspect of evangelism with what a prominent soul winner once said: "Let the cross be raised again in the centre of the market place, as well as on the steeple of the church. Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles but on a cross between two thieves – on the town dump at the crossroads – so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in three languages, Hebrew, Latin and Greek".

"The Son of God was crucified at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, where thieves curse, and where soldiers gamble. Because that is where Christ died and since that is what He died about, that is where Christians can best share His message of love because that is what real Christianity is all about".

Memory Verse

Mark 16:15, "*He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation'*".

Jesus and the early church

Lesson 2

Jesus shows the way

A. Jesus the great evangelist

Read 1 Timothy 1:15

1. Jesus was, and still is by His Spirit, the greatest soul winner of all time.
2. He came "to seek and save that which was lost".
3. Jesus set His face like flint towards the cross, never wavering nor turning back from His mission here on earth.

Because His whole purpose here on earth was to reveal His Father, and to guide men to eternal salvation by dying on the Cross of Calvary, we can learn much from His glorious example.

B. He came to destroy the works of the Devil

Read 1 John 3:8(b)

Jesus was never sidetracked from His calling, although the Devil offered Him all the kingdoms of this earth. Every movement of Jesus – everything He said or did – was for a divine purpose.

It was the Devil who lured men away from Christ and who wished to destroy mankind. But, from beginning to end, Christ destroyed the works of Satan.

Let us also concentrate on freeing men from the clutches of the evil one and releasing them to Christ.

C. Jesus the great teacher and preacher

Read Matthew 4:23

1. His message was that men repent, turn from their sin, confess to God and serve Him with all their hearts.
2. His teaching that led people to this repentance was concerning God's kingdom of peace, righteousness and love, i.e. a spiritual kingdom.
3. Men recognized His ability to teach, for even Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came secretly at night and said to Jesus, "We know thou art a teacher come from God". John 3:2.
4. He not only preached and taught but also performed great signs and wonders, healing all those who came to Him that were sick.

D. Features of Jesus' teaching method

1. Oral teaching.

He always spoke to people. Only once did He write and that was in the sand, in the case of the adulteress.

2. Often unplanned.

He usually aimed His teaching at the particular circumstances of the moment, e.g. the wayside interview with the rich young man, Matthew 19:16-24, or the question of imperial taxation, Matthew 22:15-22.

3. Always adapted His teaching to His audience.

He put Himself in their place and saw their need, e.g.

- a) If the Law of Moses was their religion – He began with that and led them to the better law of God.
- b) If it was a national kingdom they were dreaming of for Israel – then Jesus met them on that ground and led them on to a spiritual kingdom.
- c) He always used simple language and He never went too fast. "I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now". John 16:12.

4. Used examples from life.

We find this especially with His parables, through which He made men actually see the truths, which He was proclaiming. Matthew 22:1-14.

E. Principles of Jesus' teaching methods

1. Authoritative.

"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law". Matthew 7:28-29.

2. Never overbearing or forceful.

Jesus was always patient and humble, "I call you not servants but I have called you friends". John 15:15.

3. He was determined to make men think.

For example when asked, "Who is my neighbour?" by a lawyer, Jesus answered, "A certain man went down to Jericho...." and He told the story of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:29.

4. What He taught, He lived.

In this He is an example for all His followers for ever: He forgave even on the cross. He sacrificed Himself. He prayed all night long. He washed their feet. His faith was unparalleled.

5. He loved those He taught.

- a) Even though His disciples often failed Him, He never ceased to love them.
- b) He was never class conscious; He had conversations with the ruling class e.g. Nicodemus, with businessmen e.g. Zacchaeus and also with outcasts e.g. the woman of Samaria, and tax collectors.
- c) He wept and prayed over the souls of men, knowing that as He sowed in tears He would reap in joy.

F. Jesus' promise to us

Read John 14:12

Jesus promised that we would do even greater works than He, if only we would believe and follow Him. He sent His Spirit to live in us that we might continue to evangelise like He did. "I am with you always".

Let us follow in the Master's footsteps and bring glory to His name and souls into His Kingdom.

The early church our example

A. Born in a demonstration of power

Read Acts 1:8

The early church was born in a blaze of personal witnessing about Jesus Christ, because it received power from on high. In the book of Acts we see how soul winning was the constant activity of these early believers. In two years all of Asia Minor heard the gospel, and it was done without cars, aeroplanes, radio, TV, films and newspapers. Acts 19:10.

Nothing in scripture says God gave the early church a double portion of power or more than to the church today. We have the same Holy Spirit and the same opportunity!

B. Not with clever words

Read 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Often we think that it is necessary to have great wisdom to preach the Good News, but this is not so. Paul did not preach with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in a demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Today too many of us are more concerned with theory, theology and doctrine, rather than

with the reality of Christ's life and power. When people see Christ in action, their faith will not stand on the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

C. Methods of the early church

It is important to remember that for the first 150 years of the church there were no church buildings. The believers taught and preached wherever they could find a ready audience.

1. Synagogue preaching. Acts 13:14.

The synagogues provided the seedbed for evangelism among the Jews. They were ready-made congregations and the Christians used the synagogues for almost thirty years, until these doors were closed to them.

2. Open-air preaching. Acts 2:1-7.

A favourite site was the temple area because large numbers of people usually gathered or passed by there.

3. Prophetic preaching. Acts 11:27-28.

Ministering directly to the people prophetically through the power of the Holy Spirit was a powerful tool in the hands of the early gospel preachers.

4. Teaching. Acts 19:9.

Paul took over the lecture hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus for two years and convinced many to come to Christ.

5. Personal testimony. 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

The testimonies of believers of how Christ had changed their lives, and the absolute assurance that they were right about God and Christ and salvation, succeeded in convincing the pagan and religious world that it was in error.

6. Home evangelism.

The book of Acts is full of instances where Christians met together in homes for a great variety of meetings, e.g. the Lord's Supper, prayer meetings, teaching, following up new converts and evangelistic gatherings.

7. Signs and wonders. Acts 3:6-8.

The gifts of the Spirit were in constant operation and this convinced the people of the reality of a living Christ. Often signs such as tongues at Pentecost, or the healing at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, helped attract people and convince them.

D. The final chapter

Read Matthew 24:14

The church of Jesus Christ will be raptured at a time when it is experiencing a greater demonstration of power than that in which it was born, and many will come to know Jesus Christ.

The book of Acts has no "Amen"; we are part of the final chapter.

Will your name be listed among the great warriors of the Christian church when this chapter is finally written?

Memory Verse

Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come".

Preaching the gospel

Lesson 3

Many people are unsure of how to share the good news of salvation with others because they are not clear about the basic truths. The following is a guideline for sharing the glory of salvation.

A. The true and living gospel

1. Salvation is a free gift.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

It is important that people realize that salvation is a free gift and not something one has to work for. No matter how good people think they are, e.g. doing good works, going to church or leading a clean life, they cannot earn salvation.

"Grace" means "unmerited favour", which means that no matter how bad we are or how good, God will save us if we come to Him in repentance.

2. God.

Read John 3:16 and 36

People must realize that God has two very powerful aspects to His character:

- a) God is holy and will not tolerate sin in His presence and will punish sin.
- b) He is a God of love who wishes all to be saved.

3. Man.

Read Romans 3:23

The Bible is very clear that all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

We sin in many different ways:

In **thought** – unholy thoughts of envy, lust, etc.

In **word** – lies and harsh things we say to one another.

In **deed** – stealing, cheating and being cruel to one another.

4. Christ.

Read John 1:1

Christ was not just a good man but was in fact God Himself – God the Son. This means that God Himself took on our nature so that He could die in our place.

Read 1 Peter 3:18

His body was broken and His blood shed on the Cross of Calvary, so that the

penalty for our sins could be paid for. When God looks at us after we have been saved, He looks through the blood of His Son Jesus and sees us as clean of all sin, and He allows us into His presence.

5. **Faith.**

Read Hebrews 11:6

It is one thing to know what Jesus has done for us, but it is another to believe that He has done it for us personally.

We must stretch out our hands of faith toward God, repent of our sins and ask Him to come into our hearts. Then we must trust Him that we are saved and are His children.

Illustration: A man once decided that he wished to walk on a tightrope over a deep gorge. He invited many people to come and watch him do this mighty feat. First he walked over holding a balance bar and all the people cheered, then he walked over without the bar and the people cheered even louder. Then he took a wheelbarrow and pushed it over which absolutely amazed the onlookers. He asked them if they thought he could walk back over the rope with the wheelbarrow and they all agreed that he could. So he asked for anyone to come and sit in the wheelbarrow while he pushed it over the deep gorge. Now suddenly there was a deathly silence. All were too afraid to trust him.

This is just how it is with Jesus and us. We all know He died for us, but we must have faith and put our life into His wonderful hands, and trust Him to take us over the deep gorge that separates death from life.

B. Bringing people through the door of heaven

1. Often Christians share the gospel with someone and then leave him or her standing at heaven's door without taking him or her through into glory. This is sometimes because they fear failure and will then feel ashamed. Remember that the person rejects Christ not you.

2. Ask the person clearly by name, "Would you like to give your life to Jesus now?"

Any one or more of the following scriptures can be read to the person to show them that Christ is waiting to come into his or her heart. John 1:12; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9-10; Revelation 3:20.

3. Make it clear to the person that:

- a) Repentance is turning away from sin.
- b) Jesus does not only become their Saviour but that they should make Him Lord of their life also.

4. Unsaved people often do not know how to pray properly and may even be embarrassed, so ask the person if he/she would like to follow you in the sinner's prayer.

Make sure that they repeat the prayer out loud after you, which will build up their faith.

Lead them in a prayer something like this, "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that you are the Son of God and that you died for me on Calvary. I ask you to forgive me of all my sin and ask you to come into my heart and be Lord and Saviour of my life. Amen".

C. Assurance of salvation

1. When the person has prayed the sinner's prayer, give them a great hug and welcome them into the family of God.
2. Explain to them that today is their spiritual birthday – they have been truly born again for all eternity.
3. Read John 6:47 to them and ask them the following questions:
 - a) Do you believe that you now have eternal life?
 - b) If you died tonight where would you wake up?
 - c) If God asked you why He should let you into heaven then your answer should be, "because I have trusted that the blood of Jesus has washed away my sins".

D. Care of converts

Immediate follow-up

Read Matthew 28:19-20

It is extremely important to realize that a newly saved person is a spiritual baby who desperately needs to be fed and nurtured.

Notice that Jesus commands us to make disciples and not just converts. A disciple is someone who follows another.

Encourage the new convert to start doing the following things from the time of salvation:

1. To **read the Bible**, which is food for his soul.
2. To **pray**, i.e. to talk to God daily and often.
3. To **go to church** regularly for teaching and fellowship.
4. To immediately **witness to others** about his salvation and to share Jesus with them.

Ongoing follow-up

1. If the new convert lives in an area far from you then take his address and tell him you will find someone in his area to follow him up. Then make enquiries and contact a good, spirit-filled pastor in his area to follow this new convert up.
2. If the new convert lives in your area, then immediately make an appointment to visit him in the near future for biblical instruction. Either yourself or someone from your church should visit this spiritual baby and instruct him over a period of

several weeks in the following subjects:

- a) **Repentance** – what it really means to turn away from a sinful life.
- b) **Prayer and Bible reading** – without these he will die spiritually.
- c) **Water baptism** – when he understands then encourage him to go through the waters of baptism.
- d) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to lead the Christ life.
- e) **Witnessing for Christ** – he will grow in his faith as he shares Jesus with others.
- f) **Church attendance** – being outside of fellowship is like a coal out of the fire – it becomes cold and useless.
- g) **Spiritual warfare** – it is important for the new convert to understand that Satan and his demons can be defeated.
- h) **New life in Christ** – he must learn how he can sanctify his life for Christ.

Memory Verse

John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him".

Personal evangelism

Lesson 4

A. Evangelism – A life style

1. Our whole motivation must be to save souls; in fact it must become a total life style as it was with our Lord. Luke 19:10. “As my Father has sent me so I send you” – our mission is the same as the Lord's. Psalm 40:9; Romans 10:13-15.
2. Many people feel that all they should be is a seed sower. However, the Lord would have us all to be reapers – soul winners, not just sowers. Mark 16:15.
3. Some Christians feel inadequate and afraid, and so feel justified in leaving this glorious work to the evangelists. We must understand that God has equipped us all with the gift of soul winning. Acts 1:8. Always remember that irrespective of our age, education or social standing God will use us to save souls.
4. We must be effective, consistent witnesses for Christ. Constantly be praying to God for a burden for lost souls and as a regular practice commit yourself to the saving of souls. Spend time in your prayer closet daily before the throne of God, for it is here that you will receive the courage and strength for the task.
5. Start to dedicate as many aspects of your daily life as possible to evangelism, and expect to be used by the Holy Spirit to bring souls to Christ wherever you are.

Paul, the great evangelistic Apostle, tells us in his letter to Timothy to preach the Word, to be prepared in season and out of season. 2 Timothy 4:2a. Seek every opportunity you get to share Jesus with someone.

B. Our attitude

1. Your own attitude is the most important aspect after the Word and the Holy Spirit. An attitude of love and understanding is imperative, for people have many hurts and real problems in their lives.
2. Always remember that we are merely the tools in the hands of God, it is the Holy Spirit that convicts the sinner to repentance and gives him life. Expect Him to do so when you act as His mouthpiece. Always expect something to happen.
3. The time to witness is now; today is the day of salvation as we do not know what tomorrow holds for us. When meeting somebody we must always have in mind – is he or she saved? Make sure you have only one purpose – for them to get saved. Do not go off on a tangent.
4. We are not called to debate but to witness – share what you know to be the truth. Titus 3:9. Don't speak to their words – speak to their hearts. Never argue with the person – you may win the argument but his eternal soul will be lost. Relax and allow the Holy Spirit to give you the correct words and the revelation of what is specifically hindering the person.

C. Method of approach

1. Do not become a slave to any particular method of approach and presentation – let the circumstances guide you. It is important to explain the message – Jesus Christ is the Saviour – this is much more important than the method.
2. Your own testimony of salvation is an important tool for witness, especially if you are newly saved. You know what has happened and no one can argue with your personal experience with Jesus, e.g. the blind man who said, "Once I was blind but now I see".
3. Always carry a Bible with you, even if it's just a small pocket version, and write the basic guidelines for leading a person to Christ into your Bible. The Word of God brings people under conviction. It also constantly reminds you what you're about.

Use the Word to convict people, let them read it personally – this is the voice of God, which will quicken their inner man.

4. Deal with distractions, e.g. a baby crying. If there are two of you, one soothes the baby while the other witnesses.
5. Bring up the subject yourself; don't wait for them to bring it up. You create the situation – remember you have the best news in the world to share with them.
6. In order to establish whether the person is saved and to open the door for witnessing ask these two questions:
 - a) Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven? (Ask the next question regardless of the answer.)
 - b) Suppose you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you say? (With this question you determine if the person is depending on works, etc., for salvation.)

D. Ways to reach the lost

1. Carry booklets/tracts explaining salvation, which can be handed out. Keep them in your car, desk at work, bag or pocket. Put them into magazines in waiting rooms. When you pay accounts by mail, include a tract with your cheque.
2. Door to door salesmen: Invite them in on a 50/50 basis, whatever time they spend explaining their product, equal time must be given to you to share the gospel.

If some household appliance breaks down – share the gospel with the repairman.
3. Use God-glorifying statements when speaking to people – when saying hello, goodbye or thank you, e.g. God bless you or Jesus loves you.

4. If you have a telephone directory – phone people and tell them that God has burdened you to share His Good News. Each person in your home fellowship group can go through a page of your telephone directory and report back at your next meeting.
5. Encourage your children to invite their friends home and get them saved.
6. When going to a church service or meeting, pass by old age homes, etc., and encourage these people to accompany you to the service.
7. Invite a prominent evangelist to attend your church to preach. Tell the members that entry to the church is only allowed if they bring at least one unsaved person with them.
8. Pass on all your gospel literature, e.g. magazines, to doctor's waiting rooms, etc.
9. Besides normal commitment to evangelise every day, make a specific commitment to choose a certain night of every week to go out and evangelise – e.g. in hospitals or old age homes.
10. Use home fellowship groups as an evangelistic tool. Invite neighbours to fellowship with your group and let them experience the love of Christ amongst you.

You will grow deepest in Christ by witnessing – He will become more real to you as He ministers through your body, which is His temple.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 4:2, *"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage –with great patience and careful instruction".*

Home fellowships – a powerful tool for evangelism

Lesson 5

A. God's will for the church

On studying Acts, we soon see that God's purpose for the church is that it should be a growing church – and there is no limit to the size that any church can grow.

Let us take as an example the church in Jerusalem, which was a very large church.

Acts 1:15 It started with 120 before Pentecost.

2:41 3000 were added on the day of Pentecost.

2:47 Daily additions were then made.

4:4 5000 men believed (this figure does not include women and children).

6:7 There is a change from addition to multiplication.

According to historians the population of Jerusalem at this time was approximately 200,000 people. Within the first year of the church approximately 100,000 were converted to Christ. That is a large church.

B. The secret of running a large church

If it is God's will for the church to grow, how are we to accommodate such growth? There is only one way – to divide the people into smaller home fellowship units. See what happened in the early church.

Acts 2:46 They went from house to house.

5:42 The people gathered in the temple and in homes.

20:20 Paul taught publicly and from house to house.

If you were to ask in any ancient city of the first century, "Where is the church?" the answer would have been, "In the homes". There was no special church building in those days – the church was the people. Yet the first and second centuries saw the greatest growth of the church.

Much of our activity today is associated with a building. People are held together by a building rather than by relationships within the body of Christ.

In the home fellowship there can be true caring fellowship, love and evangelism taking place and personal relationships being built up.

C. The training of leaders

Read Matthew 9:35-38

In verses 35-36 four things are noticed about Jesus: a) He was a teacher; b) He was a preacher; c) He was a healer; d) He had a growing congregation.

Yet in verse 36 we read: a) that He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless; and b) that they were like sheep without a shepherd.

We know that Jesus said (John 10:14) that He was "the good shepherd", i.e. He was the perfect pastor. So even though these sheep had the perfect pastor with twelve assistants, yet they were scattered like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus could not minister to them as He wanted to.

The **solution** is found in verses 37-38. Pray for labourers – **under-shepherds** who would become an extension of His shepherd ministry.

The frustration of many a pastor is that he cannot meet the needs of all his sheep. He therefore must train up under-shepherds.

D. An important task of a pastor

A pastor should follow the model of the perfect pastor, Jesus, and spend time raising up leaders.

When we examine the ministry of Jesus we see that His disciples were divided into four groups.

1. He spent most time with Peter, James and John.
2. He spent slightly less time with the other nine disciples.
3. Even less time was spent with the seventy.
4. And even less time was spent with the hundred and twenty and the multitudes.

Although He spent time in public ministry, priority was given to raising leaders so that He could reproduce Himself in them. This is right in line with the New Testament requirements of a pastor.

E. A New Testament pastor

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

1. The pastor is a gift of Christ to the church. Why? For the perfecting and equipping of the saints. Why? So that they (the members of the body – not the pastor) should do the work of the ministry, i.e. to build up the body of Christ so that the body of Christ might develop until we all attain oneness in the faith and we all come to a full comprehension of the Son of God, and we all attain Christ-like maturity, so that we are no longer children who cannot discern between truth and error.
2. This is not the way the church has been doing it. The modern concept of the pastor does not allow this kind of ministry. Some claim that the pastor alone should be doing all the visiting and following up of new converts and disgruntled members.

Illustration: Read Exodus 18:13-26. Moses was the pastor of the largest church in the world, "the church in the wilderness", which was approximately 3 million people. Yet Moses was trying to do everything himself. He was close to a nervous breakdown, but after good advice from his father-in-law he appointed under-shepherds to be an extension of his ministry.

F. Selecting prospective home fellowship leaders

As the church grows in numbers so it will have to divide into smaller groups, and each group itself must divide, as it grows larger.

We must have leaders for each group; therefore each leader must endeavour to duplicate himself. Selecting the right leaders is important. Success or failure can depend on them.

Qualities required for under-shepherds:

- a) Spirit filled.
- b) Enthusiastic.
- c) Have a teachable character.
- d) Have a good testimony in their own life.
- e) Must be dedicated to the work.
- f) Have time to fulfil the functions of a home fellowship leader.

G. Purposes of the home fellowship groups

It is important that we understand the purposes and goals of these groups in order to achieve the maximum benefits:

1. **Fellowship with God** – to teach the saints how to communicate with God.
2. **Fellowship with one another**. The level of fellowship in most churches today is very much on the surface. We talk, sing and preach about fellowship yet all we really have is fellowship with the back of someone else's head. When fellowship is non-existent then the church ceases to grow.

The Bible's understanding of fellowship is one of partnership, possessing things in common, communicating with and caring for one another. The New Testament is full of statements that include the words "one another".

For example:	in honour prefer one another	Romans 12:10.
	love one another	Romans 13:8.
	admonish one another	Romans 15:14.
	bear one another's burdens	Galatians 6:2.
	exhort one another	Hebrews 10:25.
	comfort one another	1 Thessalonians 4:18.

This then is the purpose of the home fellowship group, so that people can become involved in "one another ministry".

H. Evangelism and growth

Read John 13:34-35

1. Home fellowships are extremely important tools for evangelism. Many people are not easily encouraged to attend a church service – it is much easier for them to visit a friendly home. It is as we gather in our homes that we can really show love to one another and so draw men and women to God.

2. The leader/teacher should build a good team around him such as:
 - a) The person who hosts the meetings in his home.
 - b) Those who will follow up the new members and help them with their needs.
 - c) Those who will do the inviting.

This team should meet regularly for prayer, seeking unity with one another and God's guidance and blessing on their home fellowship.

3. When people arrive for the meeting welcome them, provide a cup of tea and let them relax with one another.
4. Make sure the teaching is clear, simple and well prepared, and allow time for questions during the teaching so that the people become involved and feel a real part of the group.
5. Gently encourage the quieter people to get involved so that they do not remain isolated. Let them share their needs and problems and pray for one another, and so find ways to help each other.
6. Home Fellowships are often a good place for saved women to bring their unsaved husbands who would not normally attend a church.
7. Be very wise as to how you introduce them to the church. Do not force them to attend but gently encourage them to come on Sunday with you.
8. Have family gatherings where the whole family attends and have a day of entertainment together.
9. Hold combined meetings of several of the fellowships and invite a special speaker. This will encourage the members to feel part of the body of Christ.
10. Always ensure that the gospel is shared and give people a chance to get saved.

I. Keep the home fellowships growing

1. Members of the group should constantly be encouraged to bring new people to the group.
2. Do not allow the group to get too large, otherwise it becomes difficult for the members to have close fellowship with one another. A group should not be more than 20 people.

The newly trained leader in the group should take over half the group if it is getting too large, and then new leaders should be trained up for when the groups have to be split again.

3. All the leaders should be meeting regularly with the pastor so that he can ensure that the sheep are constantly receiving good teaching.
4. If your church is not growing at a reasonable rate there is something wrong. It is God's will that all men be saved and join the church – the body of Christ.

5. We must use every means possible not only to preach the gospel, but also to keep the people in the church so that they might grow in Christ.

J. Willingness and openness to change

Read Luke 5:37-38

The new wine of the gospel always remains new, but the wineskins have to be constantly renewed. If we are to contain the new wine, we have to be willing to change when and where necessary as the Holy Spirit directs us.

It is only in moving with what the Holy Spirit wants to do in the church that we can experience growth.

Church growth is the Holy Spirit's business.

Memory Verse

John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men know will know that you are my disciples if you love one another".

Child and youth evangelism

Lesson 6

Children's church

A. The importance of children

Read Matthew 19:14

Some say that the children today are the church tomorrow – this is not true. Anyone who has given his life to Christ is saved and therefore makes up part of the body of Christ *today*.

It is important for us to understand that children are as much the church as the adults are. In the eyes of God, children are of no less importance than adults. Each must play his part in the overall plan of the church.

It is therefore very important that we follow a good sound programme to instruct our children in the ways of the Lord.

B. God commands us to teach our children

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:1-8

God instructs us to teach our children so that in generations to come the people will not depart from the ways of the Lord, so that they might not be as their fathers, who are often a stubborn and rebellious nation.

You will note that this is a command and not an option.

C. The promise of a trained child

Read Proverbs 22:6

There are two important aspects to this command.

1. **"Train a child in the way he should go"**.

We must understand that if we do not train a child in the ways of God then Satan will surely train him in his ways. Children are very easily influenced and can fall into the ways of the world where pride, lust, greed and selfishness abounds. They easily get involved in the spiritual world of darkness where Satan rules. The Bible also warns us in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 that in these end times children will reject authority and so bring chaos in the land.

2. **"And when he is old he will not turn from it"**.

The meaning in the Hebrew is that of building a hedge around the child and when his responsibility to stay within the hedge comes, he will do so. There is an opening in this hedge, which he must know clearly how to handle when he comes to it. He must be thoroughly trained in the ways of God and be well practised in them, so

that when danger comes he can overcome it and live in the blessings of God.

D. The great potential of children

Read Acts 2:39

Is it not wonderful to see that God has promised to save and baptize in His Holy Spirit not only the adults, but also the children? How important it is then not to despise the children's age but rather to give them all the attention they need.

Pastors and congregations need to understand the importance of children's church and make funds and people available for good effective teaching. In this way people, although they are children, will get saved and the church will have a growing congregation, not only in numbers but spiritually as well.

E. The five main aims of teaching children

Teachers need to know what to teach the children and they need to balance their teaching so that the children are being taught all the truths of God. The five main aims are:

1. To **introduce** the children to Jesus our Saviour, God the Father and the Holy Spirit our Helper.
2. To **teach** the children to love and obey and serve their heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, at a level they can understand.
3. To **lead** the children to accept Jesus as Saviour and make Him Lord of their lives.
4. To **equip** the children for service in the kingdom of God for the rest of their lives, with the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
5. To **lay a firm foundation** of the Christian faith in their hearts so that they will not fall into false teaching later on in their lives.

Teacher's Notes

Circuit Teaching for Children

1. It is vitally important for the pastors to encourage, support and become involved with the children's church workers, for they are finally responsible before God for the children's growth in Christ.
2. We wish to recommend the material produced by Circuit Teaching International for children as it is alive and will help your teachers to bring your children into a good knowledge of the Bible and above all of Jesus Himself. Write to CTI, P.O. Box 371, Hillcrest 3650, South Africa.

Youth Work

A. Do not despise the youth

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

1. Often our culture prevents us from recognising the great value of our young people, especially in the church. But it is these young men and women who can bring life and excitement into a church because of their zeal for life.
2. Statistics show that 8 people out of every 10 who get saved give their lives to God before the age of 20 years.

Yet when we look at the church as a whole we see that we have large numbers of small children but when they get older they leave and go into the world.

3. Very little time and finances are spent on the youth – **this must change if we are to evangelise our youth effectively.**

B. Young people's ministry

There are many exciting ways to bless the youth in the church, which will cause many to get saved and bring life to your fellowship.

1. **Music** – allow the youth to lead praise and worship in some of the meetings. Provide them with the necessary equipment where possible.
2. Plan **camp**s where the youth can go away together and experience God in a new and dramatic way.
3. Plan **outreaches** with them, such as:
 - a) Forming music bands to sing the gospel.
 - b) Forming drama (acting) groups to act the gospel.
 - c) Visiting schools with the gospel.
 - d) Tract distribution.
 - e) Street corner evangelism.
 - f) Visiting house to house with the gospel.
4. Bring **outside preachers** to encourage and motivate them.
5. Allow them to **run some of the services** in the church.
6. Seek out those who have a call for ministry and **sponsor them to go to Bible College.**

Let your youth bring the fire of the Holy Ghost to your church and witness the many souls that will be saved!

Memory Verse

Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it".*

Opposition to the gospel

Lesson 7

A. Spiritual warfare

Read Ephesians 6:11-13

Satan has developed many different ways over the centuries to stop the advance of the Good News of salvation. In these latter times He is still convincing more people into the kingdom of darkness, than we as Christians are leading into the light of Christ.

We must understand that the real battle is a spiritual one against wicked forces in the heavenly world and not so much against human beings. When we come up against opposition to the gospel whether from an individual or a group of people, we must learn to look past them to the spiritual forces that are often inspiring them.

For this reason we as the church should be constantly interceding on behalf of the lost and learn how to fight spiritual warfare in the heavenlies.

B. Church history

A brief survey shows us how after just a few hundred years, the early church lost its zeal to press on with the gospel.

Satan diverted them from life to dead religion. Debates about doctrinal issues took on more importance than personal witnessing. Soon the church began to lose her spiritual power and she sank into the Dark Ages.

It was not until hundreds of years later that Martin Luther perceived that "the just shall live by faith" and the Church began her slow return to early church evangelism.

C. Heresies and cults

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2

It is amazing to see how teachings of demons have caused many cults and sects to rise up in these last days.

Often great men of God have been deluded by lying spirits and have led many people astray with false teachings and religion.

Some of the fastest growing religions in the world are cults that have been inspired and led by the Devil. The Devil is a master at binding people to works and things of the flesh. He takes part of the truth and mixes it with lies in order to ensnare us.

Let us heed the words of Jesus Himself and always be watching out for Satan's false prophets. "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect – if that were possible". Mark 13:22.

D. Personal resistance to the gospel

Resistance to the gospel is the result of the individual rejecting the truth, so we need to consider how to handle personal objections.

There are two main kinds of people who object to the gospel:

1. Those who have been saved in the past and are now backsliders.
2. Those who have never given their lives to Christ.

The reasons for their objection are many, so the following points are guidelines of how to overcome their objections.

E. Backsliders

Christians normally become backsliders because of an unsatisfactory Christian experience and the reasons are usually as follows:

1. They neglect prayer.
2. They neglect Bible reading.
3. They neglect witnessing to others.
4. They compromise with the world.
5. They get enslaved by sin.
6. They have no assurance of salvation.

It is extremely important to be gentle and loving and encourage the backslider back to the straight and narrow path of life. Share with him the story of the prodigal son, Luke 15:11-32, and show him how his Father in heaven is waiting for his return.

Read Hebrews 6:4-6 to him and warn him of the great danger of backsliding so far that there is no hope of return.

If he appears to be repentant encourage him to read Psalm 51 with you and lead him back into the arms of his loving Father.

F. Unconverted people

There are many kinds of objections that people have, some are genuine and some are just excuses to avoid committing their lives to Christ.

Do not panic or become nervous. It is not our responsibility to **defend** the Bible but rather to **proclaim** the truth.

Try and stay away from discussions about church doctrines, which only lead to arguments.

G. Objections to the Bible or its doctrines

1. **The Bible is full of contradictions** – hand the Bible to the person and ask him to show you one or two. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 and explain to him that as an unsaved person it is difficult for him to understand spiritual matters.

2. **There is no such being as God** – the Bible nowhere tries to prove the existence of God; it just takes it for granted. The person happily accepts there must be a watchmaker who made his watch, then why not a creator for this huge complicated universe.
3. **There is no such place as hell** – Jesus Himself spoke many times of hell and showed that it was eternal and not time limited. Read scriptures such as John 3:36; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43,44,48; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8.
4. **God is too loving to condemn anyone** – read 1 John 4:8 and then compare it with Hebrews 12:29.
5. **The Bible is not inspired** – often these people have heard and read **about** the Bible more than they have read the Bible itself. Show them the following scriptures: 2 Peter 1:19-21; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:15-16.

H. Christians are failures themselves

1. **There are too many hypocrites in the church.** This is true, but it is only an excuse and not a reason to reject Christ Himself. Read Romans 14:12 and show the person that he will have to give an account to God for his own life.
2. **He has been treated wrongly by Christians.** A man once told his pastor that a Christian business friend had failed him. The pastor wrote down on paper what had happened and made him sign it. Then he told him to hand it to God on judgement day. The man soon repented for that as he could see that it was no excuse. Read John 3:36 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

I. Personal difficulties

1. **I am not very bad.** According to his standards but not according to God's. Romans 3:10,23.
2. **I am doing my best.** The best that man can do is not good enough. Galatians 2:16.
3. **I go to church.** That is a good thing, but he must be born again. John 3:3.
4. **I have always believed in Christ.** He really means that he believes some facts about Christ but so does the Devil. The question is: has he ever trusted Christ to be his personal saviour?
5. **I will wait till I am better.** He cannot add anything to the finished work of Christ. He must come just as he is in all his sin and he will be received. Luke 19:10; Matthew 9:12-13.
6. **There is too much to give up.** Read Mark 8:36 to him and warn him of the great danger of losing his soul.
7. **The Christian life is too hard.** Read Proverbs 13:15 and explain that the way of

transgressors is far harder. Jesus promised in Matthew 11:28-30 that His yoke is easy.

J. We have the victory

Read Luke 10:19; Hebrews 13:5-6

Never be afraid, whether it is demons that inspire opposition or the hard-heartedness of humans – we have the victory.

Always be on the alert and ever ready to allow the Holy Spirit to convict the sinner of his need for Christ.

Finally, Jesus has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us, we do not need to fear those who come against us.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:1, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms".

Mass evangelism

Lesson 8

Teacher's Notes

This lesson should only be taught as an instruction for running a large crusade when necessary.

A. Planning

No war can be fought effectively or victory won if the battle lines are not drawn up clearly, the soldiers ready and the enemy known.

Wherever you have a weak link in your organization the enemy (Satan himself) will break through and destroy your efforts.

Therefore it is extremely important that when you wish to evangelise on a large scale such as in tents, halls or stadiums that there is good, effective planning.

B. Seek God's guidance

Do not enter into mass evangelism haphazardly. You must be clear on where to go and when to go.

Seek God for:

- a) The venue – what part of the country and the actual site.
- b) The dates and duration of the crusade.
- c) The size of the tent or hall or stadium.
- d) The seating arrangements – sufficient seating must be arranged for the expected attendance.

C. Co-ordinating functions

There are many different functions that need to be carried out **before, during** and **after** a crusade. Specific people should be appointed to each function, to ensure efficient running of the crusade.

D. Crusade co-ordinating leader

His function is to communicate with all the various co-ordinators. He should hold regular meetings with these people to solve problem areas and to ensure the programme is going forward smoothly.

He is finally responsible for the effectiveness of the crusade and is therefore an extremely important person in the whole programme.

E. Contact co-ordinator

1. Several months before the crusade starts, he must contact all the pastors of the churches in the area and share the vision with them.

2. He must try and create a committee among these pastors in order for them to assist in the programme.
3. He is to contact the local authorities for permission to hold the crusade and for the site.

F. Publicity co-ordinator

1. He should encourage the local pastors to start sharing from their pulpits about the coming crusade.
2. He must send a team to the various churches before the crusade to encourage the church members to become involved.
3. Six weeks before commencement of the crusade, posters and handbills should be made and the area saturated with them.
4. One week before the crusade repeat the handbill and poster operation. Buses and shops should also have posters placed in and on them.
5. In the final week the radio and press should be involved.

G. Prayer co-ordinator

1. An intercessory group must be established to start interceding for the coming crusade. Those who wish to be involved in prayer groups should be taught the principles of spiritual warfare.
2. Churches must be encouraged to form prayer groups for the crusade.
3. While the crusade is in process, i.e. while the meetings are in progress, the intercessors must be praying constantly.

H. Finance co-ordinator

1. Local churches should be encouraged to support the crusade so that they too can be blessed in the sowing and reaping.
2. The finance co-ordinator must establish the total financial needs for the crusade and find out from the Lord how to finance it.
3. Any funds collected during the crusade should be administered well.

I. Ministry co-ordinator

1. He ensures that the music for praise and worship is well prepared for every service, and that the people in charge of every evening are clear regarding their responsibilities.
2. Good Spirit-filled preachers / evangelists are to be invited well in advance of the crusade.

J. Transport co-ordinator

1. He is to arrange transport for the ministry team to and from the crusade.

2. He must contact the local bus service and try to establish special transport facilities at reduced costs. Let the people in the area know that special transport has been arranged in order to get the maximum number of people to the crusade.

K. Security co-ordinator

1. He is responsible for ensuring twenty-four hour security for all equipment, etc.
2. He should train ushers how to organise seating and how to control unruly elements.
3. He must arrange a system for guiding and controlling people called up for salvation and healing.

L. Practical co-ordinator

1. He is to hire the tent, hall or stadium. If tent: ensure that it is erected in good time.
2. He must arrange seating, lighting, power source, pulpit, platform and whatever other practical needs exist for the particular venue.

M. Follow up co-ordinator

1. Counsellors must be trained for immediate post-meeting counselling, preferably in a tent or room near the main venue.
2. Pamphlets should be handed to those newly saved to guide them in their newfound faith.
3. A card should be made out for each new convert showing his/her name, address and church. These cards should be divided up and given to the various pastors in the area with the agreement that they will follow up the new converts. You keep a copy.
4. If possible a venue must be organized for the teaching of the new converts over the following month after the crusade. Teachers must be arranged to teach the basic principles of the Christian faith.
5. A check must be made within one month with each pastor to ensure contact has been made with each new convert. If not, the pastor should be pressured and if still no progress is made, then your copy of the card should be handed to another pastor.
6. Carry out spot checks among the new converts to ensure follow-up has in fact taken place.

Follow-up is extremely important. Without it much of the work in the crusade is wasted and souls lost.

Conclusion

It is well known that many people indicate their desire to come to Christ at crusades. However, it is also well known that very few go on with the Lord afterwards. This is often due to poor organization.

Let us not fail the Lord but let us reap souls into the Kingdom of God as never before.