

*The Overflow
Of The Good News
Continues
With Us*



*By
Bob Nelson*

**Training For People Who Desire
To Join The Propagation
Of The Christian Gospel**

I hope that you will:

**Become more motivated to spread the Good News.
Become more skillful in giving the Good News.
Become more knowledgeable about the Good News.**

For
Practical Theology 1101 - Evangelism
Evangelical Theological College of the Philippines
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Introduction

My prayer: May we overflow both the knowledge of the good news; and the effects of it.

I hope that these lessons will contribute to the proclamation of the Good News by motivating, educating and equipping every responsive student.

I desire:

to motivate the student

to contribute to the spread of the Gospel.

to educate the student regarding

the content of the Good News,

and some useful information about packaging it.

to equip the student to participate in the spreading of the Good News

by learning to give away evangelistic materials,

by learning to tell others what the Good News has meant to himself or herself,

by learning to ask questions related to the Good News and listen well to the answers,

by learning an evangelistic method and teaching it to someone else,

by participating in an event intended to give the Gospel to many people,

and by learning how to direct new believers into further steps of maturity.

These lessons were originally created for use in a formal academic environment in which the class of first year students met for one three-hour session each week. The lessons have been assembled into a book format so that by the end of the semester the student will have the lesson notes, the handouts, and even the teacher's materials in an arrangement that is useful for them to use in teaching the information to someone else.

The lesson structure has been modified to be used in a church small group or Sunday School class. One option is to use only the Lecture section. Another option is to alternate using the Lecture section one week and the Skills section the next. The leader will need to photocopy the necessary handouts from the appendix. If some church members have the desire to share the good news with others and yet are hesitant, they can be helped by giving them the Field Research assignment sheets each week. The Field Research was designed for college students to give them a "reason" to talk to people and build their social confidence gradually during the semester.

If you plan to do an evangelistic event at the end be sure to read the *Good News Event Progress Checklist* on the next page as a guide and set deadlines to pace your progress.

I hope that those who take this class will first of all learn to be honest about themselves and their own spiritual condition. I hope that they will be motivated to make goodnewsing an on-going habit. I hope that they will find some tools that will fit their personality and lifestyle. And I hope they will learn to work together to increase their effectiveness in overflowing the good news in understandable ways to more and more people.

Bob Nelson

1Co 15:3-5 For **what I received I passed on to you** as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

John 4: 13-14 Jesus answered [the Samaritan woman], "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him **a spring of water welling up** to eternal life."

Good News Event Progress Checklist

Before class starts:

- ___ Choose the location of the event. Who is the host church?
- ___ Brainstorm with church pastor in order to choose a target group and the type of events that will connect well to their lives.
- ___ Finalize the type of event. eg. concert, sports contest, community project, seminar etc
- ___ Ask church how follow-up will be done.
- ___ Make an over-all action plan.
- ___ Clarify regarding use of people resources. What will be done by the students and what will be done by the church members?
- ___ Clarify financial and other resources needed and source of same.
- ___ Make an evaluation form to be used after the event.

After class starts:

- ___ Introduce the concept of a final "event" to the class.
- ___ Talk about teamwork. Different (unequal) roles are all needed. Help each other.
- ___ Brainstorm possible outreach activities (with host pastor attending class if possible.)
- ___ Submit results of the activity brainstorming session to church.
- ___ Get final choice of activities from the church.
- ___ Brainstorm regarding how to package the gospel at the event. (tracts, posters, songs, testimonies, contests, etc). A brainstorming matrix form is available for students to use. (see Handout 12)
- ___ Assign tasks (try to have equal division of the responsibilities based on time required to accomplish. Include things such as prayer, getting permissions, publicity, prop designs, fundraising, etc.)
- ___ Do the preparation work as assigned.
- ___ Do final preparations. Dress rehearsal two weeks before event.
- ___ Do the event. One on one sharing as possible afterwards. Invite people to studies.
- ___ Evaluation/Celebration

Part 1: Goodnewsers?

In Part 1 we will lay some foundations for evangelism. The most important of these is that an overflow of the gospel assumes that we ourselves should be healthy disciples.

Lesson 1 Anyone Can Use Gospel Media.

Knowledge goal: To show the value and ease of using gospel media.

Skill goal: Expose the students in how to use a video to show the good news.

Lecture

I. Your Limitations Are Not As Big As You May Think.

It may be that you approach the topic of evangelism with some fear and trembling. Some of you are very outgoing. Others are like me, not extremely shy, but hesitant to approach a stranger. Some of us would like to tell others about the good news we have discovered, but we feel very inadequate.

In this first lesson, I want to assure you that almost anyone can share the gospel to a friend. In fact if you stop and think about it you will realize that you don't even have to be a Christian to hand a tract to someone. Even a robot or a vending machine could give out gospel tracts.

Discuss: Think of some situations where someone who is not a true believer would want to give the gospel. Two possible motivations would be to make money or to impress someone.

II. Some Different Types Of Gospel Media Available.

Throughout these lessons we will be discussing and practicing many methods of goodnewsing. But today we will start with one of the easiest to use, namely, gospel video. Gospel videos are available in several formats.

A. Dramatized parts of the Gospels.

My favorite gospel video was the Jesus film which is produced by a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. It was made from selections of the gospel of Luke and the actors were mostly quoting from scripture. It was the most accurate presentation of the written gospel in video format that I have ever seen. I am not as pleased with recent adaptations of it that integrate scenes from a fictional story with the ones in the Bible. Although this is done to make it more interesting, in my opinion, it takes away from the believability of the parts that are pure scripture since the viewer thinks that perhaps the whole story is fiction.

Other movies about the life of Jesus don't try to be literally quoting the Bible. A movie called the Passion of Christ had many quotes from the Bible, but it was mostly built on a storyline that someone made to keep the audience interested.

Sometimes churches or communities put on Christmas and Easter dramas that are then videotaped. These are interesting to the friends and relatives of the people in the church and some are done with such professionalism that they find a larger market as well.

B. Movies that show the effects of the Gospel.

There are many movies that have stories based on the results that can happen when a person becomes a Christian. The Billy Graham Association and other groups have made many movies through the years that tell about people who were convicted of sin and gave themselves to Christ. Most of these are fictions such as the Left Behind series, A Vow to Cherish or Fireproof. But there are also some that are based on real testimonies such as Shadow lands or Chariots of Fire. The Narnia tales are fiction stories for children that are also spiritual parables showing how the death Christ died could be substitute for our punishment.

C. Gospel lectures on video.

Some conferences, youth rallies or churches video-tape their sermons. Thus, if the lecture or sermon was a gospel message then the result is a gospel video. Often these are just pictures of someone behind a pulpit or sitting in a nice surrounding. This can be boring to the viewer so others, like the Christianity Explored series by the Good Book Company Ltd., add a variety of different background settings to make listening to the lecture more enjoyable.

D. Music videos.

Similar to lectures, if the content of a song explains the gospel, then the music video is also a gospel video.

III. Advice In Choosing Videos.

The best advice I can give you about choosing a video is to choose one you yourself have seen and liked. If it has been meaningful to you it is more likely to be meaningful to your friends and you can tell them in advance why you liked it and why you think they will.

The second option is to go by the recommendation of others. Ask your pastor or friends what they would recommend. One source I have used is <http://www.christiananswers.net/spotlight/> to get recommendations. It is a helpful resource but I find that my tastes are more conservative than most of the reviewers.

Discuss: Make a list of gospel media that your group is aware of. Which are the most interesting to watch? Which have the clearest presentation of the gospel? Where can you borrow or buy them?

IV. Plug It In, Turn It On, Push Play (or, just give them the video).

There are several ways that videos can be used as an evangelistic tool.

A. Private viewing.

You can give or lend a copy of the movie to someone who is interested in knowing more about Jesus. They can then watch it in the privacy of their own home and learn from it. You can ask them later what they thought about the movie or if it made them think about Jesus in a new way.

B. Show to a group.

You can schedule a time to show the movie to a small group or a large crowd. The Jesus film *is* the gospel so even if people just leave at the end, evangelism has taken place. If possible though, it is good to have a discussion in small groups afterward. This gives people a reason to think about what they just saw and then tell others about it. Have people discuss: "What did you learn about Jesus from the film?" or "How did the story affect you?" You can offer to meet again with anyone who is interested to study about Jesus from the Bible itself.

C. Interactive showing.

There are some videos that are made to be stopped every once in a while for interaction. This can also be done with other movies, but it takes more time and is not a traditional way for people to watch. The advantage is that people remember more when they take time to verbalize what they just saw before moving on to another segment of the movie. The questions you would ask about the Jesus film, for instance, should help people think about who Jesus is, what is special about him compared to other people and what happened to him. Questions about fiction movies should help people apply what they see to their own lives. e.g. "Before we continue the movie, tell us if what just happened in the movie is realistic. Do things like that ever happen in your community or in your family?"

Application: Get in groups of 2 to 4 people. Help each other decide if there is someone you know that might watch a gospel video. Which one would fit their situation? Where could you get it? Pray for those people.

Skill Development

I. Practice Using Equipment To Show A Gospel Video.

Technology is constantly changing and so the terminology and equipment used in this lesson may be out of date very quickly. The objective however will not change. We want the class members to see how to use the equipment currently used to show a video.

- Demonstrate the process of setting up for showing a movie and have the first group assist.
 - ✓ Show the equipment. eg. DVD, Player, TV. (or Projector, Sound system & Screen, etc.)
 - ✓ Show the connections. Power source(Voltage?) via extension cord. Cable connections.
 - ✓ Final setup. Power on the equipment. Check focus, brightness and sound volume.
 - ✓ Show how to return to the beginning of the video and start playing it.
 - ✓ After 2 or 3 minutes stop the video at a convenient place.
- Invite some students to take turns using the equipment. (They should practice loading, starting, play, pause, fast forward, seek, stop and subtitles, etc as available.)
- Take down the setup.
- [Optional: Have several technologies available for groups to practice on at the same time. eg. One group uses a TV with DVD, another uses a laptop computer, another uses an LCD projector system etc.]

Assignments

[Note to college students: The quiz next week will be on these lesson notes.]

Lesson 2 You Yourself Can Give The Good News.

Knowledge goal: To understand what evangelism is and that you can help do it.

Skill goal: Ability to "overflow" what you learn. Ability to give a gospel tract. Love one another.

Lecture

I. What is Goodnewsing?

A. Evangel means Gospel means Goodnews

We are told that "evangelism" comes from a Greek word "evangel" meaning good news. It was formerly translated into English as "gospel" but now often is translated as "good news." Recently I have seen evangelism used in business articles where it has nothing to do with religion but rather is used to describe any communication that is done with passion.

In these lessons I will be using the word as it relates to the content of the gospel message rather than whatever emotion is used to deliver it. In fact in order to emphasize the importance of the content I will use either goodnewsing or evangelism to mean the same thing.

What is the good news we spread in evangelism? It is simply that Jesus came to save his people from their sin. Matthew recorded the words of the angel to Joseph when he was trying to decide what to do with Mary when he found out that she was pregnant. As he was wondering what to do, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mat. 1:20-21) The apostle Paul also summarizes it when he told the Corinthians that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." (1 Cor 15:3)

Here are some examples of how goodnewsing might take place.

- You can give someone a wallet tract with a Bible verse or two on it.
- Tell someone why you became a Christian and how you did it.
- Meet as a small group in a home and read the gospel of Mark together.
- Draw a Bible verse diagram on a chalkboard in front of a crowd to illustrate God's love.
- Put a cartoon about a gospel verse in a newspaper or on the internet in order to reach large numbers of people (the masses).

B. The good news is a contrast to bad news.

The gospel is good news to us because first there is bad news. The bad news is that sinners are in danger of judgment by God who always judges accurately. All sinners should definitely fear him. We need a way to be saved from our sin.

When a person is not convicted of sin then they will not understand the good news. But when people are convicted and have lost all hope of saving themselves, then the information about God's gracious willingness to forgive sin and to give eternal care is very good news.

C. What Evangelism is Not.

Often people think of evangelism as the attempt to get people to join a particular church. Although it is natural to invite others to go to church with us, this is not the definition of evangelism. The real good news is about salvation from sin and hope of heaven, not about where to listen to good music or an interesting sermon.

ii. Where Do You Get The Good News?

A. The testimony from God.

First and most importantly, we believe that the Bible contains God's *testimony* about the good news. It is there that we learn about who Jesus is and why he came. Since it is already written, this testimony never changes.

The Bible includes the four "gospels" (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that tell about Jesus' life and work. The New Testament also has letters written by eye-witnesses of Jesus such as Peter, John, James and Paul. We encourage people to get the good news directly from the Bible if they can.

Sometimes people who do goodnewsing just select short parts of the Bible that summarize the Good News. In written form, these are called Gospel tracts and can be easily copied and given to others. They are small and easy to carry but should not replace the reading of the whole gospels.

B. The testimony from Christians.

Secondly, we Christians, or disciples, can tell people what we know. The *testimony of the disciple* is the statement of what he or she has known or experienced about being a Christian. This "personal" testimony changes with increasing knowledge and experience and should always be accurate and up-to-date. You may worry about forgetting things in the Bible, but you always know the correct answer about your own thoughts.

Discuss: What were the circumstances when you first heard that Christ died for our sins? e.g. "A friend told me at our college dorm." or "I don't remember a first time. I grew up in a Christian church."

iii. Why Would You Do Evangelism?

A. We all like to share a good thing.

When we realize how good it is to be freed from a sinful life and know God loves us, we want to tell others about it. We have found a reason to hope for eternal joy in heaven and want to tell someone about it. Evangelism is a natural and loving overflow of the news that we have discovered is so good!

B. Evangelism is a necessary part of disciple-making.

Jesus started the disciple-making process when he started his ministry and people followed him as disciples. Many people were his disciples in the sense that they followed him physically and learned from him. But when one man who was saved from demons wanted to join him on the road Jesus said he should go home and tell about his experiences to his own people (Mark 5:19). He is an example of people like us who are disciples because we follow Jesus' teachings and are loyal to him even though we can't see him physically.

Similarly, Jesus once told Peter to "follow me." (John 21:22) This was said even though Jesus knew that in just a short while he was going to leave Peter physically. This is another example of how even without Jesus nearby, Peter (and we too) can follow Jesus as a disciple.

Jesus commanded his disciples to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:18-20). Those men and women that Jesus was talking to were the beginning of the Church and went and goodnewsed others who became disciples. And now we too continue to do the same thing, making disciples for Jesus. Can you see that you are part of a great heritage!

How do we do disciple-making? In practical terms, disciple-making can be separated into six activities that are continually happening in Christ's church. Evangelism, or goodnewsing, is one of those activities.

- Praying - Pray for God's help to the unsaved according to His will, not ours. We might be able to convince them with logic to even change their religion and yet find out that they never changed on the inside. Only God's holy spirit can really convict them at the deep level of their spirit.
- Loving - Without a heart of love for God and the lost, we might act as selfish hypocrites. It is possible to do goodnewsing as if we were a salesman trying to get something for ourselves. Maybe we think we can get a good reputation in our church or with God by doing lots of evangelism. But be careful that we obey God's command to love our neighbor and to do to them as we would like them to do to us.
- Seeking - We must exert effort of mind and body to find those who need salvation. It might require going door to door or doing something publicly. It might even involve going to hostile or dangerous places.
- Goodnewsing - The lost person must be told the good news as clearly as possible. We will try to convince people to submit themselves to God's grace and accept the gift of forgiveness he offers.
- Challenging - The lost person must be asked to respond to Jesus, not just listen. Here is where the comparison to a salesman would be accurate. A salesman may tell you many many good things about what he is trying to sell, but it is still important for him to ask, "Won't you buy?" We too can give the news in the form of a tract or a movie or a book. But sometime we need to ask, "Wouldn't you like to respond to this good news? To ask God's forgiveness based on what Jesus did, and become a follower of Jesus?"
- Nurturing - We Christians nurture one another in knowledge and good deeds the rest of our lives. Nurture takes place through sermons, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, children and youth programs. Even colleges and seminaries. Almost everything done in the name of pastoral ministry or Christian education could be called nurture.

C. We need to help each other.

Every Christian is important as we work together to make disciples. It is not just done by a few special leaders in the church. We need each other because people are not gifted the same and don't have the same personalities. We can all use whatever abilities that God has given us.

Discuss: Do you think of yourself of a disciple of Jesus? Is it easy to use that word to describe yourself? Why or why not?

III. Self-analysis can help you do evangelism better.

A. Let me share some personal comments about myself in this area.

For me to teach evangelism is like a basketball coach teaching from a wheelchair. Most of the players can run and jump in a way that such a coach cannot do, and yet he can still guide and encourage them. Similarly, I can tell you a lot of information and try to show you some things about evangelism, but my ability to do it is less than some of you.

My first attempt at evangelism was when I was a little kid and I was in the playground with a friend. I asked him, "Are you a Christian?" He said "Yes" and then I didn't know what to say next. Perhaps I just said, "That's good." A later example was when I was in Bible college. I was working the evening shift at a gasoline station and one night a teenage boy came to visit. I took the

opportunity to read through an evangelistic booklet called The 4 Spiritual Laws with him. When we were done and I asked what he thought about it, he said something so softly that I couldn't hear and then he left, never to return. Was I effective? I never knew.

As the years have gone by I have participated in several types of training in evangelism and have had many opportunities to share the good news with people, but with few visible results. For some people it seems to be much more natural. My fellow missionary once said that it was hard for him to go talk to strangers at first, but then it got easier with practice. For me; it never has gotten easier.

People have suggested that I should pray better, or be more aggressive, or use different materials. Perhaps these are all correct. But I am who I am, and in spite of few results I am still convinced of Christ's love and confident that it is available to others also. I have come to realize that God has gifted me more as an encourager and a teacher than as a goodnewser.

I say all these things because as the author of these lessons I want the student to know that God has gifted each of us differently. Some of you will be like me and find it difficult just to approach strangers, how much more to actually talk to them. On the other hand I believe that some of you will enjoy goodnewsing as naturally as a duck enjoys water.

B. The goal for this class is "improvement" in motive, ability, and effectiveness.

It is my hope that wherever our starting point is today, all of us will be more useful to Christ as a result of working through these lessons together.

As disciple-makers, we want to improve in both our motivation to evangelize. I have found that just being together in the class is one of the biggest motivators to help me share the good news. We will also grow in knowledge and self confidence as we read, discuss and do field assignments. We will improve our skill through practice in class and as we interview people each week.

How can we improve the effectiveness of our evangelism? Ultimately, effectiveness rests with God. Never the less, we will study some information about the process of communication that will help us declare the good news to more people and with more clarity.

IV. Small groups provide an important base for your evangelism.

A. A loving base is needed.

1. We disciples need the *base of the love of God* from which to reach out to people who might challenge us. If we are fearful and uncertain about God's love ourselves then we may not want to talk to others. Or we might seek people's their attention in an unhealthy way and do things to manipulate them just so they will like us. We need to be reminded of God's love for us in 1 John 4:10-11 and 19. We love him, and others, because we are confident of his love for us.

2. We also need the *base of love from a Christian group* to encourage us. I have found that a really healthy evangelism class group can be described by the following statements. It is:

- A place we *know each other's names* and some other personal information.
- A place we can *admit doubts and ask questions* without fear. We can be processing our thoughts and feelings with others and not worry about gossip. This means that there will be a certain level of *confidentiality* that is expected.
- A place we can *share fresh knowledge* from our quiet time and people won't think we are proud.
- A place we can *share the results* of our disciple-making activities.
- A place people will ask about my spiritual life; ie. hold me *accountable for it*.
- A place we can *show love to the other disciples* in the group.

- A place we are *challenged to love our neighbors* in ways we would like them to love us.
- A place *we are encouraged* when we seem to fail or are rejected by others.

3. New converts need a loving group where they can be nurtured. Where can they be invited? Perhaps you can invite them to your church or a Bible study group. If someone seems interested in learning more, then leave your name card or write the contact information for your church on the back of a wallet tract to give them.

Application: Examine ourselves regarding the Good News.

1. Ask yourself: Am I really a disciple of Christ? If not, why not put your faith in him today? Talk to me or someone you trust about any questions you have.

2. Use the Evangelism Self Evaluation Form in Handout 1 as a guide. Just be honest in your answers. You are not being judged by how you answer.

Skill Development

I. Demonstrate How To Overflow What You Learn In The Bible

The concept of overflow is very simple: the thing that I received, that is what I pass on to someone else. Good overflow does not result in pride because the thing that is passed on is not mine in the first place.

You need to learn to overflow from what you read in the Bible.

First you will need to *read or listen* to the Bible. During this class you will have chapters of Luke assigned to you each week. But I hope that the ability to overflow will be something that you can use no matter what portion of the Bible you are reading in your personal devotions.

Secondly you will need to *think* about what you read. Pick out a paragraph that seemed important. Try to both understand exactly what it says and what difference it makes to your life. Think about how the text relates to you personally, not about how it applies to other people. This is the great difference between overflowing and transferring information. If I teach someone, I specifically think about what THEY need to know so that I can transfer the necessary knowledge. When I preach, it is so that OTHERS will somehow change and obey God better. But when I overflow, the focus is on what God wants ME to know or do based on the text. Then what filled my heart so personally can easily overflow to people I trust, and sometimes even to strangers.

Thirdly you will need to *share* with someone else what you have noticed rather than keep it inside you. Choose something from just one or two verses. Maybe what you received is some knowledge you didn't have before. But it is better if the information is something that you really could apply to your own life. Maybe it is even something that made you ask a question. Learn to share it simply because it is something important to you. The other person will be willing to listen because they love to see you excited about something and are honored that you trust them as a friend. But when you share, learn to just tell the "bottom line" of what excites you. People will like that you share and will be polite to listen for a little while. But you are more loving if you can summarize your excitement in a few sentences.

See Handout 2 for examples from previous students.

The teacher should demonstrate giving an overflow based on something he or she has received in a recent reading of the Bible.

II. Make small groups containing four to six people per group.

Create groups of four to six members that will stay the same during the rest of these lessons. This can be done by counting, by birth location, by age, by experience, by personality, by motivation, by gender, by gifting, by English ability etc. If groups are mixed gender make modifications if necessary to avoid having just one man or just one woman in a group.

[How do you know what number to use to count off in making groups? First count the total number of people. Then divide that total by the size of the groups you want. Example; the total is 20 and you would like groups of 5 members each. $20 \div 5 = 4$ groups. So have people count off by the number of groups; 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 etc. and you will end up with 4 groups with 5 in each group. But suppose you have 23 people? Then $23 \div 5 = 4$ with 3 remaining. When you count off by 4 again, the result will be four groups again. But this time only one group will have 5 members and three groups will have 6 members.]

III. Demonstrate giving a wallet tract in five seconds.

A. Why five seconds?

There are situations in life in which we have only brief contact with people. A common one is while paying for something at a store and the clerk is working. Or leaving a tip at a restaurant and you don't have time to talk to the serving staff. Giving a wallet tract is something you can do with an expression of thanks that will only take a few seconds of the time you have together.

Distribute Handout 3. These sheets are for you to keep as originals. Make a copy of the one you will use most and cut it into separate tracts. (Demonstrate this in front of the class.)

B. Giving a wallet tract is very easy.

Just hand it over. You shouldn't try to explain it if the people are busy, but it is nice to tell them *why* you are giving it. (Write an example on the chalk board so students can see it. "Here is a reminder of God's love. I hope it encourages you." or "Here is some good news for you today. God bless you!")

Demonstrate the giving of a wallet tract in front of everyone using a student to receive the tract.

C. Demonstrate a group practice.

Have representatives from each small group join the instructor in front of the class. Give one representative a tract, look him in the eye as you give it and tell them why you are giving it. (see example sentences above.) Then have that representative do the same thing to the next one and so forth until the last one does it back to the instructor so all have done it once.

Then they go back and do the same thing in their small groups. Pass the tract around the group twice, each time saying the one sentence comment as you give it.

IV. Love others by learning about them.

A. Learn names of the people in your group.

Take turns around the circle saying your first name and the name of the person on your left. Next, go around again saying your name and that of the person on your right. The third time have each person say everyone's name.

B. [Optional activity] Learn each other's home town and province.
Go around the circle having each person say "My name is _____ and I am from _____."
The second time, go around the circle introducing the person on your left. Say "This is _____
and she/he is from _____" .

C. Share what is the hardest and easiest disciple-making activity.
Take turns reporting which Disciple-Making Activity you marked as #1 and which one as #6 in
Handout 1. Explain why you chose those activities. Be brief.

D. Learn what hinders evangelism activity.
Take turns sharing what you thought would hinder you from sharing the good news more often.
Suggest ways that your small group or we as a class can help to overcome the hindrances.

E. Pray for each other.
Divide into groups of two or three and take turns sharing your feelings about telling the good
news to people. Pray for each other one at a time asking God to give you confidence and joy in
sharing the gospel this semester.

Assignments

[If used in college: Go over the assignment schedule to explain the extra reading assignments.]

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 1,2

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter-sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR1

III. Memory Verse.

1 Cor 15:3-5

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according
to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

Lesson 3 Good News Flows Best From Healthy Disciples.

Knowledge goal: To help you understand more about spiritual health and know how to improve it.

Skill goal: Ability to do a spiritual health self analysis.

Lecture

I. A Comparison of spiritual health to physical health.

We can describe the spiritual health of a disciple by comparing it to the physical health of a person. A paramedic measures a victim's vital signs such as pulse, blood pressure, breathing and temperature because these are good indicators of physical health. Wouldn't it be nice if we could do the same thing with spiritual health? In reality though, our spiritual condition is very subjective and perhaps impossible to measure. I do not think, however, that we need to give up trying to describe it or define it at all. In this lesson we will describe four aspects of spiritual health that will at least give us a way to talk about this subject, and to some extent measure it. The evaluation form on the next page can be used to help us evaluate: 1. Our trust in God. 2. Our interaction with God and his word. 3. Our obedience to God's word. and 4. Our godly emotions.

Our trust is foundational and constant like our pulse yet experiences ups and downs like our blood pressure. Our interaction with God's word also needs to be continuous just like our physical breathing. But like the physical breathing varies with activity, so does our spiritual breathing. There are some times when we are eager to read God's word and other times of dryness and disinterest. Jesus said we need to both hear the word and obey it and so if we don't apply what we learn from the Bible then we are experiencing spiritually sickness.

How about our emotions, are some emotions a better indication of spiritual health than others? We believe that spiritual health is not measured so much by the kind of emotion as the genuineness and appropriateness of it. First of all, disciples differ a lot from each other in their personalities and how they express themselves. Some are very outgoing and others are not. Secondly, we each face changes from day to day. Sometimes we are excited and joyful. Other times we need deep quiet meditation alone. I believe that godly emotions are the ones that take God's point of view into consideration and are a proper response to whatever situation we are facing. It is very possible that these emotions could change in a second and still represent spiritual health. Imagine for instance if you were worshipping God joyfully and someone came and whispered in your ear that there had been a tragedy in your family. It would be normal, and proper, for your emotions to switch from joy to sadness very quickly.

Take note that all of these areas of health, not just emotions, are dynamic and change with our changing lives. Just like it is normal for our physical vital signs to vary from day to day, so we must realize that our spiritual condition also has natural changes. This should help you realize that we are not looking for "right" answers, but rather for "true" answers. If a doctor wants to know the temperature of a patient, the nurse doesn't try to guess what the "right" temperature is that he is looking for. Rather, she just tells him what the thermometer says. Our measurements of spiritual vital signs are not objective like the reading of a thermometer, but the principle is the same. We simply look for the truest answers we can get.

Application: Give a brief demonstration about how to use the spiritual health evaluation form on the next page. Score each of the four categories according to how you would grade yourself today. Can you think of a way that you could improve in the category with your lowest score?

SPIRITUAL HEALTH EVALUATION FORM FOR CHRISTIANS.

How to use this form:

Do a quick review of your spiritual health by scoring the four main categories between 1 (low) and 10 (high) according to how accurately it describes you today. Then look at the area with your lowest score and see if you can think of ways to improve.

Optional: Put a check mark by each sub-item that you feel confident about and a question mark by ones you want to work on or study.

1. Trust In God

The Greek verb 'pisteuo', noun 'pistin' and adjective 'pistos' could be translated into English using the proper grammatical variations of 'trust,' 'belief' or 'faith'. Thus when we use the phrase "trust in God" here we are including the concepts of faith, belief and confidence that are both rational like a student and pre-rational like a baby.

Trust in whom?

- a. I trust in God who has revealed himself in the Bible as *Father, Son and Spirit*.
- b. I believe in God's *greatness and his goodness*.
- c. I trust in *Jesus as both the unique son of God and as the Christ* revealed in the Old Testament.
- d. In regard to salvation from sin and eternal destiny, *I do not trust my own efforts* at all.
- e. I *will not* trust or seek help from *other gods, images, or in words of spirits*.

Trust regarding what?

- f. I trust God to give me *eternal life* because I identify myself with Jesus who overcame death for us.
- g. I am trusting in Christ's death-blood as the one way for us to be *reconciled to God* and released from his anger.
- h. I am confident that God has *heard my cry and forgiven my sin* based on his faithfulness.
- i. I believe that God desires *my ultimate best* to give me *a meaningful and holy life*.
- j. My trust is ultimately in *God's care* in times of *difficulties* even if I also use human knowledge and skills to solve problems when I can.

How do I show my trust?

- k. I "*call upon the Lord*" simply and sincerely.
- l. I *humbly surrender* to God's will more than my own desires when there is a difference.
- m. I *replace my doubts with trust* in God.

2. Interaction With God

- a. I *am learning from the Bible daily*. I rejoice to know and believe *God's will* as much as I can. I talk to God about what I learn in the Bible.
- b. I *talk to God* about many things each day.
- c. I *pray with total transparency* since God knows me completely anyway. I can express any of my emotions; joy, hope, doubt, despair, anger etc.
- d. *When I pray in public, my focus is on God*, not on myself or the people who hear me.
- e. I try to *understand my heavenly Father's character*. eg. holy, just, loving, good, etc.
- f. I *confess my sins* and agree that they are bad.

- g. I *enjoy being with God*: knowing him, trusting him, following him, resting in him.
- h. I *freely ask God for help* such as care, protection, knowledge and abilities that help me be better.
- i. I *do not tell God what to do or test him*, as if I were his superior.

3. Obedience To God's Word

- a. I *apply* what I am learning in the Bible to my daily life. This includes *obeying orders* that apply to me, *copying good examples* and *avoiding bad ones*.
- b. I *repent from the sin* that I confessed. i.e. I stop doing it and change my ways to avoid it.
- c. I show my *love to God* in my thoughts and my actions.
- d. I show *love to all my neighbors*.
- e. I show *love to all fellow-Christians*.
- f. I *worship with fellow-Christians*.
- g. The *fruit of the holy spirit* is seen in my life. *Love, Joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*.
- h. I am replacing timidity with *courage as I tell people about Jesus and the gospel*.

4. Godly Emotions

- a. I am *seeking to have God's emotions*: I hate sin and rejoice to see people repent. I am angry at sinners but I delight in the righteous.
- b. My *feelings are fitting to my life situations*; sometimes joyful and sometimes sad, angry etc. I know that a healthy Christian has times of both excitement and rest, times of both success and persecution.
- c. I have a *confident hope* that God will save me from hell and give me eternal and joyful life.
- d. I have *freedom in worship* to be quiet or excited. I don't feel I must follow what others do.
- e. I am experiencing a deep level peace because my trust in God is stronger than my *worry about problems in life or what people think of me*.
- f. I *have patience* with people that have different personalities since not everyone will want the same things I want.
- g. I *don't use mind-over-matter techniques* to overcome depression. I cry out to God.
- h. I *avoid living in denial about problems* because that would be lying and deceiving my self.

II. Our spiritual health affects the flow of the Good News.

A. Trust.

When we have a strong trust in God's sovereign or absolute power, the result is that we have more peace because we realize that God really is in charge of everything. Therefore, after we have tried to share the gospel as accurately as possible, we can rest and leave the results to God.

When our trust in God's grace is strong, then we can have joy because of our hope that someday heaven will be the reward both to ourselves as evangelists and to the people who respond positively to the gospel we bring.

I have noticed that we seem to have two levels of faith at the same time. At a surface level it is normal to have questions and doubts because of new information or challenges we experience. Yet at the same time we can have a very solid trust in our heavenly Father's care at a deep level. That deep level of trust enables us to continue giving the good news even when we don't understand everything.

B. Interaction.

Interaction with God is needed for us to produce fruit. Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4) As we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit convinces us about our sin. This results in humility and in wisdom to see life more and more from God's eternal and holy viewpoint rather than from the temporary and selfish viewpoint we learned from the world. This eternal viewpoint includes seeing sinners as lost sheep who need to be rescued.

C. Obedience.

The application of our faith and our interaction with God takes place in the real issues we face in daily living. Healthy application in the goodnewser is seen in godly speech and godly actions throughout the day. It results in love for sinners just like God loves us. All of the qualities we call the "fruit of the spirit" (see Gal 5:22-23) are happening as a continual result of the Spirit's control of us. These qualities make our life a living proof of the beauty and value of the gospel we preach.

D. Emotions.

Our religious energy level is an emotional overflow of whatever we are currently excited about. Emotions change easily so I don't emphasize this as much as the other areas of health in a disciple. On the other hand, we don't want to ignore emotions too much either. When you are excited about something that you learned in your quiet time it is easy to "overflow" it because it excites you. How about when you have periods of "dryness"? I recommend that you just be honest about it to others and be patient with yourself. The emotions will come again.

We should also point out that all goodnewser have different personalities. Some are naturally bubbly and outgoing while others are quiet and cautious when meeting people. Those of you who are extroverts will have an easier time with the Field Research reports each week. But the other members of the class shouldn't be discouraged if they are not extroverts. Many of my past students have reported that their own conversion resulted as they watched the lives of a brother, sister, father, mother or a close friend. Those people did not make an impression because they were "zealous evangelists". They were just normal people who had a natural overflow of their Christianity to their family and friends. It was the long-term genuineness of their emotions that carried more weight than any temporary level of excitement.

III. Warning: Spiritual health is not just revealed by outward declarations.

Please take note of the strong warning that Jesus gives in Matt 7:15-28.

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good

tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

What is the warning of these and similar verses? It is that all of our activity and words, not just our ministry times, must show that we are true and healthy disciples of Jesus! Jesus said he did not "know" some people because they were really evil in spite of their doing ministry in his name. We must have a true and complete relationship with him and not just say that we are Christians and are doing Christian ministry. If we continue to do evil we prove that our ministry is actually a fake and we have no true relationship to Christ at all yet.

Discuss: Jesus says that some people who do Christian ministry will be rejected. Doesn't that seem too strict? Can you defend why Jesus might say such a thing about a pastor or missionary?

IV. Let us strive to maintain our spiritual health.

I believe that we should encourage each other to continue in some basic Christian practices in order to be healthy disciples. Sometimes difficulties will cause us to doubt our beliefs or perhaps pull back inside of ourselves to seek protection from more hurt. If this happens, then share your feelings with a trusted Christian friend. But also, continue in your prayer, Bible study and godly lifestyle.

A. Prayer.

Prayer is talking by faith to an invisible God. We spend time thanking him for blessings, praising His greatness, asking his forgiveness, telling Him our problems, arguing with Him and asking help for ourselves and others. Try to establish a regular time each day in prayer. But also, talk to God anytime of the day or night about the things that are important to you.

B. Bible Study.

This can be done alone or with a group of Christians. I would recommend two methods for private Bible study. The first method is to read whole books at a time. (I listen to them while I walk for exercise.) The advantage of this is that you get the "big picture" of what the books writer is saying. Often there will be some one phrase that will catch your attention because you can see immediately how it applies to something in your life. Remember it and overflow it to a friend.

The second method I recommend is a type of intense meditation. By going more slowly through a book (maybe just two or three verses a day), you can take time to analyze it very deeply. We will discuss a way to do this in the Skills section below using Handout #7.

C. Godly lifestyle and outreach.

Spiritual health must be seen in every aspect of our lives. The overall principal for all God's children is to be holy as He is holy (1Pet 1:15-16). As members of the church we want to make disciples as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:18-20. And as we saw in the last lesson part of disciple making is loving both God and people (Mark 12:29-31).

Sometimes in evangelism we only emphasize the goodnewsing and challenging parts of disciple-making. But I believe that the loving aspect should also be emphasized. How can we encourage each other to discuss both the loving activities and the outreach activities that God has allowed us to experience? As a way to help such discussions we use three acronyms that describe the interactions we might have with other people.

1. HELP's

First of all we can report even a small act of loving our neighbor as a "H.E.L.P." (Help Every Living Person). Since we are to encourage each other to more and more love and good deeds, it is a great idea to report our HELPs so that others will be encouraged and perhaps learn new ways to love their neighbor as well.

2. SIT's

Sometimes when we talk to someone we may be able to talk about something spiritual rather than just the normal things of life such as our work, our family, the latest sports event or political activity etc. Any time we have a conversation on any topic related to religion or spiritual things we could call it a "S.I.T." (Spiritual Interest Talk). Perhaps it is about God or gods, angels or demons, good versus bad, or the symbols used to decorate buildings in churches, temples or mosques. Anything that is at all related to religion or eternal values could be called a SIT. Maybe nothing comes of the conversation, but I think we should encourage each other to move a conversation from the common topics of life to significant spiritual issues whenever we are able.

3. GO's

If we actually can give the gospel by any method we call it a "G.O." (Goodnewsing Opportunity). This is not "better" than a HELP, but rather one of the best ways of showing love to a neighbor.

One time a taxi driver asked me about the college I taught in. I told him it was a Bible college and then asked him about his religion. At that point the conversation could be called a SIT because I listened as he talked about something related to the spiritual aspect of our lives. In that particular case I was also able to say that we believed that the death of Christ was for our sins. When I paid him I gave him a 1 Cor 15:3 wallet tract. Thus, the SIT became a GO in two ways, by means of words and by means of the tract.

I want to emphasize that all three actions are good. They are all acts of obedience and love. Everyone should have some HELPs to report when Christians meet together. And as we encourage each other each week I hope that even shy members will have some SITs and GOs to report sometimes.

D. Fellowship.

Don't try to live your Christian life as a loner. Meet regularly with fellow believers. You will be strengthened when your praises are joined with others in group worship and your understanding of God's word is deepened by the knowledge other Christians share.

Discuss: Give two examples of each type of activity; HELPs, SITs, and GOs.
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Skill Development

I. Review giving a wallet tract including a one minute skit.

Giving a wallet tract is an easy form of goodnewsing, so I want us to practice it again.

1. Divide into your small groups and take turns giving the tracts to each other with the greeting "Here is a reminder of God's love, I hope it is an encouragement to you."

2. Each group will make a “One-Minute Skit” about giving the tract. It can be performed by two or more people from the group. The skit should focus on the giving and receiving of the tract, NOT on any follow-up conversations.

The skit has only three parts; a *greeting* by the goodnewser, the *giving* of the tract and the *response* of the goodnewsed person. Choose roles based on everyday life in your community. (eg. The goodnewsed could be men changing a tire, a woman buying vegetables from a vendor, a policeman, jeepney driver or a sales clerk at a store, etc. The goodnewser could be a Bible school student, a secular college student, a factory worker, a housewife or a taxi driver, etc.)

Here is a sample.

Roles: Goodnewser is a student buying candy. Goodnewsed are a sarisari store owner and her daughter.

Part 1 Greeting: Good morning maam, could I buy some White Rabbit?

Part 2 Giving tract: “Thanks for this good candy. Can I give you some good news this morning? News doesn’t get any better than this, (point to tract) see—Christ died for our sins! “ Gives one tract to each.

Part 3 Response: Mother - “Oh a nice picture of Jesus. I will tape it right here to the shelf.”
Daughter - “Salamat.”

II. How to do a spiritual self-examination.

We will use the form in this lesson (page 22) to guide us through a spiritual self examination.

a. Trust in God.

Think about your faith and trust in God. Write down a score for yourself on a 1 -10 scale (10 is high).

b. Next score yourself in the section called Interaction With God.

c. For the section called Obedience To God’s Word, do a spiritual fruit analysis using the subpoint g. Where there times in your life when the Holy Spirit has recently produced one or many of the nine characteristics listed in Gal 5:22-23. Rejoice for every fruit you "harvested."

d. Godly Emotions. Grade yourself on your emotional balance using the 1 to 10 scale. In this case 1 means unbalanced or not good and 10 means that you were very balanced and that your emotions fit the situations of life you faced.

III. Know how to do a “Praying Hands Bible Study.”

Use the instructions in Handout 7 to guide a quick demonstration of this method. Use just one verse (eg. Luke 7:14, John 5:21 or Matt 2:16) since this method requires reading through the text many times. Note that many items are "non-applicable" to a particular text. The verse in Matthew 2 is about King Herod and is an example of when there is something to Avoid rather than to Copy.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 3,4

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR2

III. Memory Verse.

Gal 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Optional Activities

I. Choose a name for your small group.

Choose a group name that is somehow related to goodnewsing. Be able to explain to the class why you chose it. (Submit two names to me for approval.)

II. [Optional if time allows] Know how to do Outreach Reporting in a small group.

Go around the group and have each person share either a HELP, a SIT or a GO that they had this week. (For example, if you gave a wallet tract after your Field Research survey you can report that is a GO because the tract included a part of the gospel message on it.

Give people time to think and also to “pass”. But then after others have shared go back and ask them again because maybe what someone else answered will remind them of something in their life.

Some examples:

H.E.L.P. - I helped in the house without being told what to do. I was overpaid by a cashier and I returned the money rather than walk away with it.

S.I.T. - My friend asked why I was going to Bible college. I asked a taxi driver where he attended church. I was talking to someone about a recent tragedy and how people wanted someone to blame for the damage. I talked to a Buddhist friend about reincarnation.

G.O. - You might be talking to someone about a sunset. If you discuss whether God made the sunset then your conversation is a SIT. If you can also talk about God making us for beauty and holiness but we messed up and sinned, then your SIT has already started to become a Goodnewsing Opportunity.

Part 2: Goodnewsing

In Part 2 we will look at several more ways of giving the good news. We will use the John 3:16 diagram as our foundational method because it is so reproducible.

Lesson 4 Good News Overflows Naturally.

*Knowledge goal: To know how to maintain a good overflow of the good news.
Skill goal: Ability to draw the John 3:16 diagram.*

Lecture

I. Describe Overflow.

When a pitcher of water is being filled too full at a faucet, the water will run out over the top edge. This is called overflow. The overflow will continue as long as the faucet is turned on and is pouring water into the pitcher. It is important to notice that what flows out depends on what flowed in.

Overflow is a natural part of who we are as people. The experiences and information we have received fill us so much that eventually they affect, or flow out into, our relationships with the people we come in contact with every day. Proverbs 10:11 says that the mouth of the righteous man is a fountain of life. Here we have a word picture comparing the righteous man's speech to life-giving water flowing out of a hillside and blessing the people who drink it. What flows out of the righteous man's mouth depends on what he allowed to flow into him.

What information is likely to overflow from us? Whenever we are convinced that something is important we don't forget it but rather we pass it on to others. We don't need an assignment to tell such things to others, we just overflow them because they are important to us. Think of Andrew's excitement as he told his brother Peter the important news, "we have found the Messiah!" (John 1:41). And in 1 Cor 15:3 Paul says that he passed on to others the things that he considered to be the most important teachings.

Similarly, when we are very happy we share our news with others hoping that they will be joyful with us. Jesus based his parables in Luke 15 on this natural reaction to good news. He told about a man's joy at finding a lost sheep, a woman who was happy to find lost money, and a man who's joy overflowed into a party when his wayward son came home. Throughout the gospels, when people were excited about being healed or receiving free food they thanked Jesus, the giver, and told others about him.

Overflow for a disciple happens because our Christianity is so important to us that we just naturally express our feelings to others. We thank God when we understand what he has done for us just like the leper did to Jesus in Luke 17:12-15 or the sinful woman who expressed her feelings by washing his feet in Luke 6:37-48. Sometimes our gratefulness makes us like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8-10) and our overflow comes in the form of repentance from some sin like greed or deceit. When we read the Bible and are convinced about some truth we find there, it is natural to want to share this with people we love.

Discuss: Find examples of overflow in the gospel according to Luke.

Read the text marked with an asterisk, then answer the questions.

1. What did the person receive or what experience did they have that was important?
2. How did they "overflow" to others? e.g. Was their overflow a response in the form of words? emotions? or actions? or all of the above?

Examples of overflow in Luke:

7:36-50 A forgiven woman anoints Jesus.

8:26-39 A man freed from demons desired to follow, but Jesus said to go home.

*10:17-20 The 72 disciples were excited about their victories and reported to Jesus.

10:25-27 The good Samaritan gave compassionate care to a stranger because of his love.
*13:31-35 Jesus grieved over Jerusalem because he knew what would happen to them.
*15:8-10 The people rejoiced when lost items were found.
17:11-19 The tenth leper thanks Jesus for healing.
19:1-10 Zachaeus decided to repay anyone he had wronged.
19:45-48 Jesus was angry at the abuse of his Father's house and kicked out vendors.

Optional method: Divide the class into groups of 2 or 3. Assign one text to each group and give them a chance to answer the two questions.

II. How does overflow relate to evangelism?

Honest overflow must replace any fake, un-natural or even hypocritical evangelism. Some people have such a competitive spirit that they feel a need to impress people, even during evangelism. If we evangelize only to impress someone who tells us to do it, then it is not an overflow out of our heart, but a duty. And if we have not experienced the goodnews ourselves, then we will not be convincing to others. True overflow replaces forced enthusiasm with natural enthusiasm.

Our ability to overflow the gospel depends on the content we have available inside us to share. You can only give what you have, not what you don't have. If you only have a few facts, verses and a one-verse diagram that you memorized, then that is what you will have available to overflow. But if you are continuing to meditate on the gospel year after year, then you will be able to overflow the fresh new things you are discovering all the time.

Overflow provides attractiveness to our witness. Genuine overflow of the good news, is attractive to the people. Do you like fake people? No, of course not. People who love the truth will be attracted to your gentleness, genuine character and humility. They will see when you are sharing something out of concern for them rather than love for yourself.

Overflow provides an on-going freshness to your witness. If you are studying the gospels in your personal devotions, then whenever you have a fresh insight or application you will be likely to share it with others while it is new in your mind. Therefore, overflow solves the problem of what to say about the gospel to people that you see everyday. Suppose you give your aunt a gospel tract. You can't keep giving the same tract to her every day, or even every month. She will start to avoid you! But when you are truly touched by something from your morning devotions and then tell it to your aunt because she is special to you, she will not be offended but rather she will be interested. Having something new to share every week is like putting the gospel in gossip-sized tidbits that people will want to listen to. Remember, overflow is a sharing of yourself to someone you care about.

III. How can we maintain good overflow of the gospel?

We could think of gospel overflow as having three stages; input, possession, and output. We want to have regular input, maintain purity during possession, and have abundance in our output.

A. Good overflow requires on-going input from God's word.

We should maintain fresh input by reading or listening to the Bible frequently. In fact read it every day if possible. Be sure to think about what you read and interact with it by looking for applications for your life. When you ponder what you read you will find that God's word will change both how you live and how you pray. Your lifestyle will become more godly. When you pray you will be asking for the things that Jesus wants instead of the selfish things that we so often pray for. Your communication with people will be affected because you see them as people that God loves and that Christ died for.

The Bible is the key source of input for good overflow. But another good input is to hear about or read the testimonies of how the good news has affected other Christians. There are many sources for this information such as books, the Jesus film, radio programs like "Unshackled", television shows, internet websites, etc. Check with your pastor about the doctrinal position of the sources of these materials because some so-called Christian groups do not honor the uniqueness of Christ's death for our sin.

Discuss: What are sources of gospel input in your community?
Make a list of as many sources as you can think of regarding where people in your community can hear or read the gospel.

B. Good overflow needs good clean containers.

God uses us as containers that carry his pure gospel. Therefore we should live pure and holy lives.

A clean character is one of genuineness so avoid hypocrisy. And don't treat evangelism contacts simply as tools to accomplish self-advancement in church or a school assignment. Are you trying to manipulate people so you can accomplish your own desires? Can you not see that manipulation comes out of too much love for yourself and not enough love for them? Examine your motives by asking "Why am I doing this?" or "Why did I say that?"

One aspect of holiness is truthfulness. Clean thinking includes truthful self-talk. Suppose you have questions, doubts or fears? Don't just ignore them or hold them inside. Analyze them so that you can see what is true and what is false in what you are saying to yourself. You can choose to have God-confidence based on His goodness when your own lack of self-confidence makes you confused. Maybe you can talk to others or get help from books regarding the questions you have. Be willing to argue with God like the prophets did when they didn't understand what was happening. In any case, don't let false self-talk contaminate the beauty of the gospel.

Many people are afraid of what other people might think of them if they can't answer questions during witnessing. This hesitancy is actually related to our pride, and pride is another thing that contaminates our goodnews container. So let's deal with it head on. If you don't know answers to questions, don't make up answers! Just be truthful and say "I don't know." You can try to find answers later if possible. But it might help you to realize that there are some religious questions that people have been asking for thousands of years and still don't have answers to. *It is best to be honest and say you don't know when you don't know.* To do otherwise would be deceitful.

Application: Practice saying "I don't know" together.

First, just recite together several times as a class: "I don't know."

Next, the instructor will ask a question and the class will answer, "I don't know."

eg. Ask, "When Jesus was a little boy, did he ever play games?" or "Why did God create man first instead of woman?" "When Jesus walked on water, did his ankles get wet?" "How can Jesus be both unlimited God and limited man at the same time?"

C. Good overflow needs clear openings for outflow.

If we increase our input regarding the gospel by regular Bible reading, then more output will normally overflow. But sometimes there are things that block or minimize the outward flow of the gospel. We can try to overcome these hindrances.

1. Focus on the eternal, not the temporal.

We can increase our output of the goodnews if we learn to see things and people more as Jesus sees them. This is a result of reading and meditating on the gospels regularly.

Consider for example the understanding Jesus had about where God “lives”. In John 2:14-22 we see that Jesus was angry that the temple of God which should be used for prayer was used for buying and selling. Later on we see that the disciples saw with eyes similar to ours, in other words they saw the beautiful stonework (Mark 13:1-2). But Jesus saw the building as representing the place where God lives. And when he was asked for a sign of his authority he gave a truth in the form of a riddle. He said, “Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days” (John 2:19). He knew that his own body was the true dwelling of God and that even though men would be allowed to destroy it (his body), it would be rebuilt (or raised from the dead) in three days. Seeing this way is not easy for us but I believe that by reading the gospels we will be able to see and follow Jesus’ example and put greater emphasis on heavenly things than on earthly things. The result will be overflow that better promotes God’s views.

2. Create openings for the gospel in your conversations.

When Jesus interacted with the woman at the well, he listened carefully to what she said about water and then was able to turn the conversation to her eternal needs (John 4:5-43). We can follow his example and increase our own overflow of the gospel by also watching for ways to turn conversations from common secular topics to spiritual ones and perhaps to the good news. Once a creative evangelism student was talking to a barbecue vendor at her stall. He used the fire of her charcoals to turn their conversation and discuss the eternal options of a joyful heaven compared to a fiery hell.

3. Don’t let things of the world hinder the gospel overflow.

We can accomplish more overflow if we don't hinder the Holy Spirit from using us. The parable of the sower in Matt 13:1-23 shows that this can happen because of lack of understanding (hard ground), shallow commitment (rocky ground) or by being distracted by the nice things that this world offers to us (thorny ground).

4. Give some motivation to one another.

And finally, our goodnews overflow will increase when we are with other people who also care about such things. We need to be with a group of friends who will ask us how we are doing spiritually. We need a friend to whom we can report our HELPs, SITs, or GOs. Even though genuine overflow doesn’t need to be forced, it can be encouraged. And even without overflow, the good news can sometimes be “poured” out intentionally.

Skill Development

I. Learn to overflow the gospel using diagrams of Bible passages.

As we said above, overflow is what takes place naturally when we are affected by the truth we read in the Bible. Today you will learn a diagram that illustrates the truth found in John 3:16. You can learn to use this diagram and draw it for someone just to fulfill a class assignment. But it will become true overflow only when you yourself have seen the beauty of God’s gift of his own son to help you receive eternal life. The same will be true for all other diagrams or methods of sharing the gospel. They are not ready to overflow out of you until the truth they contain has been able to flow into your heart and mind and life.

Tips about using verse diagrams in general.

Don't hurry! Take your time.

Interact as you go. See if the person is understanding you.

Don't over-explain. It is better to discover what questions they have already, before answering questions they aren't asking yet.

II. Learn how to use a John 3:16 diagram to overflow the truth of God's love.

A. Why should we use it?

One method of goodnewsing that you already know is how to give a wallet tract. Today we will learn about the John 3:16 diagram. These are just two different ways to present or to "package" the goodnews. Think about bread that comes in different shapes and sizes but all of them are able to satisfy people's hunger. Similarly, the goodnews is packaged in various ways but all of them are able to satisfy the hunger of the soul of the seeker.

I want you to learn this diagram because it is simple enough for you to learn easily. You can even teach others to do it when YOU are asked to teach evangelism. It is especially easy to use in a country with a Christian heritage because it is based on a key verse that many people already know and that has many aspects of the good news all in that one verse. It is a good partner verse to 1 Corinthians 15:5 that says Christ died for our sins.

I also like it because it is both reproducible and very adaptable. In fact I have seen several versions of it. It can be drawn on a small place like the back of a wallet tract or a business card so you can use it almost anywhere at a moment's notice. On the other hand it can be shown through a projector onto a large screen if the audience is big. You will normally take ten minutes or more so it isn't a good method to use when you are in a hurry. And you need a place to write so it doesn't usually work well during bumpy rides or on crowded buses.

How should you start? Here are some sample transition sentences you could say if you find out a person is interested in spiritual things. You might say "May I explain a favorite Bible verse of mine?" or "Let me show you how great God's love is! OK?"

B. Demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram.

The instructor will demonstrate how to draw the diagram. Students should pay attention so that they will be able to do it themselves afterward. They can check off the items in the outline on the following page as the demonstration progresses. That way they are more aware of what is happening.

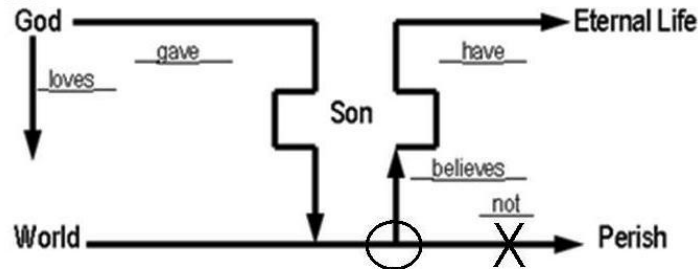
During the demonstration draw a large version of the diagram on the chalk board so all the students can see it as you proceed. Normally you would write it on a small piece of paper when talking to one person.

[Optional: Put the progress outline on one side of the chalk board while the instructor uses the other side to draw the diagram. Assign a student to put a check-mark in front of each line as it is accomplished during the demonstration.]

[Optional: Do the demonstration again in the local language.]

HAVE YOU SEEN THE JOHN 3:16 DIAGRAM YET?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



John 3:16 diagram procedure diagram.

a. Introductions.

- ___ Be friendly to this person that God loves.
- ___ Explain why the diagram is cool. eg. "Good news in one great verse!"
- ___ Get permission to draw it.

b. Show the verse.

- ___ Write the verse or show it in the Bible.

c. Draw the diagram. (Remember that the five word positions are like the five dots on a dice.)

- ___ Three "Who?s" are mentioned: God, world, son. (upper left, lower left and middle)
- ___ Two eternal destinies: Perish or eternal life. (lower right and upper right corners)
- ___ Bad news: condemnation if no help [cf. v18 "stands condemned"]. (bottom arrow)
- ___ Good news 1: God loved, gave. (arrow makes left side of cross)
- ___ Good news 2: whoever believes, doesn't perish (X on line), receives (finish cross) LIFE!
Substitute first name of the person in place of the word "whoever."
- ___ Choice you must make when you hear of this offer to help you.(circle cross roads)

d. Discuss reactions.

- ___ What pathway are you on right now?
- ___ If unsaved: Would you like to trust completely in Jesus' help to save you? Why not?
- ___ Do you think you could draw this for your friends?

III. Practice the John 3:16 Diagram

Divide into pairs and each person should take turns practicing how to draw the diagram.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 5,6

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR3

III. Memory Verse.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

IV. John 3:16 diagram review.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (Each week one group will give a review demonstration. The first time around it is ok for one member to draw it for one other member. But when all groups have had a turn, in the second time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members of the group in a skit type format.)

Optional Activities

I. Outreach report in small groups.

Briefly report to the group what you did recently regarding loving your neighbors with good news and good deeds. (Did you have any HELP's, SIT's, or GO's?)

II. Make a reminder guide to help you learn the John 3:16 diagram.

Copy the following text onto a piece of paper that you can have with you while you are learning to use this method of evangelism.

John 3:16 Diagram guide.

- Introduction and S.I.T.
- Ask permission to explain God's love.
- Write the verse or show in the Bible.
- Three WHO's in the verse.
- Two DESTINIES in the verse.
- BAD news arrow:
 Perish without help.
- GOOD news arrows:
 Love, gave, believe, have
- GOOD news X:
 Not perish
- Circle of CHOICE. Where are you?
 Do you need to change?
 Do you need put your trust to Jesus?
- Do you think you could draw this for your friends?

Lesson 5 Goodnewsing Should Result In Good Working.

*Knowledge goal: To correct two misconceptions about evangelism and show that God plans for us to do good.
Skill goal: Ability to draw the Ephesians 2:1-10 diagram.*

Lecture

I. Introduction

We have shown that evangelism is part of the process of disciples making more disciples. Therefore, we could think of the ultimate results of evangelism as making more disciples, and more specifically, making “healthy” disciples. We want disciples who have strong faith and good spiritual breathing that affects every aspect of their lives. With this in mind we must now deal with some misconceptions about what is accomplished by evangelism.

II. Misconceptions about the results of evangelism.

Misconception #1: Evangelism results in people being saved but it doesn't affect their day to day life now.

Salvation does indeed include freedom from God’s punishment and a confident assurance of his eternal kindness. But this does not mean that we should do nothing once we are Christians. Should the new Christian just lie down on a bed and wait to die and go to heaven? Unthinkable! Just as Jesus was sent into the world, he also sends us into the world (John 17:18; 20:21). We are to be salt and light in the world (Matt 5:13-14) so we have a lot of good things to do as Christians!

This misconception can be an over reaction to the common but also wrong idea that a person is saved by doing more good things than bad things. The goodnewser should emphasize that we can only be saved as a result of God’s graciousness to us and that our own good works cannot save us. But he should also emphasize that we are saved *to* holiness which includes doing good things.

If there is no hunger for righteousness in a person's life then probably he hasn't really been born by the Holy Spirit. A parent who loves holiness begets a child who also loves holiness. If the person prays and asks God to save him and then goes back and continues a life of selfishness and sin, we will question the sincerity of the prayer. Maybe the motivation to become a Christian was only about pleasing friends or getting into heaven free and not really about getting freedom from the bondage of sin.

According to Jesus this problem might be caused by the missionary. He rebuked some Jewish teachers who went long distances to make a convert. But according to Jesus the results were people who were even more wicked than the missionaries themselves (Matt 23:15). If we are just trying to get people to follow us and join our church rather than to follow Christ, then Jesus would have reason to rebuke us too.

We should not pressure people into making a quick decision that does not involve genuine repentance from sin and submission to Christ as the new boss of their life. We should not be afraid to talk boldly about God's power and his right to judge people. If they don't have a normal fear of God as God then they will treat him as an equal, and will not be willing to obey him when his will for them is clear.

Discuss: If someone asked your friends why people do evangelism, what would your friends probably say?
--

Misconception #2: Evangelism results in holy people who that they are not useful to society.

I have heard the phrase, "he is so heavenly minded that he is of no earthly good." It was said in a negative way about people considered too religious.

It might be that a person's old friends will reject him because he will no longer go with them to do wicked things. That is a good thing that Christ would be proud of. It would be very sad if the opposite was said about him, namely that "he is so earthly minded that he is of no heavenly good."

But on the other hand, if the Christian no longer interacts significantly with other people in his community, then that is unbiblical. We are to be in the world even when we are not of the world (John 17:13-18). We are to love our neighbors. We are to promote justice. We cannot do these things without being an active part of our communities.

The new disciple will love all people, but will love God even more; even more than his or her own life.

Discuss: Do you know believers who are active in the community yet maintain a godly lifestyle with high moral standards? Describe how they do it.

III. The result of evangelism is people saved by grace and doing good works.

Today we will learn to make a diagram based on Ephesians 2:1-10 that deals with the issue of grace and good works. It will show clearly that we are absolutely unable to save ourselves from our sinful condition. It will also show that the reason God saves us is to do the good works that he has planned for us to do. God is honored by the righteous things his power enables us to do. Let's not be like the people Paul described as having a form of godliness but denying its power in their lives (2 Tim 3:5).

Application: Brainstorm together and make a list of good deeds that would cost less than about one hour's worth of wages to accomplish.

Skill Development

I. Introduce the Ephesians 2:1-10 illustration.

A. Why I like to use the Eph 2:1-10 diagram.

Verses 8 and 9 of Ephesians chapter 2 are often used to show that a Christian is saved by grace, not by works. However if we look at the context of those verses we can see that Paul is not telling us to avoid good works, but rather to show us we need to have life from God in order to do the really good works he created us to do. The question might be asked, "Since every society on earth expects its members to do good, is Christianity really any different?" In one sense Christian communities are not different. They still struggle because there are members who disagree about the laws that have been made and disobey them. But in another sense the Christian gospel is different because it touches us at the deepest level of our existence. When a Jew asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life Jesus didn't suggest that he pray a certain prayer. Jesus instead asked him what God's word said. The man recited the Old Testament commands. He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27) Jesus told him to obey them and he would live. I wonder what was in the man's mind when he thought about his

life and how he had treated other people. What would come to your mind if Jesus told you that you can have eternal life if you truly love the God and your neighbor? If we are honest we would be like that man and quickly know that we have failed to do that and therefore have forfeited our right to eternal and pure life. When they brought an adulteress to Jesus to be stoned he did not deny that she deserved a death sentence but asked those who would carry out the sentence to only do so if they also had not sinned. When they left he again did not say what she had done was ok, but that she who had been spared should stop her sinning. (John 8: 1-11)

I like the illustration of Ephesians 2:1-10 for several reasons. Here are some of them.

- It shows that salvation is not just from problems like hell, but to holiness.
- It reminds us of God's greatness as our maker and creator.
- It reminds us Christians to look for good works we can do.
- It easily adapts to many audiences since almost everyone makes something.
 - To business women wearing jewelry I compared God to a fine jewelry maker.
 - To teachers I compared him to a teacher making lesson plans.
- We can use props to make it interesting.
 - I used food boxes, cups and spoons when talking to businessmen at Jollibee.
 - I used a real table, trashcan, umbrella and socks talking to a church fellowship.

B. Some disadvantages of the Eph 2:1-10 diagram.

- It takes longer to do than the John 3:16 diagram.
- Christ's death for sin is implied but not clearly stated.
 - We might add reference to 1 Cor 15:3 or Heb. 9:27-28.
- The spiritual "death" that is the result of our sin is not easy for people to understand or visualize. This is why prayer is so important in disciple-making because we can't really see our own sinfulness without God's help.
- We need a Bible for people to read the verses that we are talking about therefore it is a little less flexible regarding when you can use it than a one-verse diagram like that of John 3:16.

C. Introduce using the concept of craftsmanship as a way to start a conversation.

A craftsman is a person who is very good at making something. Ephesians 2:10 compares God to a craftsman and the good things God is making are the disciples like you and I. Therefore I encourage you to watch for "things made" in the area where you are talking to someone and then think of God who can make even dead people to do good works.

Optional Activity: Make a list on the chalk board of things made by people in the neighborhoods where students do their field research. [Note the difference between making something and repairing something that was made by others.]

Next, go back down the list and after each item write down what you call the person who made it. For example:

House – carpenter
Supper – cook
Banana cue – banana cue vendor

II. Demonstrate using the Ephesians 2:1-10 diagram to a group.

Since this diagram is actually a ten-verse illustrated Bible study, have someone ready to read from a copy of the New Testament. I have included an outline of the Bible study below with notes

about how to add the illustration to it.

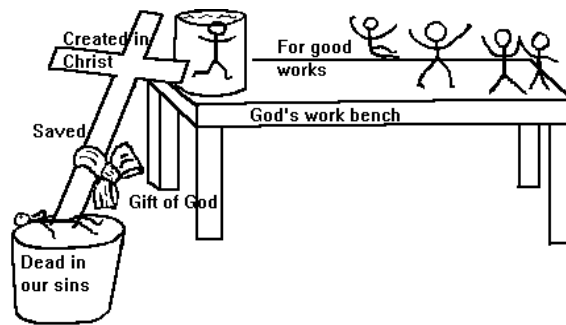
[To college students regarding the quiz: You will only be responsible to *identify the six parts of the diagram*. Remember both the *name* of the part (see the left column below) and what it *represents* (right column).]

GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOD'S CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ephesians 2:1-10

The diagram has six parts drawn in this order.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| A. Workbench | = God is a craftsman. |
| B. Stick people on workbench | = Finished product is saved people doing good works. |
| C. Dead man in garbage. | = Available material is people who are dead due to sin. |
| D. Cross | = Salvation was expensive to God. |
| E. Ribbon on Cross | = Salvation was free to the people. |
| F. Man in paint can | = Salvation includes being "in Christ" spiritually. |



A. Read verse 10 and draw the *workbench*.

1. A craftsman is someone who makes things.

Choose an example either of something the person you are talking to makes (supper?) or something you can both see (like a watch or a shirt).

Answer: What resources are needed to make the item?

What happens if the resources are of poor quality?

2. The workbench helps us think of God as a craftsman.

Like any good craftsman:

He has a goal of what he has plans to make.

He knows the materials he will use.

He knows the methods he will use.

He is willing to pay the expenses needed to accomplish his project.

B. Read verse 10 again and draw *stick people on the workbench*.

1. What is God the craftsman making according to this verse?

His goal is to make saved people who are doing good works.

(point to "created...to do good works, prepared in advance for us to do.")

2. Get a reaction about whether this is a good goal or not.

Is it good for you, or your family or your community?

What if no one in your city wanted to do good things?

C. Read verses 1 to 3 and draw *dead man in garbage can*.

1. We draw a garbage can to show that there is no value in the dead person.
 - a. Garbage is sent to the dump or the fire because it is bad!
 - b. The people God uses for resource materials are already bad!
Point out that it is describing the sinner's dead condition.
We are all in this condition because of our sin (Paul said both "You" and "We".)
2. How is it possible for people who are dead in sin to be useful in God's project?
 - a. What if the resource material in our example was worthless, like rotten vegetables or torn cloth? It couldn't be used.
 - b. The dead man in the garbage can cannot even open one eye or lift one finger. How impossible to jump up on the workbench of life and to do the truly unselfish good works that God has in mind. Think how hard it is for most people to do good things that are 100% anonymous.
3. Isn't our usefulness to God based on how smart we are? Or our good looks? No! We are all "in the garbage can" because of our sin. If you compare yourself to others you might think you are pretty good (or pretty bad). But these verses show your true condition is that condition you have before a holy God. All people are equally dead no matter what their status is in relation to others.

D. Read verses 4 to 7 and draw a *cross reaching down to garbage can*.

1. God's method of making holy and happy people doing good works is to take dead sinners and bring them to life through Jesus Christ. He saves us from our spiritually dead condition. God loves us even as sinners. Awesome!
2. Read verse 4-5 again that says he made us alive in Christ. God accepted Christ's death on the cross as payment for our sin, and if we put ourselves with Christ we too can be resurrected from the dead as he was.
3. The cross shows how expensive God's resource materials were. The amazing thing is that he considered it worth the death of his son to complete this project. You and I are so valuable to him!

E. Read verses 8 and 9 and draw a *ribbon on the cross*.

1. Salvation from death is a gift to the sinner and so we draw a ribbon on the cross.
2. Since God paid the expenses of our rescue, it is completely free to us. Salvation from this dead condition is only by God's mercy and grace. (Read 1 Cor 15:3.)

F. Read verse 6 again and draw a *man in a paint can*.

1. God will resurrect us to new life if we are IN Christ.
Imagine a piece of cloth dipped in paint.
It goes in with its own color, but it comes out with the color of the paint.
When we put our selves by faith IN Christ, we go in dead and come out alive.
We will receive life like he is life.
We will be holy like he is holy.
We will be more and more like him.
2. Take note of the result of this giving of new life. According to verse 7;
we are saved so that God's gracious kindness will be evident.
It is not so that we will receive honor from other people
when we do the good works God has planned for us.

G. Review

1. God's willingness to pay the great expense of his son's death.
It shows how important this project is to him.
God gave his own Son as the sacrificial lamb to die for us! (see Rom 5:6 and 1 Cor 15:3)
2. How are people saved?
Verse 8-9 make it clear that the salvation is free to the people.
It is not something that they can earn by works.
It is not by works so we won't boast.
It is all from God's grace.
3. What is our part in salvation?
Answer: Our part is to put ourselves in Christ.
We transfer our trust from ourselves or others and put it completely in Christ. (John 3:16)
4. Notice that the **sequence** is very important.
"Be saved in order to do good" not "Do good in order to be saved"
5. Have you ever responded to this kind of message before?
Have you put your faith in Christ for salvation from sin and to good works?
Are you still trusting in yourself and hoping everything will turn out ok?
6. Have you changed?
Are you doing the good works that God prepared for you to do?
Do people look at you and say "Wow, look at what a great craftsman God is!"

H. Challenge

1. If you haven't done it already, would you like to put your trust in him now? Is there any reasons why you wouldn't?
If they are willing lead them in a sinner's prayer of confession, submission and trust.
(Dear Lord, I know I did wrong and I am sorry. Please forgive me. I will change and start doing the good things I know you want me to do. I know I am weak and I am going to need you to help me with your guidance and strength. Thank you for loving me so much.)
2. If you have put your faith in Christ but are not doing the good works God planned for you because you are stubborn or lazy, then why not decide to repent right now?
Lead in a backslider's prayer of confession, renewed faith and commitment to joyfully do the good works that God has planned for us.
(Dear Lord, I did wrong in my stubborn ways and am truly sorry. Please forgive me. I believe you are the only one who can help me. From now on I am going to honor you with my trust and by the good deeds you have created me to do. Help me see how to do it. Thank you for your love.)

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 7,8

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR4 Give tracts appropriate for children.

III. Memory Verse.

Eph 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Practice the diagram.

Option 1: Divide into your small groups. Each group should think of props that could be used to visualize this diagram instead of drawing it.

Option 2: Divide students into pairs to practice drawing the diagram.

Lesson 6 Testimony Questions You Can Always Answer Correctly.

Knowledge goal: To show that the testimony we have about Jesus from the Bible does not change, but the testimony that you can give about your own Christianity is unique to you and changes as you grow in your faith.

Skill goal: Ability to use the four testimony questions to guide you in sharing your faith. Write a personal testimony.

Lecture

I. Two types of religious questions: doctrinal and personal.

Students have often said that they are hesitant to do evangelism because people might ask about things that they don't know the answers to. I have said that if you don't know an answer to something to just swallow your pride and say, "I don't know." Today we will discuss how to answer questions related to our faith that we *do* know the answers to.

People usually have two types of questions related to religion.

The first type of question relates to matters of *doctrine*. The person you talk to might want to know what the Bible says about this or that. Or they might want to know what your church teaches about a particular subject. You may or may not know the answers to these questions. But don't worry, your ability to answer will increase as you mature as a Christian and study the Bible more. Sometimes you can even help true seekers (not mere debaters) use a Bible dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia in the library. In fact that is a way that you can both learn many answers together.

The second type of question relates to you as a person and so we call these answers your *personal* testimony. These are the same kinds of questions a lawyer would ask a witness during a trial or that a friend might ask regarding something you bought recently.

II. A good personal testimony answers natural questions.

Asking questions is a *natural* way that people *learn* about things. When you were very small you were already asking many questions. What's this? What's that? Why did he do that? Where are you going? etc. If someone joins a club in High School others will wonder why did she join, or how did she get accepted?

Answers given as a part of a legal testimony before a judge are based on your personal knowledge and experience. You must give a truthful account of what you know, not what others know. And usually it is expected that you only answer the questions asked.

It is just the same when you talk to others about your faith. People might wonder why you joined or how you joined the Christian religion. Your answers should give a truthful account of what you know and have experienced. It is good to allow the hearer to control the conversation part of the time just like a witness allows the lawyer in court to choose the questions that must be answered. Too often we give our whole salvation story even if the people are just listening to be polite but aren't really interested.

Learn to listen well and answer just one thing at a time according to what people are interested in. You will find that the order of the topics they want is not always the same order you would choose. You might want to tell them first about *why* you prayed for forgiveness, when maybe what they are first wanting to know is *what results* you got by joining Christianity. In that case they might be thinking "If I joined and became a Christian like you did, what is in it for me?"

Giving a personal testimony is easier than a school exam because you don't have to remember all the things that you studied.

Discuss: Has anyone been a witness during a trial? If so, have them tell briefly about their experience.

Application: Observe how a person's testimony is an answer to questions.

1. Ask a student to answer this question: "What group or groups were you a part of while you were in high school? Eg. Chess club, sports team, drum and bugle, fraternity, or a barkada, etc."

2. Next, choose one of the groups the student belonged to and allow the other students to ask questions related to his or her membership in that group. During this question/answer time, have someone write just the questions (not the answers) on the chalk-board.

3. After four to six questions, stop and examine them to see what category they fit. Notice that questions usually fall in one of four categories listed below.

- a. Why join? Which questions were related to a motivation to join the group?
- b. How join? Which questions were related to the requirements for someone to join?
- c. What benefits? Which questions were related to the results of being a member?
- d. General data? Which questions were asked to get a better understanding of the group?

III. Four questions related to your personal Christian testimony.

These questions are stated as they might be asked by a person from another religion.

Question 1. WHY did you join the Christians?

You may have to think a little while to answer this question. The question is really about what *first motivated* you to become a Christian. Or if you left the faith, perhaps it is about why you made a decision later to recommit yourself to Jesus. It is *not* about why you *continue* as a Christian or why you joined a church or decided to go to a Bible College. Think of it like this: You were going on the world's path. What caused you to consider leaving that path in order to go along God's path?

What if you were born into a Christian family like I was? People like us would usually have two answers to this question. The first answer is that we followed Christ because the Christian faith is the only one we ever knew from the time we were infants. But John 1:12-13 shows that our spiritual birth is not due to the will of our parents. Therefore our second answer should be about the time when we first really understood our lostness and our inability to save ourselves. We can tell about why we made a conscious decision to ask God for help and to put our life and our eternal future in the hands of Christ, not because our parents chose it but because we personally chose it.

Question 2. HOW did you join the Christians?

What were the requirements to join? What did you actually do that made you a Christian? Suppose we compare joining Christianity to joining a club or fraternity. People might wonder: Was there a payment? Was there an initiation rite or baptism required? Did you have to burn candles, go to mass, be interviewed by a pastor or priest, wear certain clothing? The Bible tells us we are saved through faith but we can tell how we expressed our faith. People who listen to your answer to this question might be thinking about whether or not they could do the same things you did.

Question 3. What CURRENT RESULTS have you received because you became a Christian?

The answer to this question is often the most important part to the listener. People want to know if there has been a change in your life since you became a Christian. Is there a difference in your relationships with people now compared to before? How about your attitudes, are they different? They might want to know if you are living more comfortably now that you are a Christian? Did joining bring you more wealth, comfort and joy? Or did it bring persecution, suffering and poverty instead? Are the spiritual blessings gained more valuable than the worldly

blessings lost? In other words, people want to know if you are proof that becoming a Christian is a beneficial thing to do. Jesus understood our natural desire for profit when he said the kingdom of heaven is like a man selling everything to buy a field containing a large treasure (Matt 13:44). He used a parable about earthly treasure to help us think about the true treasure that is eternal and heavenly; not because people become Christians in order to get rich with money.

Question 4. What FUTURE RESULTS do you hope to get because you are a Christian?

This question is similar to what we ask someone who bought a life insurance policy. We ask them, "What are the benefits of your life insurance plan?" or "Why are you convinced that the company will pay the benefits of the plan back to you in the future?"

In your answer you can quote the Bible verses that convinced you that you would receive a victorious life after death. Usually the reason we believe these things is that our pastor or teachers told us what to believe. But these quotes from the Bible will show people that your hope is not merely based on the opinions of men. (We will study this topic more in future lessons.)

Discuss: Which of the four questions would be the easiest for you to answer? Explain.

IV. How can we use the four testimony questions?

A. You can use the four questions to help you understand your own faith better. If you are from a Christian family then you will eventually come to a time in your life when you have to answer them for yourself, and not just give the answers your parents would give.

B. They also form a good basis for encouraging one another. By asking these questions of each other we can go deeper in our relationships as friends. We can talk about things that are very important to us but that we might hesitate to talk about if we aren't encouraged to do it. Our trust in Jesus is really a very intimate thing and therefore it can be hard to talk about it openly.

C. The four questions can be used as an outline to give a testimony in a church or other meeting. I was once asked on the spur of the moment to give my testimony at a church. Fortunately, I remembered the four testimony questions and used them as a guide for what I said.

D. Occasionally you can use *one* of the questions to help a Christian friend encourage a non-Christian. An example could be like this: While you are having some snacks together you say to your non-Christian friend, "John, you mentioned to me last time about your problem with drugs. I think you might be interested to hear what happened to my friend Ed last year." "Ed, I heard that God gave you strength to quit? What happened?" Then in a very informal way Ed would be answering part of testimony question #3 about the results of becoming a Christian.

Skill Development

I. Demonstrate the four question testimony method.

Have a student come up to the front to answer the "Why?" question. First clarify if he or she is a Christian. Then ask what motivation there was to become one. Ask follow-up questions also to clarify anything that is not clear.

II. Practice answering the four testimony questions.

Divide the class into small groups and practice answering the testimony questions.

Let everyone in the group take turns asking the person on their left the "why" question. Be brief but accurate in your answers. Remember that the man on the witness stand does not lecture the lawyer, he just answers the questions that are asked.

Once everyone has asked and answered the “why?” question, continue to do as many of the other three questions as you have time for.

III. Learn to write a personal testimony.

There are several ways to write a testimony but I would like you to do it based on the four testimony questions we have discussed. You will just add two more parts, an introduction and an invitation. Be sure to edit your first draft because it will help you be more concise in your answers.

A. *Introduce yourself* to your audience. The introduction is often done in a way that is interesting but it doesn't have to be since your purpose is not to entertain people. Here is a sample introduction: "When I was a kid it seemed that my family was in church every time the door was open because my mom was the organist. So when I went away to the university after such a religious family life, I was surprised to discover that one of my first friends in the dorm was an atheist. Hi, my name is Bob Nelson and I'd like to tell you a little about my spiritual journey."

B. Tell about *why* you became a Christian.

C. Tell *how* you became a Christian.

D. Tell what the *results* have been so far.

E. (Optional) tell what you *hope* will happen to you when you die and why.

F. *Invite* the audience to join you as a follower of Jesus.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 9,10

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter-sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR5

III. Memory Verse.

Matt 16:26

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

IV. Special Assignment.

Due next week. Write your personal testimony using the ideas in Skill III above as a guide. It should be at least one page but not more than two pages long. Make it type-written and double spaced.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activity

I. Have groups make suggestions on how to improve giving their overflow assignments. What kind of greeting sounds correct to them if they give it to a parent? Staff? Student?

II. Establish group leaders.

Lesson 7 Good News Communication - Part 1: Senders and Recievers

Knowledge goal: To understand that evangelism is a form of communication that can be analyzed from four points of view. To understand that factors related to both sender and receiver will affect the quality and effectiveness of the communication.

Skill goal: Ability to identify four parts of the communication process. Ability to analyze senders and receivers in light of goodnewsing.

Lecture



image from <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart>

I. Communication basics.

A. Four necessary parts of communication.

All communication includes a *sender*, who sends a *message*, using a *medium*, to a *receiver*. The sender can be one person or a group of people. Similarly the receiver can be one person or many.

In one sense God is the *sender* of the gospel since it is his message to mankind. But in another sense we are the senders and do our best to get the message carried to those who need it.

A *message* can be any information; such as news, a warning, or even the expression of a feeling such as delight or anger. The message we will send is the gospel in one form or another.

The *medium* (plural - *media*) is what carries the message to the receiver. A message such as news can be distributed using the medium of a newspaper. A message of warning can be sent using the medium of a whistle or a siren. A message of happiness can be expressed using the medium of our face muscles to make a smile.

The "mass media" are the media such as newspapers, radio, television or the internet which can deliver the message to thousands or millions of people (the masses) all at the same time.

Most of the media we use in goodnewsing relates to our senses of sight and hearing (eg. tracts, skits, or the Jesus movie) but a Braille Bible uses the sense of touch, and the good food at a gospel banquet includes both taste and smell.

Illustrations of the four parts of communication as they relate to goodnewsing:

<u>Sender(s)</u>	<i>to</i>	<u>Receiver(s)</u>	<i>the</i>	<u>Message</u>	<i>via</i>	<u>Medium</u>
1. Church		Elementary teachers		Gospel of John		Booklets
2. Student		Child of a fisherman		Jn 3:16		Diagram in the sand
3. Artist		Readers of a newspaper		Peace with God		Drawing
4. You		Your friend		God's forgiveness		Text messaging

B. Evangelism adds a spiritual aspect to normal communication.

Good communication assumes that you use what is considered common sense in your culture. But God needs to convict the receivers spiritually. This is why even though we use common

sense and we study people to improve the effectiveness of our goodnewsing, we are also ready and wishing for God's Spirit to do something supernatural in the hearts of those who hear. Like Paul, we pray for spiritual clarity as we do evangelism (cf. Colossians 4:3-4.)

II. Reproducibility in goodnewsing.

Reproducibility in goodnewsing means that it is done in such a way that the person who receives the good news can in his turn become a sender of the same message and using the same medium.

Reproducibility varies a lot depending on the receiver. One sender can memorize verses easily and will think that a list of verses is the most reproducible method. But some of the receivers cannot memorize easily. Similarly, I love the verse diagrams so I think the John 3:16 diagram is the most reproducible method. But some people have a difficult time drawing anything so it is not a reproducible method for them, and how much less reproducible for someone who is blind!

In this class you are exposed to a variety of goodnewsing methods. The wallet tracts, the overflows, the four question testimony and the John 3:16 diagram are reproducible by most people since they are cheap and not too complicated. Other things like the survey forms you use or the expensive equipment used to show a gospel movie are only reproducible by a smaller number of people or churches with more time or money available.

No matter what ministry you are in in the future, the one most reproducible and most essential aspect of goodnewsing is your own personal submission to Christ. When you submit to him as Lord of your life, his spirit will encourage you and guide you just as he has done for every generation of believers in the past and every generation in the future.

III. Improve your communication by being spiritually and emotionally healthy *senders*.

The sender should be a true believer in the message he sends. If you yourself are assured of God's forgiveness, then this will result in joy and hope that others can see in you. Some people use the term lifestyle evangelism to describe the effect your Christ-like attitude has on those around you.

As the sender you should also overcome any internal emotional barriers you might have to communication. One barrier is your own fear which is natural if you have a shy personality. But sometimes the reason we don't want to talk about sin and judgment is because we are afraid of offending someone. We should decide to fear God not men. We must not hesitate to tell people that repentance and death to self are part of the conversion process. (Luke 14:26)

Other emotional barriers are a result of our own biases against certain people. An example in the Bible was when Peter, as a Jew, didn't want to go to Cornelius who was a non-Jew (Acts 10). Do racial or religious prejudices make you avoid looking for sinners among certain groups such as people from another political group or religion? Work to overcome such barriers for the sake of the kingdom of Jesus.

Sometimes there are barriers that we create by our appearance or our speech. While it is true that such things can be very distracting, I think it is usually of secondary importance. John the Baptist didn't seem to worry about offending the fashions of his day, nor did Jesus.

Discuss: What are the biases that exist in your community? What people avoid you and what people do you avoid?

IV. Improve your communication by understanding the *receivers* better.

A. How do we study the receivers?

We can study the receivers in three ways. We can use 1. *direct observation*, 2. *direct interaction*, or 3. the *research done by others*. We use direct observation and direct interaction in order to discover for ourselves accurate information about a target group. We can analyze many things in the society using the questions used by news reporters: When? Where? Who? What? Why? and How? Even before we meet the target people however, we know can them better by using the research done by others. We do this by reading anthropology reports, sociology reports, histories, newspapers or internet articles about them etc.

B. What to study when goodnewsing an *individual*.

Before goodnewsing: Try to see things through Christ's eyes. Is there something about this person that would delight God or cause his anger?

Observe the person and the surroundings. Is there something that the person is doing that could be used to connect the conversation to one of the parts of the John 3:16 diagram? For example seeing a person waiting to go somewhere on a bus could be a reminder to us of the eternal destinies man will go to.

Does the person express any felt needs during your conversation that could be related to eternal needs? For example they might have certain desires for good things that we can connect to a proper desire for heaven just as Jesus did when he spoke of hidden treasure.

During goodnewsing: Watch for any barriers or distractions to the conversation, either in the person or in the surroundings. Listen to people while they listen to you. What does their body language say about their interest level? Don't feel that you must keep talking if their interest is gone.

Can you determine the spiritual state of the person? Some people use diagnostic type questions to discover the most important values the person holds. An organization called Evangelism Explosion developed the use of the following type of questions.

1. What would happen to you if you died soon? This reveals the person's beliefs related to eternal things or life after death.

2. Why would God let you into heaven? The person's answer will reveal their understanding of God, their hope of happiness during an afterlife, and the basis for that hope. Find out if they recognize the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

After goodnewsing: Did they understand what you said? What is their response to this news of Jesus as the Messiah who can save them? Did they reject Jesus? Ignore him? Decide to trust and follow him?

Discuss: How can you tell when someone has lost interest in your conversation?
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C. What to study when goodnewsing a *group of people*.

1. Try to determine their current *understanding* of the gospel. Have most of them already heard it? Is there respect for the Bible as God's message? It makes a difference if the community is Hindu, Catholic, animist, Muslim, atheist or etc. You can do sample surveys to learn how receptive they are to the gospel. Talk to people to find out their attitudes about such things as God's existence, man's relationship to him, judgment, man's final destiny, or their definitions of good and bad. Knowledge of these topics will affect what part of the good news you might want to start with when you share the gospel. It wouldn't make sense to tell a Hindu that Jesus was the promised

Messiah if they aren't waiting for such a Messiah. It is better to start with Genesis and to tell about Abram who left his idol worshipping relatives when the true God called him.

2. We can also find out what *community needs* they have. By learning what people think and talk about we will know what is important to them. If the young mothers constantly talk about child-care we might be able to help them understand the gospel by talking about God's human-care for us.

3. We should study *how and where* the people *get their information*. This is so we can put the good news into the places where they normally go for religious information. Do the people get moral advice from newspaper columnists or from radio and television? Do the people read the English SunStar or the Cebuano Super Balita? You should put your invitation for an evangelistic Bible study in the place where your targeted people will see it.

4. Study *how* the people *make important decisions*. Submitting your life to Jesus is a very important decision. Do people make such decisions alone, after consulting family, or after consulting "experts"? Perhaps they try *not* to make important decisions at all. Sometimes Americans assume that Asians make decisions in the same individualized way that they do and don't realize how important the family is for Asians.

Finally, do research to see if there are *barriers* the people have that need *to be overcome* in order to connect to them. A man my son worked with spoke against Christians. My son asked questions and soon discovered that he was biased against Christians, but not against God.

The religious beliefs people have can be a barrier. For example since Hindus consider cows to be sacred, that creates a barrier when you are talking to them about the sacrifice of cattle in the Bible.

A man I talked to in Chicago thought that all priests were gay. Since he considered priests and missionaries (like me) as the same, his belief was a barrier that I had to try to overcome when I tried to become his friend and talk to him about the gospel.

The quality of the printing of a tract can be significant in how well it is received by rich people. People in a wealthy country will have high standards that may create a financial barrier to your tract ministry. But don't be intimidated. When they are convicted by God, the quality of paper and ink used in a tract is no longer important. The message it contains is what is powerful.

Application: Suppose you are in tribal ministry. What are some Bible stories would be understood most quickly by animistic people whose beliefs are dominated by spirit respect and spirit worship.

Skill Development

I. Be able to identify the four parts of communication.

Assign five pictures in Handout 9 for each small group. They are to identify the four parts of communication revealed in each picture and be ready to give a report to the class.

For example, in picture number 2: The *sender* is a boy. The *message* is understood to be "I have something for you". The *medium* is the frog given as a gift. And the *receiver* is the unimpressed girl.

In some cases one or more parts of communication are not seen. For example in picture number 25 the *sender* is a person but you only see the person's hand. The *message* is an expression of approval, the *medium* is a hand signal and the *receiver* is any person who would see the signal although they are not shown in the picture.

Optional: If time is limited analyze pictures 3, 10, 13, 20, 27, 30, and 37 together as a class.

II. Be able to analyze how the status of receivers affects the choice of medium.

Divide into small groups. Discuss the similarities and differences between a businessman and a street vender. Suppose you have an opportunity to share the good news to both.

1. What media will work for both?
2. What media would only reach the businessman? the street vendor?

III. Learn to end a communication with an invitation to respond. E.g. sinner's prayer.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 11,12

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR6

III. Memory Verses.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Col 4:3-4

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Do A Communication Barrier Self-check.

What are your hindrances regarding evangelism? What can you do to minimize or overcome those hindrances? eg. Perhaps you need to partner with someone else to help you.

II. Create a Field Research form to discover what people think about Salvation.

Create your own form like ones you have been using for field research.

Design it to find out what questions the people in a certain target group have regarding the topic of "salvation."

III. Demonstrate the Evangicube.

IV. Do a word search on the word "gospel" in the New Testament.

You can use a concordance in the library or the e-Sword Bible program on the computer.

Lesson 8 Good News Communication - Part 2: Message and Media

Knowledge goal: Understand how you can improve the communication of the gospel by thinking about what part to give first and what medium to use for different situations.

Skill goal: Ability to select a message/medium combination depending on the situation.

Lecture

I. Make sure the *message* is understandable to the receivers.

A. Choose the part of the gospel you will deliver first.

The gospel isn't a huge collection of man's opinions or feelings about God. But neither is it limited to just a quick summary of the Bible truths in a short phrase or two.

I like to think of the gospel as a special addition newspaper like those published at the end of World War II. The good news in the front page headline is: GOD WINS! Everyone who loves God will be glad to hear that he has gotten glory by overcoming death with life. But the newspaper would also be full of many articles about how the victory happened and how it affects the reader. Other headlines might be: "Jesus Conquers Death." "Man Saved From Evil Spirit." "Prostitute Learns God's Forgiveness."

What part of such a gospel newspaper would the receivers you are talking to find useful and meaningful? Which headline would they be attracted to? Choose a part of the gospel message that will connect with a need they have. What does the hearer want most right now? Peace? Freedom? Desire to be righteous? Acceptance? Truth? Suppose for example, that a survey showed that a lot of people in Cebu were talking about hell, purgatory and judgment. Then we should start with the part of the gospel message that tells about Christ's dying in our place so that we can be free from going to hell.

In the gospels we see that the Jews were hoping for a Messiah (it is translated as Christos in Greek) to come and set up God's kingdom. Therefore they really wanted to hear news about such a "Christ." The part of the good news given to them first was "we have found the Christ!" (John 1:41, 45) *not* the message "God has a wonderful plan for your life!" that appeals to an American group.

The Gentiles (non-Jews) on the other hand, didn't have an expected Messiah and so wouldn't see the importance of finding him. Thus it makes sense that when Paul was in Athens he first studied the things that they worshipped there and then started talking to them about God the creator (Acts 17:22-24). Later on he talked about Jesus the Christ who saves people spiritually.

B. Use a translation of the Bible that can be understood by the receivers.

The language of the Bible translation you use should be that of the mother tongue of the people you evangelize. If the Bible or New Testament is not available in that language then use the trade language they are most familiar with. If the person cannot understand the version you are using then try to find one that he can.

C. Deal with the problem of competing messages.

There are several other messages that compete with the gospel for people's attention. Unbiblical ideas about God, man, sin, judgment, Christ, faith, and heaven compete with the biblical truths on those topics. Debating with people about these doctrines is effective for some goodnewssers just like for the apostle Paul. But most of us will need to get help from our friends who have more knowledge in whatever area is being debated. Remember that the bottom line for evangelism is whether the person we talk to is convicted of sin and wants help or not. The answer

to that need for freedom from sin is always found in 1 Cor. 15:3 that says that Christ died for our sins just like the predictions in the Old Testament said would happen.

Other types of competing messages are loud traffic sounds, people speaking nearby or a loud sound system that is making it difficult for us to communicate. Sometimes we can minimize competing messages and get better attention from our listeners by simply moving to a different location.

It can also happen that we ourselves are the source of the competing messages if we are sending mixed signals. We do this when our attitudes, clothing and mannerisms, or language are distracting. Let's discuss these things individually.

Attitudes that hinder communication.

Excessive pride, name-dropping, self-importance or its opposite extreme shyness, can all cause the listener to focus on the sender rather than on the message. If we are rejected because of a bad attitude then we won't be able to give the gospel.

We must also avoid a worldly attitude. Don't tell a dirty joke and then talk about the power of Christ with the same tongue. If we are still enslaved to greed or vanity or other sins ourselves then how can we convince others of Christ's power to free people from bondage?

Clothing or mannerisms that distract.

The listener will be distracted by clothing that is considered immodest or improper by the receivers. For example in ministry to Muslims the missionary women usually wear head covering so as not to offend their neighbors.

Some mannerisms may be offensive in a different culture that are accepted in your own. In some places it is offensive for a Bible teacher to sit on a desk, but I have seen it done in the United States. A few years ago a little Asian girl told her American adopted mother to stop pointing the sole of her foot toward the girl. The American was not used to thinking about the position of her feet as having any significance but she was doing something that was offensive in the place where her new daughter had come from. In a place where people consider the left hand as "dirty" it is very offensive if the sender offers his left hand to shake hands or to give a gospel tract. Such mannerisms would distract from the message contained in the tract.

Language barriers of accent and fluency that hinder or distract.

You will have no problem communicating in your own neighborhood, but "outsiders" are often very limited in goodnewsing there because their pronunciation is difficult for local people to understand. Therefore if you are the one going to another language group to evangelize, try to be as good as you can be in their language.

Watch for changes in your own language too and adapt your communication to match the current vocabulary. In the area where I work the language is a mixture of Visayan, English and Tagalog. So to minimize barriers caused by lack of fluency I carry both Cebuano and English wallet tracts and we used care group lessons that were bi-lingual.

II. Use a *medium* that connects best to the receivers.

A. Become aware of the media available to you.

The medium you use will usually be audio, visual or probably a combination of both. Here are some examples:

Audio only: Audio tapes. Radio programs. Telephone conversations.

Visual only: Literature and "sign language".

Audio/Visual: Verse diagram with a verbal explanation. Concerts. Movies. Dramas and skits. Television evangelism. Web pages. Video calls.

Group Discussion: Analyzing Media.

Assign one of the lists below to each small group to discuss.

The group should decide whether each medium listed is audio, visual or a combination of both. (Time limit 5-7 minutes.)

1. Text message, billboard, spare tire covers, posters, evangcube, Christian books, puppets, tracts, finger forms/puppets, wordless book, targeted tracts, business card designs, bumper sticker.

2. Radio, television, newspaper, internet blogs, comments on websites, testimony, interviews, surveys, friend/family talks, telemarketing, coffee shop discussion, faith treks, lay witness missions, background music.

3. Events that mix non-Christians with Christians, movies, concerts, lectures, big events, half time shows, art exhibits, skits, plays, small group studies published by the Navigators-Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter-Varsity, Dubrico's Bible studies, church-based Bible studies, sermons.

4. Book studies, chalk drawings, magic shows, games, clowns, jokes, competition in essay art or sports, merchandise, advertisements, prizes, quotes on walls, food packaging, news analysis, cartoons, opinion columns, reader response.

B. Choose a medium that is familiar to the receivers and most often used by them.

For example, you obviously wouldn't use telegrams or 8track tapes any more since they are no longer used. But would your friends feel most comfortable using text messages on cell phones or internet chat sites? What medium would be best to contact any grandparents who are still alive?

C. Choose a medium that is used by the most people in the targeted group.

If most people listen to the radio rather than TV, then use the radio.

If most people speak Visayan, then don't use English.

If most people travel on a certain street, then put your signboard there.

If most people you talk to can't read, then use a picture or the wordless book to illustrate while you talk.

A common mistake is to assume that the best medium is the most expensive one. It might be, but not always. If you use gossip-sized pieces of the gospel, then the goodnewsing is free and reproducible!

III. Adapt the message-medium combination for the best effectiveness.

Adaptation of the message-medium is often needed because of size and time limits.

There is an overlap in the choice of the message and the medium. Suppose we would write a Bible verse (the message) on a birthday cake's icing (the medium.) The verse in the icing is probably a shortened adaptation of the message because it has to be short enough to fit on the cake.

Here are some questions to stimulate your thinking. Who can you reach using:

A thin wallet tract rather than a thick Bible?

A Bible with large print rather than a tiny print version?

The complete gospel of John rather than just one verse (like John 3:16)?

A personal testimony that is 3 minutes long rather than 30 minutes long?

A 3 hour "Jesus" movie rather than a 1 minute advertisement on television?

"Jesus Saves" printed on a huge billboard rather than on a button?

Adapt the message/medium based on culture and environment. We do this to minimize the cultural barriers related to language, biases, age, fashion etc. We want to adapt it enough to make sure the message is really understood, even though it might be rejected. In general, I believe that

we should minimize the use of gimmickry with God's message. Some people use tricks and fun illusions to get people's attention, but I don't recommend it very often since it is so different from the style of Jesus and the apostles. You want people to remember the bad news and the good news, not the trick you used to get their attention. And definitely do not deceive people or you will end up with a bad reputation.

What are the limits of flexibility in order to reach people? If we focus on God and not entertaining men then we can maintain ourselves as godly examples to the people we reach. In one of our evangelistic events we had to decide about including a particular dance number. I decided against it at the time because I didn't want to expose our coed performers unnecessarily to the impure lusts of the audience. The basis for such decisions is not always clear. I have known pastors who would be against using a gay beauty pageant as an evangelistic outreach, yet thought it was OK to use men in playing "Maria Went To Market" during church parties.

Examples of adaptation in evangelism that are related to culture or environment.

Related to Age: Use simple words for the very young.

Related to Language: Use the native language of the receiver. [Illustrate this by showing a newspaper in a foreign language to see how little is understood.]

Related to the Medium: Sing good news songs using the music of native instruments that feels "at home" to the hearers in the tribe.

Related to the Content: You could use the topic of assurance of eternal life to people from Christian cultures, but use the topic of Christ's righteousness on our behalf to a Buddhist who believes a person is re-incarnated (born again) over and over again with advancement based according to karma.

IV. Good timing and location can improve communication.

A. When should you share the gospel?

Whenever you can! But there are some times when it is *not* appropriate. You normally shouldn't interrupt people at work or during class or church sermons. Don't use the same method repeatedly since it would be awkward with your family or fellow-workers. On the other hand, as you learned earlier, your genuine overflow of what you are learning in the Bible can be done quickly, repeatedly and in almost any location.

Goodnewsing is often timed to be a part of a bigger event. Birthday parties and funeral wakes are times in Cebu in which Christians and non-Christians mix and the gospel is often given.

Sometimes you need to anticipate the length of time available to you and adapt to the situation. On a short bus ride you might only give a tract whereas while having Coke with a friend you could show the John 3:16 diagram.

Usually the timing is a matter of common courtesy. But there are times when you must show tough love by warning someone about the judgment they face. The timing of that might never seem right to them, after all, who likes such bad news?

B. The location is significant to the communication process.

Jesus once took advantage of being in the temple where he was teaching. He used the beauty of the temporary building to teach his disciples that the true temple, which was his body, would be able to be resurrected even if it was destroyed. We too can take advantage of things seen in the locations where we are goodnewsing. If we see the sunset or stars we can talk about God's creative power. Or if we see a street, a path or an intersection, we can use it to remind people that Jesus offers us help as we move along our spiritual journey if we leave the world's path and follow him.

Application: Looking for Things Around You That Can Connect To The Gospel.

Discuss this in small groups: What things can you think of that are visible in the place where you do your field assignments. How could they be used to connect a conversation to one of the parts of the John 3:16 or Eph 2:1-10 diagrams?

Write a list of your conclusions that can be reported to the class.

Skill Development

I. Practice the ability to think of media options.

Divide into small groups.

List five types of media that you could use to "carry" the verse 1 Cor 15:3 to one person that everyone in the group knows. First write down the name of the target person. Then use the lists in the box on page 59 or the pictures in Handout 9 to stimulate your thinking about the different kinds of media you might choose. Pretend that there is no budget limit and be creative.

Write down your five ideas and then be ready to report your choices to the class.

II. Practice the ability to select a good message-medium combination.

Choose a message-medium combination that you think would be appropriate for the following circumstances. Use the list on page 59 to remind you of media options.

- A. Give the good news to 10,000 people in a convention center.
- B. Give the good news to a close friend.
- C. Give the good news to a Hindu tourist who speaks Thai.
- D. Give the good news to a neighbor girl who is eight years old.
- E. Give the good news while sitting next to someone on a bus.
- F. Give the good news where people are sad (e.g. at a wake).
- G. Give the good news where people are happy (e.g. at a birthday party).

III. Ability to analyze how gospel verses can be connected in a logical sequence.

Do this assignment in small groups.

Design a "Romans Road" packaging of the Gospel.

Read the following verses in Romans: 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 8:1-2; 8:38-39; 10:9-10.

Next, arrange them in a sequence that would make a logical presentation of the gospel.

Be able to explain to the class why you chose that sequence.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 13,14

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR7

III. Memory Verse.

Rom 10:8-9

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Prepare for an outreach in a youth rally.

Do a Good News youth rally at your church.

Choose your “message” text and then a theme that describes the main point.

Choose several media to use before and during the rally. Create posters, text messages, songs, skits, artwork, a sermon etc. that will connect to youth.

II. Demonstrate using the wordless book for children.

Lesson 9 Two Ways To Reach More People.

Knowledge goal: To understand the meaning of reproducible communication and mass communication.

Skill goal: Ability to compute resources needed based on the size of the target audience. Ability to teach someone else how to draw the John 3:16 diagram. - (see Field Assignment 8)

Lecture

I. The importance of numbers.

I would like a lot of people to hear the good news, wouldn't you? But how many people are "a lot"? Another way to think about this is to ask how many people *need help* regarding their sin problem? We can see that the upper limit answer to that question would be the population of the world. It doesn't make sense to dream of reaching one trillion people with the gospel when the earth only holds a tiny fraction of that number, currently about 6 or 7 billion (from <http://www.infoplease.com/world.html>). But I will admit that 6 billion is still too big of a number for me to really comprehend.

Here is some advice. Don't be intimidated by the big numbers. Remember that "totals are sums of subtotals." In other words, the world population may be too big for your church to consider reaching realistically, but the total population is just a sum of smaller and smaller subtotals. As you think of smaller subdivisions of world population, you will eventually get to a size that can realistically be a part of the vision of your church. One possible sequence of subdividing the world population would be into nations, then provinces or states, then cities or towns, then barangays, then sitios and finally into families.

We can't give something to all of the people in a group without knowing how many are in that group. Suppose, for example, that a church wants to send help to people in their denomination who are typhoon victims. They need to find out from the denomination how many members live in the affected area before buying the supplies. Or suppose they want to give a goodnews gift to everyone in their city. Can they do it? They would have to know how many people there are in their city.

Discussion: Think of target groups of different sizes.

Give examples of where you could find this many people. 1; 10; 100; 1,000; 10,000; 100,000; 1,000,000; 100 million; 1 billion.

[Option for the teacher: Before the class, write the numbers listed above on strips of paper. Write your own examples of target groups that fit each size number on other strips of paper. Use an almanac or a population website to find cities or countries for the larger numbers.

Divide the class into groups and have each group match the papers with size numbers with the papers having the matching target group. e.g. 1 and "Chair," 10 and "Around A Large Table," etc.]

II. Set both doable goals and faith goals to reach more people with the good news.

God can use us to reach individuals and he can also use us to reach the masses. The great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 was to disciple the nations [or ethnic groups] of the earth. This is a large responsibility and fortunately we share it with all other living Christians. Let us pray for more workers (Luke 10:2) and also consider how we can help. The large need will overwhelm us if we

focus too much on our own limitations. We need to think about how much we ourselves can do, not on what we can't do.

What part does faith have in setting evangelism goals? I have heard a lot about this topic through the years and it seems to me that a church needs both common sense goals and faith goals. The book of Proverbs is full of common sense advice as it teaches a righteous man to live righteously. His goals in life are to reflect realism rather than folly (Prov 28:19; 13:16; 20:25; 27:23-27) and his relationships with other people should be filled with common sense integrity (e.g. Prov chapter 2, cf. Is 33:15-16). Jesus realized that Satan was tempting him to be foolish, not faith-filled, when he suggested trusting in angels to protect him from the harm that would happen if he jumped down from a high place (Mat 4:5-7).

On the other hand, there are many examples in the Bible where people accomplished great things because they believed it was God's will and were confident to act according to their faith in him. The miracles in both the Old Testament and the New Testament were often given by God as signs used to confirm which people were approved by him, and sometimes which people were not approved. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal is a famous example of this (I Kings 18:20-40). In the New Testament Jesus told people that they should trust him because of the miraculous signs he did even if they didn't trust his words (John 10:38; 14:11).

So, I believe that we should have two types of goals. Some of our goals should be doable by us "if God wills" (cf. Acts 18:21; James 4:13-15). But lest we become too comfortable working within the boundaries of our human limitations we should also have goals that cause us to depend on God for their accomplishment. This can be a delicate issue and I don't want you to become disillusioned if faith goals you thought were approved by God are not accomplished. Evidently you didn't really know God's plans in the matter. Use such "failures" as a stimulus to learn God's ways better and yet also be like the apostles who cried "increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).

III. How to *measure* evangelistic success.

There are two common ways of measuring evangelistic outreach. The first way measures how many people *receive the gospel*. The second way measures how many *respond positively* to it.

Should your church set a goal that "100% of government officials in your town will *receive* a Christmas greeting with a gospel tract?" Or should the goal be to reach just 50% of them? A realistic goal will take into consideration your resources of people, time and money.

Perhaps you should make a goal that 10 people will not only *receive* the gospel, but also *respond positively* to it. To accomplish this kind of goal you might need to share the gospel with hundreds of people before your goal of 10 was reached or exceeded.

We have some control of how many people receive the gospel, but we don't have control of how many will respond positively to it. Spiritual response may come slowly for some people and not at all for others, so be patient. Look for genuine responses, not just "polite" responses. Jesus was aware of the different responses people would have when he said, "he who has ears to hear, let him hear". He even used word pictures to purposely filter out some people who wouldn't understand (Mt. 13:10-15; Mk 4:11-12; Lk 8:10)? He wasn't bothered if some people rejected him rather than followed him, so it shouldn't bother us to either if we happen to be rejected.

IV. Reach more people through the *reproduction* of disciples making more disciples.

The best and most natural way to reach more people is by reproducing ourselves generation after spiritual generation. That is why you have a field research assignment to teach someone else the John 3:16 diagram just like you were taught and why you are encouraged to overflow what you are learning as you read the Bible.

Some people promote the multiplication model as a way to win the whole world in X number of years. A disciple who wants to be a part of such a pyramid chain of conversions is motivated by the possible success, but will often give up before the world is converted.

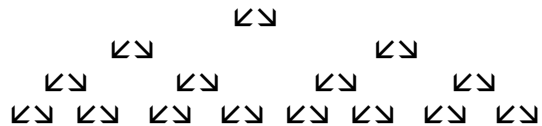
I believe the real strength of the reproduction principle is that it is related to the solid conviction level found in each generation of true disciples, not on mere dreams of success. Disciples who have truly found release from sin will want fellow sinners to get that same freedom. This kind of conviction is what will provide the motivation to keep them goodnewsing year after year. They will say like Paul did, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1).

The words multiplication and reproduction are sometimes used interchangeably in evangelism and church growth literature but there is a distinction between them. If we make a comparison to human families; reproduction simply means that children grow up to become parents who in turn have their own children. Multiplication means that in each generation the parents have more than the two children needed to replace themselves, in fact they may have many, many children! Multiplication requires reproduction if it is to happen again with the next generation, but reproduction may not result in multiplication. The principle of spiritual *reproduction* is supported more in the Bible (e.g. Go and make disciples. Matt 28:19-20) than spiritual *multiplication*.

Reproduction



Multiplication type of reproduction



I believe that the key for us to get more disciples through reproduction is to focus on our own spiritual generation.

First, we need the *motivation* to reproduce spiritually. Our own motivation in goodnewsing will grow naturally as we see the results of conversion in ourselves and others. But we should also *intentionally* decide to teach someone else what we know about evangelism.

Secondly, we need the *capability* to reproduce. This requires us not only to be Christians ourselves, but to be in locations where we can goodnews non-Christians. It requires that we can remember what to say to them. And it requires that we have the self-confidence and God-confidence to overcome our shyness and to challenge the hearers to respond positively to Jesus.

Thirdly, we need *transferable methods* to use. Some methods we use will be limited to our own personalities, abilities or wealth. That is normal. But if the reproduction is to continue into another generation then we should purposely choose to teach the methods that fit the life and abilities of the new disciple. Someone told me the John 3:16 diagram was good because it could be projected on a big screen to a big crowd using a projector. I responded that it was even better because it could be drawn on the back of a business card or in the sand using a stick. The most transferrable methods are usually not expensive. Remember that true disciples can't be bought with expensive methods. They are purchased by Jesus' blood. They are convinced by his spirit.

IV. Reach more people simultaneously through mass communication.

Reproducing Type Communication



Simultaneous Type Communication



Another way to reach more people is to give the gospel message to many people simultaneously, meaning, at the same time. Let's consider the medium of the human voice in giving the good news. How many people can you talk to at once and have them all hear you clearly? Ten? Fifty? One hundred? You will realize that it depends on how strong your voice is. Think of how strong Jesus' voice was to preach to 5000 men simultaneously. It was an efficient method of teaching because he could just say something once and they didn't have to repeat it from person to person, from front to back. He could reach a larger crowd sitting out on the hillside than would have ever fit in a synagogue or a home where he sometimes taught. But remember that he also lost the ability for individual interaction that he was able to do in the homes.

Simultaneous communication is enhanced by using technology. In Jesus' time the architects had learned to use an amphitheater shape to allow verbal and visual communication to tens of thousands of people at once. Today, the crowd size is not limited by the strength of a person's voice, it is limited by the ability of the sound amplification system.

Great changes in communication came about with the invention of the printing press. The press allowed the same document to be printed hundreds of times faster than when it had been copied by hand. An article could then be printed in a newspaper and distributed easily to thousands of people. With the advent of international television broadcasts and the internet, mass communications has entered an even higher level in potential audience size.

What does this have to do with evangelism? We now have more powerful ways to reach more people quickly. If you hold meetings for evangelism in your church building, how many people can fit in? For most churches the answer is somewhere between 30 and 150. Some churches meet in larger places that will hold up to several thousand, but seldom more than that. Special meetings are sometimes held in sports stadiums that can hold 100 thousand people.

Discussion: Describe the Largest Possible Evangelistic Event In Your Location.

Suppose that you want to have an evangelistic event in the largest venue in your area. Where would it be held? How many people will the place hold? How would people get there?

1. Make one list of the media you could use to invite people to such an event.
2. Make another list of media that could be used during the event to share the good news.

In order to use the mass media and the internet more effectively it would be good to have some people in your church enroll in mass communication classes at local colleges. They would learn what is available in your area and how you can use it. They could learn to communicate the gospel in the very small and short pieces of information called sound bites or news bites.

The internet is dramatically changing communication among each new generation. Since it allows people to hide behind usernames and give false identification about themselves we have to be careful. It allows all kinds of pornography to come into any home, so to guard our minds we need control what websites we go to.

But it also allows fearful seekers in countries where Christianity is forbidden to secretly explore the good news. Perhaps you will meet them on-line and be able to share "why" you were motivated to become a Christian and "how" you did it. Literally anyone who has access to a computer can now share the gospel with people in any nation of the world. I pray that God will guide you as you enter this new door of both opportunity and danger.

I challenge you to look for new and creative ways to reach many people. Be aware of changes that open new ways to communicate. Experiment with new ideas and don't be afraid to fail.

Remember that people may need to hear the gospel many times before it is the “right” time in their life to repent and follow Christ.

Skill Development

I. Apply your math skills to outreach.

Math Problem 1 - How many senders?

Your goal is to give a tract to 80 million people. How many volunteers would be needed if each volunteer has 800 tracts to give away?

(optional discussion: How can you minimize the chance that many volunteers might all give to the same receivers?)

Math Problem 2 - How many receivers?

Your friend gives away gospel tracts to jeepney passengers every Saturday morning. The average jeepney has 10 passengers. If twenty jeepneys stop at the corner near his house during that time, how many passengers will receive tracts because of his ministry?

Math Problem 3 - How much money?

Your church wants to give a Bible to everyone in the town. The Bibles cost P100 each and the population of the town is 10,000. Your church evangelism committee has saved P5million in the bank. Can you afford this project now? Or will you need to either save more money or modify your goal?

II. Identify media to use with masses of people.

A. Give an example of a target audience of 10,000 people.

B. Name three media that would work well for reaching 10,000 receivers simultaneously.

Think about the media that were mentioned in Lesson 8 (page 59) or the Handout 9 pictures.

C. Can you think of a gospel message *content* that would not work well with these media? (e.g. If you chose an airplane pulling a banner, then any form of the gospel longer than one sentence would *not* work since it would be too long to fit on the banner.)

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 15,16

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR8

III. Memory Verse.

Matt 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Next week Group ____ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Describe reaching a large target audience.

1. Select and describe a target audience of 10,000 or more: location, number, gender, age, education, wealth level, interests, etc.
2. List several of the mass media near you that reach the target audience best.
3. Cost comparison. How much does it cost to send a brief gospel message using each kind of media option?
4. Identification of financial resources. What local or non-local sources are available for you to tap to make it possible for you to afford using the media you think is best for you audience and message?
5. Identification of human resource. Who is available that you can assign to the jobs? They must be knowledgeable enough to do their work such as prepare a message, work with the media company, collect responses or coordinate follow-up responses.

II. Make event posters.

Make an 8 ½ x 11 inch poster for the final event.
It should include: One picture. The key words of the event. A short, encouraging statement. And a verse reference (not necessarily the whole verse) in smaller print that supports the message.
eg. A picture of a family. The statement "Fathers can trust their families into God's care."
And the reference given is 1 Pet 5:7.

III. Demonstration: Practice crowd size estimates.

Look for ways the crowd can be subdivided. In a theater you can estimate seating capacity by counting one row of chairs and then multiplying that by the number of rows.

In a crowd of standing people, you first visually divide the crowd into sections. Then count the people in one section, and finally multiply that number by the total number of sections.

Suppose for example you divide the crowd into three sections wide by three sections deep; ie. nine sections total. Then if you count 40 people in one section, you will multiply 40 people per section times 9 sections, and estimate the crowd to be about 360 people.

Part 3: Good News (and Bad News)

In Part 3 we will use the different parts of the John 3:16 diagram to guide us as we study different aspects of the good news in more depth. It should be a time when students can ask questions that they themselves have, or questions that they are facing because of the people they are talking to.

Using the diagram as our basis in this way should also help us see more ways to connect real life situations with different parts of the diagram. Once such a connection is made, it may be possible to expand a conversation with someone to a more complete presentation of the gospel.

Lesson 10 **“God”: Both Great And Good.**

Knowledge goal: To show that questions about God are common among all people, including yourself. To be reminded that we should learn what the person we talk believes about God before we can continue with the gospel.

Skill goal: Ability to ask probing or clarifying questions from a motive of love, not competition.

Lecture

I. Introduction

Starting with this lesson we will examine the major parts of the John 3:16 diagram one by one. You will study these topics in depth in your theology classes, but here we will see how they relate to *questions* that arise during evangelism. This is important since we need to meet the seekers where they are in their spiritual journey. The questions that are common in a Catholic town in Cebu are different than those in a Buddhist area of Bangkok.

In order to do this, each session will allow time for small-groups to write down any questions that the students currently have. These questions may have come from your own thinking or maybe they are a result of conversations you have had recently with other people.

Each lesson will also include some answers to questions that your instructor thinks are important based on his own experience and the input from previous students.

Discuss: Make a list of questions about God. They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you.

II. Common questions seekers have related to God.

A. Is there really a God?

I did not know anyone who was an atheist until I was in college and at that time it seemed to be an idea heard mostly on university campuses. But now I sometimes see the promotion of atheism by common people who write in the comment areas of internet blog sites. Even though the Philippines is a Catholic country, thirty percent of the Filipinos who responded to one internet poll I saw a couple of years ago said "there is no God" (from <http://www.yesnogod.com>). Here are some of my ideas on this subject.

1. If anything exists, God does.

Even from the time of the Greek empire, some philosophers have suggested that you and I could just be parts of someone else's dreams, and that nothing really exists. But at least the dreamer would have to exist or everything is truly meaningless!

More commonly, some people have suggested that matter itself is eternal. But this requires an act of faith as great or greater than believing in an eternal God who created that matter. Even if matter's existence was eternal, it would not necessarily follow that it had the ability to exhibit the change, development, power, and influence as we observe in our universe.

I have put my belief in a God who has shown the power and ability to create all things, and is therefore worthy of my personal submission. As one who understands the gospel, I also believe he is worthy of my trust.

2. What are implications if God does or doesn't exist?

If there is no God, then we can only base life decisions on the so-called laws of nature and these are silent about the future of our spirits. Do humans die into nothingness? Or into pain? Or into happiness? How could an atheist or anyone else know such things? How could you be sure you

entered into nothingness and not into pain when you die? And if there are only impersonal laws of nature to guide humanity, there is little basis for meaning in life and none that I can see for morals. A law such as "the survival of the fittest" would allow for acts of harm done by anyone with enough power over their fellow humans to avoid punishment, at least until someone with a greater power comes along.

However, if the person we talk to agrees that there *is* a God, then we can proceed to ask them questions about what they think of God's character and his expectations of people and themselves in particular.

B. If there is a God, why do people have different ideas about him/her/it? Who is right?

If the person asking this question is serious, then I recommend getting a theology book from the library to help you. That's what theology books are for.

1. As a beginning you can say that instead of just having opinions about what God is like, we can look at two sources that reveal him, nature and the Bible. An honest examination of nature shows that there is a creator, whom we call God. Our own smallness also shows that we are not God. And for God, by definition, to be in absolute control, there cannot be a second god also in absolute control. Any gods, demons or ideas that are worshipped in place of God are not truly God. See Romans 1:19-21 about natural revelation. The universe shows one aspect of how great God the creator is.

2. We also believe that the Bible contains a record of what God wants us to know about himself. It shows his greatness as he provides guidance and salvation to humans who fell into sin. He revealed himself to the Israelites in Moses' time through the miraculous exodus from Egypt which Moses recorded. But God is not just the God of the Israelites but also of the whole world. The Old Testament spoke of a coming king who would be anointed by God to rule over his people. Jesus showed with powerful miracles and his resurrection from the dead that he is that promised king, the Christ (cf. John 4:25-26; 5:36-37; 10:37-38). The New Testament says that Jesus is the perfect revelation of God because he is God become flesh (cf. John 1:14; 14:9-10, Col 2:9). His kingdom is of all people who belong to God, not just the Jewish ones (cf. Eph 3:1-6).

3. Sometimes people ask this question to avoid facing their own accountability. In other words, they think like this; "If religious leaders disagree about God, then who can really say for certain what I should or should not do?" Should you argue with such people? I believe that your own godliness and strong faith will be a better witness to them than a debate. Perhaps if you ask the Evangelism Explosion questions you will cause them to think about the need to submit themselves to God rather than trust in their own vague hopes that things will go ok after they die. Encourage them to seek God and his righteousness diligently. (Matt 6:33)

C. Do you believe God is a trinity?

This is a question that is usually asked of me by Roman Catholics. Essentially they want to know if I support the way they have been taught about God. For them I can say that I believe as they do.

If the question is asked by someone from a unitarian group such as Iglesia ni Cristo, then my affirmative answer might cause them to invite me to a Bible study to learn the "truth" as they see it. The Evangelical Free Church includes this as a core part of our doctrinal statement and I believe that it represents the best understanding of God as revealed in the Bible.

But I want to warn you about something I have seen that disturbs me. Sometimes it seems that people use a doctrine like the trinity to show their skill in debate. I then wonder if what they want is to "win" an argument and show off their brain power rather than to win a person to God's grace. Once when Jesus was asked about the sinfulness of some people who had been killed

violently he reminded his listeners that they should be more concerned about their own sin (Luke 13:1-5) than other people's. We need to be careful as well because sometimes people just want to discuss doctrines instead of their personal accountability before God.

D. Who is your God or what is your religion?

I love this question because it allows me to not only say, "I am a Christian," I can also give a brief description of what I believe, including John 3:16 or 1 Cor 15:3. Then I can ask the person one or more of the testimony questions about their own faith. I am usually glad I have a wallet tract to leave with them after such conversations.

A recent modification of this was when a Muslim neighbor asked me what the difference was between my group and the Mormons who were building a temple in Cebu at the time. I told him that we based our understanding of God and his will on the Bible, and not on the additional or new supposed revelations that have modified the Mormon faith.

E. What word should we use to address God when we pray?

This is a great question. It was not asked in a debate about names of God, like when people disagree whether we should say Allah, El, Dios, Ginoo etc, but in the same sincere way I had asked it myself years ago. I answered the man that I believe the name we use is of secondary importance compared to the spirit in which we ask. For awhile I used to think about the content of what I was praying and then use what I believed was the proper address based on the content. For example I used "Dear Father" if I was approaching him as his spiritual child. Or I would use "Dear Lord Jesus" if I was confessing disobedience to his command as my King. Or I might say "Dear Holy Spirit" if I was asking for guidance that the spirit gives us. Fortunately in English we can just use the word "Lord" to indicate any one or all members of the Trinity.

Jesus taught us to address prayer to "our father in heaven" so I recommend that. But he also said our spirit would feel comfortable addressing God intimately as "dad" or "daddy." The sons of Sceva (see Acts 19:14-17) found out the hard way that you shouldn't pray in Jesus' name in a selfish way.

F. How can you say God is good when such bad things happen?

1. This question has been asked by many if not all people after serious tragedies occur such as the mudslide that buried everyone alive in Guinsaugon, Leyte. A man in Chicago many years ago said he stopped believing that God exists after watching a small innocent child die in the fire of a burning ship. A woman whose husband was killed in the September 11, 2001 attack on the twin towers in New York City said she was angry with God to let the attack take place. When the reporter interviewing her asked why she wasn't angry with President Bush's government instead, she said that her natural reaction was to "go to the top". There is something very healthy in what that woman said. Like Job, she was able to express her hurt to God. By doing so she showed that she inherently believed that there is a God who by nature is sovereign over all things even if we don't like what happens.

2. Job's response was one we should follow when he asked if we should only receive good from God and not harm (Job 2:10). The answer is that we must receive both, or else God is not God. When Paul was warned that he would be hurt if he continued to Jerusalem he said he was not only willing to be hurt but to die. His belief in God's goodness did not imply that he would avoid suffering (cf Acts 21:13).

3. But we believe that God is good and chooses good. Think of the awful alternative. If God is bad (as I heard one tribe in Mindanao believed) and he always seeks evil against humanity then man is truly to be pitied. But the Bible continually speaks of God as both great and good. He is not good

in the sense of a candy vending machine but good in the sense of a farmer or father who seeks the best for that which is under his care. He rewards those who seek him (Heb 1:6) and in turn is a seeker of sheep that get lost (Luke 15:4-7). He desires good for us but also prunes away badness from us. He knows what is best for us. We sing accurately that he is a strong tower or a mighty fortress for the protection of his children.

G. What does God expect of people in general and of me in particular?

1. In general, God expects fellowship from us as seen by the way he visited Adam and Eve in the garden. He also expects obedience and he punished Adam's disobedience by separation from his presence as well as hardship in his work. Whole books are written on this subject but here are some things that come to my mind.

2. God expects his children to do his will. Jesus came to do the Father's work (John 4:34) and taught us to pray that God's will would be accomplished on earth (Matt 6:9-10). What do we know about his will? Here are some ideas from other Bible verses.

He wants people to be *holy* (1 Pet 1:15) and to be *producing the fruit of his holy spirit* (Mat 3:8-10; Mat 21:43; Gal 5:22-24).

We should *honor* him and *give thanks* to him (cf Rom 1:21).

He wants us to *trust* him and his Son for our salvation from sin and hope of real life (John 6:38-40).

He wants us to *acknowledge his power* (Rom 1:18-21). Paul asked people, "Why is it surprising to you that God could raise someone from the dead?" (Acts 25:8)

Micah 6:8 says, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To *act justly* and to *love mercy* and to *walk humbly with your God*."

3. What is God's will for me personally? This question is usually related to a particular decision in life such as who to marry or where to go to school or whether to spend money on a certain thing. It seems to me that if you are following Christ in the general guidance issues of being holy and righteous that you have great freedom regarding individual choices. In the parables of the talents (Matt 25:14ff; Luke 19:12ff), the master entrusted his money to the servants to invest. The assumption was that they would try to get the best results for him. But notice that he did not micro-manage them. He did not tell them exactly what to invest in but left those decisions to them. And when he came back, they did not report the individual investment decisions they had made to see if he approved, but rather showed him the overall results they had achieved for his estate.

In the same way, I believe that most of the decisions we make, we can make without needing to know specifically whether God is pleased or not. After all he has already shown how much he loves us. Rather than seeking God's will like a person seeks advice from a fortune teller or a Buddhist priest, we should seek to know the ways and character of God our Father so that our individual decisions will naturally reflect his ways and honor him.

Application: Help each other do God's will.

Get in groups of 2 to 4 people. Ask each group member to share a decision they are needing to make but aren't sure how to decide. Choose one of those decisions to work on as a group. Look at the verses in section G2 above that describe God's will. Think of ways that the verses would give help to the person in making the decision.

Skill Development

I. Learn to ask people what they think about God.

We can use probing questions similar to those from Evangelism Explosion to discover people's most important values. Although these were developed in a Christian culture you can still use such questions with people from other religions.

1. What do you think would happen to you if you died soon?

The answer to this reveals the person's beliefs related to death and the future after death. It shows what kind of hope a person has, if any. For example, does the person see rebirth as something desirable or undesirable.

2. Do you think God will let you into heaven? Explain why or why not.

This question can be used to reveal the person's understanding of God, and the basis for hope in any rewards or blessings he might give us after physical death.

Practice asking the EE type questions.

Get into groups of two. Take turns asking each other the questions one at a time. Be honest with each other.

II. Learn to think about the options people have regarding belief in God.

This exercise will help you develop your ability to understand people when you have conversations about spiritual things. If you have been in a very isolated environment it will also help you realize that some people really do believe differently than you or your friends. This is especially important as society changes to include more internet-based friendships from people in other nations.

Small Group Discussion about Beliefs in God

Discuss briefly what you have heard people say about God. Have you met an atheist? (i.e. someone who believes there is no God.) An agnostic? (i.e. there may or may not be a God, we can't know for sure.) A polytheist? (i.e. Believes there are many gods.) If so, did they hold their belief very strongly or not so strongly?

Give everyone a chance to answer but limit the total discussion to about 10 minutes.

III. Talking to Atheists

Group Work:

Option 1: Find a blog in which atheists are making statements in the comments section. Discuss whether Christians should respond to those comments. If so, what would you say?

Option 2: Make a skit in which the goodnewser greets someone saying, "Good morning! This a great day to know God loves us, don't you think?" Then the other person challenges that greeting. "I suppose *if* you believed in God that would be true, but I enjoy life without a God, thank you." Have a brief discussion without raising voices. You can ask some of the "four testimony questions" as they would apply to his atheism, eg. Why did you become an atheist? or What has been the result of your being an atheist? End in such a way that another conversation is possible in the future.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 17,18

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: One quarter sheet of bond paper written on one side only.

II. Field Research.

FR9

III. Memory Verse.

Mark 1:15

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Heb 11:6

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Next week Group ___ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Lesson 11 **“The World”: Even Sinful Man Is Loved By God**

Knowledge goal: To understand the need to be aware of and respond to the questions about the human race that are being asked by people in this generation.

Skill goal: Ability to look for ways to connect a conversation about people to a conversation about the good news.

Lecture

I. Introduction.

In this lesson we examine the topic represented by the word "world" in John 3:16. Although the Greek word *cosmos* can include all parts of creation, in John 3:16 it is referring to humans who have the ability to "believe", rather than the rocks, trees and so forth that don't have that ability.

How can you connect to the people in “your” world? It is true that there are some questions about the human race that philosophers have asked for thousands of years and are still being asked today. On the other hand, there some topics that are discussed by your friends today that did not even exist fifteen years ago. One example of this change is the ability to do cloning. The idea of cloning is not new to philosophers or writers of science fiction. But the ability to actually do it in mammals like sheep and dogs means that people in your generation think and talk about it as a natural phenomenon rather than a result of evil scientists pretending to be God.

Another less urgent issue is called "singularity". People are using this term to refer to a time when greater-than-human intelligence is achieved by computers. It would then be possible that mankind loses control to machines smarter than ourselves. Could this actually happen and be a hot topic to your great-grandchildren? I don't think so but I don't know for sure. I never thought cloning would happen. What I do know is that as communicators of the goodnews we should do our best to discover how to connect with our own generation by means of the questions they are asking.

Discuss: Before continuing with this lesson make a list of questions about the topic “Man” or “Human.” They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you. Some of the questions may be discussed in the following paragraphs. We can also react to others next week.

II. Common questions seekers have that are related to Mankind (“World” in the diagram.)

A. Who am I and where did I come from?

1. The questions about man's origins.

I would guess that more people ask questions like “Who am I?” than “Do I exist?” After all, we can pinch ourselves and feel the pain. While the existence of man is seldom seriously questioned, the topic of where he originated is debated in our generation. Don't assume you know what people believe about origins until you ask them.

I read about an early Filipino tribal belief that the original man and woman emerged from a banana tree and started the human race. But I have not yet met any Filipino who believes those stories as true and valid. Almost everyone I talk to in Cebu City believes that man was created by God. A Japanese account says that man first came from the rising sun, crossed the sea and settled in Japan. You will have to ask some Japanese if they accept this as truth. In a world connected so closely by the internet, it seems that a majority of people who are well educated are now believing that man is part of an evolutionary sequence. People who believe in God however will believe that

he created mankind either in a short time or over a long time. I see two issues here for the evangelist.

2. Challenge the seeker to study the Bible as a reliable source about origins.

We should help the seeker recognize the Bible as a reliable sources on which to make a decision about man's origin. Is evolution to be believed simply because it is in a science textbook? Or, are the stories of creation in the Bible to be believed while Filipino stories or scientific theories are rejected? On what basis will a person decide? You may need to discuss the reliability of the Bible. A helpful resource in discussions on the origin of man is the Creation Research Institute that you can find on the internet.

The key verse for us about origins is from Genesis 1:26-28 where we are told that we are created in the image of God. I believe that this indicates that we, and all humans, are able to relate to God and respond to his Spirit. With this in mind, we can give the good news of his love to anyone in the world.

Gen 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

You may also need to discuss the interaction of faith and reason. Remember that all ideas about the origin of man require us to believe something since none of us were there when it happened. And you can't discuss faith and reason without talking about truth. In your philosophy classes you will study the debate that exists about the very existence of absolute truth. Your head will spin after reading so many arguments!

In my own life I came to a point in which I declared my loyalty to Jesus without requiring a rational proof of Christianity's superiority versus other religions or philosophies. I agreed with Peter who said "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) Others may be uncomfortable with that, but perhaps they are putting more faith in their reason than they realize. I have put my faith in Christ who died for my sin, not in my mental abilities.

A Bible text that helped me is found in 1 Cor 1:21-25 which reads as follows.

"For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

3. Don't expect everyone to be seriously interested in this topic.

The man you meet on the street is the same man no matter where his ancestors came from, but his outlook on life will very depending on how he sees himself. In reality, his current financial needs or his toothache are probably more important to him than mankind's roots. Many people probably do not care whether their teacher is right who said we evolved from eternal mud, or their priest who says we descended from a man created by God about 6000 years ago. He just wants the good things of life and will let the smart people argue about where man originated. For such a

person, which part of the gospel we start with probably is not important. In fact if it is obvious that he wants good things in this life, why not begin the gospel by discussing heaven and ask him if he would like the very best things available in the eternal life to come.

On the other hand some people have strong views of origins which can make a big difference in your goodnewsing. If a person rejects God's existence as creator, then it follows that he or she will not call on God to receive help. But perhaps God will guide you to a man who does see his need for help and is calling on God, "if you really exist." I believe that God will help him and may use you to do so.

4. Cloning as a possible new origin of man.

How about cloning? Cloning is not about the origin of mankind in the past, but it is about a possible new type of origin of man in the future. Would a woman who is cloned need to pray a different prayer of faith to become a Christian than her donor parent? Can we ignore the issue? I hope that Christ will return and take control of the new order before this happens. But I remember a pastor during my childhood who said emphatically that man would never get to the moon because it wasn't in the Bible; yet it happened. So I think we should talk about human cloning openly now in advance. There is a lot that "I Don't Know!" But I would assume that the cloned person would be the same in nature as the donor parent and we wouldn't be able to tell a cloned person from anyone else. Therefore they would not be treated any differently from a religious and spiritual point of view.

5. Brain implants are a part of man created by man.

Much research is being done on the brain and how to connect it to computers. As of this writing the connections are used to have the computer simulate sight, hearing. Tests are also done to have the brain use a computer to guide a robotic arm. How should we goodnews the person of the future whose brain is part human and part computer. Will his choices to sin be equally repugnant to God even though they might come from software written by others? I don't know. The Bible passage that comes to mind is when Jesus told Pilate that his sin was less than that of those who turned Jesus over to him (John 19:11). But it did not imply that Pilate was not also a sinner. Perhaps, similarly, the programmer whose software is causing the person to sin will have the greater guilt but we can talk to the person with the implant about his need for a savior also. I am glad that we can trust God to continue to be both great and good in spite of the questions that confuse us about the future.

B. What is the purpose of man's existence?

The account in Genesis of man's creation gives an idea about why God chose to create us. The creation, including man, is called "very good" and so perhaps we can assume that one purpose is simply to give God pleasure.

Secondly, man is given to rule over other parts of creation, so another purpose is for humans to fulfill their role in the total scheme of things. Compared to God's greatness man is insignificant (cf. Ps 8:3-4), but God has given him a position of leadership in the world that has meaning and significance. It is a noble thing to be created by God!

The individualized version of this question is, "Why am I here?" And this leads to the questions; "Why is *anything* here? Does anything have meaning?" Believing that we are created by God gives us meaning in life. Believing that there is no God and perhaps no absolute truth can result in meaningless and even suicide. Don't take that path.

C. Why do people hurt each other?

Our son asked a related question, "How can man be both bad and good?" Why is it that we are sometimes bad?

I have read opinions of people who say that people hurt others because they weren't educated properly or perhaps because their genetic code is biased toward violence. If a person doesn't believe in absolutes then how can he or she have a solid basis for any morality? Without absolutes, the eloquence of good communicators will determine what is acceptable or not. This happened with the Sophists in ancient Greece and eventually they were condemned for their negative affect on society.

The Bible assumes that there is right and wrong and that man is accountable for his decisions. Why do people hurt each other? Do they just lack education? Do they have "violent causing" DNA? I think the answer is seen in Adam and Eve's choice to disobey or "hurt" God when they ate of the forbidden fruit. They took it because it was "desirable" to themselves. Their desire developed into a "me first" attitude. We all have desires too, and sometimes we like Adam and Eve hurt others to get what we want.

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Compare Christianity with Buddhism in this regard. Buddha also taught that pain and suffering in the world are caused by desire. But his solution was to eliminate desire. In Christianity we see that desire itself was not condemned, but rather the person's willingness to let desire evolve into disobedience.

In evangelism it is important to look for a person's sense of accountability. Does the person really admit sin, or just make excuses? Is the desire to be good accompanied by good choices? Is there a frustration with sin and a true desire for help, or just a desire to talk about things? Just as a swimmer seeks no life-preserver until he is in peril, so a sinner seeks no salvation until the Holy Spirit gives conviction about judgment. I think that Jesus' warning to not throw pearls to pigs (Mat 7:6) applies to this. If the person is uncaring about God's love then you don't need to proceed in your witness except as a warning of judgment to come.

It is interesting that people like to think of themselves as good people but don't always like to be accountable for true goodness. They would rather hide behind other people's bad actions and say, "Everybody does it." Jesus said people justify themselves but God knows the heart (Lk 16:25). The Good Samaritan story was told in response to a man who wanted to justify himself regarding his love for neighbors (Luke 10:29). God reminded Samuel that man sees the outward appearance but God sees the heart (1 Sam 16:7), so remind people that *they can't hide from God*.

D. What if people don't want the gospel?

What do people really want? They want acceptance, significance, love and comfort. To some extent they want to exercise power and control. Do people want the good news you have to offer? Maybe or maybe not. But don't base your efforts on what people want but on what your Lord wants.

In one sense the gospel is like a fire alarm that warns of coming destruction unless escape is accomplished. The person may not like to be bothered. But if they are convinced that the warning is genuine and helpful then they will be thankful later that you bothered them.

In another sense the gospel is like a compassionate letter from a loving father inviting the wayward son to come home and explaining that the way for reconciliation has been prepared. People who are like the prodigal son will welcome the message that even people guilty of sin are loved by their God.

Application: The people in your life are loved by God.

1. Think of several people you know personally. No imagine yourself telling them that God created them and loves them. How do you think they might react?
2. Think of several people that you come into contact with regularly. Perhaps it is someone you buy food from or do business with. Now imagine yourself telling them that God created them and loves them. How do you think they would react?

Make a plan to talk to one of those people or give them a wallet tract this week.

Skill Development

I. Practice creating John 3:16 conversations based on "mankind" as a starting point.

John 3:16 Diagram Mindset: This is a person, therefore he is created by God and loved by God.

a. Using a local newspaper, choose an article or advertisement in which you can make a connection between the person featured and the fact that he or she was created by God. Describe the connection of the person's uniqueness being created by God and that they are also loved by God. Note that all of us are loved by God in spite our sinfulness. Examples: Take note of the *God-given* strength of an athlete, the *God-given* smile of a beauty contestant, sad emotions of a mourner *for whom God cares*, or the happy emotions of a winner *created in God's image*, etc.

b. Make a coffee-shop skit in which the goodnewser talks to a companion about a newspaper article he is reading. He will connect what is said or shown about the person mentioned in the article and the fact that they were created by God. A short discussion will follow in which the companion is told that he too is made and loved by God. Mention that John 3:16 says that the world is loved greatly by God.

II. Learn how to target an audience to receive the good news.

Group work:

Suppose that your church wants to do a weekend outreach. How will you decide where to go? Score the following criteria (1-6 with 1 = highest) according to importance for your situation. Be able to defend your decisions.

- ___ The ease of transportation to get there.
- ___ The % of people there who have not heard the good news.
- ___ The number of relatives or friends your members have that live there.
- ___ A vision from God.
- ___ The reputation of the place for having a lot of danger, crime and corruption.
- ___ The wealth of the community.

III. Learn about seeking worthy men.

In Matt 10:11 Jesus said to his disciples, "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave" (NIV). Another translation says "inquire who within it is worthy" (MKJV).

Group Work: Suppose that your group is told to go to a community to share the good news for a few days. How would you "inquire" to find some one "worthy" to stay with? Write down three questions you could ask people to help you know where to stay?

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 19,20

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: text message. Include your name!

Example: Kuya John. msta? Ds s Joel. Nndot nq ang Lk 18:39 ky ngpadayon pghngyo ang buta bsan gpahilum xa sa mga tawo. I hope nga aq sad, as persistant as dat guy. Gbu.

II. Field Research.

FR10

III. Memory Verse.

Gen 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Rom 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Next week Group __ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Exercises

1. Read the explanation in Vincent's Word Studies of "world" as used in John 1:9. Use a library reference book or the VWS tab in the E-sword Bible program.

Lesson 12 **“Perish”: The Bad News Of Sin, Judgment and Hell**

Knowledge goal: To help you realize that a topic like hell which is difficult to explain, does not usually need to be explained. An honest seeker is probably more interested in your own honesty and genuineness as you share from the Bible than your knowledge about unseen things. However, you also must remember to tell this bad news as well as you can before the good news will make any sense.

Skill goal: Ability to draw the Romans 6:23 diagram.

Lecture

I. Introduction about the use of questions in goodnewsing.

Questions can be asked for several reasons in evangelism. First, we ask questions to *understand the person* we are talking to better. This is because we want to connect to that person or audience in our communication we might ask questions like: "Do you speak English?" "Do you believe in karma?" "How often do you attend mass?" "Were your parents religious?" etc.

A second reason we ask questions is to *stimulate the other person to think* about something that is important in becoming a Christian. Questions of this type include: "Have you ever wondered if there might be a God?" "Have you noticed the change in your fellow-worker who follows Christ now?" "Do you know that God cares for you and that you are valuable to him?" "What would your life be like if you were freed from all the bad stuff you do?" "Is there any good reason why you shouldn't start following Christ?"

The third reason we ask questions in evangelism is to *ask ourselves the questions being asked by non-Christians* that might hinder them from becoming Christians. Examples of these questions are: "Can you prove that supernatural things like God and angels exist?" "Why does your God sometimes seem less powerful than the spirits of our witchdoctor?" "Will your God send our ancestors to hell even though they have never heard about Jesus?" It is good to anticipate what people might ask even if we may not always have answers that will satisfy a particular seeker. We are not embarrassed to admit it, if we don't

Where can we get answers to their questions?

There are three common sources that we go to for answers to people's questions about spiritual things.

First, we go to the Bible as the best source. I often use a Bible program on my computer to look up answers using a search tool.

Secondly, we seek answers from wise counselors. Our parents or siblings are often the place we go first but then we go to the leaders and instructors of our church. While many people go to people who write advice columns in newspapers or give counsel using other mass media. We Christians go to pastors and teachers both in our local church and also to those who write about current issues and questions. We need to consult the wise and godly men who interpret the Bible for us since we don't understand the Greek and Hebrew that it was written in. You should learn to use the Bible commentaries and Bible dictionaries available in the library on the internet.

It is natural for us to seek every form of wise counsel, from the fables of Aesop to your mother's advice to family medical books. This is the source of what is often called "common sense" in a particular culture.

The Bible gives answers to the important questions related to salvation so I challenge you to read the Bible to learn from it directly.

Some people go to the spirit world for answers. If a person casts wooden beans at the Taoist temple, or seeks someone to inquire from the spirit of the glass, or has his palm read etc. the seeker assumes the answer is based on spiritual guidance (even if the palm reader or horoscope writer is a fake.) Perhaps you need to do these things but you shouldn't do it anymore. I know a pastor who, previous to his conversion, used to answer questions for neighbors using divination. He told me that he would first go to the cemetery and ask a dead person's spirit to help him during the ceremony. What this man was doing at the time was wrong, even though he was not trying to deceive people. Perhaps that is why God's Holy Spirit was able to convince him to change and become a true Christian.

Discuss: Make a list of questions about Judgment or Hell. They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you.

II. Common questions seekers have related to Sin, Judgment or Hell.

A. What is sin?

Many people ask if there is such a thing as sin. A missionary once told his friends that the tribe he worked with had no word for "sin" in their language. How could he evangelize a tribe without using the word "sin"? His friends reminded him that even if there was not a word for sin, there were many things that the people taught their children that they should not do or that were wrong to do. Their culture had established right and wrong even if it wasn't expressed in the same way as in his own language.

In post-modern societies like in the USA it seems that a double standard has developed about right and wrong. On the one hand many people believe that nothing is absolutely right or wrong. On the other hand they can get very angry if people disagree with them or do something "wrong" to hurt them. Why should they get angry if nothing is ultimately wrong?

From a human viewpoint, the definitions of good and bad are related to language. For example, in English the words sin and mistake are quite different since sin is against God and has spiritual consequences but mistakes are general and often have nothing to do with a person's morality, such as when we say a person walked into the wrong classroom "by mistake." In Cebuano "sala" is used to describe wrongs against both God and people so it is similar to the English word sin. I thought that the word "sayop" was the same as the English mistakes like a "sayop" in mathematics. Then I heard it, my barber use it, rather than "sala", to refer to mortal sins as defined by the Catholic church. In other words, how we talk about good and bad or about right and wrong, depends on the language we are using. In evangelism we are forced to start with the concept of right and wrong that people have in their own language, but eventually we will help them get the Bible in their language so they can understand the concept of sin from the perspective given in the Bible.

Based on my own background and experience I submit a definition of sin as follows:

Sin is choosing, against your God-given conscience, to do what you know is bad or to avoid doing the good which is in your power to do.

This definition reflects the need for the person to have knowledge of what is expected of them. Romans 4:15b says "Where there is no law, there is no transgression." The Jews had to learn what sin was through the law that Moses gave (cf. Rom 3:20) and non-Jews learned right and wrong in their own societies from their God-given conscience that either condemns or excuses them (Rom 2:14-15). For both Jew and non-Jew, death occurs because of the sinful nature that we all got from Adam (Rom 2:12; 5:12), but accountability is based on the knowledge people have. Rom 2:14-16

says: "(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares." So we will be accountable for even secret thoughts.

Here are some more Bible passages that talk about accountability:

John 15:22-24 - People who saw Jesus are accountable if they reject him.

John 9:41- The leaders said they could "see" so then Jesus said they were still guilty.

Matt 11:20-24 - Jesus said the cities that saw his mighty works were more accountable than those that didn't.

Luke 12:47-48 - A servant who doesn't know his master's expectations will be punished less severely than one who does know them but still is not acting properly. Luke 12:47-48

What does sin look like? Here are some Bible lists of sinful actions. Read the verses to examine ourselves regarding sin.

Some modern activities such as drug addiction or insider trading are not mentioned specifically, but the items that are mentioned give us guidance and principles to use in examining our current society from God's viewpoint. As you read, write down the things that you need to stop doing. At the end pray for God's help in overcoming sin.

Exodus 20:1-17 - The ten commandments.

Gal 5:19-21 - A list of the works of the flesh.

Mark 7:21-23 - Jesus names some things that come out of the sinful heart.

1 Cor 6:9-10 - A description of some people who won't inherit the kingdom of God.

Both Eph 5:3-6 and Col 3:5-8 - A list of things that Christians should avoid.

B. Are there levels of sin?

In one sense, "no." When we disobey Almighty God, then any kind of sin where we do what we know we shouldn't, is wrong. In that sense we are all equally subject to God's wrath. This helps us understand why Ananias and Sapphira were killed for purposely lying (Acts 5:1-11) and Herod was judged for not giving God glory (Acts 12:21-23). Both received the same harsh death sentence that a murderer received under the Old Testament law (Ex 21:12).

But in another sense the answer is "yes there are degrees of sin." Exodus 21:23-25 says that the level of punishment should be based on the level of sin. "An eye for an eye", rather than "An eye for a tooth", is a Biblical principle of equality in justice that is also found in law systems around the globe. We would consider it unfair to give a death penalty to a driver who made an illegal turn, or to give a very small fine to someone who murdered a fellow human being.

Jesus indicated that judgment would vary according to the judgment people had used on others (Mat7:1-2). He also assumed this principle of varying punishment in his story of the servants in Luke 12:40-48. On the other hand, there was another time when Jesus said that rather than demanding the equal justice of a slap for a slap, we should "turn the other cheek" when we are slapped (Mat 5:38-39). To be honest, I don't think I understand very well when to apply justice and when to apply tolerance.

I am glad that our legal systems continue to define justice to fit changes in our nation and situation. But I also believe that ultimate justice will be applied by God's appointed judge on the last day. In Acts 10:42 Paul says of Jesus, "He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." How we stand before him is more significant than how we stand before any earthly judge.

C. Has everybody sinned?

Yes. Key scriptures are Psalm 14, Romans 1 and Romans 3. Even though different people commit different sinful acts, we have all failed to achieve the perfect obedience that God is worthy of. Everyone needs help. Rom 3:23 says that all have "come short". But worse than just coming short of God's perfection, Psalm 14 says that there is no one who "does good" or even "seeks after God." Does this really mean no one ever does any good deeds? Later in the same Psalm reference is made to God's righteous people who are suffering from the hands of the evil people. How can you have righteous people if no one is righteous? It seems that the answer (see Clarke's commentary on this passage) is that on the one hand every human who is descended from Adam also has Adam's self-before-God attitude. All humans are included even though they may not realize it. On the other hand, some of these sinning people, by God's grace, have received his nature and are his people. They are the ones who are then able to call upon him in faith and do good things. [cf. Genesis 6:5.]

D. If you died and stood before Christ the righteous judge, what would you say about your life?

People will have different responses to this question. Some might deny such a judgment will happen. I had a boss once who not only denied such a judgment, he didn't believe that Jesus ever existed as a real person. He made it clear to me that he didn't want to talk about religion.

Other people, such as Buddhists, might agree that there is a judgment to determine your reincarnation life, but not agree that it will be Jesus who judges. You can still ask them how they would do based on their own understanding of the basis on which the judgment would be made. Perhaps God will use your question to help them see their need for help and mercy.

Still others are from Christian backgrounds and might agree that Jesus will judge them but will try to justify themselves. "I am not worse than others." "I haven't committed any really bad crimes." "I hope that my good will outweigh my bad." People should not think they will be judged based on comparing themselves to other people rather than to what God wants. Try to help people see how really powerful and great God is. He is truly to be feared more than any other power we can think of. Your memory verse in Matt 16:26 tells about the foolishness of getting anything you could want in this world, but then losing your soul.

No matter what questions the person might have, we hope that eventually he or she will be convicted by the Holy Spirit about the badness of sin, the need for righteousness and the surety of judgment (John 16:8-11). We should tell the person that until they realize their sin and need for a savior from God's anger, then they will not understand the greatness of Christ's love in dying to pay for their sin. In Luke 5:29-32 Jesus said that he came to call sinners, not the righteous to repentance. We too should give priority to the persons who admit that they are sinners need help.

E. Will God really send people to hell?

I think that behind this question there are two issues, one regarding God's character and another regarding the person's desire to avoid experiencing any pain associated with punishment.

People expect God to be a just God and so they have questions like these. "If God is good, isn't tormenting people in hell bad?" "Would God send babies or little children to hell?" "Would a just God send someone to an eternal punishment for a non-eternal offense?" "What did I do that would make God want to send ME to hell?" "If God is upset with someone why wouldn't he just step on them like an ant rather than torment them forever?"

The great thing about these questions is that they all *assume* not only God's greatness but also his goodness! They remind us of the questions that Job had when he was suffering. "Why are

you doing this to me Lord? I don't deserve it!" God responded to Job's questions with questions of his own to Job. God's questions showed Job his smallness compared to God's greatness (Job 40-41). Similarly, in Romans 9:19-20. Paul asks "who are we to talk back to God and challenge him about his decisions?"

When a missionary in Japan was asked by a new convert what would happen to his grandparents who had died never hearing about Jesus, the missionary answered, "I only know that what ever happens, God is righteous and just." Another missionary was talking to a Swede who was not religious. The Swede asked him if babies would go to hell since the missionary had said that every human was a sinner. I think it would have been ok for the missionary to say "I don't know exactly what will happen to babies, I will trust God about them." But he avoided the question and told the man to not let such questions detract him from his own accountability. In Luke 13:1-5 Jesus used a similar response to those who talked about people murdered by Pilate. Jesus said, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

F. What is hell like?

I believe that Paul Little did a good job treating this topic in your readings so I will not deal with it in depth. But I want to make the following comments.

First, the Bible talks about a place of punishment after judgment. Jesus told people (Matt 10:28) "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell." He was especially vocal about it as he saw the hypocrisy of people who felt that they had a special place with God and yet lived sinfully (Mat 18:34-35). He said that hypocrites are like white-washed tombs because they looked nice outside but only held death inside (Mat 23:27-28) and that they would not escape the judgment of hell (Luke 11:33). [See his whole rebuke in Luke 11:38-52.]

Secondly, we must acknowledge that there are various descriptions in the Bible about this punishment. Is it darkness (Matt 8:12; 2 Pet 2:4) or can people see each other (Luke 16:23-26)? Is it a bottomless pit (Rev 20:3) or a burning lake (Rev 20:15; 21:8; Matt 3:12; Is 33:14)? Will people only gnash their teeth (Matt 8:12 etc.) or will they argue with each other? Will Christians be able to see them and talk to them like in the conversation between Abraham and the rich man (Luke 16:23-26)? Our tendency is to think of hell as something as simple as a city jail, but we don't really know it is that simple. It could be as complex as the Milky Way galaxy God created. While the fact of judgment and punishment is clear, the process of it may include great variety and complexity. I assume that the Biblical statements have both literal aspects and poetic aspects. They may be straight forward in some cases and use exaggeration to make a point in others. Don't let the different language used in describing hell detract you from the basic truth seen in all of these verses about God's justice in punishing sinners and rewarding the righteous.

Thirdly, God is just, and therefore we believe that whatever punishment takes place will not be too little or too much. I recently read of a girl who was raped by her uncle. The relatives told her to keep quiet so as not to bring shame on the family. This is a situation in which the shame and punishment which the uncle deserved for his sin was unjustly transferred to the girl who was the innocent victim. As a friend of ours observed, the girl learned from this that in their family her uncle's rights are important but hers are worthless. But she is not worthless to God who is just!

Ps 10:12-18

Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.
Why does the wicked man revile God?
Why does he say to himself,
"He won't call me to account"?
But you, O God, do see trouble and grief;
you consider it to take it in hand.
The victim commits himself to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.
Break the arm of the wicked and evil man;
call him to account for his wickedness
that would not be found out.

The LORD is King for ever and ever;
the nations will perish from his land.
You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,
defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

Fourthly, I hope that you will be able to talk about hell in a matter-of-fact way. Non-Christians talk about hell in joking ways while sometimes Christians use great drama to describe hell. You do need to instill a proper fear of it into the listener. But if you are just entertaining people in the same way a horror movie is entertaining, then perhaps you are like the man Jesus condemns (Mat 6:5) who prays publically with a purpose of being heard by other men.

G. Why don't you Christians back off about sin and judgment?

How should we respond to someone who disagrees with the Bible about sin?

One approach is that of John the Baptist. When people came with sincerity to his baptism of repentance, he gave them some practical examples of what they should do or stop doing in their daily lives to replace sin with righteousness. But when other people came whose sincerity he questioned, he challenged their motives and was harsh with them (Matt 3:7-11). His attitude seemed to be, "I am here to baptize people who want to express their desire to repent. If that is what you want, then you are welcome. But if you just came to judge and are not sincere, then I will challenge your hypocrisy." Sometimes we think that being a goodnewser means that we should be a nice and friendly person to everyone. But John showed that that is not always the thing to do.

Jesus is also an example to us in how he responded when he had people come and talk to him about sin and righteousness. On one occasion (Luke 18:18-23) a sincere man asked him how to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him he should keep the commandments and listed five of the ten. When the man said he had kept them from youth, Jesus did not rebuke him but told him something he still lacked, namely, his need to release his possessions. Unfortunately the man went away sad.

In Luke 10:25 a lawyer asked Jesus the same question. This time Jesus asked him what the law said, after all he was a lawyer. When he gave Jesus a good answer from the law, Jesus said in v28, "do this and you will live." I think we can use the same approach with people even from non-Jewish cultures. We can ask what measurement they have for doing right and then ask if they have done that. It might be that they will be like this man Jesus talked to, who then tried to justify himself by discussing definitions of words. He knew that he had not lived up to the standards he

just quoted. Jesus addressed the hypocrisy of this man by telling the story of the robbery victim who was helped by the Samaritan traveler but not by the two religious leaders who were Jews like the lawyer. We too should try to get beyond the "religious talk" that people have and deal with attitudes and hypocrisy. We may not make friends with selfish people, but we will be in good company because Jesus also spoke against sin. He once told his brothers that the world hates him because he testifies against it that its works are evil. (John 7:7)

Application: Choose a current local issue of injustice. Write a three-sentence declaration of why and how it should be changed. Send this as a text message to the appropriate opinion writers in a local newspaper.

Skill Development

I. Create conversations about hell and lead into the John 3:16 diagram.

a. Develop a John 3:16 diagram mindset. "Hell: God doesn't want us to go there so he gave his only son."

Any topic about death, judgment or hell could lead you to think about the word "perish" in the John 3:16 diagram. Then think about its relation to other parts of the diagram.

Perish is the eternal destination of sinful man. God does not man to perish. The son died on the cross so that man doesn't have to perish. Eternal life is a much better option than perishing.

b. Pretend that you are in a park, on a bus, or hanging out with your barkada.

How could you introduce the topic of the bad news discussed in this lesson? What are some natural reasons you might start talking about death or hell? Eg. You hear a friend who is angry curse someone to hell. Or; A fellow passenger might be afraid of dying if your bus had an accident.

Write down two ideas for each situation; park, bus, barkada.

c. Choose one of the settings and make it into a skit for the class. The skit must include the following:

1. The conversation turns to hell, either naturally or a survey type question.
2. Evidence that the goodnewser has a John 3:16 diagram mindset.
3. A challenge for people to avoid hell and get life through Jesus.

II. Use a Romans 6:23 illustration to encourage repentance.

Romans 6:23 contains a concise contrast of what happens when people offer themselves to sin rather than to God's righteousness. As can be seen in the context (Rom 6:11-23), Paul is reminding Christians of God's gift of eternal life to them so that they will repent from their old ways.

1. Write the verse.

"Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

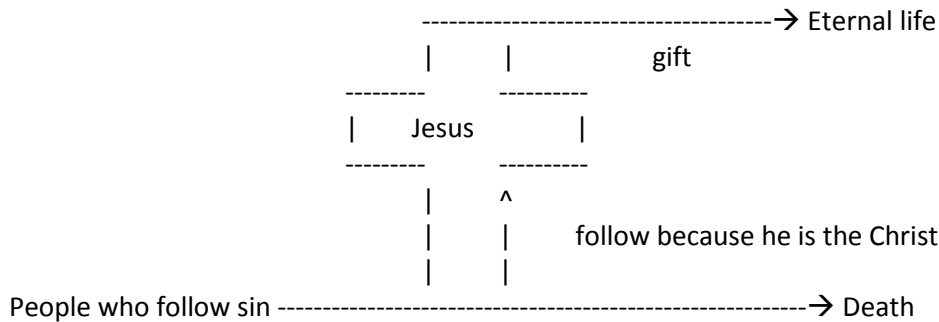
2. I would like to have you notice two things about this verse.

- a. First, when we sin, we will eventually get what we deserve. Death.

People who follow sin -----> Death

The verse is talking about a person who is choosing to sin. Paul reminds us that sin may give temporary pleasure or power, but it also results in death. Romans 3:23 tells us that we are all sinners.

b. Secondly, we see that God gives us the opposite of death, he gives life. In fact he can give eternal life! We associate life with activity, joy and comfort. Why should we want bondage, sadness and pain when God offers life? The key to receiving God's gift is Jesus. When we agree that he is the Christ and we obey him as Lord, we receive God's gracious gift of eternal life.



3. We therefore plead with you to stop sinning! Jesus died to save us from sin's death-payment. If you have said that you are a Christian then follow it up with obedience to your Lord. Experience both the joy of holy living now and also the comfort of hope in eternal life as well. If you are not yet a Christian, be warned that sin eventually leads to death and someday you would be sorry if you didn't accept the gift of life God offers.

III. Practice how to give warnings about sin by using a group Bible study.

Rather than just share opinions about what is or is not sin, let's look at the Bible to see what it says. You can use any of the texts listed on **page 87** but for this demonstration we will choose the list in Galatians.

- A. Read Galatians 5:19-21 together.
- B. Which of these words are new to you? Use a Bible dictionary or Cebuano translation to learn what the words mean.
- C. Does our own culture see these things as sin? Are any of these things not considered to be wrong by your neighbors or friends?
- D. Application: Which of these items should you stop doing now that you are a Christian? (If the group are friends and trust each other you can answer out loud and pray for each other. But if you are not close, then just have the members answer in a silent prayer asking Jesus for help.)
- E. The leader should close in a short prayer.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 21,22

To: Teacher (or to ___ Family or friend _____)

Via: communication method of your choice.

II. Field Research.

FR11 regarding a non-Christian's views of life after death. **Go in groups of two or three.**

Important note: "Other major religions" refers to branches of Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Judaism or Atheism, etc. It does not include groups that came out of Christianity like Catholic, Orthodox, Coptic, Protestant, Iglesia Ni Cristo, Mormon, Seventh Day Adventist, Aglipayan etc.

III. Memory Verse.

Rom 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 6:23

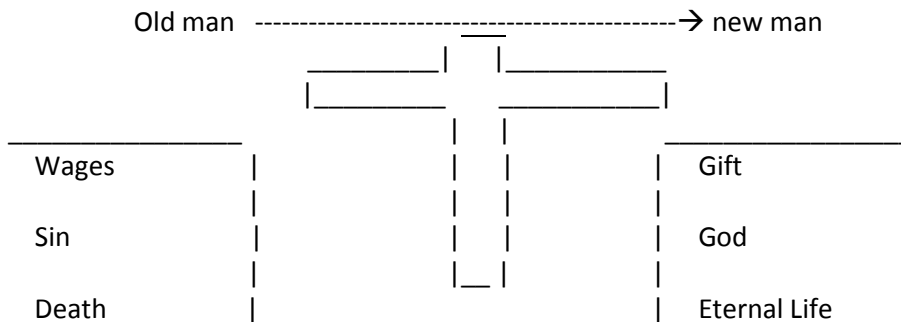
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Next week Group __ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Draw the Bridge Illustration of Romans 6:23

(This is designed to be used with non-Christians.)



Procedure:

1. Write the verse and make the two sides.
2. Fill in both sides and discuss the contrasts. Wages vs Gift. Sin vs God. Death vs Eternal life.
3. The verse says life comes "in Christ Jesus our Lord." So, draw the cross and say that Christ made it possible for man to receive God's gift of life.

4. Draw a stick man above "wages" to represent the "old man" with an arrow indicating his repentance from sin and his faith in Christ. Draw the arrow across the cross to represent his travel by way of the cross to become a "new man".

Invite the person to also repent from sin and start following Christ as Lord or master of his life.

II. Practice explaining the bad news.

1. Have you ever met anyone who was completely good?
2. Suppose Jesus judged you by your own measurement of goodness. What is your own standard of good news? Do you meet your own requirements to be good?
3. Now suppose Jesus judged you by the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Would you pass?

I. Practice teaching about repentance.

1. Are you caught and snared by a sin? Name it.
2. How strong is your desire to be freed from that sin? Be honest! How much would you give up to be freed?
3. Which of these reasons is the strongest motive for you to repent of that sin?
 - a. After I sin I feel awful.
 - b. Christ paid the penalty for that sin by dying on the cross. 1 Pet 2:24.
 - c. I know that by continuing in this sin I am disobeying God.
 - d. I know God wants me to stop sinning and come back to Him like the prodigal son did.
4. If you are not yet a Christian, then become one.
Commit yourself to follow Jesus and tell him you need his help.
5. Decide to stop the sin and then do something with friends to show your decision.
This is like the people who went to be "washed" by John the Baptist.
Perhaps you could write the sin on a paper and then destroy it in front of them.
Have your friends help you avoid the temptation to sin again.
Read Bible verses about God's love and eternal life.

Lesson 13 **“Son”: Jesus Is The Christ! The Son Of The Living God!**

Knowledge goal: To understand that even though most people respond to the gospel with a simple form of trust, sooner or later they will have questions about what kind of nature Jesus has. To answer some questions that they or you might have about Jesus.

Skill goal: Ability to use Bible dictionaries or encyclopedias to look up answers to questions.

Lecture

I. Introduction: Today we talk about God’s only Son, Jesus the Christ.

Think about how different this topic is if you live in Catholic Philippines, communist China, Buddhist Thailand or Muslim Saudi Arabia. Not only are the questions people ask going to be different but even the freedom to ask at all is different from one place to another. So first of all let’s take time to think of questions that you or your friends have about Jesus.

Discuss: Make a list of questions about Jesus. They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you.

II. Common questions seekers have related to Jesus.

A. Is Jesus the Christ, or should we look for another? (cf. Matt 11:3)

Even though people you meet are probably not asking this question unless they are Jews, you should recognize how important it is to understanding the content of the gospels. This question was the key question in the minds of Jesus' countrymen. The gospels were written to declare a positive answer; yes, Jesus is the Christ. At the end of his gospel John wrote, "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

The Jews had been looking for God's appointed leader for a long time. They thought it might be John the Baptist but he denied it.

"Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" "(John 1:19-23)

This interchange of questions and answers shows how much the Jews were looking for God's leader. As you read the New Testament, remember that the Hebrew title "Messiah" and the Greek word "Christ" both refer to someone who is appointed by God to lead the Israelites. John 1:41 states, "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ)." I have never met anyone who reacted to that news with the joyful hope that Simon and his countrymen must have felt as they wondered "is it possible that the Messiah is really here with us?"

As Jesus did more and more wonderful things the expectation intensified. John 7:25-27 says, "At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ?" And according to John 10:24 "The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

The question was repeated at his trial and in the short dialogue that took place, four titles are used that relate to the Messianic expectations of the Jews (see the underlined words in the text written below). Eventually the leaders told Pilate that Jesus "claims to be Christ, a king."

Luke 22:66-23:3

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

If Jesus isn't the Christ, is there someone else whom we can trust to truly represent God? What are the options available to people you talk to? They could become Jews and trust that the Jewish leaders represent God. They could become Muslims and believe that Mohammed accurately spoke for God. They could become Buddhist, Hindu, Shinto or Zoroastrian etc; but then they would have to decide which of the thousands of gods, which temples or which priests were worthy places of their trust. How would people decide? It is our job to let people know what the Bible says about Jesus.

As we saw above, the Bible says that many Jews did decide to put their faith in Jesus. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?" (John 7:31). And it was not just his miracles that were important. Peter based his faith on Jesus' words also. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy one of God." (John 6:67-69)

Sometimes we wonder if our evangelism be more effective if we could do miracles in Jesus' name. The answer is, "not necessarily." The Jews asked Jesus to tell them plainly if he was the Christ. "Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand (John 10:25-29). Even miracles did not convince some people who saw and heard Jesus first hand.

With that in mind, let us keep asking God to lead us to his "sheep" with the good news he wants them to hear because they are the ones who will listen to his voice and they will believe.

B. Is Jesus God?

Why is this question asked? Maybe it is because men are not divine and gods are not mortal. Therefore it is a contradiction of definitions to say that Jesus or any man is also God.

How important is the answer to evangelism? My observation in myself and others is that our attraction to become true followers of Christ is initially based on our understanding of our sinful condition and our need of a way to be forgiven or "saved." The news of God's great love in giving his son as payment for our sin is wonderful to us. At that point we aren't debating whether God and Jesus are the same or distinct. Our spirit responds to the spirit of God and the love he shows. But later on as we grow in knowledge of the Bible we realize there are some decisions to make about how to understand what we read on this topic.

The doctrinal statement of my denomination declares our belief in one God in three persons.

By defining the Trinity this way we show that we agree with the verses in the Bible that show that God is one (cf. Deut 6:4). Jesus himself said "The most important command is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'" (Mark 12:29) When most people talked to Jesus they understood him to be a human like themselves, perhaps a great teacher or a prophet, but not God. Even when they believed that he was the Messiah I think they assumed he was just a human who was especially anointed by God to lead them to national glory like King David had done.

But some of the things that Jesus said made them think he was taking upon himself God-like qualities and this was blasphemy. Here are some examples.

☐ John 5:16-18 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

☐ John 8:57-59 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

☐ John 10:30-33 "I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

These Jews came to the conclusion that Jesus, whom they could see was mortal, was claiming to be divine and was therefore worthy of death for blasphemy.

There are many people today who do not believe that Jesus is God in the fullest sense. They would look at the verses above and say that to be "son of God" is not the same as being God (cf. John 10:34-39); that to be "one with God" could just mean to be in complete agreement with him; and to "exist since before Abraham" would not be different than angels who could say the same thing. People from these "oneness" groups differ from the Jewish leaders however because instead of giving Jesus the death sentence for blasphemous statements, they honor him and perhaps pray to him. It is a surprise to many evangelicals to realize that members of oneness groups sing hymns and praises to Jesus as Savior and Lord while denying that he is God who alone deserves worship.

We maintain our stance as Trinitarians because we cannot set aside the teaching of the New Testament that indicate that Jesus is God-become-flesh, even if we cannot understand logically how that can be. [Incidentally this is not such a problem for people from Hindu backgrounds since in their religion there are also "incarnations" of gods.]

Here are some more of the significant verses regarding Jesus' deity.

❑ He accepted worship from people. Only God should do that. Matt 14:33 says, "Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (see also Matt 28:9; 16-17; Luk 24:52; and John 9:38.)

❑ John 1:1 describes him as God; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

❑ Paul uses similar terms in Rom 9:5; "Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them [the Jews] is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen."

❑ Try to figure out what words in John 1:18 refer to Jesus. "No one has ever seen God, but *God the one and Only [Greek: monogenes theos]*, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

Here is a text however that shows why we admit the Trinity is a mystery.

"Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all." (1 Cor 15:24-28)

Because of this mystery let us strive to maintain humility as we encourage others to believe in Jesus even though we can't see him. Thomas did eventually see him and then declared, "'My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:28-29) Jesus was talking about us when he said that.

C. Why did Jesus come?

There are many verses about the purpose of Christ's coming. Here are some that have clear meaning.

❑ Matt 1:21 is the angel's message to Joseph before Jesus was even born he said, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

❑ John referred to his role as God's divine sacrifice when he first pointed Jesus out to his disciples in John 1:29. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

❑ John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

❑ Jesus said in John 6:51, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

❑ 1 Peter 2:24 says that "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

❑ Titus 2:14 speaks of Jesus "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

❑ Heb 9:27-28 speaks of man's problem and Christ's solution. "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

How do the purposes of Christ affect evangelism? Jesus did and taught many things and was called "teacher." But it is clear that his purpose in coming was not to add more knowledge to the world's libraries. He came to solve man's sin problem. If he is only another teacher, people can accept or reject those teachings without significant consequences. But because he has provided the payment for our sin, people must decide to accept or reject this great gift offered to them.

Discuss: Read the verses above again and mark the ones that are especially encouraging to you today.

Application: Get in groups of 2 to 4 people. Discuss the question, "Is Jesus the Christ or not?" How do you react to the question? Is it important to you to know the answer or not? How would you decide if the answer is yes or no?

Skill Development

I. Group work: Creating conversations about Jesus.

John 3:16 diagram mindset: Jesus; the only one we can trust to save us from our sin and give us eternal life.

Pretend that you are in a park, on a bus, or hanging out with your friends. How could you start talking about Jesus or change a conversation to discuss Jesus for a while? Choose two verses from this lesson that you would use to show Jesus' purpose in coming.

Write down one or two ideas for each situation; park, bus, friends.

Read them to the rest of the class.

Optional: Choose one of the settings and make it into a skit.

II. Group work: Use a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia to find answers.

Bring a Bible dictionary for each group to use.

Assign a word related to the life of Jesus for each group to look up in the dictionary.

Have them write a one or two sentence summary of what they discovered.

III. Learn to use the E-sword word search.

Open the program. Choose a Bible tab of ESV, MKJV or ASV.

Click on the binocular button to open the Bible Search window.

Enter "the Christ" in the place provided and select to look for the "phrase" or "exact phrase."

Now click the "Search" button.

You can read through the verses that have that phrase in them.

IV. Discussion: Where can you find local resources for evangelism.

Where can you borrow or buy these resources? Bibles, Jesus film video, small tracts, or evangecube.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

From: Luke 23,24

To: Teacher (or to _____)

Via: An email message.

II. Field Research.

FR12

III. Memory Verse.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Matt 16:15-16

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

IV. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

DUE in two weeks on _____Sept 21_____.

Use a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia in the library to learn about something you don't understand.

Choose a word in the Gospel of Luke that you don't know the meaning of.

Look it up in the dictionary.

Write a one-paragraph summary of what you learned.

Be ready to answer me verbally if I ask you what you learned.

Next week Group __ will demonstrate the John 3:16 diagram to the class. (2nd time around the demonstration will include one person teaching all of the remaining members.)

Optional Activities

I. Demonstrate how to make a wallet tract.

Design tracts or posters and calling cards based on today's verses or other gospel verses.

You can use a publishing program like Open Office or MS Publisher to make a wallet tract. A word processing program can be used but it is much more difficult.

a. Choose the verse you want to use.

b. Create the design for one tract. Add interesting clip-art graphics, but not too many.

c. Either copy and paste to fill the page, or use a multi-form-per-page option in the program.

This latter is what is used to make business cards or calling cards.

d. Print and cut.

II. Discuss where we get answers when people ask us questions.

a. While you are talking to the person.

Personal experience and memory verses. (You tell them what you remember.)

The Bible. (It is our primary document. Some people have it on their cell phones.)

Tracts can be purchased or made. (More convenient to bring them than a Bible.)

(Give the "Essentials of the gospel" tract)

b. Later, after you return home.

Books such as Commentaries, Concordances, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Computer Software such as E-Sword

Websites such as crosswalk.com or wayofthelord.com

Lesson 14 **“Believe”**: An Act Of Free Will Made By People God Has Chosen

Knowledge goal: To provide an open discussion of the mystery related to God’s sovereignty and man’s free will. To understand that although God is sovereign He expects us goodnewsmen to use our free will to seek the lost. And he expects the lost to use their free will to decide to respond.

Skill goal: Ability to create a good news conversation starting with how a person goes about getting something they need.

Lecture

I. Introduction

When we use the John 3:16 diagram to explain the gospel we draw an arrow pointing to the word 'son' and label it with the words 'believe in'. This arrow represents man's proper response to God's act of love. Before we look at some questions that people have had through the years regarding man's response, it would be good to note that the Greek word "*pisteuo*" used in John 3:16 indicates the condition of the heart in relation to the Son of God. English translations of this word include: believe in, trust, have faith in or have confidence in.

For example, a different form of the same word is used in Luke 16:11 where it says, “So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” Similarly consider John 2:24: “But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.” In either verse the English word *believe* is not appropriate. Therefore, since it is the same Greek word in John 3:16 we can understand that our response to the gospel includes entrusting ourselves into the care and protection of God's only Son, both now and forever.

In the sense of "having faith in", *pisteuo* means that we transfer our allegiance to Jesus as the Christ, the God-appointed king, who is able to accomplish victory over the enemies of God’s kingdom. John 2:11 says “This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in [*episteusan*] him.” John 4:42 tells about the response of the Samaritans: They said to the woman, “We no longer believe [*episteuosen*] just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

Usually *pisteuo* is translated “believe” and it means to believe that what the person says is true. Note John 4:50: Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word [*episteuosen*] and departed.” The man believed that what Jesus said was true. It is also often used to mean that people believed that he was the Messiah they were expecting.

Discuss: Make a list of questions about Beliefs or Trust as it relates to religion. They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you.

II. Common questions seekers have related to believing in Jesus.

A. Does man have free will to respond at all or is he predestined either to be saved or perish?

The Bible speaks a lot about both predestination (cf. Rom 8:28-29) and free will (cf. 1 Kings 18:21). You can use Nave's Topical Bible to look up many references about God's sovereignty, his calling of people, his election of people and his control of all things. On the other hand the Bible everywhere assumes that people have the ability to make choices that affect them in this life and in eternity.

Look at 2 Tim 2:10 which refers to both man's free will and God's sovereignty in one sentence. Paul said, “Therefore I endure everything[shows Paul's free will] for the sake of the elect

[shows God's sovereignty], that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. "

Everyone I have met believed that we are accountable for our choices, no matter what theological position they held.

There are two implications of this accountability for evangelism.

First, since people have free wills we expect them to make decisions about God and his word. When some people stopped following Jesus, he did not exercise divine power and force them to come back. In fact he turned to his disciples and asked if they were going to leave him also (John 6:67). Evangelism is not an activity where we can force people to join us. We only give them the facts that were given to us and they must decide for themselves. When it was time for the Israelites to enter the land God had prepared for them Joshua told the people that they should decide which god they would serve. But he also said that he and his family were choosing to serve the Lord (Josh 24:15). We do our best to present the gospel in a clear way but people are free to respond as they want.

The second implication is that since God is sovereign, we can truly leave the results of evangelism in his hands which is a good thing since there is much about people that we don't know. Can we expect a response from those who are insane or are too young to be rational? Will small children be punished if they die without hearing about Jesus and his death for them? What about people in your family who once said that they were Christians but now say they no longer believe? We don't know about these things.

Paul knew that Timothy was facing men who seemed to be Christians but were leading people into ungodliness and had destroyed the faith of some people. Paul's words of encouragement to Timothy show that he was aware of both God's sovereignty and man's free will to choose. He wrote in 2 Tim 2:19, "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' [God's sovereignty] and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness'" [Man's free will]. In John chapter 1 God's sovereignty is seen because the new birth is not of men but of God (v13). Man's free will is seen when these born-of-God people exercise their free choice in "receiving" him and "believing" in his name (v12), rather than rejecting him as some did (v11).

Don't let your trust in God's sovereignty keep you from challenging people to repent and trust in Christ. On the other hand, don't let an emphasis on man's need to exercise free will cause you to worry about the questions that we don't have answers to.

B. What should people "do" to be saved?

a. People in the Bible asked that question too.

There are several times in the Bible in which this question is asked and answered.

Luke 10:25-29 tells of a teacher of the Jewish law who asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus redirected the question to the O.T. law for the answer. The man correctly answered that a person should "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (verse 27). When asked a similar question by another man, Jesus gave a similar answer, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." Matt. 19:16-21

In both of these conversations, Jesus showed that God had given the law through Moses to the Jews so that they could obey and live. But Jesus also helped both men see that they were falling short in their obedience. The teacher of the law evidently knew he wasn't loving his neighbor properly so he wanted to discuss the definition of neighbor to "justify himself". Jesus then told the story of a Samaritan man who chose to show love even to an enemy who was in need.

The young man mentioned in Matthew 19 seemed to be sincere in his faith and obedience because he wanted to know what he still lacked. Jesus didn't say "You've done great, you're better than most people." Instead he urged him to even more complete and pure commitment; "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Both John the Baptist and Jesus himself preached, "Repent." (eg. Mat 3:1-2, 4:17) and we assume that they really meant it. But what exactly does "repent" mean for the person you and I are evangelizing?

Is obedience or repentance different from one culture to another? Yes. The Israelites were special because God had revealed himself to them in a special way and gave them the law through Moses. Obedience for them meant following that law. But how about people from other groups who didn't have that law, did God expect them to become Jews and follow those laws? The apostle Paul had to deal with this question when he brought the gospel to non-Jews. After much controversy the early Christian leaders decided the answer was "no," they didn't have to become Jews. Peter said in Acts 15:9-11 that the Jewish Christians should not put a burden on the Gentiles that they themselves hadn't been able to bear. "He [God] made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

In summary, we see that God has provided a way to be saved by loving him and keeping his commandments. But what should have been good news turns out to be bad news because we too fall short of what God expects (cf Rm 3:23). Like the teacher of the law we are selective in which people we love as neighbors. Like the other man, we might be righteous in many ways, but Jesus is able to show us where we are still not completely committed. We lack perfection, and will always lack it. We Gentiles are not under the Jewish law, but we can't completely follow whatever moral standard our own society has set either. Fortunately, God did through Christ what we couldn't do for ourselves (Rom 8:1-4). Christ died for our sins (1 Cor 15:3) no matter how we define them. In fact "if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" (Gal 2:21b)

b. People should not "do nothing."

I have heard people say that there is nothing you can do to be saved. I think what they mean is that you cannot earn salvation, neither *from* sin nor *to* eternal life. This is true. In one sense we can only become members of the kingdom of heaven by the new birth that Jesus told Nicodemus about in John 3. Being born again in this way has nothing to do with man's will. John 1:13 speaks of "children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Titus 3:5-7 is a good sample showing that we are not saved by our works. We are saved only because God has mercy on us sinners.

"... he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. "

However, to say that we should "do nothing" is a little bit misleading because we are expected to "do" several things, and to not respond would be to "ignore" the great salvation given to us (see Heb 2:2-3). That wouldn't be good.

c. *Six things we should “do” in response to God’s loving gift.*

1. Believe in God's son Jesus (Jn 1:12; 3:16; 5:24, 6:47; 11:25-26) What is it that we are to believe? As we saw in the discussion of the word *pisteuo* this includes several facets. We should trust ourselves into Christ’s eternal care. We trust Jesus with our whole being following his example when he said on the cross, “into your hands I commit my spirit.” As reasoning adults we should also believe intellectually that the things Jesus said are true. And also, we should put our confidence in him as our king to tell us accurately what God expects of us. We make a choice not to put our confidence in our wealth or our education or the people we know. It is Jesus alone who is the door to life for us.

As evangelists we will invite people to trust in Jesus' death as payment for their sin. He said (Mat 26:28) “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Paul said in 1Co 15:3: “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”

2. Yield to the Lord in complete humility (John 3:3; Matt 18:3; 19:14; Lk 14:26,27,43; 18:17).

Matthew 18:3 shows this need for humility. “ And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.””

It is easy to have wrong motives in following Christ. Maybe people will follow just to get food or miracles or blessings like money from God. But Jesus isn’t fooled by such selfish motives. John 6:26 describes a time when people followed him to get more free food, not because they saw his worthiness. “Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” They saw the multiplication of food and then they followed him for the selfish reason of getting more or what they wanted. They didn’t understand or “see” that the miracle they were a part of proved that he was their Messiah. Therefore they were not treating him with the fearful respect that a king deserves from his subjects.

We must also be cautious because sometimes people are motivated to become a Christian just to please somebody important to them like a boss or a girlfriend, not because they see how dangerous it is to offend the king of heaven and earth.

3. Communicate our decision to God (Rom 10:12-13; Ps 27:8; Acts 8:22). We need to pray to him honestly about our condition. Rom 10:12 says, “For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””

We communicate with God by prayer. From a logical view, praying to God who is unseen and doesn’t talk back audibly seems like we are just talking to the ceiling or to the trees. It is natural to wish for a two-way conversation as we have heard about in the Bible. But if we remember that even in the New Testament such conversations were not experienced by most Christians it will help us be patient.

I would also say that when prayer is only one-way in the audible sense, the prayer itself becomes an act of our faith. When we say “our heavenly father” it is a demonstration that we are directing our plea for help to God and not to gods, to the one who created all things and not to any person or thing that is created.

4. Repent from sin and obey the Lord (Isa 55:7; Micah 6:6-8; Matt 7:21-22; 1 John 3:9; 5:18)

As we saw in the Ephesians 2:1-10, we are saved only by grace through faith. But we are saved to a new life of good works that God planned for us. People who are spiritually born of God don’t have to be told that they must repent; they *want* to repent and obey. But people who continue in sin haven’t had a new birth.

5. Remain in this relationship (Matt 10:22; Matt 24:13; 2 Tim 2:12; Heb 3:14).

It is very hard to see someone whom we have known as a Christian who then decides to leave the faith (e.g. 1 John 2:19; Luke 8:13; 1 Tim 4:1-2). Were they deceiving us all of the time? Were

they deceiving themselves? I don't think we can know those things. What we always do is pray that they will repent again and come back to following Christ.

6. Be baptized. (Act 8:36-38; 16:15; 16:31-34; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21)

Peter said in Acts 2:36-39; "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart [They had just helped kill their own king! ed.] and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." I do not believe there is something magical about the process of baptism in the salvation of a person. It seems to me that its importance is related to the person's willingness to publicly declare his decision to follow Christ. Baptism shows everyone our decision to put to death the old me in order to rise to life as the Christian me. It also shows that I recognize the uncleanness that comes right out of my heart and my choice to claim the washing that Christ can do in me.

The six things listed above are things that we can choose to "do" or "not do". However, our righteousness is only done in Christ's power as seen in John 15:4-5; 1 Th 5:23; Rom 14:4; and 1 Cor 1:8. That is why I like to emphasize the Ephesians 2:1-10 passage that shows first our helplessness because we are dead in sin; secondly, the faith that we put in God's gracious gift to save us; and finally, the holy life that we hunger for and that God intended all along for us to live.

Discuss: Think of three everyday examples of pisteuo. It could be any aspect of it: trust, believe in, have confidence in, have faith in.

D. What should the goodnewser do to help a person become a Christian?

The six disciple-making activities we discussed in Lesson 2 will be a good guide for the answer to this question.

1. Pray - that the person will be able to understand clearly their wickedness and their need to be saved and the choice that they must make.
2. Love - the person with the love that God has shown to you. Put away any hypocrisy or selfish motives.
3. Seek - to find out the person's current spiritual condition and especially their attitude about their sin. Use probing questions to see if they are remorseful about what they have done?
4. Goodnews - the person as clearly as you can. Use the John 3:16 diagram to help you remember important parts.
5. Challenge - the person to respond genuinely. (see below)
6. Nurture - the person by giving them a New Testament or Bible and teaching them to study it daily, eg. using the "Praying Hands Bible Study Method". Invite them to join a small group of Christians who will help them in the continuing process of repentance and faith.

E. How will I know if I am successful in evangelism? What response should I look for?

As we mentioned before, success is best measured in clarity of witness. If you were able to make the gospel understood, then you were successful no matter how the person responds to it. But it is also natural to look for a good response. Below is a list of some responses that you can look for as they relate to the John 3:16 diagram.

1. GOD.

The person must agree that God exists in power and goodness and will reward those who turn to him. Look for belief in God. Look for happiness to realize that God created and loves them.

2. WORLD and PERISH.

The person must agree that they are in a lost and dangerous position. Our sin has defiled us and separated us from God's presence. We deserve his punishment. A person won't turn to God for salvation until they understand that spiritually they are blind, lame, ignorant, poor, dirty, imprisoned and dead. Look for true conviction of their sin and willingness to "die" to sinful self.

3. SON.

The person must realize that salvation cannot be earned, it is a gift of God based on the Christ's death. The person must make a conscious decision to put trust in Jesus as "the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" because there is no other way to be saved.

Look for this decision to be expressed in a prayer of repentance, acts of repentance and baptism. A sincere convert will want to learn more about Jesus the Son of God through Bible reading and the nurture available from other Christians.

4. ETERNAL LIFE.

The person's first hope in eternal life will be based on Bible verses that speak of the joy of heaven. Then, if they are born of God's Holy Spirit they will see the change in their own life. They will see how much better the new life is than the old and this will increase even more their joyful expectation of eternal life.

F. How should people actually express their response of faith?

Do I need to pray out loud? No, you don't need to pray out loud, but you need to pray.

Here is a sample of a sinner's prayer. "Jesus, I have really messed up. I'm sorry. I know it was wrong to _____. Please forgive me. I want you to help me live like I should and am choosing to submit myself to you as my King. Please take control of my life from now on."

Application: Get in groups of 2 to 4 people. Is there anyone you know who is having doubts about their faith? Is your friendship strong enough for them to trust you with questions? Take a minute to pray for them.

Skill Development

I. Learn to create goodnews conversations starting with an illustration of how people get something they need.

The John 3:16 diagram mindset: Believing in Christ is the way to get the eternal life we need.

Think of situations where a person needs help getting something, maybe it is on a shelf too high to reach or maybe it is more education to qualify for a job. Wouldn't they always try to get the best or most professional help they can? In the same way, talk about how we need help to get eternal life. Ask where they think we could get the best help to go to heaven instead of hell? Tell them about Jesus if they haven't heard the good news.

Optional: Make a skit to demonstrate turning a conversation about getting help (of any kind) to sharing about getting help from God to have eternal life in heaven by means of following Jesus.

II. Practice doing the “Challenge” part of disciple-making.

Get in groups of two or three. Practice giving a challenge to each other to respond to the good news.

Ask them if they are ready to give their loyalty to Christ and obey him. Are they willing to ask him to forgive and cleanse them? If not, why not?

III. Encourage Christians to stand up under rejection.

Discuss in small groups how rejection is experienced by true Christians in your community. How can Bible knowledge help them endure it? How can fellowship with other Christians help?

Assignments

I. Overflow.

None

II. Field Research.

FR13 This field research assignment is not a survey like before. You must look for people who need forgiveness and life. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and that is what we will do in this assignment. Important: *You must find your own way to start the conversation. You must choose your own way to share the gospel.*

III. Memory Verse.

John 1:11-13

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Josh 24:15

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Optional Activities

I. Train to baptize.

Discuss methods and meanings of baptism according to your church policies.

The Bible says that if we died with him we will live with him (Rom 6:1-11). What does your church do to reinforce this idea?

II. Discuss results of repentance in your local community.

How do you know if someone repents? How does it affect his or her life? How does it affect the neighbors or other people that know the new Christian?

Lesson 15 “Eternal Life”: True Life As God Intended, Both Now And Always

This lesson under construction!

Knowledge goal: To understand eternal life as the pleasant and comfortable opposite of eternal death.

Skill goal: Ability to watch for evidence in the new believer of “new birth” into a holy life.

Lecture

I. Introduction

In contrast to an earlier session about “Sin, Judgment and Hell”, this lecture might be entitled “Righteousness, Judgment and Eternal Life.” This is because life in heaven would be the proper reward for those who are found to be righteous during the judgment. As we have seen however, we all fall short in our own efforts. Therefore it is the righteousness of God himself (Rom 1:17) that we trust in to help us during judgment. We have faith that he is gracious and merciful to those who come to Him humbly, with sincere repentance and acknowledging that Jesus already died in our place FOR our sin (1 Cor 15:3).

As in other topics, there is not complete agreement among Christians regarding eternal life. A big difference occurs between those who see many Bible passages about the future in a more allegorical sense and those who take them in a more literal sense. There is usually a double meaning to Jesus’ words such as when he talked about life (John 3) or about food (John 6). This is to be expected since he cannot express eternal truths easily in non-eternal languages. But how about when he talks about God’s kingdom? In the sense that it is a literal kingdom with Jesus as king, we will participate as citizens much like we do now as citizens of the country we live in. In an allegorical sense, it is a spiritual kingdom in which we are under Jesus as King at the same time as we are also living under our current government leaders.

The answers I give in this lesson will tend to be more generic because I want to share from verses that I think I understand well and pass on those that may be clear to others but are not yet so to me.

Discuss: Make a list of questions about Eternal Life or Heaven. They might be questions you have or questions that other people have asked you.

II. Common questions seekers have related to Heaven.

A. What is eternal life?

One way to think about eternal life is to imagine life that is everlasting or unending. Jesus spoke of it this way in John 6:47; “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.”

But sinners also have an unending life and theirs is one of punishment, not happiness. See Matt 25:46; “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Therefore since everyone has everlasting existence I like to think of eternal life, or sometimes just the term “life”, as a reference to the *kind* of life that is associated with God who is eternal and holy. This is in contrast to our physical life that is mortal and sin stained.

When we think of eternal life as the holy life God gives it then we can understand verses which refer to people who have physical life but may not have eternal life. Ephesians 2:1 is an example that talks about people who were physically alive [because they are able to hear the words read to them], but are being told that they were “dead” in their sins [because they don’t have God’s life in them]. Jesus mentioned people who believe [therefore they must be physically alive], and

also do have eternal life. "I tell you the truth, whoever *hears* my word and *believes* him who sent me has *eternal life* and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24) The fact that they hear and believe show they have physical life but their belief has caused them to also have eternal life.

B. When will people receive eternal life?

1. *In one sense life in Christ's kingdom has already started* as seen in John 5:24 just quoted above. Notice the tense of the verb "has" which is used twice. Similarly, the following sentences have verbs that indicate that new life starts immediately and is experienced by true believers. People with the new Holy Spirit in them *are experiencing* holy newness.

Matt 21:31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes *are entering* the kingdom of God ahead of you.

When Zacchaeus repented Jesus said salvation has come to this house. Jesus said to him, "Today salvation *has come* to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9)

2Cor 1:12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we *have conducted* ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, *in the holiness* and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

Phil 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may *be pure and blameless until the day of Christ*, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Rom 6:22 But now that you *have been set free* from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

1 John 5:12 "He who has son *has life*." He has this holy life *now* in some tangible way. He does not just have a hope for it in the future but is experiencing holy and righteous living now.

Some of the immediate results of this new life include reconciliation, forgiveness, life, and hope. We have this life now even though old thoughts and temptations may not go away. This shows that we have two natures in one person. The application of this in evangelism is that I look for a *desire for holiness* as a result of salvation from unholiness. I also look for evidence that the person really yielded to God in trust rather than just trying to manipulate him in order to get out of hell or to get more comfort or more money.

2. *In another sense, life in God's kingdom is not here yet.*

In Acts 1:6-8 the disciples asked Jesus if he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time after he was raised from the dead. He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Shortly afterward he ascended into heaven and the angels spoke to the watching crowd. Act 1:10-11 says: "They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, *will come back* in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." " Then at Pentecost (Acts 3) Peter encourages the people to repent in order to receive God's refreshing. He said, "He [Jesus] *must remain* in heaven *until* the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets (Act 3:21)." Jesus was not there in Jerusalem with them anymore, but they should repent never-the-less because he would come back later and restore everything.

Christ's expected return is the topic of 2 Thes. 1: 6-10.

"God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen *when the Lord Jesus is revealed* from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

See also these verses about the second coming of Jesus. Dan 7:13-14; Matt 24:30, Matt 25:31; Mar 13:26; Luk 21:27; John 14:3; 1Th 1:10; 1Th 4:16; 2Th 1:7-10; Rev_1:7.

C. Where is eternal life lived? Where is heaven?

In the Old Testament the word Zion is sometimes used to refer to the city of Jerusalem. Why? Because since the temple was there Jerusalem was considered to be "God's place." So when we think of Zion we think "city of God."

Heaven is the *place* where *God is "king"* in his "kingdom". But how can this be since God is a spirit and is *beyond our comprehension*? In what way could he rule as a king? The answer is "through *Jesus*," God become man, *and therefore knowable*. People talked to him, learned from him, and did what he told them to do.

God is not just the king, he is the *only* king. *No other gods* can be king. Therefore there can be no idolatry in heaven.

It is appropriate to think of heaven as the *place where God's will is done*. The Lord's prayer teaches us to pray that God's will should be done both on *earth* as in *heaven*. So somehow heaven is distinguished from earth.

D. Who will be in heaven?

Atheists obviously don't accept God period, much less as their King so they won't be included.

The doctrine of election is involved in the answer to this question. Act 13:48 says, "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and *all who were appointed* for eternal life believed." So the elect are there. On the other hand real disciples (rather than superficial followers) are mentioned in 1 Jn 1:7. Implication is that some are not real.

Christians are contrasted with those who have no hope.

1Th 4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, *who have no hope*.

1Pe 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us *new birth into a living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven *for you*, 5 *who through faith are shielded* by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

He who has the son has life. 1 John 5:12

Gal 9:6 Abba, Father (evidence of divine nature)

2 Pe 1:4 Partakers of the divine nature

E. What is heaven like?

Eternal results of trusting.

Escape deserved punishment, justification, Freedom from guilt.

Dwelling place prepared by Jesus

No sinful attitudes or actions, sanctification,

free from sins power, from sins presenc, from sins punishment.

1 John 1:9 Forgiven of sin

Is 1:18 white as snow

Never die. Eternal life.

Glorification, Beauty of salvation,

joy in being loved and chosen.

beauty to our senses.

Imagery only or real thing? Eg. gold streets?

Regeneration affects actions and words, fruit of spirit,

Relationships restored,

peace with God.

peace with self.

fellowship of believers like Acts 2:42,

church structure?

Like angels more than like family members. Bride of Christ more than bride of earthly husband.

Holy of holies as type of heaven.

God's ark had anointed staff, manna, commands

Access curtain torn by Christs sacrifice

Holy spirit work:

Comforts. Enlightens. can be quenched.

Filling? Baptism?

Jesus expected filled with HS.

Citizenship In The Kingdom Of God.

Holiness is the rule. (eg. the wedding guest without proper clothes.)

A place of *Light*, not darkness. (we avoid deceit and "hidden" things, have an open and honest face)

A place of *Life*, not death. (not just living for ever but that which is related to life.

Eg. Being up, standing erect, alert countenance, happiness, excitement, joy, energy, beauty, loving and unselfish attitudes, creativity.)

A place of *Action*, not just thoughts.

Not just a doctrinal position. The devils believe in God and tremble but still rebel.

I don't see heaven as a place of eternal zombieness or heroine like euphoria.

People use will power, make decisions, give gifts, cook food (eg. resurrected Jesus).

F. How do we get to heaven?

(See the last lesson on trust.)

By being *born spiritually*. John 3

Can't even see it without being born again or anew. John 3

Not of this world, but of God. Jn1. No one comes to the father but by Jesus.

Therefore since getting to heaven is all by the grace of God, there is nothing of our own to be proud about (Eph 2:8-9).

Practical: I don't like to focus so much on assurance aspect of salvation.

It seems to focus too much on ME and what I want.

I rejoice that God would give me his spirit; *I want HIS glory.*

Don't promote self-glorification. How about self-preservation?

Our part is trust or have faith in God's son.

1 John 5:12 has son has life.

John 3:16 not perish

Is there eternal security?

Are you sure you are forgiven? Believe the promise in 1 John 1:8-9. Are you sure you are loved? Believe John 3:16.

Final Q & A time.

Respond to questions they had that weren't covered in these lessons.

Application. Giving thanks.

In 1 Thes 5:16-18 we see that it is God's will to be joyful and give thanks. Are we doing this?

Name 3 ways we could remind ourselves or others to obey this better this week.

Skill Development

I. Creating conversations about heaven or life.

John 3:16 diagram mindset: *Eternal Life*: A perfect life lived forever as the *reward* to those who believe in God's only son.

Discuss ways to start conversations related to what people think would be a perfect life. Remember to include perfect goodness as well as perfect beauty in your discussion. Then share that the beauty of God's gift of eternal life a result of trusting in Jesus according to John 3:16. After starting with Eternal Life as the reward received, go back and do the whole diagram.

II. Teach to look for God's righteousness (Rom 3:21ff) to become visible in new converts.

We are also saved **to** righteousness. Therefore expect holiness results.

Train to expect holiness as a result of trusting.

1. Promote righteousness.
 2. Look for people who hunger for it.
 3. Teach repentance as on-going style.
 4. Teach Jesus' promises.
 5. Teach Jesus' expectations
- Eg. Teach love of brothers.

How can we find people who want it?

Fruit analysis, taste tests?

Learning to sample fruits in a persons life.

Use Gal 5:22-23 as a checklist reminder.

III. How to pray for healing of exorcism.

1. Read verses where it is done to encourage you in the battle.
2. Read verses where it shows that we should not be bound ourselves. We don't want to be like the blind leading the blind because we ourselves are still under bondage.
3. Pray to submit ourselves in confession to Christ and his power.
4. Ask God to release the person in Jesus' name or because of Jesus' authority.
5. Talk to the person about submission to Christ.

IV. How to pray to be filled with God's spirit.

1. Admit selfishness
2. Examine our own thoughts and actions. Be willing to spend significant time meditating.
3. Ask for forgiveness.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's holiness so we can be like our heavenly Father.

Assignments

I. Overflow.

None

II. Field Research.

FR13 for extra credit before finals.

III. Memory Verse.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Isa 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

1 John 5:12

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Lesson 16 What's Next?

Knowledge goal: To know some simple ways that you can give follow-up nurture to someone who is a new believer.

Skill goal: Ability to make or copy and fold tracts for your church to use.

Lecture

This is our last session so I would like to touch very briefly on the topic of follow-up. There are several options available for helping a new Christian grow in faith and character.

Option 1 - A "New Believers Class" at your church.

Invite them to become involved in a class at your church in which the basics of living the Christian life are taught. This is the best option because they need both the information taught and the friendship of the other Christians.

Option 2 - Meet with them individually using your church's follow-up material.

If no class is available, meet with the new Christian individually yourself once a week. Use the follow-up materials your church recommends. They can tell you if they have such material available and where to get it. Maybe it is called New Believers Class material, Bible Instruction Class lessons, catechism lessons or etc.

Option 3 - Meet with them individually using material from other Christian sources.

If you are able to visit a Christian bookstore you can ask them about Basic Follow-up materials that you can buy. Buy one copy for yourself and one for the new convert. These types of lessons are also available from campus ministries like Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, or Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Meet weekly with the new Christian and discuss the lessons.

Option 4 - Study the Gospel directly.

If you are really on your own then you can teach them directly from the Bible. Use the Praying Hands Bible Study Method (Handout 7) and start in any of the gospels available in their own language. Then proceed to other parts of the scripture that are available. If you encourage them to read with understanding and tell you what they learn, then they will be able to "overflow" just as you have learned to do in this class.

Option 5 - Do a series of lessons about Christian life qualities.

Have a series of meetings in which you study and put into practice the advice of the apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:1-12 about the life characteristics of a Christian (see Handout 11). Once the list of characteristics in 2 Peter 1:1-12 has been covered you can use other texts that discuss Christian lifestyle.

Application: Get into groups of 2 to 4 people. Discuss each of the five options for follow-up listed above. Which ones could you afford to do? Which ones would be easiest for you to use? Explain.

Skill Development

I. Demonstrate how to produce two tracts for them to use in their churches.

1. Jn 3:16 diagram follow-up tract (Handout 4)

It is a good tract because it has a place for writing their address if they want follow-up.

You can make four per sheet of paper.

It needs back to back printing or copying so is a little confusing. Demonstrate.

2. 4 Things You Should Know (Available in Cebuano or English in Handout 5)

This tract is good because it is all scripture so you can make one like it in any language. This one also needs back to back printing so experiment first before making many. You get only two tracts per sheet of paper.

Demonstrate how to copy or print it, cut it and fold it.

II. Practice using the 2 Peter 1:1-12 Bible Study in Handout 11.

The new believer should be shown that the Bible tells us about specific attitudes or characteristics about how to live. Appendix O shows how to study the Bible and look for applications.

Assignments

I. Turn in any old missing assignments or any bonus work you have done.

Optional Activities

I. Attend a baptism.

II. Use the brainstorming guide in Handout 12 to help your church start planning an outreach event.

III. Use Handout 13 as a guide to memorize more verses related to goodnewsing.

IV. Do a "One Week Of Evangelism" assignment as a group competition.

Each person is required to share with at least one person and use Field Report 13 forms to report what happened. Additional reports are used as bonuses toward the student's grade. Choose a reward for the groups that have shared with the most people.

Allow time in class for the small groups to work on their strategy.

APPENDICES

Handout 1- Evangelism Self-Evaluation Form

Personal Information

Name _____ Nickname (Anga) _____
Age _____ Birth date _____ Gender (Male or Female) _____
What occupations did you observe a lot as a child? _____
Home Church (before coming to college): Name _____
Location _____ Pastor _____
Where is your ETCP weekend assignment? _____
How long have you been a Christian? 1 yr ____ 2-5 yrs ____ 6-10 yrs ____ more than 10yrs ____

Motivation

1. How high is your interest in evangelism?

|_____|_____|
Not interested Somewhat interested Very interested

2. Are you confident to share the gospel?

|_____|_____|
No, I'm afraid to do it I am hesitant Yes, I am very confident and enjoy doing it

Experience

4. How often do you share the gospel?

|_____|_____|
Never I did it a few times Share it almost every day

5. How would you describe your skill level in sharing the gospel?

|_____|_____|
Not skilled in evangelism Very skilled in evangelism

6. How many methods do you already know how to use to share the gospel?

|_____|_____|
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8+

What is your favorite or easiest way to share the gospel? _____

What do you think hinders you from sharing the good news more often?

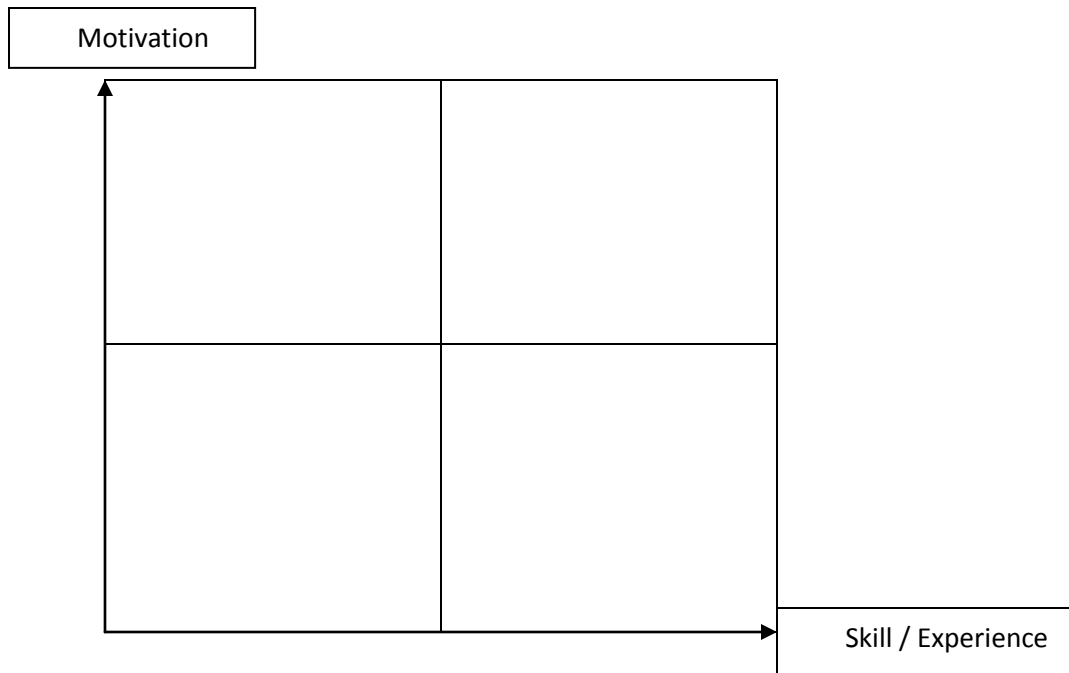
- Not enough time (too busy)
- I am afraid or shy with people
- I don't know what information to share
- I don't see a need to share (I am not convinced that God will really punish people eternally)
- I don't have the gift of evangelism
- I don't know how to start conversations with people
- People might ask questions I can't answer
- I am sometimes not sure of God's love for me, so how can I share with others?
- Other reasons _____

Disciple-Making Activity Ballot

Rate these items from 1 to 6 according which is the easiest (1), to which is the hardest (6).

- Praying for the unsaved people
- Loving unsaved people
- Seeking unsaved people
- Goodnewsing (sharing the gospel with unsaved people)
- Challenging unsaved people to respond positively to the gospel
- Nurturing people who have already become disciples of Jesus

Summary:



Picture:

Handout 2 - Examples Of Overflow.

At the top of the paper write something like this: "Dear _____, I would like to share with you what God blessed me with from Luke in chapters __ verse ____."

Another option is: "Good day to you _____. I just wanna share from Luke __; __ that encouraged me so much. I hope you like it too."

Or "To _____, God's treasured possession! Warm greetings to you. I just want to share from Luke __;__ what I learned in the past few days. I hope it encourages you too."

Examples from previous students.

<p>[Student's name] Dear Joel, Luke 5:17-26 made a new impact in my life when I read it; but what struck me is in verse 25. I just wonder what was the house owner's reaction regarding what happened to their rooftop. Did the paralytic man's friends stay until the people were gone to fix the roof of the house?</p>	<p>[Student's name] Dear Mr. Nelson, I read from the verse Luke 5:8 and I would like to share it with you. This verse says "when simon peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'" It is just like me when I see myself that I am only a human and I cannot do anything. I am not worthy to face God because I am a sinful person.</p>
<p>[Student's name] Dear Sir, I would like to share with you what God blessed me with from Luke chapter 5:18-20. I was touched with the story when Jesus heals sick people. I was amazed when men carried the paralytic man and could not find a way, they went up on the roof and lowered the mat in front of Jesus. What a great faith they showed in Jesus when they looked for a way in order for him to heal their friend.</p>	<p>[Student's name] Dear Pastor Bob Nelson, I would like to share with you what God blessed me with from Luke in chapter 6 verse 27. The word of God says, "But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." I really thank God because it reminds me to love others like the love of God has for us. Even loving my enemies or those who hate me. It encourages me to show love to everyone.</p>

<p>[Student's name]</p> <p>Dear friend,</p> <p>I would like to share with you what God blessed me from Luke in chapter 6 verse 10. God blesses you who are poor for the kingdom of God is given to you. It is true even though I am poor in the status of finances or in physical aspects but I am rich with the Holy Spirit for I am a son of God. Time will come that I will experience joy by his will and I live in the kingdom of God forever.</p>	<p>[Student's name]</p> <p>Dear Pastor Bob,</p> <p>I would like to share with you what God blessed me with from Luke 6:27 where it says "But I tell you who hear me, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."</p> <p>Honestly, it's really hard to love our enemies, especially when the pain is still fresh and all we have to think of is revenge because we want to let our enemies know how we feel.</p>
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<p>Dear Teacher Jeanne,</p> <p>I want to share with you what God showed me in Luke 9:26 and I hope it encourages you also. It says, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."</p> <p>I chose this verse because as a new believer like me, sometimes I can't deny the fact that I feel ashamed every time I want to share the words of God to somebody especially the people who know me already. I want to tell them that I'm changing, but still I don't have the confidence to tell them. But because of this verse it changed my point of view. It made me realize that I have to be proud of what I am now. I pray that God gave me the confidence to spread his words, especially to those in need.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">In Christ, [Student's name]</p>	<p>Dear Teacher Jeanne,</p> <p>Greetings! May the Lord God Almighty shower you with blessings and the rest of your family.</p> <p>I want to share with you what God showed me in Luke 10:39-40 regarding Martha's distractions.</p> <p>It really touched me because sometimes in my Christian walk with God I tend to neglect duties in church or to other people who really need to hear Christ's word, not knowing that by worrying about simple works like simple household chores can make God feel sad. I came to realize that I have to make a wise choice to put God first.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God bless you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">God's servant [Student's name]</p>
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Samples of overflows via text messages.

<p>Pstr Bob mzta?ds s _____.Na blessed jud ko sa luke 1:18.kay sa dhan na dawat sa lalaki c Jesus,iya gi praised an Gin0o..I hope na bls sad ka.</p>	<p>Hi ptr. Bob. ds s _____. I am blsd wth Luke 17:15 bcuz one of the healed lepr ddn't frget to thnk Jesus after he was healed. I hope that we too, wil nvr frgt to thnk God.</p>	<p>Hi!god pm,pstr bob,ds s _____. Luke 17:3 is vry nice vrse 4 me, f u have ur frnds sin, forgve them,I hop I cn frgve also f I hve frnds sin,.GBU. .</p>
<p>Halu Ptr. Bob, c _____.ni. I wud lyk 2 share with u wat encourage me n luke 18:9. "thro ds verse I was remindd & encourage nt 2 lukdown oders bec. I am also a sinner save only be grace. I hope 8 wil also remind u 2 be humble b4 men& God. God bles!</p>	<p>Dear Pastor Bob, I want to share with you what God shwed me in luke 23:34, Jesus said, "Father, frgive them, for they do not knw what they are doing". And they devded up this clthes by casting lots. Even if Jesus was crucified on the cross still he frgive the people who sinned against him. And I hope it encourages you also From _____.</p>	<p>Hi Ptr Bob, msta? _____.hir. Na.encorahe ko aning mnsahe sa Lk18:7-8 sama sa balo nga nagpdayon sa pghangyo sat g.hukom ug cya gdungog, susama niini ang akng pgabuha2n sa Ginoo 2ngod kay cya motbag sa a2ng mga y hunong nga pg.yanyongo-(persistent request). Gud day Pastor...God bles!</p>
<p>Hi pstr bob, ds s _____. I ws blsd in Lk 17:7_10 its mportant 2 do our duty as srvnt of God. Hop u'l blsd also</p>	<p>Ptr. B0b, maang haf0n. Ds s _____. Nind0t kau aqng nah kta nga vrse dri xah Lk. 17.3 kay qng aqng egso0n mkasala nya mangao og pasaylo, aqng pasaylo0n. I h0p nga c0ntr0l q alwys. . G0d bless ptr. B0b</p>	<p>Hi ptr bob! Dis s _____. Luke 18:14 encouraged me bcoz God wants me 2 b humble. He s d 1 ho knws my heart & wat s bst 4 me. Der4 I must humble myslf b4 Him.</p>
<p>Ptr. b0b gd pm.ds s _____.i impresd when I read luke 18:13 it waz impresiv 4 a tax c0lect0r who humble himself to G0d.f0r he had a str0ng faith despite of his buzinez..juzt lyk us we must b humble 4 that s God want us 2 be..G0dbles</p>	<p>Dear Pastor Bob, Ths s _____.I rcntly read Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to sek and 2 save wat was lost.So as a Christian,I ned flow wat JESUS did,I ned 2 also 2 share other wat Ive lern abwt CHRIST and wat He did.</p>	<p>Halo pST.b0b Msta C _____.ni I learn in dEs chapter 17 that if mY Br0thEr sins I wILL rebuke hIM s0 dat he WIIL nO DAt hE coMet sin AnD IF he repent I wILL 4glve HiM, gud pM</p>

Samples of overflows via e-mails.

<p>Dear Pastor Bob, This is _____. i want to share to what God blessed me in Luke 21 verses 2 to 4.It was all about the poor woman who put in two very small copper coins into the temple.I was blessed because bisan poor siya gihatag niya ang tanan sa Ginoo.I learned that it is not important how big amount you can give.I hope it encourage you.</p>	<p>helo Pastor Bob.This is _____.My overflow was in Luke 21:8 That verse talk to me because as a believer of Christ we must be carefull to those people that pretends that God is in their lives.Its better for us to rely on the bible because it tells us the truth and we will ask God's help so that we will not be deceived easily and so that we will walk in the right path..God Bless</p>
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<p>Dear Pastor Bob,</p> <p>This is _____ good day to you. I just want to share with you the verses that encourage me that is found in Luke 20:37-38. I am blessed with this verses because it showed me how lucky I am that I have a God not of those who are already dead but he is a God of the living, and today for Him I am alive. He is the same God of Abraham and Isaac. He never change even in this present generation, He remain faithful and loving God. I hope it encourage you too. God bless you....</p>	<p>good afternoon pastor bob!</p> <p>I would like to share to you what I've learn from luke 21:7 which talks about the last supper. I was wondering when I was still a child, why we must celebrate the last supper. now I understand that God is just reminding us that through his love I am saved. the last supper reminds me unsa kadako iyang love para nako..god bless pastor!</p>
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<p>Dear Ptr. Bob,</p> <p>Good morning, I read Luke 21:17-19, this verse remind me to have more faith to God and believe in Him because when the time come for punishment I don't have to worry anymore because I surrender everything to Him. I'm secured already for my salvation and it reminds me also that He is the owner of everything we have in this world..</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Dear Pastor Bob,</p> <p>Luke 21:4 really encouraged me because it reminds me about giving. I have to surrender everything to God my all, my everything. I must put in my mind that wealth is not my own but from the Lord and for the Lord. I must honor Him in every way I can, even for the blessings He had given me and always put in my mind to trust Him that in the midst of poverty, He is a great God to provide my needs.</p> <p>From _____</p>
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<p>Gud Day, Pastor Bob!</p> <p>Luke 21:1-4 reminded me once again about the value of giving. Just like the widow, who gave small amount but of greatest value for her coz that's what all she got. What a remarkable act! This serves as a reminder for me that I musn't just give to show off and might be compulsory, but it's because I love God and it's one way of showing my love to Him; and when I give, I'll give wholeheartedly what is due for Him</p> <p>In him, _____</p>	
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Handout 3 - Wallet Tract of 1 Cor 15:3

English.

The Bible records the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:3;
"For what I received, I passed on to you
as of first importance: that

Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures"



Since this is true,
then we should believe the good news,
thank Christ, and stop living in bondage to those sins!

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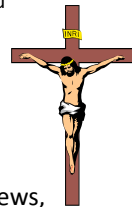


Since this is true,
then we should believe the good news,
thank Christ, and stop living in bondage to those sins!

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"For what I received, I passed on to you
as of first importance: that

Christ died for our sins

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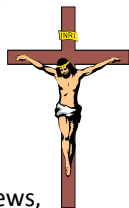


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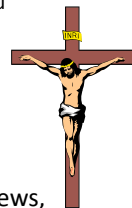


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Cebuano.

Sumala ni Pablo diha sa Biblia sa 1 Corinto 15:3

“Gitudlo ko kaninyo ang akong nadawat nga hinungdanon kaayo,
ug kini mao nga

Si Cristo namatay alang sa atong mga sala,

sumala sa nahisulat sa Kasulatan;”

Kay tinuod man ni,
atong tuohan ang maayong balita,
pasalamat ni Cristo,
ug hunong na sa pagpadayon sa pagpakasala.



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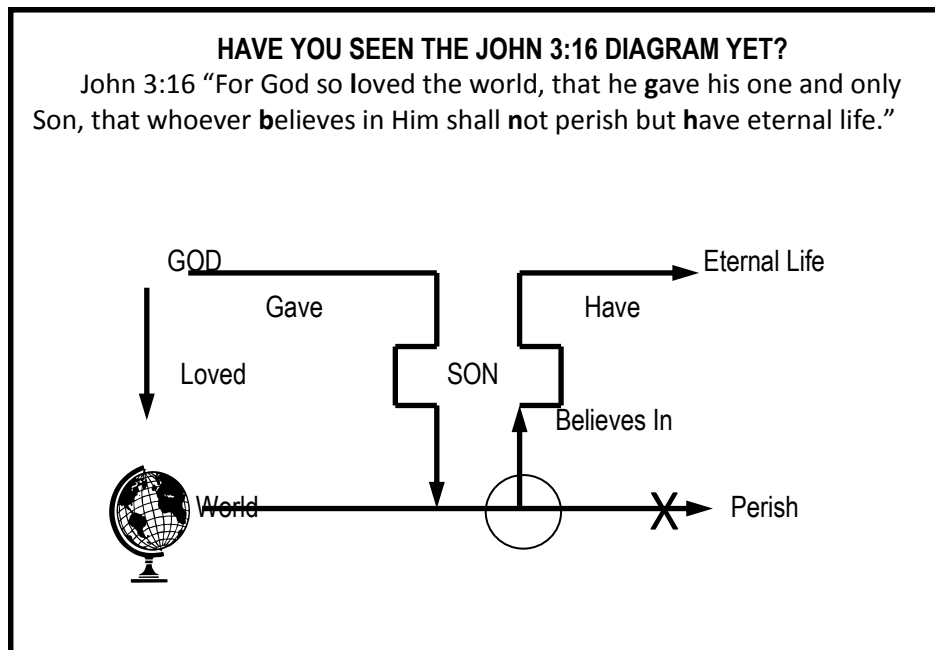
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Handout 4 - John 3:16 Diagram Tract.

To make John 3:16 follow up tracts, use page 187 or 189 as your original. Copy it back to back on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, reversing ends between copies. Cut the resulting paper into four strips and then fold each slip in half so the verse is seen on the front like this.





Name: _____
 Nickname: _____ Telephone: _____
 Cellphone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Address: _____

 Sketch:

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS GOOD NEWS?

This is the way I already believe.
 That was good news! I didn't understand it before, but from now on I will put my trust in Jesus to save me from my sins and bring me to heaven!
 I am not ready to make a statement about this right now.
 I would like more information. If someone can contact me my address is on the back side.

Name: _____
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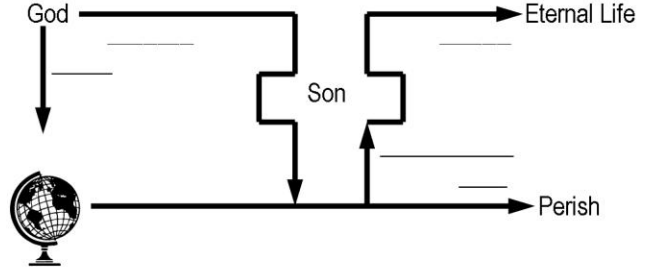
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HAVE YOU SEEN THE JOHN 3:16 DIAGRAM YET?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



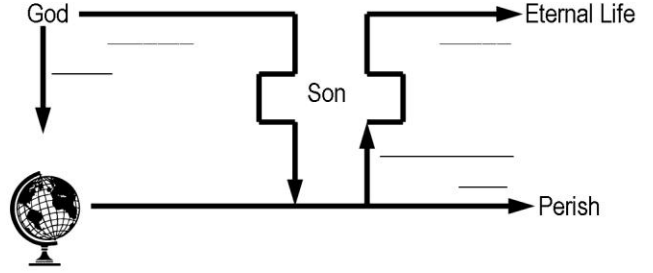
1. Love Him back!
 Pray to Jesus and be thankful for as many things as you can think of.
 Trust him like a child trusts his parents. Believe that he will always love you.
 Stop doing things he doesn't like but do good things instead. Pretend that you are dead if something tempts you but be really alive if you can think of ways to love other people.
 2. Get to know Him.
 Get a New Testament and read it. Join others in a Bible study. Don't wait for others, just go to church yourself.

God loves us and sent Jesus to save us!
 HOW CAN I RESPOND TO SUCH GOOD NEWS?



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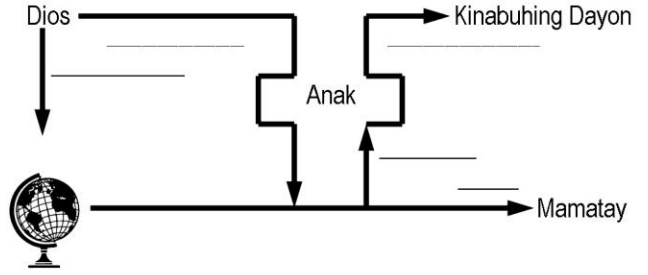


Pangalan: _____
 Angga: _____ Telephone: _____
 Cellphone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Address: _____

Sketch: _____

NAKITA NA BA NIMO NING JUAN 3:16 NGA DRAWING?

Juan 3:16 "Kay gihigugma pagayo sa Dios ang kalibutan ug tungod niini gihatag niya ang iyang bugtong Anak, aron ang tanan nga motuo kaniya dili mamatay, kon dili makabaton hinuon sa kinabuhing dayon."



1. Higuemaon sad nato siya!
 Pagmapasalamaton sa Ginoo sa bisan unsa nga butang. Salig niya sama sa bata nga nagsalihg sa iyang ginikanan ug tuohi siya nga gihigugma ka niya kanunay.
 Hinonga ang buhat nga dautan ug buhata ang maayo. Isipang patay na ka sa pagpakasala ug buhi sa paghigugma sa ubang lawo.
 2. Tinguhaa nga makaila ka niya.
 Sugdi pagbasa ang Biblia sa Bag-ong Tugon. Pangitag grupo nga makauban ka sa pagtun sa Biblia. Bisan wala kay kauban, maayo g'yud nga mosimba ka.

UNSA MAY IMONG BUHATON NIINING MAAYONG BALITA?
"pagluwas kanato!"
"Gihigugma ta sa Ginoo ug gipadala si Jesus"

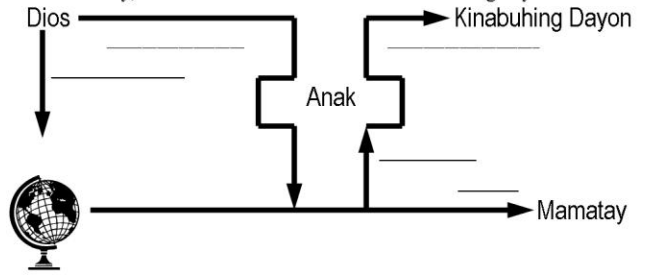


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UNSAY IMONG HUNAUNA KARON NIINING MAAYONG BALITA?
 Nagtuo na ko mahitungod niini.
 Maayong balita kini, nga wala nako masabti sa una.
 Gikan karon, itugyan nako ni Jesus ang pagluwas sa akong mga sala ug ang pagdala kanako sa langit!
 Dili pa ko andam mohimo niini sa pagkakaroon.
 Gusto pa ko ug lain nga mga kasayoran. Kung naay gustong mokuntak nako, ang akong address naa sa luyo niining papila.



Handout 5 - Four Things You Should Know

The Four Things You Should Know tract.

The following tract was originally published by Moody Bible Institute and they later put it into the public domain so anyone can copy it. I like it because it is virtually all scripture and can therefore be translated into any language that the Bible has been translated into.

Use the following pages to copy the tract back to back on letter sized paper. Then cut it in half the long way to make two tracts. Each of the resulting long strips of paper is folded once, then folded a second time resulting in a tract that is about the size of 1/8th of a page, with the title in the front.

1 You Need To Be Saved

In reply, Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." - John 3:3

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, - Rom 3:23

There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins. - Eccl 7:20

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. - Isa 64:6

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? - Jer 17:9

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. - Isa 53:6

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2 You Cannot Save Yourself

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, - Titus 3:5

know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. - Gal 2:16

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. - James 2:10

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. - Prov 14:12

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6

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3 Jesus Has Already Provided for Your Salvation

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. - 1 Pet 2:24

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. - 1 Pet 3:18

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Cor 5:21

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

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4 Jesus Will Enable You to Overcome Temptation

if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. - 2 Pet 2:9

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. - 1 Cor 10:13

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! - 2 Cor 5:17

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YOUR PART

DO IT NOW

REMEMBER

Believe
They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-- you and your household." - Acts 16:31

Repent (turn from your sins)
I tell you, not unless you repent, you too will all perish. - Luke 13:3

Confess Your Sins to Jesus
For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, - 1 Tim 2:5

Confess Jesus Before Men
That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Rom 10:9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. - Isa 55:6

For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. - 2 Cor 6:2

how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. - Heb 2:3

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matt 6:33

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. - Prov 27:1

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? - Mark 8:36

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Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, - Heb 9:27 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. - John 5:24

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." - Josh 24:15

Being convinced that I am a sinner and knowing that "Christ died for the ungodly," I NOW accept Jesus as my Savior and with His help I intend to confess Him before men.

Signed _____

From Moody Press tract 10-2830 X125C

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4 THINGS

GOD

WANTS YOU

TO KNOW

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1 Kinahanglan Ka Maluwas

Si Jesus mitubag, "Sulihnan ko ikaw, walay makakita sa gingharian sa Dios gawas kon siya malawo pag-usab." - Juan 3:3

Nakasala ang tanan ug nahilayo sa Dios
- Roma 3:3

Dinhì sa kalibotan walay tawo nga nagbuhat kanunay ug malarung ug dili gayod mesayop.
- Ecclesiastes 7:20

Sama kami sa tawong sad-an ug ang among malarong nga buhat ingon lamang sa hugawng pahitan. Nangalaya kami daw dahon, ang among pagkadootan daw hangin nga mppadpad kanamo.
- Isaias 64:6

Kinsa may makatukib sa kasingkasing sa tawo?
Walay molabaw niini kamalimbongon, ug labihan kini kadootan. - Jeremias 17:9

Kiang tanan sama sa mga kamero nga nasalaag, wala mosubay sa hustong dalan, apan siyay gidakdakan sa GINOO sa tanan tang kasal-tanan.
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2 Dili Ka Makaluwas Sa Imong Kaugalingon

...kita iyang giuwas, dili tungod sa bisan unsang maayo nga atong nabuhit, kondili tungod sa iyang kaluoy pinaagi sa paghubagas nga gihiro sa Espiritu Santo aron kita makabaton ug bag-ong kinabuhi. - Tito 3:5

Apan naseyod kita nga ang tawo isipon sa Dios nga malarong pinaagi lamang sa iyang pagtuo kang Jesus-Cristo ug dili sa pagtuman sa Balad. Kita usab nagtuo kang Cristo Jesus aron ang Dios mag-sip kanato nga malarong pinaagi sa atong pagtuo kang Cristo, ug dili pinaagi sa pagtuman sa Balad. Kay walay tawo nga isipon sa Dios nga malarong pinaagi sa pagtuman sa Balad. - Galacia 2:16

Kay ang naglapas bisan sa usa lamang ka sugo sa Balad nakalapas sa tanan. - Santiago 2:10

Ang dalan nga giuohan mong husto usahay mohatod kanimo ngadto sa kamatayon. - Panulihon 14:12

Si Jesus mitubag, "Ako ang dalan, ang kamatuoran, ug ang kinabuhi, walay makaadto sa Amanhan kon dili moagi kanako." - Juan 14:6

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3 Si Jesus Nagandam Daan Para Sa Imong Kaluwasan

Ditlo sa krus gidala ni Cristo dha sa iyang lawas ang tanan tang mga sala aron dili na kita magpakasala kondili magkinabuhi nga malarong. Pinaagi sa iyang mga samad nangaayo kamo. - 1 Pedro 2:24

Kay si Cristo mismo namatay sa makausa lamang tungod sa atong mga sala, ang malarong alang sa mga dili malarong, aron pagdala kanato ngadto sa Dios. Gapatay siya ingon nga tawo, apan gibanhaw ingon nga espiritu. - 1 Pedro 3:18

Walay sala si Cristo, apan gipaambit siya sa Dios sa atong sala aron kita, sa atong pagkahusa kanya, makaambit sa pagkamatatong sa Dios.
- 2 Corinto 5:21

Kay gihingugma pag-ayo sa Dios ang kalibotan ug tungod niini ghatag nya ang iyang buglong Anak, aron ang tanan nga motuo kanya dili mamatay, kondili makabaton hinuon sa kinabuhing dayon.
- Juan 3:16

3 Si Jesus Nagandam Daan Para Sa Imong Kaluwasan

Ditlo sa krus gidala ni Cristo dha sa iyang lawas ang tanan tang mga sala aron dili na kita magpakasala kondili magkinabuhi nga malarong. Pinaagi sa iyang mga samad nangaayo kamo. - 1 Pedro 2:24

Kay si Cristo mismo namatay sa makausa lamang tungod sa atong mga sala, ang malarong alang sa mga dili malarong, aron pagdala kanato ngadto sa Dios. Gapatay siya ingon nga tawo, apan gibanhaw ingon nga espiritu. - 1 Pedro 3:18

Walay sala si Cristo, apan gipaambit siya sa Dios sa atong sala aron kita, sa atong pagkahusa kanya, makaambit sa pagkamatatong sa Dios.
- 2 Corinto 5:21

Kay gihingugma pag-ayo sa Dios ang kalibotan ug tungod niini ghatag nya ang iyang buglong Anak, aron ang tanan nga motuo kanya dili mamatay, kondili makabaton hinuon sa kinabuhing dayon.
- Juan 3:16

4 Si Jesus Mohatag Nimong Ug Gahum Aron Makalingkawas Sa Tintasyon

Busa ang Dios mahibalong moluwas sa mga tawong dioson giikan sa mga pagsulay, ug sa pagsilot sa mga daotan sa Adlaw sa Paghukom,....
- 2 Pedro 2:9

Ang tanang tintasyon nga naagian niyong naagian usab sa kadagharan. Kay tumaron gayod sa Dios ang iyang saad, ug dili siya molugot nga tintalon kamo labaw sa inyong madaog. Sa panahon nga tintalon kamo, maghatag siya kaminyog kusog pagsukol sa tintasyon ug sa paagi pagbuntog niini.
- 1 Corinto 10:13

Kay bisan kinsa nga nahiusa kang Cristo, bag-o na siyang binuhet, ang daan magi na, ug miabot na ang bag-o.
- 2 Corinto 5:17

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Kay bisan kinsa nga nahiusa kang Cristo, bag-o na siyang binuhet, ang daan magi na, ug miabot na ang bag-o.
- 2 Corinto 5:17

ANG ANGAY NIMONG BUHATON

Motuo
Sila mitubag, "Tu sa Ginooang Jesus, ug maluwasa ka lakip ang imong panimalay."
- Buhat 16:31

Machinuksol (paglikay sa imong mga sala)
Dili! Sulihnan ko kamo nga kon dili kamo maghinuksol ug mobiya sa inyong mga sala, mangamatay usab kamong tanan sama kanila.
- Lucas 13:3

Isugid Ang Imong Mga Sala Kang Jesus
Kay may usa lamang ka Dios ug usa lamang ang naghуса sa Dios ug sa mga tawo, ang tawo nga si Cristo Jesus....
- 1 Timoteo 2:5

Isangyaw Si Jesus Ngadto Sa Mga Tawo
Maluwas ka kon ipatayag mo nga si Jesus mao ang Ginoo, ug sa kinasingsing motuo ka nga ubanhaw siya sa Dios.
- Roma 10:9

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BUHATA KARON DAYON

Pangitia ninyo ang GINOO samtang siya hikaplagan pa, sangpita ninyo siya, samtang siya duol pa.
- Isaias 55:6

Kay nag-ingon ang Dios, "Gidungog ko kamo sa takna nga akong gikahimut-an, gitabangan ko kamo sa adlaw sa kaluwasan." Mao na kin ang takna sa pagdawat sa kaluoy sa Dios; karon mao ang adlaw sa kaluwasan! - 2 Corinto 6:2

Nan, unsaon man nato paglikay sa silot kon dili kita maglagad niining dakong kaluwasan? Ang Ginoo mismo maoy unang nagpudyag sa maong kaluwasan, ug ang nakadungog kaniya nagmatud kanato niini.
- Hebeo 2:3

Apan unaha ninyo pagpangita ang Gingharian sa Dios ug pagkinabuhin kamo uyon sa iyang kabubut-on, ug ang ubang mga butang itatag niya kaniyo. - Mateo 6:33
Ayaw pagpagarbo bahin sa ugma, kay wala ka masayod unsay mahitabo gikan karon hangtod ugma.
- Panulihon 27:1

Unsa may makuha sa usa ka tawo kon maangkon niya ang tibuk kalibotan apan kawad-an siya sa iyang kinabuhin? Wala gayod! - Marcos 8:36

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HINUMDUHI

Busa ang tagsatagsa kanato maghatag ug husay sa iyang kangalingon ngadto sa Dios. - Roma 14:12

Kinahanglan mamatay ang tagsatagsa sa makausa, ug tapos niana hukman siya sa Dios. -Hebeo 9:27
"Sulihnan ko kamo: ang mamati sa akong gisuhi ug motuo kaniya nga nagpadala kanako, may kinabuhing dayon. Siya dili silotan kay nakalatas na man siya gikan sa kamatayon ngadto sa kinabuhin." -Juan 5:24

Kon dili kamo andam pag-alagad sa GINOO, pagpili karong adlaw kon kinsay alagatan ninyo, ... Apan alang kanako ug sa akong pamilya, mag-alagad kami sa GINOO." -Josue 24:15

Giangkon na ko nga ako makasasala ug motuo ko nga "si Cristo nagpakamatay alang sa makasasala," Akong dawaton KARON si Jesus nga akong Manluwas ug pinaagi sa tabang sa Ginoo, akong isulti sa uban ang pulong sa Ginoo.

Pirma _____

From Moody Press tract 10-2830-X125c

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Pirma _____

From Moody Press tract 10-2830-X125c

4
ka BUTANG

NGA GUSTO
SA DIOS
IMONG
MAHIBALOGAN

Cebuano

4
ka BUTANG

NGA GUSTO
SA DIOS
IMONG
MAHIBALOGAN

Cebuano

Handout 6 - Wallet Tract For Children.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:16-17

Jesus Loves YOU!



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I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:16-17

Jesus Loves YOU!



Handout 7 - The Praying Hands Bible Study Method.

From Care Group Lessons - Book 1 by Bob Nelson, Lesson 15 "How To Study The Bible".

Today instead of our normal Bible study we are going to discuss a method of study called "The Praying Hands Bible Study Method" because just like two hands that are touched in prayer can look like beginning and ending parenthesis markers, you will begin and end the Bible study with prayer.

Step 1. Begin with a prayer for wisdom. Even if you only have 10 minutes to study, develop a habit of asking for God's wisdom to understand what you read.

Step 2. Get the content. Every paragraph or every few verses ask the news reporter questions about the text: Who? What? When? Where? and So What? (You might ask Why, but be truthful! eg. If no reason "why" is given in the text, then don't make up a reason on behalf of the author.)

Step 3. Look for applications. Now that you know "what" the Bible says, ask yourself, "So what does that mean for me? Only you can decide "what difference" the particular verses will make in your life. You can look for: something to Copy, to Obey, to Believe is true, to Rejoice in and/or to Avoid (COBRA).

Step 4. End by praying for courage to apply what you learned. We need God's help! Prayer to God who is unseen is our declaration by faith that we cannot be righteous and holy without his help.

Handout 8 - Field Research Assignments.

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 1

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objective: **Discover Why People Become Christians**

Ask 4 Christians who are not members of this class to answer the following question.
Afterwards thank each one and give them a 1 Cor 15:3 tract.

"What attracted you or motivated you to become a follower of Jesus?" Please give a one or two sentence answer.

1. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

2. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

3. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

4. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 2

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objective: Discover What Topics Related To Religion Or Any Spiritual Issues Are Being Discussed In Your Community

Introduction: In order to love our neighbors we should know what is important to them. I want you to find out what spiritual things **they** are thinking about. (It could be **anything** regarding religions, demons, local spirits, God, sin, morals, heaven, hell, judgment, saints, the price of candles, a recent message at their church, mosque or temple, etc. etc). Maybe it is something that they themselves have been thinking about, or maybe it is a topic that has been discussed by their friends. It might be a question that they have about religion.

Assignment: Ask 3 people who live near you or your church to answer the following question. (Afterwards thank each one and give them a 1 Cor 15:3 tract.)

"What topics related to religion or spiritual things have you or your friends been thinking about, or talking about these days?"

1. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

2. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

3. Name: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 3

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objective: **Get Advice About Evangelism From Those Who Are Experienced.**

Ask two people in your church who have had **many** years of experience in evangelism to help you with this form. (Afterwards thank each one and give them a 1 Cor 15:3 tract.)

1. Name: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

What particular verse, tract, or method do you use when you give the goodnews?

How do you know if you were successful in your evangelism?

Can you think of some songs that would fit well in an evangelistic program?

Songs about badness of sin: _____

Songs about payment of sin: _____

Songs about our new holy life: _____

Songs about our joyful hope: _____

2. Name: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

What particular verse, tract, or method do you use when you give the goodnews?

How do you know if you were successful in your evangelism?

Can you think of some songs that would fit well in an evangelistic program?

Songs about badness of sin: _____

Songs about payment of sin: _____

Songs about our new holy life: _____

Songs about our joyful hope: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 4

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objective: **Discover What Children Think About Sin.**

Purposes:

1. Practice showing love to children by listening to them without interrupting.
2. Practice talking to young people, even children about spiritual topics.
(If you talk to small children, it is best if their parents or guardian are there to observe.)

Ask 3 children between ***ages 5 to 12*** to answer the following questions.

After the child has answered the survey give them a wallet tract with thanks.

1. Name: _____ Age: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Do you think sin is a problem for people? If so, why? _____

How do people fix their sins? _____

2. Name: _____ Age: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Do you think sin is a problem for people? If so, why? _____

How do people fix their sins? _____

3. Name: _____ Age: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Do you think sin is a problem for people? If so, why? _____

How do people fix their sins? _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 5

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objectives: 1. **Find Out What People Pray About** 2. **Offer To Pray To God For People**

1. Learn what topics people pray about.
2. Show love to our neighbors through prayer.
3. Remind neighbors of God’s blessings and Christ’s payment of our sin.

Specific Assignment

1. Go to your assigned location: _____
2. Interview ***two or more people*** who live close by (ie. within easy walking distance).
 - a. Respectfully listen and accurately record their answers to the survey questions.
 - b. Offer to pray for any family needs they have.
 - c. Thank them and give them a 1 Cor. 15:3 wallet tract.

If you pray, what things do you <u>ASK</u> God for?	If you pray, what do you <u>THANK</u> God for?	May we pray for your family?
1.		Yes__ No__
2.		Yes__ No__
3. optional		Yes__ No__
4. optional		Yes__ No__

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 6

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objectives: 1. **Discover The Needs Of Your Neighbors** 2. **Offer Good News To Them**

Purposes: A. Learn to use surveys to evaluate needs of neighbors.

B. Learn to tell people about God's love.

Assignment: Interview two people who live close to you (i.e. within about ½ kilometer). Respectfully listen to them and accurately record their answers. Ask if you can tell about John 3:16 on the back of a tract.

1. Name: _____ Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/Maam: Could you please help us with this survey about what people need? Please evaluate the following common needs in **your** life today. If we have forgotten a need that is important to you, please write it in under "Other needs or problems?". Thank you.

Lacking	OK	Extra	
___	___	___	Clothing
___	___	___	Food
___	___	___	Entertainment
___	___	___	Rest
___	___	___	Health
___	___	___	Safety
___	___	___	Money
___	___	___	Love from family/friends
___	___	___	Self-confidence

Other needs or problems? _____

Sir/Maam: Our class believes that one very important need is for people to understand God's great love. Would you be willing for me to show you a little diagram about God's love? [Draw above or on tract.]

Willing ___ Unwilling ___

Reactions: _____

2. Name: _____ Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/Maam: Could you please help us with this survey about what people need? Please evaluate the following common needs in **your** life today. If we have forgotten a need that is important to you, please write it in under "Other needs or problems?". Thank you.

Lacking	OK	Extra	
___	___	___	Clothing
___	___	___	Food
___	___	___	Entertainment
___	___	___	Rest
___	___	___	Health
___	___	___	Safety
___	___	___	Money
___	___	___	Love from family/friends
___	___	___	Self-confidence

Other needs or problems? _____

Sir/Maam: Our class believes that one very important need is for people to understand God's great love. Would you be willing for me to show you a little diagram about God's love? [Draw above or on tract.]

Willing ___ Unwilling ___

Reactions: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 7

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objectives: **1. Discover The Media Your Neighbors Use** **2. Offer Good News To Them**

Purposes: A. Find out what media would be most effective in reaching your community.
B. Learn to tell people about God's love.

Assignment: Interview two people who live close to you (i.e. within about ½ kilometer). Respectfully listen to them and accurately record their answers. Also ask if you can share about John 3:16.

1. Name: _____ Location: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____am/pm

Sir/Maam: Could you please help us with this survey about what media people use? Thank you.

What specific radio stations do you listen to most?

What specific TV channels do you watch the most?

What Newspapers do you read the most?

What are your favorite websites on the internet?

Sir/Maam: Our class believes that the best news that people can get is to hear about God's great love. Are you be willing for me to show you a little diagram about God's love? [Draw above or on back of a tract.]

Willing ___ Unwilling ___

Reactions: _____

2. Name: _____ Location: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____am/pm

Sir/Maam: Could you please help us with this survey about what media people use? Thank you.

What specific radio stations do you listen to most?

What specific TV channels do you watch the most?

What Newspapers do you read the most?

What are your favorite websites on the internet?

Sir/Maam: Our class believes that the best news that people can get is to hear about God's great love. Are you be willing for me to show you a little diagram about God's love? [Draw above or on back of a tract.]

Willing ___ Unwilling ___

Reactions: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 8

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Objective: **Teach Someone How To Do The John 3:16 Diagram.**

Purposes:

1. To enable more people to share the goodnews easily.
2. To strengthen your own ability using the John 3:16 diagram by teaching it to others.

Specific assignment:

Meet with another Christian (preferably *not* a fellow ETCP student) and teach them how to make the John 3:16 diagram. First demonstrate it to them in the top box. Then have them draw it in the bottom box.

Give them a wallet tract with thanks at the end.

1. Name: _____ Age: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Demonstrate in this box.

The learner repeats drawing the diagram in this box.

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 9

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Assignment: **Ask Someone 60 Years Old Or More About Hell.**

Note: There are three purposes for this assignment. 1. To practice showing respect when talking to a stranger who is much older than yourself. 2. To talk about a topic that might be controversial. 3. To be able to express yourself tactfully about something you learned.

Interview two people who are strangers to you and who are at least 60 years old. Show the love that God expects of you by being tactful and attentive. After each interview ask if you can show them a drawing you learned about the Bible verse John 3:16. If they are willing, then show it to them. If they are not willing then thank them for helping you with your assignment. (Remember to give them a 1Cor. 15:3 tract before you leave.)

1. Name: _____ Age: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/ma'am, could you tell me what you believe about hell? Is it real or not real? Is it something you fear or just ignore? Please tell me your thoughts.

Sir/ma'am, may I show you a drawing about the verse John 3:16 from the Bible?

Willing ___ Not willing ___

Reactions: _____

2. Name: _____ Age: _____
Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/ma'am, could you tell me what you believe about hell? Is it real or not real? Is it something you fear or just ignore? Please tell me your thoughts.

Sir/ma'am, may I show you a drawing about the verse John 3:16 from the Bible?

Willing ___ Not willing ___

Reactions: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 10

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Assignment: **A Collection Of Interviews About How People Would Help Sinners.**

Purposes:

1. Understand the current beliefs of modern adults regarding their solution to the “sin problem”.
2. Practice loving respect while interacting with someone who is a complete stranger.

Activity:

Interview two people who are strangers to you, and who have not been interviewed by your classmates. Show the love that God expects from you toward people. Be careful in listening and accurately record their responses. Do NOT "put answers in their mouth" but just record what they say. Remember to give them a 1 Cor 15:3 tract.

Later, under “Comments” record any other significant things you talked about, eg. 1Cor 15:3.

1. Name: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/Maam: Suppose someone came up to you and said, “I am a sinner, can you help me?”

What would you say to that person?

Comments: _____

2. Name: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm

Sir/Maam: Suppose someone came up to you and said, “I am a sinner, can you help me?”

What would you say to that person?

Comments: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 11

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Assignment: **Ask Someone From A Different Religion About Existence After Death**

Purposes: 1. To interview someone from a major religion different than your own. [Atheism is acceptable, but not groups that are related to Christianity such as Mormon or Iglesia ni Cristo etc.]
2. To practice loving respect while interacting with someone who may disagree strongly with your own belief. 3. To both listen and speak about the topic of existence after death.

Activity: Interview two people from a religion different than your own using the question below. Show the love that God expects from you toward all the people He has created. Be tactful in listening but also be willing to state clearly your own belief.

1. Name: _____ **Religion:** _____
Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ am/pm

Topic: What happens to a person's soul or spirit when they die?
What is his/her belief?

What did you tell them about your own belief? _____

2. Name: _____ **Religion:** _____
Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ am/pm

Topic: What happens to a person's soul or spirit when they die?
What is his/her belief?

What did you tell them about your own belief? _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 12

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Topic To Research: **How Significant Is Jesus?**

Purpose:

1. To determine what percentage of people in the target group know about Jesus and if they do, to understand how significant he is to them.
2. Offer to share the goodnews about Jesus to anyone interested.

Activity:

1. Interview two people in the target area of _____, who are strangers to you.
2. Ask the questions written below plus follow-up questions to clarify their answers.
3. Record an accurate *summary* of their answers in the space provided.
4. Ask if you can show them a diagram illustrating John 3:16. If they are willing, then show it to them. If not then thank them for helping you with your assignment. (Give a 1Cor. 15:3 tract.)
5. (At the next class period) Tally responses and those of your classmates to get percentages.

1. Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ am/pm

a. Sir/ma'am, Have you heard about Jesus Christ whom Christians worship? Yes _____ No _____

b. If Yes: What if Jesus had never lived? Would that affect you? Please explain.

c. If either Yes or No: We in our class are Christians who love to tell other people about Jesus. May I describe to you the good news Christians have? Willing ___ Not willing ___

Reactions: _____

2. Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Location: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ am/pm

a. Sir/ma'am, Have you heard about Jesus Christ whom Christians worship? Yes _____ No _____

b. If Yes: What if Jesus had never lived? Would that affect you? Please explain.

c. If either Yes or No: We in our class are Christians who love to tell other people about Jesus. May I describe to you the good news Christians have? Willing ___ Not willing ___

Reactions: _____

Student Name: _____ Box # _____

Field Research Assignment # 13

ETCP, Banawa Cebu City, PT1101 Instructor: Mr. Bob Nelson

Assignment: **Look For Someone Who Needs The Good News About Forgiveness And New Life**

Purpose: To share the gospel with as many people as possible.

Instructions:

Find someone to tell the good news to.

Encourage the person to trust Jesus to save them and to follow him by studying and obeying his word.

Afterward, record what happened below.

(NOTE: FILL IN ALL Of THE BLANKS.)

GOODNEWSING OPPORTUNITY

When: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

Where: (Record the town and describe the location. eg. Tisa, Cebu City, on the street near my house.)

Who:

1. If you had companions at the time, who were they?

2. What is the name of the person you shared with?

What:

1. [Beginning] How did the conversation start? (You initiated it. How? / They initiated it / It just happened)

2. [Middle] How did you present the good news? Did you use a certain way of giving it? (Jn 3:16 diagram / Bad news & Good news / Romans 6:23 / Testimony / Wordless book / EE / A tract / etc.)

3. [End] What was the person's reaction to the good news? (Heard it before / Bored / Scared or nervous / Very interested / Angry / Sinner's prayer of humble trust / Just walked away / etc)

4. [Next] Did you arrange for the person to be able to join you for more teaching? (Invited to your church./ Invited to a personal Bible study. / Invited to just talk more about being saved. etc.) When and where?

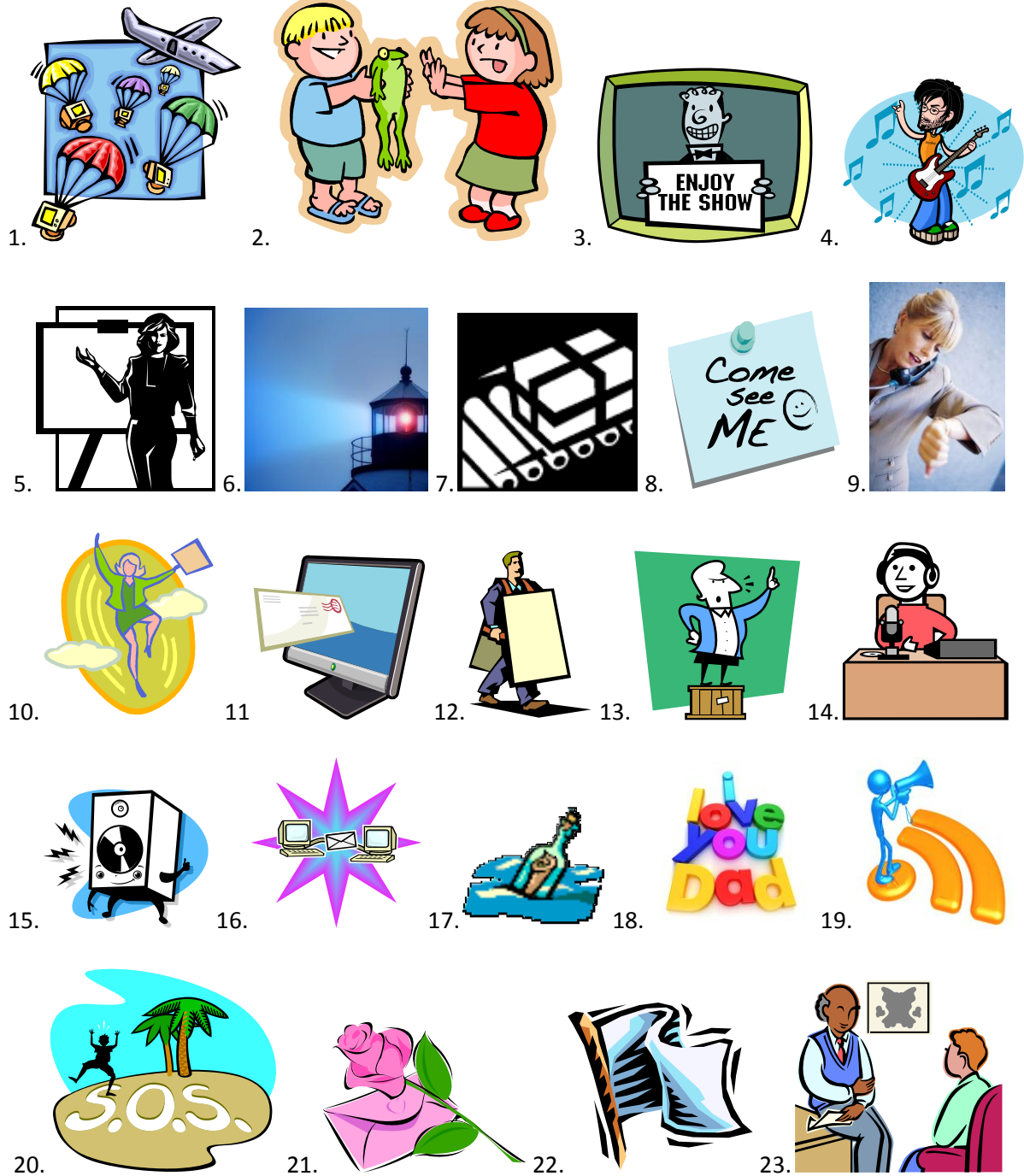
Learning from your experience:

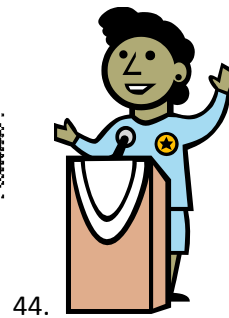
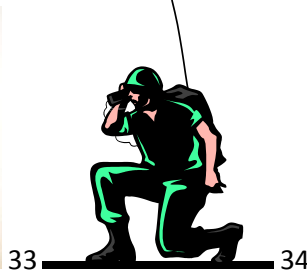
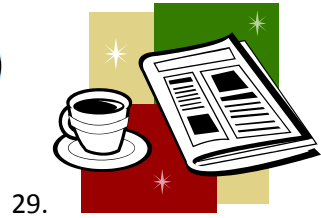
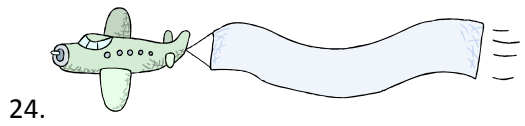
1. Was there something that worked especially well?

2. Is there anything that you would change or improve if you could?

Handout 9 - Communication Clipart

Downloaded from <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart> on Aug 9th, 2008.





Handout 10 - Using Your Abilities For The Good News

Name _____ Date _____

I. List as many of your abilities as you can think of.

Home	Transportation	Office	Factory	Cooking/Restaurant
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Farm	School	Crafts	Church	Sales/Marketing
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Finances	Radio/TV etc.	Business	Management	Other
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

II. What abilities relate **directly** to goodnewsing. This includes any of the evangelistic methods you have been taught such as the John 3:16 diagram. It also includes using any media (see list in box on page 48) for sharing the goodnews.

Eg. Sing a song about the good news. Sell Bibles during a fiesta. Etc.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

III. What abilities relate **indirectly** to goodnewsing activities. Goodnewsing is often a team effort like when an evangelist needs someone to run the sound system or make banners announcing the event. Many of your abilities could support people who are doing the direct evangelism.

Eg. Iron the singer’s shirt. Drive the motorcycle bringing the Bible-seller to the fiesta. Etc.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Handout 11 - Develop Christian Qualities

Basic Follow-up Lessons from 2 Peter 1:1-12

In this passage of scripture Peter lists some qualities that are important for the Christian to possess. I recommend that you meet several times using the following format.

1. Enjoy catching up on each others lives. Ask each other how things are going.
2. Ask God to help you understand and apply what you will study.
3. Read the whole passage 2 Peter 1:1-12 in your local language.
4. Answer the questions listed below for each session.
5. Close in prayer.

Questions for each session. (or you can do several in one session)

Session 1.

To whom was Peter writing according to verse 1?

Can you say that you also have that same faith? If so, he is writing to you.

What does Peter want you to have according to verse 2? We also want it for you.

Verses 3 and 4 are pretty complicated. Let us summarize them by saying that your faith as a Christian has the good foundation of his power and his promises. You have what you need to escape the world's corruption and live a life as God's child.

In verse 5 Peter recommends that we shouldn't stop with our faith but should add some qualities to our lives. What seven qualities does he list in verses 5 to 7?

Discussion: Christ called you to his glory and excellence (cf. verse 3); was that easy or hard last week? Name something you could do or change in order to be more like Christ this week.

Session 2.

Write down a list of the seven qualities a Christian should add to his faith according to verses 5 to 7. Number them 1 to 7 because we will mention them in the future by number.

According to verse 8 what will be the result of having these qualities?

What does a lack of these qualities in a Christian show according to verse 9?

Read verses 10 to 12. How important is it to Peter that Christians have these qualities? Not at all? A little bit? A LOT? Defend your answer based on the verses.

Sessions 3-10

In these sessions study one quality at a time. So in session 3 you would study quality 1, in the next session study quality 2 and so on. Questions:

a. Define the quality? If you have a Bible dictionary read the definition. If not describe how the word is used in your local language.

b. Do I possess this quality? Give some day to day evidence that you have this quality.

c. How can I increase this quality? Help each other think of ways we can improve?



Handout 12 - Brainstorming Of Activities For An Outreach Event.

Date _____ Students in Group _____

Target people: _____ Target location: _____

Theme if available: _____

Use the Life Matrix on the next page. It can help guide your thinking by reminding you of combinations of various aspects of life (left) and our basic senses (top).

Think of activities to fit in as many boxes as you can that could be used to show love to people. When someone thinks of something, they should write it down on a small piece of paper with the box number in the upper left for a reference. Do this for about 15 to 20 minutes. For example by going across the top row you might think of these activities: 1A - Give sister a pretty card. 1B - Call Grandpa on the phone. 1C - Give some perfume to my wife. 1D - Give mother a hug. 1E - Buy medicine for my neighbor. 1F - Pray for our leaders.

Don't worry about getting the right category since there is a lot of overlap. For example, suppose your target group is waitresses. One person might see the combination Personal and See and think about how waitress are women who would want to be beautiful. That person would get a piece of paper and write: 1A - Sponsor a seminar on beauty products. Another person in your group might see the combination Occupation and See and think waitresses probably want to look good to the customers at the restaurant and think of the same activity. He would perhaps write: 4A - Beauty seminar. Another person might see Occupation and See and write: 4A - Remind everyone to smile at the waitress the next time they are in a restaurant.

The important thing is to think of as many ideas as possible. Think of activities that are expensive and ones that are cheap or free. A seminar is expensive, but that act of love of smiling is free!

After everyone has had enough time to think of some things from several boxes you can collect the papers and sort them by row and column. Then take turns reading all the ones from each box. Sometimes this will stimulate another idea or two for that category so be sure and write those down and add them.

When you are done, go back and decide which of the ideas you think are most appropriate for your event. They need to be *feasible*, meaning you have the time and resources to do them. And they should be *effective*, meaning that they will be seen by the target people as genuine acts of love on your part and not attempts to manipulate them or take advantage of them. Separate out these best ideas for further planning.

LIFE MATRIX AID FOR BRAINSTORMING

		A	B	C	D	E	F
		See	Hear	Smell	Touch	Taste	Think
1	Personal Food, clothing, shelter, medical, emotional, personality, character, beauty, hygiene etc.	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F
2	Spiritual Faith, Bible input, prayer, confession, obedience, religious activities such as communion, baptism, weddings etc.	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F
3	Society Family, relatives, friends, neighbors, shopping, business contacts, government, military etc.	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F
4	Occupation Skills, motivation, relationships, advancement, profit/loss etc.	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
5	Education Teachers, classmates, knowledge, skills, supplies, resources, facilities, cost etc.	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
6	Financial Income, tithe, savings, expenses, self-discipline, budgeting, investment, credit etc.	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	6F
7	Communication Talking, writing, reading, non-verbal, phone, internet, media, visiting etc.	7A	7B	7C	7D	7E	7F
8	Entertainment/Sports Play sports, watch sports, concerts, movies, table games, hobbies, crafts, TV, net surfing, video games etc.	8A	8B	8C	8D	8E	8F
9	Surroundings Climate, geography, scenery, plants, animals, historical places, special sites, etc.	9A	9B	9C	9D	9E	9F
10	Other	10A	10B	10C	10D	10E	10F

Handout 13 - Additional Memory Verses.

Verses are from the New International Version of the Bible

Additional Verses. (NIV)

Matt 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Rev 21:6-8

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Isa 64:6-7

6 All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

7 No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and made us waste away because of our sins.

Rev 3:20-21

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rom 8:1-4

8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

Prov 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Matt 1:20-21

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Eph 1:3-8

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the one he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Luke 13:1-5

13:1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them-do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Rom 10:10-13

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

TEACHER'S SUPPLEMENT FOR USE IN COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT

Part 1 Overview Of Class

General Overview

The specific goals and objectives of the class are seen in the Syllabus. In general, we hope to motivate the students by helping them see success in their own ability to share the good news. They are first equipped to simply hand a gospel tract to someone with a smile and an encouraging comment. The field assignments start out with less difficult tasks and then gradually increase to more challenging ones.

We also want to increase the student's knowledge about the gospel message, about themselves and their own attitudes and personality, and also about how to be better communicators.

The Big Pieces

The accomplishment of class goals is done through the use of the following:

1. Academic Handouts For Students

These include the Syllabus and the assignment schedule so that both students and teacher will know what is expected each week.

2. Lesson Book

The Lesson Book provides the lecture information week by week, the skill activities (plus optional skills) and the assignments for the following week. The Lessons and necessary handouts are copied for each student before the class. (Do it two days before class so you don't worry about power outages at the last minute.) Skills are not limited to traditional evangelistic activities such as giving a tract. They also include the skills related to analysis of self or of recipients, skills of choosing appropriate media or of connecting a real life activity with a part of the John 3:16 diagram. That diagram forms the foundation for the structure of the book.

3. Overflow Assignments

A key part of the class is for the students to develop a habit (although a forced one) of reading two chapters in the book of Luke each week, discovering something in it that applies to them personally, and then sharing or "overflowing" that insight to someone else. Experience has shown that limiting it to 1/4 sheet of paper forces the student to get to the very basic thought. The first two or three assignments are given to the teacher for comments. They are given 100% just for turning something in, however the teacher should make comments to correct tendencies to "preach" rather than to open one's heart. This is important because this type of goodnewsing can be done over and over to the same friend or family member since the receiver soon recognizes if it is done in humility and love.

4. Field Assignments

The Field Assignments are done each week by the student. They accomplish at least three important things. First, they give the student a reason for interacting with other people. It is much easier to talk to strangers if you are needing their help in doing your school assignment. Secondly, it slowly builds self-confidence in the student. The first assignment requires talking to Christian friends. Later assignments may target specific people such as children or older people; or they may have a question that anyone can answer on a spiritual topic. By the end of the semester the student has even interviewed someone from a religion other than his own such as Buddhist or Islam. Thirdly, the assignments are graded very strictly for details like remembering to record the time of day but are graded very generously regarding the answers of the interviewee. This may be

shocking to the first year students but it helps them in their transition to the difficult world of academic standards expected at the college level.

5. The Good News Event.

This event is done in place of a final exam. It is different every year and is intended to expose the student to the concept of “designing” an event in which the gospel will be communicated to as many people as the students or the partnering church can afford. Although the burden of the coordination falls to the teacher, the students are informed of the general type of event, are expected to interact on developing it more and finally are required to think of ways of “wrapping” the event with the good news. Past events have included; a presentation to preschool mothers with a chance to share the John 3:16 diagram afterwards, a mock television studio in which the program was built upon a gospel outline, an art contest in which local artists had to submit cartoons portraying one or more verses with gospel content, and a set of contests for motorcycle drivers in which they not only had to demonstrate their skills but also discover gospel related Bible verses.

Most of the student assignments are done in one on one or two on one interview situations. Thus the Event exposes them to the complications and difficulties a church faces when it does things to reach many people with the gospel simultaneously.

6. The Midterm Testimony

The midterm is simply a situation in which the student must answer one or more questions about his or her faith in a setting such as a fast food restaurant where strangers might overhear. The small groups of 5 or 6 students take turns going to the restaurant where the teacher is waiting. As they sip soft drinks the teacher will ask each one “Why did you become a Christian?” and one of the other questions from Lesson 6 as time allows. It is a true but gentle interrogation in that clarification questions are also asked. Perhaps the student says “I became a Christian because my mother prayed with me.” The teacher can ask, “But why did she pray with you? Why were you willing at that exact time in your life?” etc. If the student says, “I was afraid of hell.” The teacher can clarify, “Why were you afraid? Had someone told you to be afraid? Had you just done something really bad?” etc.

7. The Written or Formal Testimony.

This is an assignment that I don’t consider as important as the midterm interaction. Many of the first year students are still in the process of deciding which are their parent’s beliefs and which are their own. And it is also hard to grade since they have such a hard time communicating in English. Never the less, I think that the process of writing something down can be a good discipline, as long as they do it themselves rather than copy nice Christian words that others have written and that they hope the teacher will approve.

8. One Week Of Evangelism

This is an activity that I have only had time to do two years. It was an assignment given to the class as a whole to see how many witnessing interviews could be made in one week. The students used a standard form to fill out and went in groups of two or three. Since it is near finals week it puts a pressure on the students and some don’t turn in even one report. Others turn in more than the required one and receive bonus credit toward their grade as a result. The assignment is most beneficial if the teacher collates the returned forms and writes up a nice report to put on the college bulletin board to encourage other students.

Class Time Use

The class schedule we have used is one three-hour period each week for the duration of the semester which varies from 15 to 18 weeks. Allow teacher assistant(s) to get experience doing the various parts as the semester progresses.

The suggested use of class time is as follows:

Part 1 Lecture and interactions.

1. Receive homework assignments by opening bell.
2. Roll call.
3. Welcome and reports of any new conversions.
4. Intercessory prayer:
 - For seekers, new converts, our class today, and for the Good News Event.
 - Assign a different student to pray each week after modeling it for three weeks.
5. Quiz (Grade each others quiz as a review.)
6. Announcements and return papers.
7. (Optional: Gospel singing and read memory verses)
8. Follow the Lesson Book.
 - Students can take turns reading paragraphs.
 - Do discussion and application assignments as time allows.

Part 2. Enhanced Skill Development

1. Divide into small groups as needed. (Finalize small group memberships by third week.)
2. Review John 3:16 Diagram by a group demonstration. (In weeks after it has been taught.)
3. Practice existing skill assignments from Lesson Book.
4. Demonstrate/Practice/Perform additional skill assignments as time allows.
5. Question/Answer times. (Special topics are given during the latter part of the semester.)

Part 3 Good News Event Preparations

1. Monitor progress of event preparations and make decisions or activities as needed.

Assignments

1. Reminder about the assignments for next week in the Assignment Schedule Sheet.
2. Give any additional assignments or modifications.

Part 2 Handouts For College Students

Syllabus for PT 1101 Evangelism

Evangelical Theological College of the Philippines

SY 2010-2011

Instructor: Mr. Robert (Bob) Nelson (ETCP Box 31)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This subject introduces the student to several resources and methods of evangelism through lectures, homework assignments and field assignments. Also included are discussions of the Biblical views of sin, salvation and discipleship. The Student will memorize key Scripture texts, write a personal testimony and learn to use a selected tool in witnessing. The student will observe, practice and use various methods of giving the good news to others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Develop the Motivation of the Student

1. The student will examine his or her own current motivations and obstacles regarding evangelism.
2. The student will see the importance of love, holiness and trustworthiness when evangelizing.
3. The student will participate actively in a small group where relationships can help the student's motivation and "overflow" regarding evangelism. In the small group the love of Christ should be demonstrated, personal sharing and honest discussion are encouraged, doubts can be expressed without fear of judgment, prayer support is given and received, and the skills learned in class are practiced. Each small group will learn to act as a team in sharing the good news.
4. If time allows in the semester, the student will be encouraged by studying the evangelism done by others in the history of the church.

Develop the Knowledge and Skills of the Student

5. The student will examine and improve his or her own current understanding of the good news.
6. The student will study appropriate Bible texts and memorize verses in order to:
 - a. See that evangelism is part of the broader work of making disciples for Jesus.
 - b. Understand the gravity of sin and beauty of salvation.
 - c. Know verses that will help explain the good news during witnessing situations.
7. The student will learn the importance of studying people in order to improve the "packaging" of the good news according to the situation of the hearers.
8. The student will learn how and where to access resources for evangelism.
9. The student will give good news in the form of literature to many people, including strangers.
10. The student will prepare and give his personal testimony in the small group and in a public place where strangers might overhear.
11. The student will ask questions of others that, if answered honestly, will provide an understanding of their beliefs about spiritual things. The student will learn to listen with love and use what he or she hears to improve the clarity of the good news presentation.
12. The student will learn several evangelistic methods and teach someone else to use at least one of them.
13. The student will submit reports of his or her experiences in talking about spiritual topics and sharing the good news.

14. The student will study how different types of audiences affect which methods are used in giving the good news.

15. The student will learn the importance of informing converts about where they could get further help.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS FOR GRADING

- 25% Participation (in class, small group, or outings)
- 20% Quizzes (on lecture notes, memory verses, etc.)
- 10% One research project and one written personal testimony
- 20% Reports from weekly Field Assignments and Overflows
- 10% Midterm (Answer testimony questions in a public setting where strangers could overhear.)
- 15% Final (Class project to do an evangelistic "event".)
- 100%

TEXTBOOKS

1. Bible (Memorization will be done in the New International Version to facilitate ease of grading quizzes.)
2. Class Notes and reading handouts.
3. Know What You Believe by Paul E. Little, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1970.
4. Recommended: Know Why You Believe by Paul E. Little, Victor Books, Wheaton IL, 1967.
5. Recommended: The Reason For God by Timothy Keller, Riverhead Books, New York, 2008

NOTES:

Homework submitted after the beginning of class will be marked "late" and be penalized 10% on the grade.

Please do not disrupt the class by leaving during class time. If you have medical reasons why this is required talk to the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Class and Assignment Schedule for SY 2010-11

Assignments related to each session are due the following week.

Date	Session	Lecture Topic /Skill practice	Field Research # Reading in Little's book (see explanation of pages below)	Overflow chapters	Mem. Verse	Outreach Event Deadlines
Jun 8	1	Anyone Can. /use videos				Type is chosen
Jun 15	2	You can /1Cor 15:3 tract	FR1(Christian/Why?) Little pp 64-67	Lk 1,2	1 Cor 15:3-5;	Explain to class
Jun 22	3	The healthy can /Health analysis	FR2(Neighbor/Issues?) Little pp 67-76	Lk 3,4	Gal 5:22-23	Activity brainstorm
Jun 29	4	Overflowing the Good News / Jn 3:16 diagram	FR3(Evangelist/How?) Little pp 77-87	Lk 5,6	Jn 3:16	Activities finalized
Jul 6	5	God's Goal -works /Eph 2:1-10 diagram	FR4(Youth/Sin?) Little pp 87-92	Lk 7,8	Eph 2:8-10	Good news brainstorm
Jul 13	6	Your testimony equals Truth / 4? Testimony	FR5(Neighbors/Prayer requests?) Little pp 92-94	Lk 9,10	Mat 16:26	Group assignment made
Jul 20	7	Improve: senders and receivers /Packaging	FR6(Neighbors/What needs?) Little pp95-98	Lk 11,12	1 Pet 5:7; Col 4:3-4	Action plans made
Jul 27	8	Improve: message and media	FR7 (Community/What media?) Little pp 154-157	Lk 13,14	Rm 10:8-9 Rm 10:17	Progress report
Aug 3		Midterm				
Aug 10	9	Reaching more hearers/Reproduction re Jn3:16diag	FR8(Anyone/Teach to make Jn3:16 diagram) Little pp 157-161	Lk 15,16	Mt28:19-20	Progress report
Aug 17	10	God is both Great & Good/Probing	FR9(Older people/Hell?) Little pp 161-165	Lk 17,18	Mk 1:15; Gen 1:1; Heb 11:6	Progress report
Aug 24	11	Man is sinful yet loved by God /Origins?	FR10(Cebuanos/Help sinners?) Little pp 166-170	Lk 19,20	Gen 1:27; Rm 5:8	Progress report
Aug 31	12	Sin, Judgment, Hell/Rm 6:23 diag	FR11(Non-Christians/After death?) Little pp 170-171	Lk 21,22	Rm 3:23; 6:23	Progress report
Sep 7	13	Jesus the Christ /Find answers in dictionaries.	FR12(Anyone/What if no Christ?)	Lk 23,24	Jn 14:6; Mat 16:15-16	Practice follow-up tracts
Sep 14	14	Meaning of Believe / Get needs talks	FR13(Anyone/Forgiveness?)		Jn 1:11-13; Josh 24:15	Practice
Sep 21	15	Results of Trust /Fruit samples	FR13(Anyone/Forgiveness?) [optional for extra credit]		1Jn 1:9; Is 1:18; 1 Jn 5:12	Final practice
Sep 28	16	What's Next? / Make tracts				Prayer time
		Outreach Event				Do event
Oct 5		Scheduled final				Evaluate & Celebrate

Reading Assignment Topics

In Know What You Believe, by Paul Little

Chapter 4 Christ's Death pp 62-79

Chapter 5 Man and Sin pp 80-98

Chapter 9 Salvation pp 154-171

Page numbers vary slightly between editions so go by the section titles given below. Page numbers in parenthesis () are for the volume which contains both Why You Believe and What You Believe bound together.

Session 2

1. Read pp 64-65 (175-176) Old Testament Background

2. Read pp 66-67 (175-177) Atonement For Sin

Session 3

1. Read pp 67-71(177-179) Our Substitute (plus erroneous views)

2. Read pp 71-76 (179-182) Objections to substitution

Session 4

1. Read pp 77-78 (182-183) Basis for Assurance

2. Read pp 78-87 (183- 187) Demonstrates God's Love

Session 5

1. Read pp 87-89 (188-189) Personal Responsibility

2. Read pp 89-92 (189-190) Total Depravity

Session 6

1. Read pp 92-93 (191) Adam Our Representative

2. Read pp 93-94 (191-192) Why We Are Responsible

Session 7

1. Read pp 95-96 (192-193) Sin Is Against God.

2. Read pp 96-98 (193-194) The Good News

Session 8

1. Read pp 154-155 (227) Intro to chapter on Salvation.

2. Read pp 155-157 (227-228) Repentance

Session 9

1. Read pp 157-159 (228-230) Faith.

2. Read pp 159-161 (230-131) Regeneration

Session 10

1. Read pp 161-162 (231) Election.

2. Read pp 162-165 (231-233) Predestination and Foreknowledge.

Session 11

1. Read pp 166-167 (234-235) Justification

2. Read pp 167-170 (235-236) Sanctification

Session 12

1. Read pp 170-171 (236-237) Glorification

Other Assignments

Class Final - An Evangelistic Event

See page 6 immediately after the Introduction in the Lesson book for the *Good News Event Progress Checklist*.

Class Midterm

The midterm exam will be to answer one or more testimony questions in a public setting. Each student will be interviewed regarding his or her faith in a location such as a fastfood restaurant where strangers can possibly overhear what is said.

The class room will be proctored and have "Library policies" while the teacher is at the restaurant interviewing students.

Students will travel to the location in groups of four or five. Write a list of Group members on the board indicating the group leader and the departure time for each group.

Group leaders make sure students have money for fares and snacks at the restaurant.

First group departs with the teacher. Next groups follow on schedule, arrive and order first then bring their snacks to the table so we know they are there.

AT THE RESTAURANT:

Set up at a table for six and get snacks for first group.

Interview the first group.

1. Ask them one by one if they are Christians.
2. Give priority to Why? and Results? Ask the other questions as time allows.
3. Pray for them by name before dismissing the group.

Repeat the procedure for each group.

Return to ETCP campus with the last group.

Research Project Grading Basis

Name _____ Box _____
Grade _____%

	Poor	Excellent
___/10 Include Your name and box #.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/10 Use clean easy to read format.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/ 5 Use paragraphs to separate parts of the essay.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/15 Clarity of thought. Ease for others to understand.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/15 Paragraph describing why the topic was chosen.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/30 Summary of the meaning , given in your own words.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/15 Reference of the source used to get the meaning.	-----+-----	-----+-----
___/100%		

Written Testimony

See the Lesson 6 skill development section.

One Week Of Evangelism (Optional if time allows)

Why?

Provide a special short term focus for evangelism in the school or church.

What?

Each student or member is assigned to talk to at least one person about the good news during a one week period and then report the results at the end.

How?

1. First day: Two copies of Field Research #12 are given to everyone and explained in class. Emphasize the importance of filling out every blank even with a 0 or a "doesn't apply."
2. During the week everyone tries to share the gospel with at least one person. If students go out as a pair or trio they are each expected to share the gospel to separate people and write their own separate report of what happened. They do not write a report about what happened when their companions shared the good news, only about what happened when they themselves did it.
3. Reports are turned in on the eighth day (usually the next class session.)
4. Results are collected and analyzed. A report is written and posted on the bulletin board describing what happened so as to be an encouragement to everyone at the school. It should list the number of participants, the number of people who were contacted, any decisions to follow Jesus and a summary of who did what and where on each day of the week of evangelism.

Part 3 Resources For The Teacher

Additional Lesson Preliminaries and Preparations

Session 1

Announcements:

Next week when all the students have arrived we will take time to get to know each other better and go through the syllabus. Today I would like you to learn how to share something about the gospel using video resources.

Preps:

Print Lesson 1. Prepare the videos and equipments needed for the skill section.

Session 2

Announcements:

Go through the syllabus and schedule.

Remind them that it is important for them to *do the interview* in the Field Research assignments rather than just give the paper to people to write the answers. This is so they will develop the social interaction skill needed as the assignments get more difficult. We want more than just the survey information, we also want the student to develop self-confidence talking to people.

Preps:

Prepare an overflow example from one of your recent Bible readings.

Optional Singing:

Song - "I'm So Happy"

Session 3

Optional Singing:

Session 4

Optional: Make a list of topics from Field Research #2 surveys.

Optional Singing:

Sing - #3 The Fruit Of the Spirit (this song is about the results of evangelism)

Session 5

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Optional Singing:

Sing: #3 The Fruit of the Spirit; #8 Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus.

Session 6

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Optional Singing:

Sing: #2 At Calvary; #5 I Know A Fount

Session 7

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Optional Singing:

Song - #11 No Greater Love, #2 At Calvary

Session 8

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Optional Singing:

Song - #12 What Do You Know, #9 Love Lifted Me

Session 9

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Optional Singing:

Song: #10 If Any Man Come After Me, #12 What Do You Know?

Session 10

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students before lecture.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about God.

- A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.
- B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **God**. These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.
- C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.
- D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Optional Singing:

Songs: #11 No Greater Love; #13 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Session 11

Response:

Discuss questions listed by students from last week.

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students before lecture.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about the topic: Mankind.

A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.

B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **Mankind**. These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.

C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.

D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Optional Singing:

Songs: #12 What Do You Know? #2 At Calvary

Session 12

Response:

Discuss questions listed by students from last week.

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students before lecture.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about Sin, Judgment or Hell.

A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.

B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **Sin, Judgment or Hell**. These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.

C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.

D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Demonstrate Summarizing Results: Use Field Research #10, Cebuano Responses.

1. Collate the results on the chalkboard. Use the same method you would use to tally votes in an election.

2. Record results in a report. Include: Title, Date, Location, Number of students, Number of respondents, and Summary of the answers. Post a copy on the school bulletin board.

Optional Singing:

Songs: #5 I Know A Fount; #9 Love Lifted Me.

Session 13

Response:

Discuss questions listed by students from last week.

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about Jesus.

A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.

B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **Jesus**. These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.

C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.

D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Optional Singing:

Songs: #6 Praise the Name of Jesus, #4 I Have Decided

Session 14

Response:

Discuss questions listed by students from last week.

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students before lecture.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about believing in Jesus.

A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.

B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **Believing In Jesus**. These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.

C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.

D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Optional Singing:

Song: #8 Nothing But The Blood of Jesus, #4 I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Session 15

Response:

Discuss questions listed by students from last week.

Review John 3:16 diagram. Demonstrated by group ____.

Get Questions from students.

Small Group Work: Get any current questions that students have about eternal life or heaven.

A. In your groups, appoint a secretary.

B. Record all the questions that you have about the topic **Eternal Life or Heaven**.

These may be your own questions or a question that someone you talked to has asked. There are no dumb questions unless the asker is purposefully being silly.

C. Take a vote in your group and choose the two questions that were the most important or most significant. Put a star by those questions to identify them.

D. Report to the class your two most significant questions and then turn in the entire list to your instructor.

Optional Singing:

Song: #12 What Do You Know?

Session 16

Answer any questions from small group work last week.

Optional Singing:

Song: #3 Fruit of the Spirit. (or favorites)

List Of Preparations For Final Event

The following list is a general guide modified each year depending on the event chosen.

Session 1

Before the first class the teacher and host church pastor/leaders should have chosen the target group and decided what type of love-your-neighbor outreach the event will be. The schedule should be set as well as an estimated budget the church can afford.

Session 2

Introduce to the students the idea of having an evangelistic event in place of a final exam.

Discuss the latest plans from the church. Describe the activities they have chosen. If there is a schedule then discuss it so we can imagine the situation we will face better. [Note: Don't second-guess the church! Our job is to encourage and help them show love by giving the good news.]

Session 3

The class should do brainstorming (by group?) on ways to modify the base event based on the abilities they can offer. A summary of their brainstorming should be given to the host church.

Eg. In 2008 the church chose to host a competition for motorcycle drivers during its anniversary celebration. Then the students brainstormed and came up with about six specific games and submitted the ideas to the church for approval. The church approved five of them.

Session 4

Report regarding the activities that were approved by the church.

Session 5

Use Handout 10 - Using Your Abilities For The Good News as an aid to help the students evaluate the resources they themselves. Another possible activity is to have groups work together to evaluate how each others' testimonies are related to the John 3:16 diagram. For example; which two words in the verse remind you of why you became a Christian? This would reveal any testimonies that could be used in a presentation outline based on the J316 diagram.

Brainstorm many ways to "wrap" the activities with the good news. Make a matrix of the activities and the five senses to stimulate ideas. How can the gospel enhance the activity without distracting from it? And also, how can the activity direct someone's attention to the goodnews?

Next make a list of the best ideas, the ones we think are most achievable by our class. Submit these ideas to the church for approval. Remember that the reputation of the church is affected by whatever we do.

Session 6

Report which good news methods are approved by the church.

Discuss possible ways of dividing the work evenly so everyone has a responsibility.

Make and explain group assignments and make sure the group leaders understand. If possible, build the assignments around the testimonies of one or more group members.

Session 7

Each group should prepare an action plan showing how they can accomplish their assignment. Include intermediate deadlines to keep the progress going during the semester.

Session 8

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Session 9

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Session 10

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Discuss assignment options (3-4hours of work) for those students who can't attend the event.

e.g.

1. Make posters or a banner in Cebuano.
2. Enlist the prayer support of 5-10 people and give them specific prayer requests weekly.
3. Edit and deliver a press release to newspapers.
(Receive pictures, videos and reports from attending students.)
4. Set up and test the activities etc.

Session 11

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Session 12

Discuss current situation, plans and assignments.

Session 13

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Each student will be encouraged to try to share the good news with someone during break times or after the ceremony. Therefore give two John 3:16 Cebuano follow-up tracts per student with church information on it.

Decide what time students should arrive and arrangements for transportation.

Session 14

Progress report including developments at the host church.

Practice together.

Session 15

Include time in small groups for prayer for the event. Pray that:

People will recognize their need to be saved.

People will understand that God loves them.

People will trust in Jesus to save them.

People will repent and follow Jesus as king of their lives.

Evangelism students will not be nervous but have boldness as Christians.

Session 16

Evaluation of the event. (Readiness? Activities/games? Witness? Other?)

1. What results did we get?
2. What would you do the same?
3. What would you do differently?

Evangelism Class Song Sheet

1. I'M SO HAPPY C/C

C
I'm so happy and here's the reason why -
G7 C-G
Jesus took my burden all away;
C
Now I'm singing as the days go by -
G7 C
Jesus took my burden all away.
G7 C
Once my heart was heavy with a load of sin,
D7 G
Jesus took the load and gave me peace
G7
within,
C
Now I'm singing as the days go by -
G7 C
Jesus took my burden all away.

2. AT CALVARY A/E

A D A
Years I spent in vanity and pride,
E7 A D A-E7
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
A D A
Knowing not it was for me He died
D E7 A-A7
On Calvary.

CHORUS:

D A
Mercy there was great and grace was free;
E7 A -A7
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
D A
There my burdened soul found liberty,
D E7 A
At Calvary.

A D A
By God's Word at last my sin I learned;
E7 A D A-E7
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
A D A
Till my guilty soul imploring turned
D E7 A-A7
To Calvary.

A D A
Now I've giv'n to Jesus everything,
E7 A D A-E7
Now I gladly own Him as my King;
A D A
Now my raptured soul can only sing
D E7 A-A7
To Calvary.

A D A
Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
E7 A D A-E7
Oh, the grace that bro't it down to man!
A D A
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
D E7 A-A7
To Calvary.

3. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT D/A

D
The fruit of the Spirit
G
Is love, joy, peace,
A D
Patience, kindness, (clap), goodness.

The fruit of the Spirit
G
Is faithfulness,
A D
Gentleness, and self-control.

4. I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS C/C

C - C7
I have decided to follow Jesus
F C
I have decided to follow Jesus
C
I have decided to follow Jesus
G C
No turning back, no turning back.

The cross before me, the world behind me x3
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow x3
No turning back, no turning back.

5. *I Know A Fount* C/C

C G7 C G7 C
I know a fount where sins are washed away,

Am D7 G D7 G G7
I know a place where night is turned to day;

C Am G7 C F C G7
Burdens are lifted, blind eyes made to see;

Am F C F C Em
There's a wonderworking pow'r

F C G7 C
in the blood of Calvary.

6. *Praise The Name Of Jesus* C/C

C Em F C
Praise the name of Jesus,

C Em F C
Praise the name of Jesus.

F C
He's my Rock,

F C
He's my Fortress,

F C
He's my Deliverer,

D7 G7
In Him will I trust.

C Em F Em Dm C
Praise the name of Je-----sus.

(You're my..., In You...)

7. *Amazing Grace*

G C G
A-mazing grace, how sweet the sound
D-D7

that saved a wretch like me;

G C G
I once was lost but now am found,
Em D7 C-G
was blind but now I see.

G C G
Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
D-D7
and grace my fears relieved;

G C G
How precious did that grace appear
Em D7 C-G
the hour I first believed.

G C G
Through many dangers, toils and snares,
D-D7

I have already come,

G C G
Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
Em D7 G [E7]
and grace will lead me home.

A D A
When we've been there ten thousand years,
E-E7

bright shining as the sun,

A D A
We've no less days to sing God's praise
F#m E7 D-A
than when we'd first begun.

8. *Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus*

F C F
What can wash away my sin?

F C7 F
Nothing but the blood of Je-sus.

F C F
What can make me whole again?

F C7 F
Nothing but the blood of Je-sus.

Chorus

F C F
Oh, precious is the flow,
C7 F C F
That makes me white as snow.

F C F
No other fount I know,
F C7 F
Nothing but the blood of Je-sus.

For my pardon this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

9. Love Lifted Me

A
 I was sinking deep in sin, far from the
 E7
 peaceful shore,
 E7
 Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise
 A
 no more;
 A
 But the Master of the sea heard my
 D
 despairing cry,
 D A D A
 From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Chorus
 A E7 A D - Bm
 Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
 D A B7 E E7
 When nothing else could help, love lifted me!
 A E7 A D - Bm
 Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
 D A E7 A
 When nothing else could help, love lifted me!

10. If Any Man Come After Me
 Mt. 16:24

F
 If any man come after me
 Gm7 C7 F
 Let him deny him - self,
 Gm
 Pick up his cross, and follow me
 C7
 Into life eternally.
 F Dm7
 Deny yourself, pick up your cross, and
 F A7 D D7
 Fol-low Je-sus
 G7 C7 F
 He is the way, truth and life.

2nd Part:

F
 Al - le - lu - ia, praise the Lord,
 Gm7 C7 F
 Worship him in one accord.
 Gm
 Al - le - lu - ia, he is king,
 C7
 Master, Lord of ev'ry thing.
 F Dm7
 Jesus Christ, Lord of all,
 F A7 D D7
 Loving great and small,
 G7 C7 F
 He is the way, truth and life.

11. No Greater Love

C C/B Am
 You loved me, when I was so unlovely.
 C Bb-G7
 You sought me, when I was lost.
 C
 You showed me
 C/B Am
 How much you really loved me,
 F G C C7
 When you bought me at the highest cost.

Chorus
 F G C
 There's no greater love than this.
 F G Am
 There's no greater love than this.
 C F G G7
 That a man would give His life for a friend.
 F G C
 There's no higher sacrifice
 F G Am7
 That a man would give His life.
 F G7 C
 You have paid the precious price for me.

C C/B Am
 You chose me when I was so unworthy.
 C Bb-G7
 You cleansed me with your own blood.
 C
 You clothed me
 C/B Am
 with righteousness and mercy.
 F G C C7
 And you crowned me with your steadfast love.

12. What Do You Know? [D]

C
 What do you know?
 F G C Am F G
 I know I'm on my way to heaven.
 C
 And how do you know?
 F G C G7 C
 I know my sins are all forgiven.
 F
 Are you sure of it?
 C F G
 Yes! I'm confident, persuaded I am saved.
 C
 O, why do you know?
 F G C F C
 I know for Christ is mine, Christ is mine.

13. A Mighty Fortress [?]

**A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,
from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.**