

1 Why Evangelize?

Picture a large field of ripe grain, with heavy storm clouds in the distance. Only a few workers are gathering the grain. What will happen? Much of the harvest will be lost!

“He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you’” (Luke 10:2–3).

Jesus is calling His followers today to go into the fields of people to gather in a spiritual harvest of souls. He wants us to evangelize!

In this first lesson you will discover reasons why evangelizing, like harvesting, is so important. You will discover why it is necessary and why *you* should have a part in this work of the Lord.

lesson outline

The Challenge Is Great

The Lost Need Christ


He Has Chosen You to Tell Them

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Provide evidence showing the need for evangelism.
2. Give reasons from Scripture why you should tell the good news about Christ to others.
3. Discuss evidence from Scripture that the Lord has chosen you to share the good news.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson outline and lesson objectives. These will help you identify things you should try to learn as you study the lesson.
2. Find the definitions of any key words you do not understand in the glossary at the end of this study guide. Read each Scripture to which the lesson refers.
3. Read the lesson and complete all the questions and exercises in the lesson development. Write answers to questions in this study guide where space is provided. Write long answers in a separate notebook when you are asked to do so. Check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson.
4. Memorize the verses given in each section called *Fingertip Text* marked with this symbol:  .

These important verses concerning salvation have been especially chosen for you to learn so that you will be able to quote or refer to them when you are talking to someone

about Jesus. You will need some small blank cards on which to write them. Directions for making and using the cards are given in the lesson.

5. Complete the self-test at the end of this lesson and check your answers carefully with those given at the end of this study guide. Review any items you answered incorrectly.

key words

Understanding the key words listed at the beginning of each lesson will help you as you study. You will find them defined in alphabetical order in the glossary that is in the back of your study guide. If you are in doubt about the meaning of any of the words on the list, you may look them up now or when you come across them in your reading.

ascend

deaconess

commission

sovereign

lesson development

THE CHALLENGE IS GREAT

Objective 1. *Provide evidence showing the need for evangelism.*

You have already read Christ's description of the harvest. It is "ripe" and "large." You learned that this is a picture of people in Christ's day and also in ours. Now let us consider this picture a little more closely.

The World's Population Is Increasing

Perhaps you have been on a crowded bus or train. Do you remember what it was like? All the seats were taken. You may have had to stand with many others, and even the people standing were squeezed in as tightly as possible! Many countries are becoming more and more crowded. Though new buildings are going up every day, there aren't enough homes for everyone.

The more people there are, the faster the population increases. In 1930, our world had a population of 2 billion people. By 1980, the population had climbed to over 4 billion. By 2000, it had reached 6 billion. That means a gain of 2 billion people in 50 years! In the year 2011, the population surpassed 7 billion people.

What does this mean to you as a believer in Christ? You will realize right away that most people around you are not saved. You will realize, too, that there are more people living today who are not saved than in any previous generation. This means that *every believer* is needed to tell others about the Savior.

A preacher in Asia once told Christ's story about the shepherd with a hundred sheep. One became lost. Leaving the ninety-nine in a safe place, the faithful shepherd went out in search of the one that was lost. He found it at last and rescued it. How glad he was! He called his friends and neighbors to be happy with him.

“However,” said the preacher, “in our country the numbers are the other way around. Only *one* sheep is in the fold and the *ninety-nine* are lost. Only a few people are saved. All the others need to be found and brought to the Savior.”

Application

1 Suppose you were telling the story about the one hundred sheep. The sheep who are in a safe place represent the believers in Jesus in your country. How many lost sheep would the shepherd be searching for if the story took place in your country?

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People Are Lost

Have you ever been lost? If you have, you remember how helpless and alone you felt. You didn’t know which way to go. You needed another person to help you find your way again.

Jesus used the word *lost* to describe the *spiritual condition* of unsaved people. This condition has nothing to do with their status. They may be well-educated, law-abiding citizens and yet be lost spiritually. Whether rich or poor, without Christ in their lives they are lost. What makes this lost condition even more pitiful is that many are lost and are not aware of it! They are lost and do not know it.

A man was traveling on a train. He had his ticket and a comfortable seat. He was enjoying the bright scenery when the conductor came by. To his dismay, the man found out that he was riding in the wrong direction! Many people are like this traveler. They are headed in the wrong direction but do not know it. They may be very sincere, doing what they think is right, but this is not enough. They need to be directed to the only way of salvation. Have you tried to imagine how Jesus feels about the lost?


A mother was very busy when her two little daughters asked to go and watch a parade that was passing by one evening just two blocks from their home. She consented on the condition that they stay on the corner of their own street. Soon afterward, she had second thoughts. In the excitement, they might be pushed by the crowds, and as darkness settled, they may not recognize where they were. She needed to go to them quickly before the crowd scattered. Dropping everything, she hurried down to the corner. To her dismay, they were not there. She began pushing her way up and down the lines of people, searching and calling, but could not find them. Full of concern, she forced her way through to the front of the lines, becoming a part of the parade and thinking, *If I can't see them, at least they will see me.*

After the parade was over, the people began to scatter. In desperation, the mother climbed up on a platform where her girls would surely be able to see her. Still, there was no sign of them! Not knowing what to do, she ran back to the house, which she had left wide open. What a joy to find her children safe at home! A friend had shown them the way.

Later, the mother thought: *Here I am, a timid, shy person who does not like to be seen. But when I thought my children were lost, I forgot about myself, my work, and my house. My one concern was to find them. Should I not care as much for souls that are eternally lost? Jesus must feel more for them than I do for my daughters. He died to save them, but He needs me to show them the way. I must not be too busy or too self-conscious to go out and seek them.*

Application

2 In your notebook, name two things the mother in the story did to find her children.



People Have Needs

I cannot think of a single person who is without some kind of need. Can you? Needs exist even in wealthy families. A rich man may have everything money can buy. He may have plenty of food, clothes, houses, lands, and vehicles, yet he may be very sad because his only son is ill.

People's needs vary. In the example, the needs were physical and emotional. The sick son needed healing, and his father wanted comfort. For many people, material needs are uppermost. Countless thousands lack the basic requirements of food, clothing, and shelter. Help must be extended to them!

Others are overwhelmed by psychological and mental problems; they lack joy and peace. Others crave love while still others need courage and their spirit uplifted, and millions are looking for ways to further their education or to be accepted socially.

But the greatest single need of people is *spiritual*. Someone must be aware of that need and be willing to do something about it.

Application

- 3** Answer the following questions in your notebook.
- a** Name five different kinds of needs people have.
 - b** Which is the greatest need people have?
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A deaconess of a large church in Korea went to the market. There, she overheard one woman telling another about her problems at home. The deaconess quietly followed her to her house, allowed time for her to get settled, and then knocked at her door. Politely introducing herself, she explained that she had overheard the woman talking about her difficulties.

She then mentioned that friends gathered in her home to pray for people in need. Would this woman be willing to let the group pray for her? She said "Yes," and the first visit ended.

A few days after the group had prayed for this need, the deaconess went again to the woman's home. This time the woman met her with a smile. God was already answering prayer. She and her husband, a professor, had been having marital problems and had considered a divorce. Now, things were beginning to change. The deaconess shared the woman's joy and then invited her to the home gathering. Before long, the woman was joyously converted and in turn won her husband to Christ.

The deaconess was alert to people's needs. Today, the professor and his wife are members of a church, and they are leading a home gathering where people are being won to Christ.

Application

4 You have learned three facts which show that the need to evangelize is great. In your notebook, list each of these and give evidence from the lesson or from your own experience to support them.

THE LOST NEED CHRIST

Objective 2. *Give reasons from Scripture why you should tell the good news about Christ to others.*

Christ Is the Only Means of Salvation

The Bible states clearly that faith in Christ is the only means of salvation. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

A man who accidentally fell into a deep pit called out for help. The first passerby stopped, but only to tell him that he would have avoided the accident had he been more careful. The second person to come by blamed him for wrongdoing. Then, a third person stopped and said kindly, "I'm so sorry you are in the pit."

The man in the pit did not need wise counsel. Neither did he need disapproval or even sympathy. He needed to be rescued! A fourth man finally came and, seeing his plight, hurried to get a rope and pulled him out. He became the man's savior.

Christ came to save people out of the pit of sin and to show them the way of life. Lost men, fallen men, need this kind of a rescuer. Jesus was sent into the world, not to be its judge, "but to save the world" (John 3:17).

Application


5 Find the following verses. Which one supports the idea that Christ is the only means of salvation?

- a)** John 3:17
 - b)** Luke 12:8
 - c)** Acts 4:12
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You have learned that people are spiritually lost. In Luke 15, Jesus tells some beautiful stories about people seeking their lost possessions. The story of the shepherd going out to find the one lost sheep shows us clearly how Jesus came "to seek and to save" each person lost in his sin (Luke 19:10). No one is unimportant; each one is valuable to God! He "sent his Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). Like the woman who lit a lamp, swept the house, and looked carefully until she found her coin, so our Savior seeks lost people.

Jesus said there is rejoicing in heaven when lost people repent of their sins (Luke 15:7, 10), for the lost is found!

Application

6  Here is your first *Fingertip Text*. Memorize the title, reference, and text. Take one of your small blank cards. On one side, write the title and reference of the *Fingertip Text*. On the other side, write the text as you see it in the illustration below. To test yourself, look at one side of the card and say out loud what is on the other side. You can carry this card (and the others you will make) with you and use times of waiting to learn and review these texts.

Title: The Fact of Salvation	Reference: 1 Timothy 1:15
Text: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.	
(Side 1)	(Side 2)
The fact of salvation 1 Timothy 1:15	Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

God Wants All to Be Saved

As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. (Ezekiel 33:11)

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3–4)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Ezekiel was an Old Testament prophet. Paul, who wrote 1 Timothy, and Peter, who wrote 2 Peter, were New Testament

writers. All three men were inspired by the Holy Spirit. From the words they wrote, we know that God wants *all* to be saved. He wants the lost to be found and cared for.

Application

7 Read the following Scriptures (left side). Then match each one to the statement it supports best (right side).

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|-------|--------------------|---|
|a | 1 Corinthians 3:11 | 1) Christ is the only means of salvation. |
|b | 1 Timothy 2:6 | 2) God wants all to be saved. |
|c | John 3:36 | |
|d | 1 Timothy 2:3–4 | |
|e | 1 Timothy 2:5 | |
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HE HAS CHOSEN YOU TO TELL THEM

Objective 3. *Discuss evidence from Scripture that the Lord has chosen you to share the good news.*

Do you believe that *you* must share in making Christ known to others? We hope so. Jesus said, “I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16). Jesus is the vine; we are the branches. He wants every branch to bear fruit—that is His reason for giving us His life and strength. The following are three reasons He chose you to tell others about Him.

Christ Has a Claim on People

He is the God-Man sent from heaven, the one who created everything (John 1:3). On one occasion, He said, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). When soldiers lifted up a huge, rough cross with Jesus nailed to it and planted one end in the earth, this verse found fulfillment. For upon that cross, Jesus tasted death for

everyone (Hebrews 2:9). Since He died for everyone, He has a claim on all.

In addition, Christ’s claim on everyone will be fulfilled completely when He is honored as Lord over all. In Philippians 2:10–11, we read that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Thus, Christ has a claim on both you and the person you may be seeking to win for Him.

Application

8 Beside each statement given below write whether it is TRUE or FALSE, and give the reference of a verse that supports your answer. If the statement is FALSE, rewrite it so that it is TRUE.

a It was Christ’s teaching about repentance that showed He has a claim on all men.


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b One day everyone will say that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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c Christ died only for those who believe in Him.

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9  Here is your second *Fingertip Text*. Memorize the title, reference, and text. Write it on one of your small blank cards as you were instructed in question 6.

<i>Title:</i> The Means of Salvation	<i>Reference:</i> Romans 10:13
<i>Text:</i> Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.	



The Great Commission Is Still Valid

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave this charge: “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.” (Matthew 28:19–20).

These words, commonly called the Great Commission, were not just for the disciples but for all of His followers. As long as there are people in the world to be made disciples, Christ’s words still apply. Thus, the Great Commission is still valid and in effect; it has never been canceled.

Application

- 10** The Great Commission is valid for today because
- a)** it was the last thing Jesus said.
 - b)** believers today are also Jesus’ followers.
 - c)** everyone understands what it means.
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People Need to Be Told

The Great Commission calls for obedience. As you apply Christ’s words to yourself, you will realize that you must share the good news with others. The good news is that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). The Good News is also that “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Roman 10:13). We cannot keep the news to ourselves!

In Romans 10:14, Paul asks a series of questions, each related to the others. Notice how each one leads to the next:

Question 1: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?”

Question 2: “And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?”

Question 3: “How can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

In other words, there must be purposeful witnessing; otherwise, people will not have an opportunity to accept Christ.

Application

11 According to Romans 10:14, there are four things that must happen in order for people to be saved. These four are stated in the sentences below (left column). Number the sentences in the order in which the events they describe take place.

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|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| a | They listen to the message. | 1) First |
| b | They call on Christ for help. | 2) Second |
| c | Someone tells them about Christ. | 3) Third |
| d | They believe what they have heard. | 4) Fourth |

12 For which of the four events given in question 11 are you most directly responsible as a Christian witness?

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Think for a moment how you first heard the message. Someone brought it to your hearing. You heard. You believed. You asked the Lord for His saving help. Then, He saved you. There was no other way. In a similar manner, you must tell others, giving them an opportunity to hear clearly, to understand fully, and then to call on the name of the Lord for His saving grace.

Application

13 Circle the letter in front of each Scripture given below that shows that you have been personally chosen to share the Good News with others.

- a) “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” (John 15:16).
- b) “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).
- c) “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6).
- d) “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12).

Why should you share the Good News? The challenge is great! The lost need Christ! The Master chooses you to witness and to win disciples for Him!



self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

- 1** When Jesus used the word *lost* about people, He was speaking of their

 - a)** spiritual condition.
 - b)** social status.
 - c)** physical needs.
- 2** Which truth is best illustrated by the story from Korea about the deaconess who helped the professor's wife?

 - a)** All different kinds of people have needs.
 - b)** Not all people have exactly the same kinds of needs.
 - c)** People who have needs will often accept help.
- 3** The story from this lesson about the man who had fallen into a pit illustrates the fact that Jesus

 - a)** spent time teaching and praying.
 - b)** gives the kind of help fallen men need.
 - c)** gave His disciples the Great Commission.
 - d)** felt compassion for the lost.
- 4** Which group of statements is the best summary of all three of the major reasons why we should evangelize?

 - a)** People who have needs are often open to those who try to help them. It is not enough just to express sympathy for them. They should be given the kind of help they really need.
 - b)** There is a growing number of people who are spiritually lost. Since Christ is the only way to God, we must tell them about Him so that they can believe and be saved.
 - c)** The Bible shows us very clearly that Christ is the only way of salvation. Since this is true, it is not possible for people to be saved in any other way than through Him.

MATCHING. Match each statement, fact, or Scripture (left column) to the reason for evangelism (right column) that it best supports.

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 5 The Great Commission is valid today. | a) The challenge is great. |
| 6 By the year 2000, the population had reached 6 billion people. | b) The lost need Christ. |
| 7 1 Timothy 1:15 | c) He has chosen you to tell them. |
| 8 The world's population is increasing. | |
| 9 Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation. | |
| 10 The reason Christ came to the world was to rescue sinners. | |
| 11 People must be told about Christ before they can believe in Him. | |

FINGERTIP TEXT.

12 From memory, write in your notebook or quote to someone else both *Fingertip Texts*. Include the title, the reference, and the entire text of each one.

answers to study questions

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 1 Your answer. Perhaps in your country more people are lost than found. If such is the case, your story would be like the one told by the preacher in Asia.
- 8 **a** False (John 12:32, Hebrews 2:9). It was Christ's death on the cross which showed that He has a claim on all men.
 - b** True (Philippians 2:10–11).
 - c** False (Hebrews 2:9). Christ died for everyone.
- 2 Your answer could say something like this: The mother left her house to look for her children, and she became part of the parade and climbed up on the platform so that her children could see her.
- 9 Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote perfectly all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, Romans 10:13.
- 3 **a** Physical (and material), emotional, mental, educational, and spiritual.
 - b** Spiritual.
- 10 **b)** believers today are also Jesus' followers.
- 4 The three facts are these: The number of people in the world is increasing, people are lost, and people have needs. Your examples might be from the lesson, the Bible, or your own experience, but each one should help support the fact for which you have used it.
- 11 **a** 2) Second.
 - b** 4) Fourth.
 - c** 1) First.
 - d** 3) Third.

- 5 c)** Acts 4:12.
- 12 c)** Someone tells them about Christ. (That is, you are the one who tells the person. The rest of the actions are things that the person himself or herself must do.)
- 6)** Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote perfectly all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, 1 Timothy 1:15.
- 13 a)** “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” (John 15:16).
- d)** “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12).
- 7 a)** 1) Christ is the only means of salvation.
b) 2) God wants all to be saved.
c) 1) Christ is the only means of salvation.
d) 2) God wants all to be saved.
e) 1) Christ is the only means of salvation.

