

LESSON 2 You Can Evangelize!

Have you ever looked at the stars in the sky on a clear night and marveled at their beauty and great number? There they are, fixed in their positions and shining brightly!

Scripture tells us that people who lead many to righteousness and who teach many to do what is right will shine like these stars forever (see Daniel 12:3).

The task of evangelizing involves you! God wants you to lead your relatives and friends to Christ. When the Bible speaks of souls, their worth, and the rewards for winning the lost, it uses language of heavenly dimensions. What an incentive to share the good news!

In this lesson, you will learn what the task of evangelizing is. You will discover that it can be done by all kinds of people. You will be inspired to prepare yourself for this most rewarding work. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to challenge you to evangelize!

lesson outline

What Evangelizing Is

Lay People Can Evangelize

Prepare Yourself to Evangelize

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson, you should be able to:

1. Describe the full scope of evangelism, from seeing a need to helping others see a need.
2. Explain who is responsible for sharing the good news.
3. Evaluate your own spiritual preparation for evangelism.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson development. Find and read all the Bible verses that are mentioned.
2. Answer the study questions. After you have answered them, check your answers with the ones given at the end of the lesson. Review any you answered incorrectly.
3. Compare the illustrations given with experiences in soul-winning that you have had or have heard about.

key words

associates

evidence

cult

figuratively

emphasized

lesson development

WHAT EVANGELIZING IS

Objective 1. *Describe the full scope of evangelism, from seeing a need to helping others see a need.*

The word *evangelizing* is a modern term used to cover the four aspects of sharing the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. These four activities include 1) telling people about the Savior, 2) witnessing to them of Christ, 3) winning them to Him, 4) helping them to win others. We will look at each of these a little more closely.

Making disciples of all people	Telling the Good News
Winning people to Christ	Witnessing for Jesus
EVANGELIZING	

Telling the Good News

When the apostle Paul writes about the *gospel*, he is writing about who Jesus is, why and how He came, what He did, and how He died for us and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:2–4). This is also called the good news. It is good because it tells people how to be saved from sin and its results and how they can receive eternal life. It is news because it is about actual happenings. Unfortunately, most people don't know about it. They need to be told. This is one part of evangelizing.

Witnessing for Jesus

Witnessing is telling your own experience of salvation. It is testifying about what Jesus has done for you personally. Giving your testimony helps people see that the power of Christ is real. If they can see that it is something good, they will want what you have.

To witness is to give evidence or proof. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). This part of evangelizing testifies of Christ's saving power in your life.

Witnessing requires the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank God this is available to believers today! In Acts 1:8, Jesus promised

that “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” The Spirit’s power is given primarily for witnessing.

In the early church, Peter and other apostles spoke boldly to Jewish leaders about the gospel. They gave evidence about Christ’s death and resurrection. They witnessed of repentance and forgiveness of sins. They said, “We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit” (Acts 5:29–32). They experienced the power of the Spirit in witnessing for Jesus!

Application

1 Choose from the phrases given in parentheses the one that best defines each situation, and write it in the blank.

a You tell a person that God sent His Son to die for us.

.....
(Telling the Good News/Witnessing)

b You tell how He saved you and delivered you from sin.

.....
(Telling the Good News/Witnessing)



Winning People to Christ

It is not enough to tell others about the gospel or even to witness to what the Lord has done for you. You need to take yet another step, that of leading people actually to receive Christ Jesus as their own Savior. As the Holy Spirit guides you, help them respond to the love and claims of Christ. In other words, evangelizing must win people to Christ.

The person who wins people to the Lord may be called an evangelist, but don’t let the word frighten you! If you tell others about the Savior, you are an evangelist. Paul encouraged young Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5).

Another example of an evangelist is Philip, a deacon in the early church (Acts 21:8). We shall see later on in our study how Philip evangelized.

Making Disciples of All Peoples

New converts need to be helped to become strong in faith and to grow spiritually. They should be trained to win others to Christ. We refer again to the Great Commission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). They, too, need to experience the joy of winning others to the Lord.

Application

- 2** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement. If a statement is false, explain why.
- a** Evangelizing means to tell people that Jesus came into the world.
 - b** When we have shared the good news, we have fulfilled our responsibility.
 - c** Every believer should do the work of an evangelist.
 - d** To be good witnesses, we ourselves must have experienced salvation.
- 3** In your notebook, list the four steps in evangelism presented in this lesson.
- 4** Before each description (left column), write the number that represents the action described (right column).
- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ... a You give a salvation tract to a man on a train. | 1) Telling |
| ... b After witnessing to your neighbor, you ask him or her if he or she would like to accept Christ now—and he or she does. | 2) Witnessing |
| ... c You testify how Christ took away your bad habits. | 3) Winning |
| ... d A child asks you about heaven, and you take time to tell him or her how to be saved. | 4) Making disciples |
| ... e You help a new convert learn how to witness to others. | |
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LAY PEOPLE CAN EVANGELIZE

Objective 2. *Explain who is responsible for sharing the good news.*

We expect pastors, missionaries, and full-time evangelists to be involved in the task of evangelizing. However, they can never do it all! Evangelizing the world demands that all believers get involved in sharing the good news. You, too, can evangelize! The following stories are examples of lay people who have won souls.

A Longtime Christian Starts Telling the Good News


A Chinese man named Mr. Lee had been a Christian for many years and attended church faithfully. When in his seventies, he became very ill. Suddenly, as Mr. Lee began to think about meeting the Lord, he became greatly distressed. *I cannot die yet!* he said, *I have no harvest sheaves to give to the Master.* He began to pray earnestly that the Lord would spare him for a few more years so that he could witness to people and see them get saved.

A miracle happened! Mr. Lee became well again. He told his friends how he had prayed and how the Lord spared his life. He began to tell the good news wherever and whenever he could. He rode many miles on his bicycle to attend a pioneer church, to visit people and win them to the Lord. The new church began to grow. Other people were inspired by his zeal. For about ten more years, Mr. Lee lived and worked for his Lord. Then, one day he died happily and peacefully, for he had become a soul winner!

Application

5 Read 1 Corinthians 3:12. Figuratively speaking, with what kind of materials did Mr. Lee in the above story build during the last ten years of his life, according to this Scripture?

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A Girl with a Disability Witnesses to Others

A missionary couple went to help in a small pioneer church. They prayed for the salvation of souls and worked with the national pastor to make the church grow. People in the area were idol worshipers. They were suspicious and afraid of the church. The missionaries wanted the church to be a place where people would not be afraid to come.

A girl with a distorted face and body attended the church. When she spoke, it was with great difficulty. Would her appearance perhaps turn people away? Then, to their surprise, the missionaries learned that many of the new converts had been brought in by this girl. She loved Jesus and had a bright smile. She cared about people who did not know the Lord. By her love and caring, she witnessed in spite of her handicap.

Application

- 6** Read Mark 14:8 and answer the following questions.
- a** What words in this verse would describe the actions of the girl in the above story?

- b** Is that a high commendation?



A New Convert Wins Her Father

A retired businessman and earnest soul-winner said, “I believe that the associates the Lord puts into my life are for a definite purpose. I take it from the Lord that I must help them. I pray for the anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit in what to do and say to meet spiritual needs.” He then told the following story:

“I was asked by a girl who didn’t know the Lord to visit her father, an elderly man with a brain tumor. Because of heavy traffic during rush hour, I arrived at the hospital after visiting hours. I learned that the patient was heavily drugged and that

I could not have talked with him anyway, as he spoke another language. I cried to the Lord to open the way for me to reach him. Within a week, the Lord answered my prayer. The man was converted and went to heaven, a saved soul!”

“How did this come about?” we asked.

“Christine, the girl, was deeply concerned about her father,” this man told us. “Meeting her after the fruitless hospital visit, I said to her, ‘There’s only one way left for me to help you and your father. I shall carefully explain to you the way to be saved. You will accept the Lord as your Savior. Then you and I will believe the promise that you will be saved and your family (see Acts 16:31). You will then tell your father what the Lord has done for you, and agree with me for your dear father’s conversion. Do you consent to this plan?’

“‘Oh, yes indeed, Sir!’ Christine replied eagerly.

“‘Fine. There are five steps to salvation. The first one is to acknowledge that you are a sinner, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Do you believe this, Christine?’

“‘Yes, I do.’

“‘Now there are four steps left. The second is to recognize that God did something about your sin, “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).

“‘The third step is to accept Him. You must not just admire Jesus, nor pity Him in His sufferings. To those who *receive* Him, He gives “the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

“‘The fourth step is to *confess* your sin and get rid of it. God’s Word says that “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“‘The last step, Christine, is to confess and believe that Jesus is your Savior and Lord. “If you declare with your mouth,

‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

FIVE STEPS TO SALVATION IN CHRIST

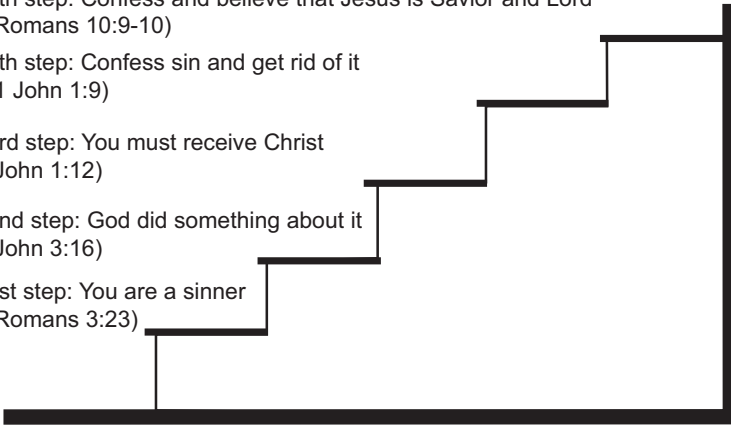
5th step: Confess and believe that Jesus is Savior and Lord
(Romans 10:9-10)

4th step: Confess sin and get rid of it
(1 John 1:9)

3rd step: You must receive Christ
(John 1:12)

2nd step: God did something about it
(John 3:16)

1st step: You are a sinner
(Romans 3:23)



‘Do you take these steps, Christine?’

“She was willing, so I prayed for her in Afrikaans (the language closest to her own that I could use). She, in turn, prayed, and together we prayed earnestly for her father’s salvation.

“The next night the telephone rang. It was Christine. With joy, she told me that when she saw her father his mind was clear. Christine told him of her salvation.

“‘What do you mean?’ the old man asked.


“‘I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Savior.’

“‘Honey, that’s wonderful!’ exclaimed her father. ‘I would love to have you tell me how I can become a Christian.’

“Christine gave him the five steps of salvation through faith in Christ. Her sick father accepted Jesus as his Savior, too. That was Wednesday. On Saturday, he went to be with the Lord.”

This was a double victory in soul-winning: the girl got saved and then, as a new convert, led her aged father to the Lord!

Application

- 7** Write in your notebook the five steps of salvation in Christ as given in the diagram. Be sure to include the Scripture references. Quote each one or give its meaning in your own words. Memorize these five important steps.
- 8** Answer the following questions.
- a** Would the story have been complete if the businessman had tried to reach only the father?
- b** What two actions followed sharing and witnessing?
.....
- 9**  Write the following *Fingertip Text* on a small card as instructed in Lesson 1. Memorize the title, reference, and text.

<i>Title:</i> Everyone Has Sinned	<i>Reference:</i> Romans 3:23
<i>Text:</i> All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.	



A Working Man Makes Disciples

A telephone lineman in Central America had to travel great distances over the countryside on horseback, keeping the lines in repair. He would stop overnight in homes of peasants who did farm work on the large estates. This man became converted. He began witnessing to his peasant friends, telling them about the Lord's saving power in his life. He read to them from his Spanish New Testament. Bit by bit, these farm workers responded to the truth of the gospel. In one place, two or three accepted Christ; in another, a family of five or six members.

The lineman then called pastors in to further instruct and baptize these believers. Banded together in Christian fellowship, the new converts themselves shared the good news. The lineman continued to make his rounds maintaining telephone service, but in his free time he won and taught people. Today, you find churches in places where this Spirit-filled lineman stopped in his travels. He obeyed the Great Commission.

Application

10 Read Acts 8:3–4. How was the Spirit-filled lineman in our story like the believers in Jerusalem?

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PREPARE YOURSELF TO EVANGELIZE

Objective 3. *Evaluate your own spiritual preparation for evangelism.*

Show Concern for People

Long ago, Naaman, commander of the Syrian army, won victories in battle. Though a great soldier, honored by his king and his country, he suffered from an incurable disease—possibly leprosy.

A young girl captured from the nation of Israel was a servant in his household. This girl felt concern for her master and wanted to help. What could she do?

Simply expressing concern to Naaman’s wife, she said, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy” (2 Kings 5:3).

Her concern led to a miracle. After Naaman heard what she said, he traveled to Samaria to see the prophet Elisha. After he followed the prophet’s instructions to wash seven times in the Jordan River, his flesh became as clean and healthy as a child’s. God healed Naaman completely!

When you feel concern for people and show that concern, you will find ways to help them.

Pray for Souls

Sharing the good news of Christ’s salvation with others is spiritual work. Prepare for this work by praying for specific individuals. Keep their names in mind while praying, and look for opportunities to share the good news with them.

An Englishman named David traveled on a coach from Calais, France, to Brussels, Belgium. Before taking the trip, he prayed that God would give him an opportunity to witness to someone. The only seat left for him on the coach was next to a young Belgian lady named Marie. They started to talk. David soon discovered that Marie was willing to discuss spiritual matters.

“Are you a Christian believer?” David asked.

“I’m not sure,” Marie responded. She explained that she did go to church occasionally. Then, she asked David if he belonged to a cult.

“No,” he replied, “I’m an evangelical Christian.” David then explained the way of salvation. He was careful not to force his conversation on her, allowing time for her to express herself and to ask questions. He discovered that she had been seeking God but didn’t know how to find Him!

Their conversation lasted three hours—the length of their journey. David invited Marie to a church where the full gospel message was preached. Marie learned that Jesus is the only way to God, and with joy, she accepted Him as her Savior.

When we met Marie, she told us, “My life is completely changed!”

Because David had prayed, the Spirit directed him to a hungry heart with whom he shared the good news of salvation.

Be Filled with the Holy spirit

How important a qualification this is for soul-winning! Be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit and you will be filled with spiritual power to win souls to Christ. Out of your heart will pour streams of life-giving water to bless many lives! (See John 7:38.)

Desire to Win Others to Christ

Allow the love of Christ to burn in your heart as a flame of fire! You will then want to win people to Him. The love

of Christ will rule you and compel you to go to the lost (see 2 Corinthians 5:14). We love because God first loved us and sent His Son that we (and they) might have eternal life.

Application

11 Fingertip Text

<i>Title:</i> God’s Gift of Love	<i>Reference:</i> John 3:16
<i>Text:</i> 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.	

12 Grade yourself on the following self-evaluation test. If an area needs much improvement, give yourself 1 point (for honesty). Allow 2 points for an area that needs some improvement and give yourself 3 points for each area you have prayed about and tried to do something about.

- a** Showing concern for people
- b** Praying for souls
- c** Being filled with the Spirit
- d** Desiring to win others to Christ

13 In your notebook, write the names of at least two people you want to win to Christ. Begin praying for them now and ask the Lord to give you the key to reaching them for Him.



self-test

TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space if the statement is true. Write **F** if it is false.

- ... **1** Only full-time evangelists do the work of evangelizing.
- ... **2** Evangelizing is the responsibility of every believer.
- ... **3** Evangelizing includes making disciples of new converts.
- ... **4** Witnessing is only one phase of evangelizing.

SHORT ANSWER. Write the answer to the question on the lines provided.

5 If we tell someone that Jesus lived here on earth 2000 years ago and that He was crucified, have we shared the good news? Support your answer.

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.....

MATCHING. Before each description (left column), write the letter that represents the action described (right column).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ... 6 You testify as to how the Lord healed you and took away your fear. | a) Telling |
| ... 7 You have witnessed to your cousin for a long time. Today, you prayed with him or her, and he or she accepted Christ. | b) Witnessing |
| ... 8 You teach a class on soul-winning for new converts. | c) Winning |
| ... 9 Your neighbor asks you what Easter means and you tell him or her about Jesus' resurrection. | d) Making disciples |

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter(s) of the correct answer(s).

10 A Christian tells you that he or she has moved into an apartment building where there are no other believers. What should he or she do?

- a) Move somewhere else, in a Christian community if possible.
- b) Pray that the Lord will help him or her witness to unsaved neighbors.
- c) Show Christ by his or her words and actions, being a “light” to the lost (Matthew 5:16).

11 What truth is emphasized in the story of Naaman and the servant girl?

- a) The girl’s concern for her master opened the way for her to help him.
- b) The girl’s heart was still back home in the land of Israel.
- c) The girl had to do something because she was a servant.
- d) Naaman received help because he was a wealthy man.

FINGERTIP TEXT

12 From memory write in your notebook or quote to someone else the *Fingertip Text* you learned. Include the title, reference, and text.

answers to study questions

- 1 a** Telling the Good News.
b Witnessing.
- 8 a** No.
b Winning and making disciples.
- 2 a** False. Telling them that Jesus came is stating a historical fact. We must tell them *why* He came.
b False. We have further responsibility to win people to Christ and to make them disciples who can also witness for Him.
c True.
d True.
- 9** Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, Romans 3:23.
- 3** Telling the Good News, witnessing for Jesus, winning people to Him, and making disciples.
- 10** Everywhere he went he preached the message.
- 4 a** 1) Telling.
b 3) Winning.
c 2) Witnessing.
d 1) Telling.
e 4) Making disciples.
- 11** Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, John 3:16.
- 5** Gold, silver, and precious stones.
- 12** Your answer. We hope that your score was more than ten.
- 6 a** She did what she could.
b Yes. Very high!
- 13** Not only is this your answer, but it becomes your responsibility. Very likely no one at the Global University office knows the people whose names you have written—but you do, and God does.

- 7** *Step one:* You are a sinner. Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and are far from God. (The other steps should be written in the same way, and all of the steps memorized.)

