

LESSON

3 Work Together to Share the Good News

Nothing is more exciting than to belong to a well-trained basketball or football team matched against an opposing team! Every team member knows that no individual can possibly win the game alone, but each must help the other toward a common goal. Everyone does his or her share. All are mutually dependent upon the support of the others.

The task of evangelizing our world calls for this same kind of team effort. No one person can do it alone. God is pleased to use a *team of workers* in enlarging His church. The apostle Paul emphasized our work together (see 2 Corinthians 6:1).

You are now studying the final lesson of Unit 1. In addition to personal soul-winning, another important dimension is cooperative evangelizing through the church. As believers are mobilized into evangelistic teams of one kind or another, soul-winning ministries multiply. Come, join a team!

lesson outline

God's Primary Agent for Evangelism Is the Church

Evangelizing Involves Every Believer

Evangelizing Includes Follow-Up Work

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Identify situations requiring church-based teamwork in evangelism.
2. List three types of evangelism and evaluate your ability to participate in each.
3. Describe ways you can work in evangelism.
4. Recognize the importance of follow-up work in evangelism.

learning activities

1. Read the lesson in this independent-study textbook and do the exercises in the lesson development. Be sure to keep working on the *Fingertip Texts*.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers carefully.
3. Review Lessons 1 through 3, then answer the questions in the unit student report for Unit 1.

key words

alternate

martyrdom

sponsor

intersperse

prospective

supportive

linger

reluctant

lesson development

GOD'S PRIMARY AGENT FOR EVANGELISM IS THE CHURCH

During our Lord's ministry, He sent out, in teams of two, at least seventy-two men to thirty-five or more towns and cities in the province of Galilee. He delegated power to these team members for evangelizing, healing the sick, and claiming deliverance for those bound by evil spirits. The teams later returned rejoicing in their spiritual victories (Luke 10:17).

After Jesus ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon believers on the Day of Pentecost, the young church became God's primary agent in evangelizing. Throughout the centuries, the church has continued as a vehicle for evangelizing. During certain periods of history, evangelistic efforts slowed down and nearly stopped, but at other times the Holy Spirit prompted great spiritual awakenings. As a result, multitudes have accepted Christ and have been stirred to further soul-winning.

The Early Church Grew by Evangelizing

Objective 1. *Identify situations requiring church-based teamwork in evangelism.*

The New Testament letters did not especially exhort believers to evangelize, since evangelizing was a common and natural activity engaged in by all. Reading about the early church inspires us to share the good news with others. We read that when a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, but "those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" (Acts 8:4). The word *preaching* meant telling the good news.

Another persecution connected with the martyrdom of Stephen scattered believers as far away as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch in Syria. It was in Antioch, the third largest city

in the Roman Empire, that believers first began to witness to Greek-speaking Gentiles, “telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus” (Acts 11:20). These believers weren’t full-time evangelists as we know them today. They were ordinary lay believers, everyday working people, businessmen, and traders who settled in Antioch and witnessed of Christ as Savior. As a result, “the Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord” (Acts 11:21). The first Gentile church was thus founded in Antioch. It was here that believers, who must have been Christlike in nature, were first called *Christians* by outsiders (Acts 11:26).

Application

1 What event in the first century caused the good news to be spread outward from Jerusalem?

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The Church Today Must Continue Evangelizing

You have learned that evangelizing became a way of life among the early Christians. Today, we must return to their method of *everyone, everywhere*. Real growth of the church, whether in that early period or in our generation, comes with daily evangelism. People must be born again to enter the family of God; they must hear that they can believe and be saved.

We see now that evangelism includes all activities directly concerned with gaining converts for Christ. Today, a great variety of evangelizing methods are being used. When a group or team and some kind of organization is involved, we shall call it *group evangelism*. Effective group evangelism must have the help of all of us.

City-wide evangelistic campaigns involve many churches in a given area. These may all be churches of the same fellowship, or they may represent several different denominations in a

cooperative effort to reach people for Christ. These groups, with their leaders and congregations, team together to get the gospel out to as many people as possible in big meetings. Properly planned, led, organized, and prayed for, such efforts can have a tremendous impact on a community and result in many converts being added to churches.

On a more local level are evangelistic meetings conducted by a *single church*. Here again, believers must be enlisted to help both evangelist and pastor make the services fruitful.

Other forms of group evangelism are conducted on a more regular basis. Some examples are as follows:

1. *Soul-winning teams*, which hold short services in hospitals, prisons, and retirement homes or on the street or in a marketplace in the open air.

2. *Visitation teams*, which go from house to house to take a religious census and find those who do not attend a church. Other teams visit homes where some contact or association has been made. They use these opportunities to talk to people about the gospel and lead them to Christ.

3. *Gospel literature distribution teams*, which go into public places such as parks, plazas, and markets, giving out free gospel tracts and perhaps samples of evangelistic correspondence courses such as those produced by Global University.

All of these forms and methods of evangelism must be church-based. Inquirers of the gospel should know who is evangelizing and where they can find a local church. Every distributed gospel tract and piece of literature should be stamped with a local church address so that those who seek truth can find further help.

Application

2 Put a **T** in front of each example of a situation requiring or involving church-based teamwork.

- ... **a** The church plans a vacation Bible school to reach children who have never attended Sunday school.
- ... **b** Your neighbor tells you that he and his wife have decided to get a divorce.
- ... **c** A housing facility for over 100 families has just opened near your church. The pastor suggests that each home be visited with gospel literature and an invitation to visit the church.
- ... **d** In a casual conversation, the postman tells you he would like to find a good church to attend.

3 In your notebook, list three types of evangelistic outreach that best involve a teamwork approach.

EVANGELIZING INVOLVES EVERY BELIEVER

Objective 2. *List three types of evangelism and evaluate your ability to participate in each.*

Every believer's support is needed in some way or another in any evangelistic outreach of the church. Some of the ways in which you can assist your church are as follows:

1. *Face-to-face evangelizing.* This is talking directly with prospective converts with the goal of leading them to Christ. It is confronting them with an appeal to be converted to Christ. It is basic evangelizing as we have been learning it: telling the good news, witnessing for Jesus, winning people to Him, and making disciples. It can be in the form of a one-on-one conversation or a personal worker explaining the way of salvation to a group of inquirers after an evangelistic message.

2. *Friendship evangelizing.* By this we mean indirect evangelizing by making friends with prospective converts.

You might invite them to your home for a meal or a friendly chat over a cup of coffee or find a way to be helpful to them. If you show that you care for them as individuals, they will more readily listen to what you tell them. Another way is through home meetings, when neighbors and friends can be witnessed to in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. People who are reluctant to visit a church can often be reached this way and then brought into a church.

3. *Supportive evangelizing.* It is important in any evangelistic outreach to have support in various areas, such as the following:

- *Prayer.* This is the privilege and responsibility of every member. Since conversions are a work of the Holy Spirit working in and through people, this ministry cannot be overemphasized.
- *Personal attendance.* By “being there” at evangelistic meetings, you show your own concern and interest and you strengthen the messenger. When prospective converts see a group of happy, loving believers who are warm and friendly to them, they will want to become a part of that group.
- *Helping financially.* Covering the necessary expenses is a practical way to promote evangelizing, and it always brings blessing to the giver.

Every believer has a place in evangelizing. The apostle Paul compares the church’s relationship with the Lord to a body, the head being Jesus Christ and the rest of the body, with its many members, being the church (Colossians 1:18). Every member needs to function in order for Christ’s work to be done.

Application

4 Which aspect of evangelism, though helpful, could be classified as less needful than the other aspects?

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5 Read the following passages of Scripture telling about Jesus' ministry (left column). Match each one to the kind of relationship it best illustrates (right column).

....**a** Luke 11:1-4

1) Friendship

....**b** Luke 19:1-10

2) Face-to-face

....**c** John 4:5-26

3) Supportive



The healthy, growing church needs two types of workers. One type is the volunteer worker who helps maintain the life and ministries of the local church. Examples of this type are ushers, church secretaries, janitors, Sunday school teachers, and choir members. The activity and vision of these workers is inward; their interests are inside the church. These are valuable people, and every church leader is grateful for them.

Others seem to have more of an outward ministry, talking to people on the street, conducting jail services, handing out gospel tracts, and reaching the unsaved who either cannot or will not go to a church. The ministries God gives, however, are never totally in one area or the other. The personal worker must be supportive of the local church and the choir member must do what he or she can to win his or her neighbor to the Lord.

Application

6 List the three types of evangelism and their subpoints, if any. Draw a line under each type that you personally can become involved in.

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Get Experience as a Helper

Objective 3. *Describe ways you can work in evangelism.*

To get a clearer picture of how evangelizing can involve every believer, let us step back in time to participate in an actual evangelistic crusade.

The scene is Taichung, a large city of 500,000 Chinese in central Taiwan. A group of volunteer workers and a missionary couple are working together. Six of the volunteer workers are Spirit-filled young people from churches in south and north Taiwan. They have given up their summer holidays to be in Taichung. Three believers assisting the team are from a local church that has recently been started.

A Spirit-filled evangelist and his wife who have been graciously used of the Lord in bringing many to Christ and in praying for the sick have been invited to come. Before their arrival, much preparation for the coming meetings has to be made.

The Chinese team and the missionary couple meet together every morning for Scripture reading, prayer, and planning. Four weeks before the evangelistic meetings start, the team carefully works on the following projects:

1. *Advertising:* The team prints large posters announcing the meetings. After obtaining permission from the city government, they place these posters on telephone poles and public bulletin boards around town. They arrange for spot announcements on the radio before and during the campaign. They distribute handbills advertising the meetings and giving a simple salvation message. Before the meetings begin, the missionary slowly drives a vehicle with advertising posters through the streets. The young people of the church have already prepared tapes of invitations to the meetings interspersed with music to be played as he drives along. Some of the young people riding along give handbills to people through the windows of the vehicle.

2. *Campaign sites:* The meetings begin first in an old town hall. As the response from the people grows, the crusade moves to a large tent that a crew of men put up in the city park nearby. Here, being more in the open, the meetings attract hundreds of people. Much work had gone into the preparation, such as setting up 500 backless stools to supplement the seating. The team, along with other volunteers, had arranged the electric lighting, made a temporary platform and pulpit, and erected a huge sign.

3. *Personnel:* As the meetings progress, all the believers help distribute tens of thousands of gospel tracts and invitation pamphlets on nearby streets and corners. Passersby are courteously urged to enter the tent area, then taken by the arm and led personally to a seat where they can see and hear all that is taking place. Three young men alternate in leading the singing and interpreting the evangelist's message into two Chinese languages.

The great campaign in Taichung could not have been planned and carried out without the help of many people. Those who were willing to help at the start inspired others to contribute their time, talent, and means in a joint effort that reached thousands with the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ!

Application

7 List four ways you personally could give help to a similar campaign.


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In any one of these activities you could also find an avenue of spiritual ministry. While passing out handbills, you might recognize someone whose problem you can relate to directly and, as a result, give your personal testimony.

Application

- 8** If you were helping erect the tent and an unsaved man offered to help, what would you do?
- a)** Tell him that there are enough Christians to do the job.
 - b)** Let him help and then give him a place as a volunteer worker.
 - c)** Let him help and then try to establish further friendship with him.
 - d)** Tell him he needs to get saved before he can work for God.
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Become a Personal Worker

We have suggested that you first get experience as a helper in the cause of evangelism. As you see, there is something for every believer to do in any evangelistic outreach. The second step is to become a personal worker. A challenge awaits you as you become involved in active face-to-face evangelism.

Volunteers in the Taichung crusade became good personal workers as missionaries helped them learn to talk to people politely, to be understanding of their problems, and to lead them to faith in Christ. Each night after the evangelist preached, many people came forward for spiritual help. He carefully explained the steps of salvation and then prayed for all who responded.

Now came the personal workers' turn to talk to people. It was not always possible to talk to each one individually. Usually one worker talked to several people gathered around him or her. Each personal worker explained further the steps of salvation, answered any questions, and led the inquirers in prayer. Further counseling with those who lingered was conducted on a one-on-one basis.

The inquirers were handed gospel literature and asked to sign a decision slip giving their name and address. They were assured that later contact was only in the interest of helping them spiritually.

One inquirer named Mrs. Tan later told us her story. She was sitting at home early in the evening and attentively watching a show on the television that was placed on an altar shelf alongside her idol shrine. Suddenly, the picture faded as the television went dead. Disgustedly, Mrs. Tan left her upstairs apartment and walked down the narrow flight of stairs to take a stroll in the nearby city park.

As she approached the main gate of the park, she heard joyful singing and saw a crowd of people in a tent. Then Ma-lin, a girl in her teens, politely handed Mrs. Tan a gospel tract and asked if she would like to come into the tent and hear the “happiness news” (the Chinese expression for the gospel). Mrs. Tan was curious, as she had never heard the news before, so Ma-lin guided her into the tent and helped her be seated.

The Word of God touched Mrs. Tan’s heart. She was also stirred by the singing and the happy faces of the people around her. She returned the next night. This went on for several nights. Finally, she went forward for prayer. A worker talked to her, prayed with her, and took her name and address. Later, she responded in faith for healing of a small goiter, and the Lord took it away. Mrs. Tan found peace and joy in trusting the Savior.

Application

9 There were many people indirectly involved in Mrs. Tan’s conversion. List three people directly involved in her decision to accept Christ.

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10 The account of the Taichung evangelistic campaign might have given you an idea of what you might do to reach those whose names you wrote in your notebook at the end of Lesson 2. If so, write these thoughts also in your notebook and pray about them.



EVANGELIZING INCLUDES FOLLOW-UP WORK

Objective 4. *Recognize the importance of follow-up work in evangelism.*

Evangelistic campaigns are thrilling! Crowds, music, singing, anointed preaching, and people getting saved and healed! All too soon our campaign came to a close. Before the evangelist left, he said, “Now you have work to do!”

What did he mean? Hadn’t everyone been working for weeks, both during and after the meetings? But evangelizing, whether done individually or as a group, must include follow-up work.

Have a Visitation Program

Before the Taichung crusade ended, the volunteer workers and missionaries developed a thorough visitation program. Hundreds of decision slips were sorted out and studied. As the search for inquirers began, addresses were found to be misleading. It took days of being on foot, tramping in steady rain up and down narrow streets, lanes, and courtyards or climbing up and down the stairs of huge high-rise apartment buildings.

New converts were encouraged in the Christian faith through faithful visitation. Some of them welcomed prayer meetings and Bible studies under the leadership of a Chinese pastor or missionary.

Mrs. Tan was visited at her upstairs apartment. She was alone most of the time because her husband was away exporting curios. The volunteer workers taught her to pray. Later, she gave up her worship of idols. On an Easter Sunday morning she was joyfully baptized in water. More recently, when her only son died, she testified to the peace and comfort of the Lord, without which she said she would have lost her mind. She now attends the local assembly in Taichung.

If it had not been for a visitation program, Mrs. Tan and others would have given in to their heathen environment. “The

Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Follow-up work involves persistently looking people up and wearing out your shoes doing so! Wouldn’t Jesus do that and more?

Application

11 Fingertip Text

Title: The Open Door	Reference: Revelation 3:20
Text: 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 that person, and they with me.	

Be a Spiritual Sponsor

When people accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior and receive forgiveness of sin, they are like a newborn baby. As all parents know, babies need to be loved, fed, and cared for. As little children grow, they need the help of more mature believers—spiritual “parents”—in order to recognize that they are part of the family of God. You can be a spiritual sponsor, introducing them to other believers and including them in Christian fellowship.

Application

12 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** An organized evangelistic effort is over when the evangelist has moved on to another place.
- b** An organized evangelistic effort is over when each inquirer has been contacted once.
- c** It is difficult to say when an organized evangelistic effort is over because the follow-up work may continue for many months.

13 Write in your notebook at least two areas of evangelistic effort (either direct or supportive) in which you have never been involved and in which it is possible for you to become involved. Take a definite step toward becoming a part of those efforts.

14 Refer to the names you wrote in your notebook at the end of Lesson 2. Can you invite any of those you wish to win for the Lord to a church service or an evangelistic rally?



self-test

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

-**1** Teamwork in evangelism should be church-based, and the literature that is used should be stamped with the church's name.
-**2** The early church grew as believers shared Christ wherever they went.
-**3** The apostles were responsible for establishing all the New Testament churches.
-**4** The first gospel teams were sent out by Jesus.
- 5** Write "Teamwork" in front of each example of a situation in which several or many people work together as a team in evangelizing.
 -**a** You witness to your aunt about what Christ has done for you.
 -**b** Several thousand handbills and tracts are handed out before a city-wide evangelistic campaign.
 -**c** A church conducts evangelistic services at a prison once a week.
 -**d** The Holy Spirit tells you to go immediately to your neighbor's house, as he or she needs help.

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

- 6** Which of the following activities are not considered active evangelizing, but are nevertheless helpful and supportive?
 - a)** Praying for souls
 - b)** Paying a child's way to Bible camp
 - c)** Witnessing at a street meeting
 - d)** Attending evangelistic meetings
 - e)** Talking and praying with inquirers
 - f)** Cleaning and setting a building or tent in order

- 7** The church grows when
 - a)** it organizes enough teams to reach the community.
 - b)** the right evangelist comes for a meeting.
 - c)** souls are saved and bodies are healed.
 - d)** everyone assumes responsibility for winning souls and doing follow-up work.

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

- 8** Name at least three ways in which a new convert is like a baby. He or she needs

FINGERTIP TEXT.

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

Before you continue your study with Lesson 4, be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit 1 and return the answer sheet to your GU instructor.

answers to study questions

- 1** Persecution.
- 8 c)** Let him help and then try to establish further friendship with him.
- 2 a** T
c T
b and **d** are situations in which you as a soul-winner can help without the aid of group evangelism.
- 9** You could have included Ma-lin (the teen-age girl), the evangelist, interpreters, and volunteer workers.
- 3** You could have listed city-wide evangelistic meetings, local evangelistic meetings, soul-winning teams, visitation teams, or literature distribution teams.
- 10** Your answer.
- 4** None. All are needful.
- 11** Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote all three parts of the Fingertip Text, Revelation 3:20.
- 5 a** 3) Supportive.
b 1) Friendship.
c 2) Face-to-face.
- 12 a** False.
b False.
c True.
- 6** Face-to-face, friendship, and supportive (prayer, personal attendance, helping financially). Hopefully, you drew a line under all of these.
- 13** Your answer.
- 7** Your answer. Any of the items mentioned in the example could be included, along with others you have thought of.
- 14** Your answer.



UNIT TWO:

A POWER TO RECEIVE—Be Equipped!

Lessons

- 4 Understand the Conversion Experience
- 5 Rely on the Holy Spirit
- 6 Depend on God's Word