

LESSON
3 Get Involved

An African proverb says, “One hand will never build a house.” A French proverb says, “Union makes strength.” An English proverb says, “Two heads are better than one.” And the Bible says, “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

Indeed, Christ said He will build His church (Matthew 16:18), but He has called us to work with Him in this great task. Each one of us has a part.

In Lesson 2 we saw the necessity of being prepared. Now you will see that you must also be personally involved. May the Lord bless you as you study and work for the Master.

The Plan

- A. Be Obedient
- B. Be Like Salt
- C. Be Responsible
- D. Be Committed

The Goals

1. Discuss the importance of obedience in personal witness.
2. Show ways in which the nature of a Christian is like salt.
3. State the Christian's responsibility to help others know Christ.
4. Give reasons why we should want to be committed to sharing the good news.

A. BE OBEDIENT

Goal 1. Discuss the importance of obedience in personal witness.

Previously we talked about a wedding ceremony where Jesus turned water into wine. The advice that Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave to the servants should be the motto of every Christian. She said, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

Unless there is obedience, there can be no personal involvement or success in personal evangelism. Why did Philip leave a great revival in Samaria to go to a desert? Philip was obeying God's instruction (Acts 8:26). And why did Abraham leave his country, his friends, and his fields for an unknown destination? He did it because the Lord told him to. Why did he take his only son, whom he loved, and offer him for God's purpose? Simply because God commanded it, he obeyed (Genesis 22:9–10).

Through the ages, many people have suffered because they obeyed Christ. Some of them have chosen to die rather than to deny Christ. Total obedience to God was their rule.

The Bible compares us to soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3). Christ is our Captain, and as soldiers of Christ we owe complete obedience to Him. Obedience is the key to victory for any army!

Application

- 1 What should be the rule for every Christian who does personal evangelism? (Choose one answer.)
 - a) Do what seems most reasonable.
 - b) Do what Christ tells you to do.
 - c) Do what will reach the most people.
 - 2 A Christian is like a soldier when he or she practices
 - a) complete obedience.
 - b) obedience only to what he or she understands.
 - c) ways to keep from suffering.
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B. BE LIKE SALT

Goal 2. Show ways in which the nature of a Christian is like salt.

Witnessing for Christ is not just *doing*, but more than anything else it is *being*. It is not just our work but our nature. This is why Jesus said to His disciples, “You are like salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). Why did Jesus compare the disciples to salt? Following are some purposes of salt.

Salt unites people. In Burkina Faso, Africa, salt is used to unite two people, two families, or even two tribes. Before a young man marries, he gives a symbolic gift of salt to the parents of his bride. In this way their union is sealed. In the same way, Jesus has made us salt, so that we will be able to unite people with God.

Salt creates friendship. Salt was one of the first gifts used by white explorers to win the friendship of African chiefs. Sin has made all men enemies of God. We are His salt to bring them back to God. Jesus has sent us into the world to be peacemakers. If we let people see that we care for their needs, we will be able to share God’s peace with them.

Salt preserves. All over the world, and especially in developing countries, salt is used to preserve meat. Had not God put salt into the sea, it would not have been possible for people to live on the earth. There would have been too much pollution in the water. Our presence as God's salt will preserve people, as we share Jesus Christ with them and they accept Him.

Salt flavors. Salt flavors food. There is no long-lasting joy for those who do not know Christ. By being salt to the people around us, we will help them find new meaning in their lives. If you live a Christlike life, your **being** will make others aware of Christ. Your presence may bring a message more important than the one you speak.

Salt is found everywhere. There is no country, home, or family where salt may not be found. Even so, Christ's salt reaches all nations and peoples. Christ wants to make you salt in your family and where you work, so that people will see Christ's wonderful work in you and glorify God.

Application

3 Write down four ways you can be like salt where you live.

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4 Draw a circle around the letter in front of sentences that show how Christians can be like salt.

- a)** A Christian makes enemies.
- b)** A Christian helps people find God.
- c)** Our nature is to be like Jesus.
- d)** Our words are more important than what we are.
- e)** My life should make people want to know Jesus.
- f)** Life without Christ is like flavorless food.



C. BE RESPONSIBLE

Goal 3. State the Christian's responsibility to help others know Christ.

In the book of Ezekiel, God warns of the responsibility of His servants:

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, "O wicked man, you will surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

At times, Christians are not aware of their responsibility or duty to other people. Each of us has definite responsibilities that we cannot afford to neglect. Think about the people in our family, at our workplaces, and in public places. How many of them are struggling without Christ. Will we just let them die? **No**, a thousand times **No**! Instead, we must respond like Isaiah, "'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8).

One day Jesus healed and freed a man who had been bound by the devil and was living in a graveyard. After healing him, Jesus told him, "'Return home and tell how much God has done for you'" (Luke 8:39). I can imagine this man going from house to house, spreading the good news about the wonderful power of Jesus! With similar vigor, we must tell the Christ message to our own people, our friends, and our community. They may never hear about the wonderful things of Christ unless we tell them.

The apostle Paul felt this responsibility. Even though he was chosen by God to take the message to the Gentiles, who were not his own people, he did not neglect anyone. Everywhere he went,

he took the message to his own people first, and then he went to the Gentiles. In Acts 1:8, Jesus instructs the believers to be witnesses first in Jerusalem (their home), *then* in all Judea (their country), then in Samaria (neighboring country), and finally to the ends of the earth (the whole world). Similarly, Christ wants to speak to your people. He wants to save them and write their names in His book of Life. But He will not do it by himself. He wants to work with and through you.

Paul, speaking to the leaders of the church at Ephesus, said,

For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
(Acts 20:27–28)

In like manner you and I should speak the message of salvation, thus helping people to make a commitment to Christ. This vital step should not be imposed on anyone. But when someone is searching, inquiring, and the opportunity is open, it is our responsibility to lead that person to the Savior. Through dialogue, friendship, or conversation, people can be more receptive than preaching to them.

Following are the essential elements of sharing the message of salvation with non-believers:

BELIEVE that Jesus died and rose again.

- 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.”
- Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
- John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

ADMIT you have sinned and repent of your sin, which means a change of attitude.

- Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- Luke 24:46–47 ““This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
- Acts 2:38 “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’”
- Acts 3:19 “‘Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.’”

CONFESS and choose to not sin.

- 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”
- Romans 10:9–10 “‘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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with the mouth that you confess and are saved.’”

When leading someone to Christ, let us be reminded that every person is different. Some individuals believe or understand sooner than others. Some people share their concerns, questions, and even their doubts about the gospel message. Never be offended by this, but answer with kindness. Remember that only the Lord by the Holy Spirit and the Word may produce conviction, repentance, understanding, and faith.

Application

5 As God's appointed watchman, what is your most important duty?

- a) Study the Bible
- b) Warn unbelievers of their condition
- c) Save people

6 Suppose God gave you an opportunity to tell someone about Christ, and you did not do it. Then that person died without being told of God's gift of salvation. How would you feel?

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7 Suppose you did tell someone about Christ, and he or she did not listen to you. Later that person died. How would you feel?

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D. BE COMMITTED

Goal 4. Give reasons why we should want to be committed to sharing the good news.

Even though the task is great, it has pleased God to use a human tool, a human witness, to spread the good news to all who would believe. Just to know that God *wants* to use you and me should make us willing to be involved in witnessing about Jesus.

God is not short of workers. Had He wanted to, He could have sent many angels to tell about Christ. And they could have done it overnight. It is true that He sent angels to announce the good news of Christ's birth to the shepherds. It is true that angels announced the news of Christ's resurrection that Easter morning. He still may send angels to minister to His people. But He has not chosen them to witness about the Cross. He has chosen you and me—simple, weak human beings, to announce this good news everywhere!

Isn't it wonderful to know that Almighty God has chosen to depend on us to bring people to Christ? He does not want the unbeliever to die in sin. That itself is good news worth talking about! But He needs more people to share this word of life with those who have not yet found Him.

Christians often say they are looking forward to the time when Christ will come again. Many hymns, choruses, and books have been written about His Second Coming. And often we have even prayed, like the apostle John, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

We often forget the condition Jesus gave us: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

Do you want Him to come quickly? Do you want to be forever with Him? Then, without losing any more time, become involved in spreading the good news. Make a personal commitment to be involved.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "In view of God's great mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1). The word **dedicated** means the same thing as the word **committed**. It means that you have given yourself completely to something. Let us give ourselves completely to spreading the good news about Jesus Christ.

Application

8 List two reasons why we should be committed to sharing the good news about Jesus.

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9 Do you want to give yourself completely to the work of spreading the good news about Jesus?

Why don't you pray about it right now?



Check Your Answers

- 1 b)** Do what Christ tells you to do.
- 2 a)** complete obedience.
- 6** Very sad, because he or she died without a chance to know Christ, and I did not do my best.
- 3** You may have said: I can bring people to God. I can help people be friends. I can be a peacemaker. I can fight sin by my example. I can show how wonderful life is for a Christian. I can be like Jesus.
- 7** Sad, because he or she did not receive the warning. But I would be glad that I did my best to win that person for Christ.
- 4** All except a) and d) show how Christians can be like salt.
- 8** Because God has chosen us to do this work
Because we want Jesus to come quickly
- 5 b)** Warn unbelievers of their condition
- 9** I hope you answered “Yes.” God wants to use you.