

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Errol Hale

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Grace Bible Church

OF MOORPARK

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Course 106

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Using This Workbook

Using This Workbook

This workbook is designed to be used in small group Bible studies using a simple two-step process.

1. *Individual Study.* Students should study the lesson on their own, answering the questions in the workbook.
2. *Group Study.* Having studied the material individually, the members of the small group meet to discuss their answers and insights based on the material.

Answer Key / Discussion Guide

Located at the back of this workbook, this has been provided for three reasons.

1. It will serve as a help to individuals who are uncertain of how to answer a question. Care should be taken not to simply default to the Answer Key in favor of prayerfully digging answers out from the Bible.
2. It will help guide the group discussion by providing additional insights and stimulus for conversation.
3. It will help keep individuals and groups from missing the point. It is important to remember that the verses in the lessons are associated with specific questions. The Answer Key serves as a reminder of how the verses and questions fit together and are a part of a *topical lesson*, and thereby help keep individuals and groups from straying from the intent of the lesson.

***Please feel free to notify me at errol_gbc@sbcglobal.net
if you find typos or errors.***

Thanks,

Errol

Evangelism and Missions

Lesson One: *The Great Commission*

Memory Verse: **Matthew 28:18-20**

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

It has always been God's intention for His people to reach out, influence the world, and to be a channel through which He would bless all the people groups on the earth. In the lessons in this book you will learn some things about God's Great Commission to influence the world with the gospel.

It is important for every disciple to understand that the Great Commission is given to *all* disciples, regardless of their gifts or when and where they live. This is important because many Christians fail to understand their personal responsibility to be a part of the fulfillment of God's Great Commission. As you do these lessons, pray, asking God to help you see the lost in this world as He does, whether they live next door or on the other side of the globe.

THE FIRST GREAT COMMISSION

1. Read Genesis 1:26-28. In this passage, God commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. This command was given *before* the Fall (when sin entered the human experience, separating man from God). When this command was given, man's relationship with God was unhindered by sin. Taking this into consideration, what was God saying when He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply? With what kind of people did He want the planet to be populated?
 - a) What was there in common between Adam's relationship with God before the Fall and the Christian's relationship with God?
 - b) How is God's command in Genesis 1:26-28 like the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20?
2. Read Genesis 12:1-3. In this passage, God promised to bless Abraham and his descendents (v.2-3). What other promise did God make at the very end of verse three?

- a) How did Jesus fulfill the second part of the promise?
 - b) How is the church (including you) to be a part of fulfilling this promise to "*bless all the families of the earth?*"
3. How was Israel supposed to be a light to the non-Jewish people around them according to Deuteronomy 4:6-8? What was the promised result in the people of the other nations?
 - a) How does this apply to Christians and how is our life-style supposed to do the same? What would be the result in unsaved people around us?

Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed His desire that the people groups of the world come to Him for salvation. Israel was God's *special* people, but they were not His *exclusive* people. Israel was commissioned by God to be a light to the Gentiles. In spite of this, Israel adopted a policy of exclusion, rejecting the other people groups in the world and not telling them about God.

In many instances in the New Testament, Jesus revealed that salvation was not exclusively for Israel, but for all the people groups of the world.

JESUS LIVES OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION

4. Look at the following passages in the Gospel of John and identify how Jesus revealed God's plan to reach beyond the Jewish race.
 - a) 1:11-13

b) 3:16-18

c) 4:5-9

d) 10:16 (Hint: Remember Jesus was talking to Jewish leaders. Who are the “other sheep” and who is “this fold?”)

e) 17:20-21 (Hint: Who will believe in Jesus when they see Christian love and unity in action?)

THE SCOPE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

5. Even after spending 3 1/2 years with Jesus, the disciples still hadn't caught God's worldview. Read Acts 1:6-8. In this passage, the disciples were still looking for Jesus to reestablish the kingdom of Israel. How did Jesus answer their question with another utterance of the Great Commission in verse 8?

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TASK

6. According to the following verses, what is the fate of those who neither hear nor respond to the gospel?
- a) Romans 10:13-15

b) John 14:6

c) Matthew 25:41

d) How do these facts affect and motivate you regarding evangelism and missions?

There are three ways Christians are to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of “all the people groups in the world.” These three are:

- Influence
- Evangelism
- World Missions

In the remaining lessons in this book you will be challenged to think of specific practical ways you can be a part of God's plan to reach this world with the Gospel.

Connect To Life:

In Acts 1:8 Jesus spoke of His disciples being witnesses in four arenas: Jerusalem (local); all Judea (regionally); Samaria (“other kinds of people” in nearby areas); ends of the earth (world missions). Every disciple needs to be involved in being a witness in all four arenas. Identify one specific action you will take this coming week to be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission in each of the four arenas. Come next week prepared to share your plans and what you have done.

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Lesson Two: *The Role of The Holy Spirit and Prayer*

Memory Verse: Acts 4:31

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

God has appointed His people to be the messengers who preach the gospel to all people. Since salvation requires a spiritual transformation of a person's heart, and since only God can change a person's heart, fruitful evangelism is ultimately dependent on the Holy Spirit. In this lesson we will consider some aspects of the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism and how we can partner with Him in the releasing of His power in the lives of the people with whom we share the gospel.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EVANGELISM

1. According to John 16:8-11, of what three things does the Holy Spirit convict the unbelieving world? What do you think these might mean?

DIVINE ENABLEMENT

2. Read Acts 1:8. Humanly speaking, the task our Lord gave His disciples [not just the original disciples, but all who are disciples, including you] is impossible. What special enablement did the Lord provide?
3. Every time people are said to be filled with the Spirit in the Book of Acts, they end up doing something. What is it that "spirit filled" people do and what are the results? See Acts 4:31 for an example.

PRAYING EVANGELISTICALLY

4. Why must prayer be an important part of our evangelism efforts based on 2 Corinthians 4:1-4?

5. List several items to pray for when praying for your non-Christian family and friends to come to faith in Christ?
6. How should you pray for yourself with regard to your non-believing friends and family?

THE "THREE OPEN PRAYER"

A simple evangelistically oriented prayer to remember is called The "Three Open Prayer." It goes like this: "Lord, open a door, open their eyes, and open my mouth."

Open a door refers to opening doors of opportunity to speak about Christ to those who do not believe. The fact is, we have many more opportunities than we realize. When we pray *open a door*, we also mean "Make me aware of the opportunities You provide."

Open their eyes refers to the fact that unless the Holy Spirit softens people's hearts toward Christ and grants spiritual understanding, people do not understand the gospel. (See 1 Corinthians 2:14).

Open my mouth refers to the fact that we are often too timid to simply open our mouths and tell people about the Lord. Therefore we pray for boldness to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ.

Connect To Life

Ask for a heightened awareness and appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. Begin praying the three open prayer" as a regular part of your prayers and see how God starts opening things!

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Lesson Three: *Influencing the World with the Gospel*

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:13

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

Jesus said His disciples are salt. Today, people usually think of salt as a seasoning. In Jesus' day, however, salt was important as a preservative. Meat was packed in salt to keep it from rotting. When Jesus called His disciples salt, He was saying they were the preservative that keeps society from spiritual and moral decay.

The first step we must take as disciples if we are to fulfill the Great Commission is to be a preserving influence in society. This first step often precedes actually sharing our faith. This lesson will challenge you to think of ways you can be a godly preserving influence in an otherwise rotting society.

What are your spheres of influence? These are the various areas of your life, and groups of people with whom you have contact, in which you can be an influence. As a disciple you should seek to be influential among your family, at work or school, in your neighborhood, your community, and beyond.

In this lesson, we will be asked to think of how we can be a Christian influence in our world.

GOOD WORKS

1. In what ways can you be an influence on others by obeying Matthew 5:16?

2. How would obeying Matthew 5:37 and 7:12 make you influential in various areas of your life?

3. How would all-out obedience to Colossians 3:22-24 make you influential at your job (or school)?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. How can Christians influence politics and government?

- a) Peter called Christians to be law-abiding citizens when godless Rome was in power. Our government is no less godless today. With that in mind, how do you answer critics who say individuals cannot influence politics or that the world is too far gone to make any difference?

5. Paul instructed Titus to teach the people where he served as pastor to be an influence in society. Identify what the people were to do to be influential and explain how obedience to these instructions might influence society.
 - a) Titus 2:6-8

 - b) Titus 3:1-2

SUBMISSIVE ATTITUDE WITHOUT WORDS

6. 1 Peter 3:1-5 speaks about how a believing wife can be an influence on her unbelieving husband. In what ways is she to do this? What does Peter caution her not to do (v.4) and to do (v.5)?
 - a) Explain the similarity between a wife winning her husband with a Christ-like life-style and the church winning the world in the same manner.

A TIME TO SPEAK UP

7. While wives are often best able to be an influence to their husbands through quiet example, there are many areas of life in which disciples need to speak up in order to influence society. Give examples of what you might say or do to speak up with regard to the following:
- a) Social injustice:

 - b) Sin and immorality:

 - c) When morality, the church, fellow Christians or God are under ridicule or attack:

BEING AN INFLUENCE? OR BEING INFLUENCED?

8. In Genesis 13, Abram and Lot needed to separate for practical reasons. Lot was given the choice where he would go. He chose to pitch his tent near the wicked city of Sodom (vv.12-13). By the time we read Genesis 19:1, Lot was living in Sodom and was seated at the gate, which meant he was an important person in that city. He was in a position to be influential. However, after reading the rest of Genesis 19, does it seem that Lot had a greater influence on Sodom or that Sodom had a greater influence on Lot? Why do you think this? What warning does this issue to you?
9. Acts 4:16 and 5:28 reveal how influential the disciples were in Jerusalem. How widespread was their influence?

- a) What special education or position of prominence must you have to be influential according to Acts 4:13-14? What encouragement can you derive from this?

10. Read Acts 27 & 28. Take note of various ways Paul sought to be an influence on those around him, even while in difficult circumstances. Note also what kinds of results came from his efforts to be influential.

FAILURE TO BE AN INFLUENCE

11. In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus speaks about being influential using salt and light as illustrations. What do you think He meant when He spoke about salt losing its saltiness and light being hidden?
- a) How influential is the church today in society? In what ways do you see the world doing to the church what Jesus said men do to salt that has lost its flavor?

 - b) What must we do if this deplorable situation is to change?

Connect To Life:

Do one thing this week that will demonstrate Christian influence. Be creative. Be prepared to share what you did and what the result was.

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Lesson Four: Sharing Your Faith, Part 1

Memory Verse: Proverbs 11:30

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

This lesson will emphasize the following key points:

- (1) Understanding the use of one's testimony.
- (2) The necessity of presenting the gospel.
- (3) Setting the evangelistic "hook."
- (4) Communicating in a way that makes sense to non-believers.

As we influence society and the individuals in it, we must also proclaim the gospel. This is because people will not be saved merely by being around Christian influence. Each person must respond to the gospel and receive Jesus Christ to be saved.

In Romans 10:14 Paul reminds us that we must tell people about Christ if they are going to believe and be saved. He said: "*How can they believe on Him in whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher [one declaring the gospel]?*"

In this lesson you will learn about: a) how to share your testimony; and b) how to share the gospel effectively.

YOUR TESTIMONY

1. Read Luke 8:38-39. Like this man, many Christians today want to enjoy fellowship to the exclusion of evangelism. What did Jesus command him [and you] to do?
2. Define the word *testimony*.
3. Read 1 John 1:3. How important is your personal testimony and why?
4. What can you learn from the formerly blind man in John 9:24-30 about sharing your testimony?
5. List at least seven key elements in Paul's presentation of his testimony in Acts 26:1-32.

Please see and be prepared to discuss APPENDIX ONE.

6. On a separate piece of paper, write your testimony. No more than one page. Keep in mind what went into the testimonies of the blind man and of Paul. Share your testimony with your study group.

USING GOSPEL TRACTS

Gospel tracts are helpful when sharing your faith in Christ. Tracts can be carried in a purse or pocket, in a briefcase or glove compartment in a car. Keep some handy wherever you may have opportunity to share your faith in Christ.

You can share your faith by simply giving a tract to a person. An even more effective way is to go over the tract with the person by reading it out loud. Be sure to allow for questions along the way. Though it may seem a bit awkward for some, as you do it, you will find that the benefits far outweigh any sense of awkwardness. Using tracts will increase your effectiveness in the following ways:

- Tracts help keep the conversation from wandering off into side issues.
- Tracts provide important Bible verses.
- Tracts provide visual assistance (words and pictures) that will clarify the gospel.
- Tracts have a *hook* in them! (More on this in the next lesson.)
- Tracts provide the person with something they can take with them for further thought later.

When talking with a person about Christ, the simplest way to introduce a gospel tract is to say, "*I have a little booklet that explains what I believe more clearly. May I show it to you?*" Most will say yes. If someone says no, say, "*Okay, maybe this is not a good time. Let me leave it with you and you can look it over at another time.*"

If they refuse to take it, do not be put off. Remain pleasant, remembering it is the Lord's work to convert. By offering the good news, you have done your part.

Remember to keep tracts handy (in your car, briefcase, etc.) Failure to be prepared to witness is evidence that we do not expect to be used by God to lead people to faith in Christ!

Connect To Life:

Share your written testimony with another believer this week. Ask them to critique it from the standpoint of a non-believer.

Give a tract away this week to a non-believer.

Share what your friend said about your testimony and your experience giving a tract away.

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Lesson Five: Sharing Your Faith, Part 2

Memory Verse: Romans 1:16

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

This lesson is a continuation of Lesson Four. In this lesson we will consider the importance of actually proclaiming the gospel, and of “setting the hook.”

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

God promised in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word will not go out and fail to accomplish His purposes. He has not promised that concerning our words. Although we are to share our testimonies, our testimonies will never save anyone.

1. What must be communicated if anyone is to be saved and why? Romans 1:16
 - a) How does the fact that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation encourage and liberate you to share your faith more freely without anxiety regarding results?
 - b) Romans 5:6-8, 6:23b
 - c) Romans 10:9-10
2. What are we to share? What is the one, two, three of the gospel?
 - a) Romans 3:23, 6:23a

3. How can you integrate the gospel into the telling of your testimony?

SETTING THE HOOK

What would happen if you went fishing and instead of putting a hook on your line and putting some bait on the hook, you simply tied your line around a worm and threw it into the water? Nothing would happen! To catch fish, you need a hook.

The same is true when fishing for men. Many Christians have never led a person to faith in Christ for one simple reason, they have never asked anyone if they would like to receive Christ. Telling a person about Christ, but not asking them if they actually want to receive Him as Savior, is like fishing without a hook.

Granted, some will say no. Maybe *most* will say no, but some will say yes, and unless we put a hook in it by asking, no one will say yes!

4. How did Jesus put a hook in His message to Martha in John 11:25-26?
5. How did Jesus hook the disciples in Luke 9:18-20?
6. How did Paul throw a hook to Agrippa in Acts 26:27-29?
7. How can you “set the hook?”

(Sticking with these three will help keep you from getting off the track!)

COMMUNICATION THAT MAKES SENSE

Again, in Romans 10:14 Paul reminds us that we must tell people about Christ if they are going to believe and be saved. He said: "How can they believe on Him in whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher [one declaring the gospel]?"

What if they hear and yet do not understand the language we are speaking? Christians often speak in a language that is foreign to non-believers. The words and expressions we use are often biblical. They are meaningful to Christians. However, when we are trying to share our faith with a person who does not know "Christianese," we need to learn to speak in ways that are understandable.

8. Write out the gospel in 4 or 5 sentences.

- a) Look at how you wrote the gospel in this lesson and how you wrote your testimony in the previous lesson. How many of your terms would sound like a foreign language to a non-believer? Write your testimony, integrating the gospel and this time be careful not to use "Christianese" terms that a non-believer would not understand. (Use a separate piece of paper if necessary.)

Connect To Life:

Write out your testimony. Make it no longer than one side of one piece of paper. Ask a non-Christian friend to help you with an assignment for a class. Ask him/her to read it and give you his/her reaction. Pray that this will open a door to lead the person to faith in Christ. Come prepared to share your experience next week.

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Lesson Six: Apologetics 101

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this lesson is to equip disciples to:

- 1) Discern what kind of questioner they are dealing with.
- 2) Give adequate answers to questions.
- 3) Answer questions with stories and questions.

Non-believers often ask Christians questions about their faith. Sadly, most Christians are ill-prepared to give adequate answers to these questions. While the ability to answer questions is not necessary, it is more than helpful. Being able to answer people's questions about the faith will not save anyone, but it takes away people's excuses for rejecting Christ.

This lesson centers around a booklet entitled "*Answering Questions About Your Faith.*" You need a copy of this booklet. Read the entire booklet through before answering the questions in the workbook.

This lesson will probably take more than one session to complete. Try to do it in two sessions, or three at most.

Roll play in the study group. Have one person play the role of the skeptic while another answers questions about the faith based on what you are learning. Remember: stories and questions are the most effective way to answer questions and objections

1 Peter 3:15 instructs us to be ready to give an answer about what we believe to those who ask. Answers to people's questions will not get them saved. The Holy Spirit must do a work in their hearts for that to happen. Nonetheless, because our faith is reasonable, we must be able to give reasonable answers to people's questions, removing their excuses for not believing.

READ

Read the booklet entitled "*Answering Questions About Your Faith.*" (The book is available at Grace Bible Church. It is also available on the church website.)

WRITE

1. In your own words, briefly identify and describe the four types of questioners.

2. In your own words give a brief explanation of why answering questions with questions is effective.
3. Briefly explain why Christians need to be more concerned about humbly representing Christ than about winning arguments.
 - a) Give an example of how you can do this.
4. Using additional paper, in your own words, give a brief answer to each of the thirteen questions discussed in the booklet. Use questions to answer questions.
5. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=*knowing nothing* and 10=*being able to perfectly handle any question that may come up*), how would you rate yourself BEFORE doing this lesson? how do you rate yourself on the same scale, AFTER having done the lesson?

Connect To Life:

Look and listen for opportunities to answer questions about your faith. You may not have anyone ask you a question, so be aware of what you read or hear on the radio, TV, or movies that convey the attitudes that pose the questions you have learned to answer. Dialog in your head answering the questions the world poses so that when you are actually asked a question, you will be prepared.

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Lesson Seven: World Missions, Part 1

Memory Verse: Luke 24:47

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

In Acts 1:8 Jesus told His disciples that upon receiving the power of the Holy Spirit they were to be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. They were to begin in their own backyard, which was Jerusalem. They were not to stop there, however. They were to press out beyond their own borders, making disciples to the ends of the earth.

Jesus connected each of these four regions of the world with the word *AND*, not with the word *OR*. The point is that each Christian needs to seek the Lord as to how he can be involved in some way in *each* of the four regions.

Though not everyone is called to GO to a foreign country to serve as a missionary, many more should be going than are. But, what if you are not called to GO? Can you therefore dismiss God's mandate to reach the nations with the good news of His love? Hardly.

In this lesson you will be challenged to consider the following ways in which you can be involved in reaching the world with the gospel through:

- 1) Prayer support
- 2) Financial support

PRAYER

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Why is prayer so necessary? (v.12)
 - a) What kind of prayer does Paul ask for? (v.19)

2. Why would praying for missionaries in the following ways be good?
 - a) marriages and families (including family back home)

 - b) personal devotional lives

 - c) health

- d) finances

 - e) language and cultural skills

 - f) encouragement / confirmation of ministry

 - g) opportunities to minister

 - h) fruit

 - i) unity among missionaries

 - j) help (Matthew 9:35-38)

 - k) Can you think of any others?
-
3. There is a difference between praying for the missionaries and praying for the people and the places in which they minister. How might you pray for the people and places in which the missionaries serve in these topics?
 - a) spiritual hunger / blind eyes to be open

- b) God's will regarding persecution / oppression

- c) God to raise up locals to lead the church

- d) scripture translation and literacy

- e) Can you think of any others?

GIVING

4. Read Philippians 4:10-19. The Philippians were financial supporters of Paul's ministry. Although they were poor, and for a while had to cut back, they started giving again as soon as they were able. God will care for His workers, with us or without us.

According to verse 17, what does Paul desire for the Philippians even more than money for his ministry?

- a) What does v. 18 say that indicates how easy it was for the Philippians to send money to Paul?

- b) What assurance does verse 19 provide to those who will give?

Connect to Life:

Praying and giving are essential foundations to make missions around the world happen. Please make praying for missionaries a regular part of your prayer life. You can't pray for all the missionaries in the world every day. Try praying for a different missionary each day of the week. Learn their needs and pray as specifically as you are able.

Besides your regular tithe to your local church, ask God if He would have you give something on a regular basis in support of world missions. It is very likely that He will say yes!

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Lesson Eight: World Missions, Part 2

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

This lesson is a continuation of the previous lesson. In this lesson we will consider the following two aspects of involvement in world missions:

- 1) Helping both physical and through encouragement
- 2) Going, either short or long-term

HELPING

Though you may not be on the mission field at this time, you can help missionaries. Because they are often far from home, they greatly appreciate receiving mail (e-mail, too!) and care packages from people in their home country.

Make it a point to write to a missionary at least once each month. Even a postcard is a tremendous encouragement.

Care packages from home are also a tremendous blessing to our missionaries. Things we like and take for granted such as food items, family videos, and teaching tapes are usually not available on the field. Write and ask a missionary for a wish list. Gather the items and ship a care package off. They will love you for it! Find out how to send packages so they are a blessing rather than a burden since in some places, local governments will tax the missionaries on packages from the U.S.

1. Make specific goals of how you can be a support to someone on the mission field.

GOING

2. Not all are called to go, but it is probable that more are called to go than do. Read Acts 13:1-4. What were these men doing when God spoke to them about going out? (v. 2)

- a) What took place before they were sent out? (v. 3) What can you learn from this?

- b) The first missionaries were sent out from a local church. Do you think this is an important pattern to follow? Why or why not?

Read and discuss APPENDIX TWO.

3. Read Acts 14:26-28. Why did the missionaries return to their home base?

- a) Why is it important to maintain an on-going relationship and communication between missionaries and their supporting churches?

SHORT TERM MISSIONS:

Every Christian who can should consider some sort of short term missionary service. The simplest is a weekend trip to a nearby foreign country like Mexico or a nearby foreign culture in a metropolitan city.

Others may wish to consider a longer, more involved short term trip — perhaps one to six months.

Statistically, around 25% of those who go on short term trips will sense a call to go on a longer term mission. Around 74% sense no specific call to longer term missions, but insist that the short term experience challenged and changed their lives in a positive way and are exceedingly grateful for the experience. Less than 1% have a negative experience that causes them to tell others not to go on a short term mission.

Those who are interested in short term missions can get updated information on short term missions opportunities from the Church office.

4. Make plans to go on at least a weekend trip the next time one is available.

LONG-TERM/CAREER MISSIONS:

Most long-term missionaries begin with short term trips. If you think you may be interested in long-term or career missionary service, look into short term opportunities and see how the Lord leads you.

A SPECIAL WORD TO, AND ABOUT, YOUTH IN MISSIONS:

Young people who are out of high school and are not encumbered with families, homes and jobs should consider going on a short term mission. As mentioned earlier, this is a life-changing experience that is sure to impact your future relationship with the Lord. Consider going for a few months. Go between high school and college, or take a semester off college on a short term mission.

Young people: Give God a few months of your life and see what He might want to do with it!

Parents: Encourage your young people to go on a short term mission. Begin talking to your children while they are young so that they will be ready when they are old enough. Begin putting money aside now for your children's' future missionary experiences.

One of the biggest hurdles to sending young people is nervous parents. The young people are more up for this kind of adventure than their parents often are. If you are a parent, why not trust the Lord with your [His?] young people! If you are not a parent, encourage those who are parents to be willing to let God have a crack at their kids.

Connect To Life:

- A. Make plans to go on a short term mission even if it is only a weekend.
Speak with a pastor or leader in your church who is involved with missions to learn more.
- B. If you are a young person make plans to go on one to three-month short term mission while you are still single and before you begin a career. If you wait, your life is likely to become so busy that you will not be able to go on a short-term mission.
Speak with a pastor or leader in your church who is involved with missions to learn more.
- C. If you are a parent train your children from the time they are very young about missions so that they will look forward to the day they can go on a short term mission. When they are older teens, encourage, rather than discouraging them about going on a short term mission and support their desire to go.
Speak with a pastor or leader in your church who is involved with missions to learn more.

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ANSWER KEY / DISCUSSION GUIDE

Lesson One

1. God didn't simply want more human beings on the planet. He wanted more people with whom He could enjoy a relationship that was unhindered by sin. God didn't simply want more people, He wanted more *holy* people.
1. a) Adam had a relationship with God before the Fall that was unhindered by sin. Sin is a reality in the life of Christians, but because of Christ's sacrificial death on our behalf, while sin still hampers our intimacy with God, our relationship with Him is no longer ruined by sin.
1. b) God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with more people who could relate to Him apart from sin. Jesus called on us to do the same thing when He told us to make disciples of all nations bringing people into an intimate relationship with God that is no longer ruined by sin.
2. God promised that all nations would be blessed through Abram and through His descendents.
2. a) Jesus was a descendent of Abraham. He died and rose again as Messiah for Jews and Gentiles alike. All the people of the earth are blessed through Abram's descendant, Jesus Christ. Obviously those who believe in Him are blessed, but so are those who do not. They are blessed because salvation has been provided, even though they do not accept it.
2. b) We are to declare the good news of God's blessing through Jesus Christ to all nations.
3. As Israel kept God's Law, the Gentile nations around them would see that: a) Israel was wise; b) Israel was a great nation; and c) God was near to them.
As a result, Gentile peoples would be drawn to God.
Note: This happened when Solomon was king. People came from afar to hear his "wisdom seminars" (2 Chronicles 9:1-11). Sadly, Solomon ended up being more influenced by the Gentiles (particularly his many Gentile wives) than he was an influence on them (2 Chronicles 11).
3. a) As Christians live according to God's Word, we will be distinctively different from the world and people will see that it is because of our relationship with God.
As a result, people will be drawn to God. Sadly, we tend to be more like Solomon; influenced by the godless more than we are an influence on them.
4. a) John 1:11-13. Jesus came to Israel, they rejected Him, but any who receive Him, regardless of race, are born of God. It is not a matter of being "born of blood." i.e. by being Jewish.

4. b) John 3:16-18. God so loved the world [all peoples, not just Israel] that Christ died for them. Any who receive Christ are saved.
4. c) John 4:5-9. Jesus went to Samaria. This was not natural for a Jewish person since Jews hated Samaritans more than any other people group. Jesus ministered to a Samaritan woman. Men did not speak with women in public (other than to family members) and Jewish people did not speak to Samaritans at all. By doing this, Jesus was demonstrating His love for all peoples.
4. d) John 10:16. Jesus was speaking to Jewish people. He was saying that He had other people [sheep] who were not of Israel [this fold]. He was telling the Jewish religious leaders about God's international message.
4. e) John 17:20-21. Most often the emphasis given to this passage is that Jesus was praying for unity among His people. It is true that Jesus was praying for unity among His people, but notice in verse 21 why He was praying for unity. It was "so that the world may believe." So even in this prayer we see God's heart to reach the peoples of the world with the message of His love.
Note the purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit is given to Christians so that we may be witnesses of Jesus, here, there, and everywhere.
5. The disciples were still looking for a restored ISRAEL. Jesus told them not to worry about that. He then gave another utterance of the Great Commission saying, "the Holy Spirit will come on you, giving you power to be witnesses, locally, regionally, nearby, and far away."
Note the purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit is given to Christians so that we may be witnesses of Jesus, here, there, and everywhere.
6. a) Romans 10:13-15. They will not be saved. Salvation is from the wrath of God.
6. b) John 14:6. They will not come to the Father.
6. c) Matthew 25:41. They will be cast into hell.
6. d) Answers will vary.
The reality that without Christ people will spend eternity in hell should motivate us to share the gospel with compassion and enthusiasm.

Lesson Two

1. The Holy Spirit convicts the unbelieving world (1) of Sin, (2) of righteousness, and (3) of judgment.
That He convicts the world of *sin* is a reference to the fact that unless a person has some understanding of his sin, he is not going to have any sense of his

need of forgiveness. We must preach the truth about sin, but only the Holy Spirit can make a person understand this concept.

That He convicts the world of *righteousness* is a reference to the fact that even though a person may admit to being a sinner, most do not think it matters since they are no worse than other people. It is only as the Holy Spirit reveals that the standard is not our good deeds against our bad deeds, or our bad deeds compared to the bad deeds of people who are worse than us. The standard is the righteousness of God.

That he convicts the world of *judgment* is a reference to the fact that unless a person is completely righteous before God, he will incur the eternal wrath of God. This judgment must be understood. The popular notion that people can “accept Jesus” with little or no concern for sin and judgment is contrary to the scriptures.

Understand that the only way anyone understands these concepts is that the Holy Spirit reveals them.

2. God has given us the Holy Spirit who empowers us to share our faith and lead people to faith in Christ. This assignment is impossible without the Holy Spirit.
3. Every time people in Acts are filled with the Spirit of God, they speak the Word of God with boldness. Their proclamation, because they are filled with the Holy Spirit, yields fruit, as seen by the fact that people came to faith in Christ.

Note also that in many instances this happens as a result of prayer.

4. People who have not received Jesus as Lord and Savior are spiritually blinded to the truth. We are only able to appeal to a person’s mind, but the Holy Spirit can open spiritually blind eyes and hardened hearts. Therefore, if we expect to see any spiritual results, we must pray, asking the Holy Spirit to open blind eyes and change people’s hearts.

The text also says that Satan is the one who blinds people. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will keep Satanic forces away from the people with whom we share our faith.

5. Answers will vary.
 - (1) Open spiritually blind eyes and soften hard hearts.
 - (2) Give them a desire for spiritual things.
 - (3) Let them realize their need.
 - (4) Grant them the ability to understand spiritual truth.
 - (5) Release them from any particular things that are keeping people in bondage (substance abuse, pride, immorality, etc.)
6. Answers will vary.
 - (1) Give me opportunities to share Christ and eyes to see those opportunities.
 - (2) Give me boldness to speak up.

- (3) Give me the right words—and to stay on the topic of Christ, not becoming side tracked by lesser issues.
- (4) Give me compassion on the lost.
- (5) Make me a godly example that will not undermine your words.

Lesson Three

1. First, I am to do good works. Second, I am to do them in a manner that when I am seen doing them, people will give credit to God, not me. When people notice that I am different, I can tell them that the difference is Jesus Christ. My good works will be an encouragement to others to follow my example. *It is essential that people understand that the difference in our lives is Jesus—not merely that we are “good people.”*
2. As I am a person of integrity, and as I treat others with the respect that I desire, I will be different from most people in this world. When people notice that I am different, I can tell them that the difference is Jesus Christ. My integrity and respect for others will be an encouragement to others to follow my example. *It is essential that people understand that the difference in our lives is Jesus—not merely that we are “good people.”*
3. Christians should be the best employees (or students) at every business (or school.) As I treat my superiors with respect and do my very best at whatever I am assigned to do, people will notice that I am different. Then I can tell them that the difference is Jesus Christ. My attitude and good work will be an encouragement to others to follow my example. *It is essential that people understand that the difference in our lives is Jesus—not merely that we are “good people.”*
4. As I honor my country and its leaders, and as I am the most law-abiding citizen I can be, I will be different from most people in this world. When people notice that I am different, I can tell them that the difference is Jesus Christ. My patriotism and respect for authority and law will be an encouragement to others to follow my example. *It is essential that people understand that the difference in our lives is Jesus—not merely that we are “good people.”*

In addition, Christians can become involved in the political process, seeking to establish and follow laws that are good for society. While we do not want to become more political than spiritual, it is a myth that “you can’t legislate morality.” Virtually every law has a moral basis behind it.
4. a) Christians in the first century were expected to respect the government and the laws of Rome, which was godless (to the point of killing Christians). They did

and they influenced their world. No less is expected of me.

It is actually easier to influence our government now than it was then. What can Christians in America do when the government is governing unjustly? We can vote, write letters, run for office, protest, etc. What could Christians in the first century do if Rome was doing something unjustly? They could do nothing. Conclusion: We can accomplish more than the first century Christians.

5. a) Titus 2:6-8. The people were called to be sober-minded, people of integrity, holding to correct doctrine. They were to be so "above reproach" that those who were opposed to Christianity would have nothing evil to say against them.

Daniel 6 provides an example of this concept in action. Daniel was so "above reproach" that the only thing his enemies could pin on him was that he prayed too much! What would society be like if the only fault people could find with believers is that we pray too much?!

Think how the society would be different if Christians lived "above reproach."

5. b) Titus 3:1-2. They were to be submissive to authority, speaking evil of no one, peaceable, and humble. Nice people bring out the "niceness" in others. (Proverbs 15:1)

Think of how our society has come to honor mean-spirited people. Think of how quick people are to be angered and vent their anger in all sorts of ways including violence. Now think of how just being kind and gentle (fruit of the spirit Galatians 5:22-23) might have a calming influence on society.

6. While this passage is directed to Christian wives of unbelieving husbands, the principle is no less true for Christian husbands of unbelieving wives.

First, the believer must be careful not to look like the world! Christians must not become worldly in order to minister to those in the world.

Second, the believer is to be a kind, gentle, and serving person. She is to live out her faith without saying a word (preaching to her husband).

Please Note: In a marriage it is a given that her husband knows she is a Christian. This is not an encouragement to be a good person and not tell people that it is Christ in your life that makes the difference.

6. a) In the same way that the wife needs to prove the validity of her faith in Christ with a Christ-like life-style, individual Christians, and the Church in general, need to live in a manner that validates our faith in Christ. The world loves to find fault with Christians and the Church, mistakenly thinking that this somehow relieves them of the responsibility to obey the gospel of Christ.

The Church still needs to preach the gospel, but if the Church does not *live* and *obey* the gospel, the preaching will have dramatically less effect.

7. a) Social Injustice. Speak out about abortion, welfare reform, crime, problems with public education, injustice and persecution of minorities, and of the church. Write letters to legislators and newspapers. Join in product or service boycotts. Be peaceable and respectful and remember to communicate that it is because you are a Christian that you are taking a stand. Do volunteer work for a pro-life center or at a homeless shelter.

7. b) Sin and Immorality. First, demonstrate commitment to morality by being moral in your personal life. Then, speak out about moral issues such as homosexuality, pornography, alcoholism, and drug abuse. Write letters to legislators and newspapers. Join in product or service boycotts. Be peaceable and respectful and remember to communicate that it is because you are a Christian that you are taking a stand. Do volunteer work for a ministry that is taking a stand on these kinds of issues.

7. c) Our society loves evil and loves to mock righteousness. Speak up when this happens. Do not support a non-believer who is attacking a fellow believer. Oppose those who attack the Lord or His Church. Speak up concerning legislation that opposes Christianity and religious freedom. As it has long been said, "*The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to say/do nothing.*"

8. It seems that while Lot may have had *some* restraining influence on Sodom, he was more influenced by Sodom than he was an influence on Sodom.

He started living in a tent near Sodom (Genesis 13:12), and ended up living in the city (Genesis 19:1-2). When the men of the city wanted Lot's angelic visitors for sexual reasons, Lot was willing to give them his daughters (19:8). Lot's daughters appear to have married godless men of Sodom (19:14). When it was time to leave the city, his sons-in-law didn't go with Lot. Lot's wife looked back after being told not to (19:26). Lot's daughters intoxicated and seduced Lot, committing incest with their own father (19:33, 35).

The warning is to be sure that I do not allow the world to influence me as I seek to influence it.

9. The disciples made an impact on all of Jerusalem. Everyone knew of their actions (4:16) and they filled the city with their doctrines (5:28).
9. a) The disciples were not formally educated. What they had was far better. They had spent time with Jesus! This should encourage believers that although education and training are good and desirable, they are not necessary to be an influence.
10. There are a number of answers. Here are a few:
27:21-25 Paul encouraged the people in a bad situation.
27:34-36 Paul encouraged the people and prayed publicly for them.

- 27:42-44 The guards wanted to kill the prisoners, they were spared for Paul's sake.
- 28:1-3 Paul served his companions in practical ways.
- 28:3-6 God's protection of Paul's life was an influence.
- 28:7-10 Paul prayed for the sick and was well received as a result.

11. When Christians and the Church are no longer an influence in their society, it is as though they are useless. We must continue to be salty, preserving the world from the decay of sin and immorality. We must not allow the light to be hidden, leaving society in darkness.
11. a) The church in our society in this day and age, is not nearly as influential as it once was. The world tramples the salt underfoot by openly ridiculing God, Christianity, the Church and righteousness. Entertainment and education appear to be the largest feet trampling on the church.
11. b) We must humble ourselves, confess our sin, and then recommit ourselves to being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We must think consciously about being an influence in every way we can.

Lesson Four

- We must not place so much emphasis on fellowship with Jesus and fellow believers that we neglect the responsibility to tell our testimony of what great things God has done for us to others.
- Testimony: A declaration of facts. As used in Christian circles, a person's testimony is their story of how God revealed Himself and saved the person.
- Our personal testimony of experience with Jesus is vital. Why? Because I can only tell with passion and conviction what I personally know from experience. Anything else is hearsay and less compelling.
Personal testimonies are also important because we usually tell them to people who know and care about us. They may not initially care much about Jesus, but because they care about us, they are will listen with some interest to our personal stories.
- The man did not know much detail about Jesus. He only knew that he was blind, but after his encounter with Jesus he could see!
He did not seem to worry too much about what he did not understand. He simply told what he knew.
- Some possible answers:
 - He was polite. (v.2)
 - He sought to connect with his audience. (v.3)
 - He told a little about himself and his life before he became a Christian. (vv.4-11)

- He told about the circumstances surrounding his conversion and how he actually came to faith in Christ. (vv.12-19) *This is the most important aspect of our testimonies!*
- He included the Word of God. (v.22)
- He included the gospel. (v.23)
- He told about what happened in his life since becoming a Christian. (vv.19-20)
- He appealed to his audience to make a decision. (vv.25-27)
- He tried to leave the door open for further ministry. (v.29)

Please look at APPENDIX ONE entitled "Witnessing Using Your Testimony." Be prepared to discuss this appendix with the study group.

- Have each person read their testimony out loud for the group. Listen for key ingredients, encouraging what is good, and pointing out anything that may be missing.

Lesson Five

- The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. People must hear and understand the gospel.
A great testimony will not save a person unless they hear and understand the gospel. If a person is merely impressed with your testimony, he may only want to be like you. This is not the same as receiving Christ.
- a) Since God will do the saving, it is not up to you, your testimony, or a clever presentation. You can rest in the knowledge that God will save His people as you are faithful to present the gospel.
- a) All people are *RUIINED* due to sin.
- b) Jesus Christ is God's only *REMEDY* for man's sin problem.
- c) Each person must personally *RECEIVE* Jesus as Lord and Savior to be saved.
- Integrating the gospel into telling our testimony is essential. Otherwise we are only leading people to ourselves.
One way is to simply say something like this, "When I became a Christian, I understood that (1) I was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness, (2) that Jesus is the only way to receive forgiveness because of what He did for me when He died on the cross and rose from the dead, and (3) I needed to personally receive Jesus' sacrifice on my behalf by trusting in Him and following Him as Lord of my life."
- Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" thus soliciting a response.
- Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do YOU say that I am?" By doing this, Jesus was pointing out that

although what the crowds say about Jesus may make for interesting discussion, the crucial point is: "Who do YOU say Jesus is?"

6. Paul asked Agrippa if he believed, appealing to Agrippa's knowledge of the message of the prophets.
7. We can "set the hook" by simply asking people what they think of our story, of Jesus, or by asking people straight out, "So, would you like to receive Christ?"
8. Answers will vary, but the three main points of question 8 are crucial.
8. a) Discuss the importance of using terms that non-Christians can understand.

Lesson Six

1. Answers for this question are found in the booklet "Answering Questions About Your Faith."
The four kinds of questioners are (1) Indifferent; (2) Skeptic; (3) Scoffer; (4) Seeker.
2. Answers for this question are found in the booklet "Answering Questions About Your Faith."
3. No one can be "argued" into the kingdom of God. We want to present truth to remove people's excuses for not believing. A humble, Christ-like attitude is more effective than that of a "know-it-all." Those who attack Christianity do so out of pride. We must fight pride with humility, not with more pride.
3. a) Answers will vary.
If a person asks a question that you do not have the answer for, admit that you do not have the answer rather than becoming argumentative.
If the questioner becomes argumentative, it is probably best to back off, understanding that they might be more of a scoffer than a skeptic.
4. Answers for this question are found in the booklet "Answering Questions About Your Faith."
5. Answers will vary. No one is going to be a 10, but hopefully there has been some growth as a result of this lesson.

Lesson Seven

1. Prayer is necessary since we are involved in a spiritual battle. Though we cannot see the battle, it is no less real. Since the battle is primarily spiritual, we must fight with spiritual weapons — prayer being among the most important. (See Ephesians 6:10-20.)
1. a) Paul asked for prayer that he would be bold to proclaim the gospel. There are spiritual forces that would seek to stop the proclamation of the gospel and

to keep people from understanding it when it is proclaimed. Prayer is an essential means of countering these spiritual forces.

2. a) Missionaries have families and family stress like other Christians. Satan wants to discredit the family because this will harm the ministry. Missionaries can be distracted from their work if they are worried about family issues back home.
2. b) No one can minister effectively if they are not enjoying regular personal intimacy with the Lord. Missionaries who labor in places where no church is established have *only* their devotional lives for spiritual feeding.
2. c) Living in foreign countries often poses health challenges. Missionaries often suffer from health problems. These problems not only hinder the work, they can become a major discouragement.
2. d) Missionaries usually live quite modestly. Like all people, they need money to live. If they have to worry about finances the work will be adversely affected. To have to return home due to a lack of finances is a kind of defeat.
2. e) Missionaries are there to communicate the gospel. Language and cultural barriers hinder the communication of the gospel. The clearer one is with language and culture, the more effective he is in preaching the gospel.
2. f) There are many factors in ministry that are discouraging. Discouragement can cause missionaries to doubt their calling. Besides hindering the ministry, the missionary's family and health may also be adversely affected by discouragement and doubt.
2. g) Missionaries need to see opportunities to minister. They need boldness to seize those opportunities.
2. h) Missionaries often work for years in an area before they see any fruit. Pray for fruit since that is what they are there for and to guard them from the discouragement of seasons of fruitlessness.
2. i) Satan has hindered much work among missionaries due to disagreements, theological disputes, etc. Missionaries often have limited social contacts outside of the other missionaries with whom they labor. Personalities do not necessarily mesh just because both parties are missionaries. These kinds of problems send a negative message to those being reached out to.
2. j) God sustains the missionaries who are on the field. Though they do not have much in the way of creature comforts, they have enough. What they frequently want most is help! Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth more workers!
2. k) Answers will vary. Besides generic prayers, ask missionaries what they want prayer for. They believe in and depend heavily on prayer. They will share their prayer needs.

3. a) If the people are not interested in spiritual matters, the missionary's job is that much harder.
3. b) Missionaries often labor in countries that are hostile to the gospel. Pray for open doors and no persecution.
3. c) Missionary work is not complete until the newly established Christians and churches are being led by their own people. As long as foreign missionaries are leading these churches, they are not fully established.
3. d) People need to have the Word of God in their own language and be able to read it. Missionaries work long and hard to make up written forms of languages and translate scripture into these languages. Then they still have to teach the people how to read.
3. e) Answers will vary. Besides generic prayers, ask missionaries what they want prayer for. They believe in and depend heavily on prayer. They will share their prayer needs.
4. Paul does not want the gift as much as he wants them to experience the blessings from God that come to those who give. He felt this way because he knew that God would supply his needs and because he knew the blessings one receives for giving are great.
4. a) The Philippians, who were not wealthy, gave sacrificially.
4. b) God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. This promise is sure. It is not a promise to supply all of your *desires*.

Lesson Eight:

1. Answers will vary. As a study group hold each other accountable to follow through with whatever plans each person makes.
2. These men were ministering unto the Lord. Ministering can mean both worshiping and serving. God speaks to those who are faithful in the basics. Note that this was taking place in the context of the local church.

The men were fasting, which indicates that they were committed to seeking the Lord through serious prayer.
2. a) After the message from the Holy Spirit and before they were sent out, there was a period of fasting and prayer. This period of specific concentrated prayer is important since going to the mission field is such a serious matter.

The leaders of the local church laid hands on the missionaries, praying and sending them out. This signifies the endorsement of the missionaries to the work by the local church.
2. b) Missions should come from local churches. Local churches may need to network with other churches to

support missionaries, but missionaries should come from the local church. This is important for several reasons:

- (1) Before a missionary is ready to be sent out, he needs to establish a solid track record of service in a local church.
 - (2) Missionaries need a strong support team at home made up of people who know them.
 - (3) Since missionaries' primary task is to preach the gospel, lead people to faith in Christ *and establish churches*, it is important that they come from churches.
3. They returned to give a report to their supporters concerning what had happened.
 3. a) The supporters are encouraged to hear what God has done through the missionaries they are supporting. This helps keep the support consistent.

This is also an encouragement to the missionaries to see the supporters interested in what God has done.

Updates from the field inform the home team how to pray most effectively.

Furloughs give missionaries the much needed rest and opportunities to regroup and make plans for the next advance.