

Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 9 Sharing Christ

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day One) A Witness

God is Holy. The fact that God is pure and good leads us to praise and worship Him. Recall from *Lesson 7, Worship in Christ*, that worship is really a way of life. It starts the moment we accept Jesus' invitation to believe in Him and follow God's plan for our lives.

Lesson 8, Holy is the Lord, reminded us that we are called to lead a holy and spiritually mature life in Christ. God is honored by our willingness to trust and follow. In order to follow, we must be open to the Lord's instruction each day. We must listen.

God has a distinctive plan for each of our lives, but if we are not paying attention, we may miss it. We need to depend on and listen to God every day, all day. Not only does God have unique purposes for us, but also standards or regular tasks that define us as Christians.

1. What are some regular things you are doing that sets you apart as a Christian?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

Our normal, everyday activities should reveal who God is through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is known personally through His Son (John 14:6-7). Therefore, if people are to be reconciled to God according to His overarching plan, we must all share the good news of Jesus Christ in deeds, actions and words. ***Please pray now for God to bring people into your life with whom you can share the gospel.*** You will be asked to share your faith as an assignment at the end of this lesson.

Read Philippians 2:21 and answer questions 2-3:

For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:21

2. From your knowledge of the Bible, list some things that Jesus is interested in:

3. On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), how would you rate your attention to the interests of Christ?

4. Prayerfully choose one of the items from your answer to #2 that could use improvement in your own life. With the Holy Spirit's help, take a keen interest in that item this week so that you are looking out for Jesus' interests. Write the item and explain the result:

There may have been many items on your list. Certainly Jesus is concerned about a myriad (a great number) of things in the world. However, we are going to concentrate on Jesus' chief interest: the glorification of the triune God. The way that God is most glorified is for people to know Christ and be reconciled to Himself.

Sharing Christ and making disciples are just two sides of the same coin. In order for a person to become a disciple, he or she must understand who Jesus is and what He has done for them. They have to be given an opportunity to accept the good news (gospel) and make a decision to follow Christ.

Read Acts 1:8 and answer questions 5-9:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

5. What is Jesus telling His disciples they will receive when the Holy Spirit comes on them (8a)?

6. Define the word power in your own words:

The English definition of the word power is written below. It is an important word to understand. Thus, when we are questioned on a subject, it forces us to focus on it. The Holy Spirit is bringing Christ's disciples God's power, strength and ability to be His witnesses. This fact should encourage us to courageously proclaim Christ.

Definition: The word power in this context means: 1. the ability to do something or act in a particular way 2. the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events 3. physical strength and force exerted by something or someone.

The Greek word, *dunamis*, (δύναμις) that we translate power is: power, strength; act of power, miracle, supernatural power(s), ability, capacity and means.

7. How does knowing the fact that the Holy Spirit brings Jesus' disciples power encourage you?

8. What are we to do with this power (v. 8b)?

9. Define the word witness in your own words:

Definition: The Greek word *martus* (μάρτυς) that we translate witness in English does mean witness, and martyr. The English word witness means: 1. a person who sees something happen 2. testimony (statement) of a fact or event 3. one who has personal knowledge of something 4. public affirmation by word or example, usually of one's religious faith or conviction.

When we are witnesses for the Lord Jesus, we are telling others the truthful facts and events of His life. We share how we have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and how they can also. We publicly affirm by words, deeds and actions that we are His and He is ours.

The word *martyr* became a church term used for saints who suffered and died in their witness to Christ. The New Testament has examples of disciples who had such a high commitment to Christ and their witness that they were persecuted and martyred for their faith. Since that time men, women and children all over the world have followed in their footsteps to the glory of their Lord and Savior.

10. What do you think would keep you from witnessing for the Lord Jesus?

Jesus loved us so much that He willingly died on the cross so that we may know God and have eternal life. He paid a tremendous price so that our sins would be forgiven. We witness or testify about Jesus because we love Him and the people that God created.

Everyone has a right to know the genuineness of Jesus Christ, but whether or not they accept the truth is not our responsibility. Please do not think that you can *make* someone become a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Each person must choose for himself when the Holy Spirit stirs his or her heart towards God.

Whether or not the person that you are witnessing to accepts Christ or not, you are worshipping the Lord. You are honoring the triune God for who He is and what He has done in your life. *Your personal testimony, shared in love, is the highest form of worship.*

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Two) Mandate

In *Lesson One, Position in the Kingdom*, you were asked to memorize Matthew 28:18-20, also known as *The Great Commission*. We do not know who coined this phrase but it summarizes Jesus' last directive quite well.

To receive a commission is to receive authority to act as someone's agent. In this case Jesus has been given all authority by God and is commanding His disciples to reproduce themselves by making disciples. We are to act on Jesus' behalf just as He represents the triune God. As Christ's disciples today, we officially represent Him in carrying out His Kingdom business and matters of critical importance.

Read Matthew 28:17 answer questions 11-13:

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Matthew 28:17
(This verse is immediately prior to the Great Commission.)

11. What were the disciples doing right before Jesus commanded them to make disciples?

12. How do you know there were more than the eleven disciples with Jesus?

13. What connection do you see with worshipping Jesus and making disciples?

Matthew 28:18-20 is a mandate. It is an authoritative order, an official command from our Lord Jesus Christ. You are in the CLI Disciple of Christ Study because you are taking this mandate

seriously. You understand that to be a disciple means to be in Christ, working in His Kingdom and always in His control.

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and answer questions 14-17:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

14. Within this Great Commission, how does Jesus verbalize the importance of the triune God for the disciples (v. 19)?

15. What do you think Jesus means when He says to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”?

16. How are *you* living out the reality of baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

Water baptism is a symbol of the reality of our union with the triune God. It is called *believers' baptism* because in the New Testament those believing and committing their lives to Christ presented themselves for baptism. Thus, believers were immersed or dipped in water before God and other believers to acknowledge their faith and commitment.

In ancient times a person's name indicated his or her character, nature and essence (spirit). Being baptized or immersed into someone's name would indicate that you take on that person's character, nature and essence. It is another way of expressing our union with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

Jesus desires that His disciples take on the holy character of God. He died for our sins and made our righteousness possible. His last words before ascending (going up) into heaven was a command not only to make disciples, but to make sure they are baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism represents the reality of our oneness with God.

17. Have you been baptized with water since believing in the name of Jesus Christ? Yes No

Perhaps you are living in circumstances that hinder you from being immersed in water and sharing your testimony to a body of believers. In some countries being a Christian is against the law. These believers have to get creative. They might use a nearby lake early in the morning or late at night so they won't be noticed by others. Some may use a bathtub in their home with only one or two other Christians present.

God knows your heart and He will give you a way to be baptized, if this is your desire. Remember it is a symbol of your inward devotion to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God will help you get creative if you are not part of a church that makes baptism

possible. As long as you have access to water and one other believer, you are in business! Your "Father's" business, of course.

Please do not get legalistic about baptism or anything else. Legalism is a strict, literal (exact), or excessive conformity to the law. Religious legalism, as Jesus preached about, restricts love. For example, if sprinkling water on you, or another believer, is all that is possible, that is sufficient.

18. How are you helping believers to authentically (truly) live in the character, nature and spirit of Christ?

Ask God to speak to you as you read and meditate on Romans 6:1-7. Answer question 19:

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:1-7

19. Please share what God said or impressed upon you:

Perhaps you have heard it said that Jesus did not say go and witness but to go and make disciples. It might be true in a sense. However, the first step to becoming a disciple is to hear the gospel. We must share the good news of Jesus Christ in order for someone to understand and place their trust in the Savior. In addition, we might only have a chance meeting with someone and not have an opportunity to ever see him or her again. Your job may be to share the good news while God has someone else in mind for day to day discipleship.

It always comes back to being attentive and obedient to the Holy Spirit. He will guide you into sharing your faith and also guide you to those He has reserved for you to disciple. Also remember that it is not our job to convict someone of his sins or manufacture saving faith. It is our job to be obedient and share our faith.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Three) *Your Testimony*

Words of a Witness: Words of Worship

Your testimony or your words as a witness to Christ is public worship. Private worship is just between you and your Creator. Even though you may be talking about God's goodness or attributes to just one other person, it is still public worship. You are openly praising God for others to hear.

Think about how it makes you feel when you are commended for something in public. Perhaps your teacher remarked positively on one of your papers or art project, or a friend declared in front of others how much she enjoys your humor.

When you share with someone what God has done for you or tell of His character, you are declaring your love for Him. You are proclaiming your appreciation and respect for Him. You are speaking Words of Worship. W.O.W.! Look at my God. Look at who He is! Behold my God! You are turning the spotlight on Him and putting yourself behind the scene; you are willingly standing in His shadow. As John the Baptist says in John 3:30, "*He must become greater; I must become less.*"

When we describe what God has done in our lives, we call that descriptive worship. It can be as easy and as straightforward as telling someone how God answered one of your prayers. Let me share an example:

When I taught second grade Sunday school, we would take a few minutes before the lesson to have *Words of Worship*. These dear seven year olds would stand in front of the classroom and simply say what God had done in their lives. Here are a few of their testimonies: "I was afraid to be baptized, but I prayed to God and I wasn't afraid at all." "We lost our dog and we prayed and we found our dog." "I hurt my arm and God healed it." "My sister and I would fight all the time, but I prayed and we are getting along better."

Your own Words of Worship may be just as simple. Elaborate, flowing words are not necessary. Your worship, like a prayer come from your heart. The Bible tells us that it is with our heart that we will find favor or disfavor with God (Genesis 4:3-7; 1 Samuel 16:7 and Matthew 6:7). If you are shy, have a speaking impediment or other challenge in articulation; remember that your sincere and simple words will rise up in pleasing and pure praise to the LORD!

Similarly, if you have a talent for talking, do not feel that you have to hold back a colorful and accomplished delivery. God expects us to use our talents for His glory. Go ahead and speak freely and enthusiastically. You may even want to record your words of worship on a CD, DVD or other recording device. Just be mindful of the temptation to turn the spotlight ever so slightly back on ourselves and how well we are telling and illustrating our story of praise.

Perhaps you have a talent for writing but even if you do not, you can still write your *Words of Worship* and send to others by mail, email or in some other creative way. You can write in cards, on stationary or use your computer. Let the words flow from your heart and God will be glorified. Like the speaker, it is the heart of the writer that concerns God.

Sharing the good news is worshipping God in words (a sacrifice of praise). You are helping the lost fill their empty souls so they also can join in worshipping God. You are also showing them the way to eternal life with God; and they are saved from eternal destruction. By wrapping the gospel in your own personal story, you reveal your own compassion and vulnerability. You are sharing an intimate part of your life and modeling Christian discipleship in its most basic form.

Your personal testimony may be short or long depending on the circumstances. Two to three

minutes is a good length but up to five minutes may be appropriate for closer friends or acquaintances. It is a good idea to write it out and practice telling it. Naturally, if you have a powerful testimony of how God has dramatically changed your life and are asked to speak to a group, you can adjust the time according to the group's schedule.

Basically you want to tell what your life was like without Jesus, how you heard or read about the gospel message, how you responded and how your life has changed. The important thing is that Jesus gets the credit for the positive changes in your life. Remember, you are worshipping God with your words.

We may never know how God has used our personal testimony until we get to heaven. However, sometimes when you are sharing with a non-Christian, he or she may want to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior right then and there. Be prepared to pray with that person and help them get established with other believers for study, fellowship and good works.

I have shared my personal testimony many times. In fact, every time I give a tour at CLI or share how CLI got started, I take the opportunity to share my personal testimony. Once I shared with church friends over dinner at their home. We had met in a small group Bible study before I had trusted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I was simply giving glory to God for what He had done in my life. About a week later, the wife called to say that she had thought a lot about what I had shared. Later as she was listening to a Christian radio station, a speaker gave the opportunity for the listening audience to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. She knelt and prayed.

There are many people attending church that have never given their lives to Jesus and personally accepted that they are sinners in dire (serious and urgent) need of a Savior. Perhaps they have been attending church all their lives and have never surrendered or submitted to the lordship of Jesus Christ. I was one of them. Here, then, is a short version of my own personal testimony:

I grew up going to church every Sunday but didn't have a personal relationship with the Lord. I am a goal-oriented person; I have a Masters in Business and also started several businesses. I would work toward a goal and when I met or even failed in reaching it, I would look for something else. But nothing satisfied me. I was never able to fill that void in my heart. Even being married with three wonderful children did not fill the emptiness.

In April of 1995, I attended a women's retreat with my church. When the speaker finished her presentation, she said, "If you have never trusted Jesus as your personal Savior and made Him the Lord or Leader of your life, you can pray now." My first thought was, "that is the stupidest thing I have ever heard." We are all Christians here so why is she suggesting that we pray and repent (turn away) from our sins. I was like many people who call themselves Christians but really do not know God personally.

Although I was thinking this intellectually, I felt the Holy Spirit move my heart and I bowed my head and prayed for Jesus to come into my life. I knew I had done many things wrong and needed Jesus to save me from my sins. I needed to accept His death on the cross for my sins and that God raised Him from the dead. He is God's Son and our living Savior.

My life changed! I knew why I was here on this earth and who I was serving. I was filled with purpose and a lifetime goal of serving God. My emptiness has been filled with the Lord Jesus.

If I am also sharing how CLI began, I will continue telling how much I hungered and thirsted for God after I had received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. By the way, I still hunger and thirst to know God better! Here is the rest of the rest of the CLI story:

In addition to reading the Bible, I started reading Christian books. Every time I had a question, God would bring just the right book at just the right time. After awhile I thought: Wouldn't it be great if others had advantage of these books since books are expensive and most churches don't have a library? My husband Anders suggested I go to our local YMCA and see if they would let us put some books there for the members. The person I talked to was enthusiastic and we started in 1996 with 100 donated Christian books placed in a bookcase in a main hallway.

We placed libraries in other YMCAs, Shelters, Nursing Homes, etc. and then in 2002, we had some extra books. We decided to check and see if correctional facilities could use the books and started calling prison chaplains. We kept hearing, "You have no idea what an answer to prayer you are!" It wasn't long before we saw God working in the prisons and we decided to join Him and become a prison ministry.

20. Write a short personal testimony of how you placed your faith in Jesus. It should include what your life was like before meeting Jesus and how it changed after accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. The goal of this witness (statement, evidence) is to honor God and not yourself. Focus on who He is and what He has done for you.

You must also rely on the Spirit for wisdom and the right way in approaching different types of people. Some may not know anything about Jesus. There are two main categories of non-Christians:

1. Cult or false religious people are seeking or are involved in some kind of spiritual trappings but do not know the true God and Savior. This category would include New Agers (movement promoting a broad range of philosophies and practices traditionally viewed as occult, metaphysical, or paranormal), Wiccans (witchcraft), Hindus, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Satanists, unsaved church goers, and other kinds of false religions.

2. Skeptic or nonreligious people would include atheists (lack belief in the existence of God or gods), agnostics (says it is impossible to know whether God exists or not), nihilist (believes that life is meaningless and rejects all religious and moral principles) and those who are indifferent to anything spiritual. This group is probably the most challenging to work with because of their hardened hearts. But as with all things remember - *nothing is impossible with God.* Luke 1:37

There are also different cultures and personalities across both the cult and skeptic groups. However, no matter culture or personality, most people respond well to kindness, understanding and love. No one likes a "know it all" and "in your face" encounter. Sharing the truth will go much better if you do not disparage (ridicule, criticize) another's religion no matter how evil or ridiculous it appears.

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 and answer question 21:

21. Now it is your turn. Write three questions from the parable of the Good Samaritan that connect worship and witness with each other. Then, answer the questions that you have written.

Jesus was using the Samaritan story as an example of loving your neighbor and honoring God, but it can also be used as an example of sharing your faith. In loving your neighbor and helping him, give the reason that you are doing it. For example, if you were the Good Samaritan in the story, you might leave a note for the victim sharing that you wanted to help because of God's love in Christ Jesus (Colossians 3:17). You might share this truth with the innkeeper also.

Even in little acts we can share Jesus and give Him glory. I was in a grocery line a while back and everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. First, it was a long line and second, the cash register was not working properly. And yes, I was sorely tempted to complain to another customer or at least in my mind. The Lord kept me calm.

When it was finally my turn, the cashier tried to scan my items several times and had to start over. Finally the register broke altogether. I had to carry all my items to another cash register and start over. The cashier apologized. Kindly, I said it was fine. A little later she said, "I really appreciate your being so nice. Most customers would have been really mad." I said, "Oh, if it weren't for Jesus, I would be upset, also. He gives me peace."

This was a bridge or link to open a conversation about Jesus. We can connect with people simply by standing in line at a grocery store or chow line. Then if we are alert to the Holy Spirit's leading, He will help us to bridge our conversation into spiritual matters.

Sometimes when the bridge is opened, you might not have time to fully cross over into the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a good time to use gospel tracts. We have enclosed an English and a Spanish tract for you with this lesson.

Definition: A gospel tract is a concise (brief) piece of writing that presents the good news of Jesus Christ and gives the reader an opportunity to repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The majority of gospel tracts are small booklets emphasizing the gospel with Scripture.

I carry tracts with me (purse or pocket) so that I can give them to folks that I meet. I might simply say, "I have enjoyed talking with you and I'd like to give you something that changed my life." If you have more time, you can share the gospel with your own words, or use the tract as a point of reference. In addition, you may be led to give a tract to someone that you do not know or with whom you have had no conversation. The key to giving out tracts or any other aspect of the Christian life is the Holy Spirit, your powerful and loving guide.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Four) *Steps to Sharing Your Faith*

Steps to Sharing Your Faith:

(1. Rely on the Holy Spirit through prayer:

Pray and ask for divine appointments and open hearts in sharing your faith. The Holy Spirit will direct your steps. However, you must determine not to be self-indulgent with your time and schedule. Take time to hear and learn about the person. But also explore. Steer and bridge the conversation to spiritual topics as the Holy Spirit leads.

Questions to engage a person in spiritual matters:

- a. Do you ever think about spiritual things?
- b. When you go to church, where do you attend?
- c. Is there anything I can pray for you?
- d. Who is Jesus Christ to you?
- e. If you died today and arrived at heaven's gates and God asked why He should let you in to His heaven, what would you say?
- f. Do you ever wonder about the meaning of life?
- g. What do you like to read? (When the conversation comes back to you, talk about the Bible or a Christian book)
- h. What is the most meaningful thing that has ever happened to you?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

As previously stated, the Greek word for witness or martyr is *martus* (μάρτυς). It means "The testimony of a person, or something which bears testimony to a person or an event."¹ In the early church, to be a witness or give testimony to Christ Jesus could mean death (martyr). Those who die for their faith are still called martyrs.

Your testimony (statement, acknowledgment, proof) of Jesus Christ is empowered by the Holy Spirit so that what you say about Jesus has eternal results. The results may not bring you safety on this earth but could bring persecution and even death (martyr).

You were asked to write your testimony for question 20. If you are already sharing your testimony on a regular basis - praise God! If not, it may be helpful to practice saying it aloud to yourself. The goal is for you to share your "short" testimony of how you recognized your sinfulness, repented and met Jesus. You are witnesses to God's forgiving love, healing and restoration. You are witnesses to Christ's saving power.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."
Acts 2:17-18

Definition: The Greek word *propheteuo* (προφητεύω) that is translated into English prophesy means to proclaim God's message, preach; prophesy, predict; speak God's message intelligibly. Prophesy in the Bible does not always mean predicting the future, although it can. It means

¹ Holman Bible Dictionary

speaking God's message. Thus the Holy Spirit enables you to witness and share the wisdom of God's word from the Bible as you pray and rely on Him.

22. What is the first step in sharing the gospel?

23. How will the Holy Spirit help you in sharing the gospel?

24. When was the last time you shared your faith in Jesus Christ and how did it happen?

(2. **Start from the beginning:**

The beginning is God! Our story starts with His goodness, love and holiness in creating the first man and woman. He placed them in the Garden of Eden, a paradise God specifically created for them. It was filled with joy, comfort and harmony with God and mankind. Adam and Eve were also blessed to enjoy each other in complete peace and love.

In sharing this truth, there is the possibility that someone might bring up human evolution and their belief that it is nonsense that man and woman were created as fully functional beings. Do not be confused or unsettled about their comments. Human evolution is still a theory and there are scholarly critiques that question its viability (workable). Besides, if God chose to use a form of evolution in creating the world, it will square with the creation account in the Bible.

Now you may be a budding apologist and can refute arguments for human evolution and concepts contrary (different or opposing) to Christian instruction. We would encourage you to continue to study hard and use your gift in upholding and teaching the truth. However, whether or not you have specific facts and data to back up your argument, always speak in love. Do not be tempted to quarrel and fight.

Definitions: Evolution is "the process of change seen to take place within species of animals and plants; however, it more often refers to the theory that attempts to explain the origin of human life via forces operating according to natural law. As such, evolution most often leads to atheism. By positing that all life forms evolved from simpler forms there is not need for a personal Creator."² The laws themselves were identified in 1859 by Charles Darwin in his book, *Origin of the Species*. Microevolution differs from human evolution. It is the change within a species or small group of organisms, especially over a short period.

Definition: A theory is an idea that is suggested or presented as possibly true but that is not known or proven to be true.

Definitions: An apologist is one who makes a reasoned defense of their faith before unbelievers. Apologetics is the branch of theology concerned with the defense or proof of a particular religion. For us, it is Christianity. Theology is the study of God and His relation to the world.

² Hernando, James D., *Dictionary of Hermeneutics*, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2005. p. 158.

25. How would you rate your desire to defend the Christian faith? Little Desire Medium Desire Great Desire (Circle One)

26. *If* you think God is asking you to be an apologist, what will you do to practice and perfect your calling?

(3. Continue with the Fall:

God is holy (righteous). Adam and Eve were initially created holy but took their ability to choose and decided to sin. Sin is disobeying God's law, or turning away from God's love and grace. God only gave them one law: do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But they disobeyed God and ate from this tree, causing evil to enter the world.

It is neither useful nor practical to make your presentation of the gospel long and complicated. If questions arise in the normal course of the conversation, by all means answer what you know. If you do not know the answer, tell the person that you will try and get one. Keep your word and follow up. However, sometimes the questions are a smokescreen designed to obscure, confuse, or mislead. Again, rely on the Holy Spirit each step you take in sharing the gospel.

This next section on federal headship is for your information. It is not meant for sharing unless you think it is necessary at this early stage of gospel presentation. This is a further explanation on why Adam and Eve's sin has been imputed to mankind.

Definition: Federal headship refers to the representation of a group united under a federation or covenant. For example, a country's president may be seen as the federal head of their nation, representing and speaking on its behalf before the rest of the world.³ If the president declares war, then its citizens are at war, whether one likes it or not.

In regard to theology, federal headship means that we are represented before God by someone else, who acts on our behalf. What the headship achieves or loses, so do we. Western societies are highly individualistic, but the Bible takes a racially different approach. The Bible speaks of human solidarity (unity).⁴

As human beings, our federal head was Adam who brought the entire human race into sin and death because of his disobedience. But Christ, representing God and humanity, was obedient in everything, even death on a cross, in order to impute righteousness and eternal life to believers.

(4. Emphasize that everyone sins

Most people realize they are sinners and recognize the wrong they have done in their lives. However, some people may feel the opposite. They believe they have never sinned or done anything wrong.

With these "perfect" people, you may have to do a little exploring or use something in your own life as an example. For instance, "I used to think that I was a pretty good person too, but I've lied

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_headship

⁴ Keller, Timothy, *Romans 1-7, The gift of God*, The Good Book Company, North America, p.34.

to friends and family and I've done other wrong things too. Have you ever been untruthful about something? Or perhaps taken something that didn't belong to you?"

The Bible tells us that, *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). We may actively rebel against God by stealing, lying, cheating, etc., or we may passively rebel by being selfish, unforgiving, jealous, etc. Indifference to or failure to learn God's ways is still sin.

(5. Tell how sin is erased through Jesus' Death and Resurrection:

Please study the gospel in order to explain in your own words. Here is one summary:

Jesus, God's Son, was born by the power of the Holy Spirit to the Virgin Mary 2,000 years ago. Being fully God and fully man, Jesus obeyed God the Father perfectly and completely met His requirements (the Law) for us. He became our righteousness. Sinless Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood to pay the penalty for our sins. Three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Jesus is our living Savior and Lord. He died for everyone, however, only those who individually accept the *free* gift (payment of their sins) and repent (turn away) will be saved from their sins. No one can accept the gift of salvation for you. (Salvation is the act of being saved from the penalty and power of sin.)

After explaining the good news, ask the person if he or she would like to pray and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Explain that you would be happy to lead them in prayer right now, if this is the desire of their heart. Explain how you will pray and they can repeat each section of the prayer after you. I always say, "please, only pray after me if you agree with the prayer."

Here is an example of a prayer to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:

***Pray:** Lord Jesus, You are the Son of God and lived a perfect life on earth and then died for my sins. I have not obeyed God and I am really sorry. Right now, I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want God's plan for my life. I will follow You and obey You in all that I do. Thank You for saving me, Father, and making me Your child. Thank you for loving me. I love you. Amen.*

Tools to share the good news

(1. The Bible:

a. Mark the Scripture verses you are going to use in witnessing in your Bible. For example, some believers like to use what is called the *Romans Road* because it explains the gospel from the book of Romans. You would start with Romans 3:23, and then write the next verse, Romans 5:8, on the bottom of that page. Continue to write the next verse on each page as an easy reminder of the next verse. The last two Roman references are 6:23 and 10:9-10.

b. Read Acts 17:22-34 and study how the apostle Paul addressed the unknown God. Read the book of Acts to see how the early church witnessed, preached and disciple.

(2. Gospel tract:

- a. Purchase tracts at Christian bookstore or online.
- b. Request the CLI tract from your Discipler and he will send you a couple at no charge.
- c. Write your own tract and make copies to use as needed.

(3. Christian books, magazines, CDs or DVDs:

- a. Loan, give or share as the Holy Spirit leads.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Five) *Witnessing in love and pain*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

The cloud of witnesses who testified and gave their life for Jesus is indeed great. It began with Stephen (Acts 7:55-59) and has continued to the present time. There have been men, women and children committed to Christ and willing to die to make Him known.

Worldwide, an average of 171,000 Christians are martyred for their faith per year.⁵ It has also been reported 45 million Christians have died during the 20th century as a result of their faith. The study defined Christian martyrs as "Believers in Christ who lost their lives prematurely, in situations of witness, as a result of human hostility."⁶

Sabina: A witness of Christ's Love⁷

In 1945 the Russians had driven the Nazis out of Romania only to trade one form of tyranny for another. The clergy were now required to publicly commit their loyalty to the Communists.

Sabina, 31, and her husband, Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran minister, had already seen more hostile action than most of us will see in a lifetime. They were Romanian Jews and all of Sabina's family had been wiped out in the concentration camps.

When she and Richard became Christians, they committed themselves to work among the lost. That meant reaching out to hiding Jews, helping the escaping Nazi soldiers and the incoming Russians. They did it all in the name of Jesus Christ.

When one of the Nazi soldiers asked her why she, a Jew, would hide her enemy, a Nazi, she replied that she had no enemies; *God loved all sinners*. So this is how he thanked her: He promised to imprison her if the Nazis regained power. *Remember*, sometimes we see positive

⁵ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2006

⁶ Trend Analysis Report (2003) - Source: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, December 2002

⁷ Voice of the Martyrs, Hearts of Fire, W Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2003, p109-157.

results through loving our enemies, and other times we do not. But the command to love our enemies in Christ remains the same.

By late 1947 the Russians were increasing their crackdown on Christians with greater persecution and imprisonment in camps of hard and tortuous labor. For example, one woman was caught speaking to another prisoner about Christ and was forced to stand barefoot on ice for hours. Then, because she was unable to meet her work quota, the guards beat her.

Sabina knew the risk of being a Christian. She also had an eight-year-old son. What would happen if both she and Richard were imprisoned or killed? She prayed and read aloud the words of Jesus: "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." It was settled.

Richard disappeared and after many months she learned that he was in prison, but alive! Then came the knock on her door at 5 AM when she was hauled away and ended up in a slave labor camp. The place reeked with the smell of rat dung. Soon Sabrina heard that if you left some bread out at night, it would keep them from biting.

All day long she carried large rocks across a yard the size of two football fields. The Russians were building a canal and the women were being used for this project. It was indeed hard and grueling work. Sabina thought her back would break; by the end of the day she could barely stand up. She and all the prisoners had a quota to fill and if they made it they were rewarded with a greater quota to fill. If they didn't make it they were punished.

But Sabina had hope – the hope that is only found in Jesus Christ. Soon some of the other prisoners noticed her attitude and wanted to know how she remained so strong. So after a long day of hard labor she told them stories from the Bible.

She knew that if she was caught, it would mean severe consequences. Nevertheless, she took every opportunity to share the gospel, and more and more inmates confessed their sins and trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior. But there were always the secret informers who more than once told on her. After a hard day of labor she was then placed into a small space, just large enough to stand and left there for the night. She was released for work the next morning.

Winter came and they continued their work along the icy Danube. The icy wind froze Sabina's clothes stiff and she would become encased in a layer of ice. When she went inside for the night the ice would melt, she would wring out the cloths but would still be left with damp clothes to sleep in.

In the Spring the ice melted leaving muddy paths and work areas. One day one of the guards tripped her and she fell full length in the mud. The other guards laughed and with their encouragement, he then threw her into the icy, rocky Danube shore. She ended up with broken ribs and could not even raise her arms above her waist. Nevertheless she was sent back for labor the next day and continued to be mistreated by the same guard.

Then after three years, she was unexpectedly freed. She went back to the apartment she had known as home not knowing what to expect. Two of her friends were there and so was her son,

now 14. It was still difficult, with many obstacles to overcome, but she put her hand to the task of the underground church.

Sabina's husband, Richard, remained in prison for another 6 years. When he was ransomed by the Norwegian Mission to the Jews and the Hebrew Christian Alliance, believers in the underground church convinced him and Sabina to go and be a "voice for those who were being persecuted for their faith and a witness of God's incredible love in the harshest of times."⁸

Richard and Sabina immigrated to the United States. "In October 1967, with only one hundred dollars and an old typewriter that sat on their kitchen table, the Wurmbrands wrote the first issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs* newsletter."⁹ Sabina died in August 2000 of cancer with her beloved husband Richard at her side. Richard died six months later in February 2001. The *Voice of the Martyrs'* mission continues to serve persecuted Christians through practical and spiritual assistance and to lead other members of the Body of Christ into fellowship with them.

27. After reading Sabina's story, what are your thoughts?

Evangelism

Strike the match of evangelistic passion! It can start with you. From a small spiritual spark comes a tiny flame that brings light to those around it. Watch as God ignites it into sheets of flame that will engulf everyone near it. So let us begin by fanning our tiny flame in order to set our communities and our prisons ablaze with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Definition: Evangelist is the English word that we translate from the Greek word, *euaggelistes* (εὐαγγελιστής), which means one who preaches the good news or the gospel.

Definition: Preach is the English word that we translate from the Greek word, *euaggelizo* (εὐαγγελίζω), which means to bring the good news or gospel.

Definition: Gospel is the English word that we translate from the Greek word *euaggelion*, (εὐαγγέλιον), which means good news. Today it is defined as the good news of Jesus Christ.

When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages. Acts 8:25

"Gospel is the English word used to translate the Greek word for "good news." Christians use the word to designate the message and story of God's saving activity through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of God's unique Son Jesus."¹⁰ The good news makes God known through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Preaching is bringing the good news or proclaiming Christ to others. We are all meant to be preachers!

The books of the Bible known as the Gospels were written to transmit and preserve this good news of Jesus Christ for current and future generations. Disciples of Christ have the written

⁸ Ibid, p.156.

⁹ Ibid. p. 157.

¹⁰ Holman Bible Dictionary, p. 567.

Gospels and their own story of trusting Jesus for their salvation in sharing the good news. Like Paul, we have the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God so that others might become an offering acceptable to God and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.
Romans 15:15-17 (Underlining by author for emphasis)

Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. Philipians 1:14-19 (Underlining by author for emphasis)

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel-- not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:17-18 (Underlining by author for emphasis)

Motives for Evangelism

(1. Love God and make Him known (It is never about us. It is always about God.)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:5-9

(2. Make God known for your neighbor's good

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:15

*Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.
Ephesians 3:8*

(3. Obedience to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction.³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

(4. To bring peace and hope to sinners

*As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood;¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know."¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
Romans 3:10-18*

*...remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.
Ephesians 2:12*

(5. Keep people from the fires of Hell (eternal punishment)

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, 'is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."²⁵ "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you

to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. Matthew 5:22-30

28. Which of the above motives for evangelism encourages you in sharing the gospel and why?

29. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and then share your faith with a nonbeliever. Explain what happened:

30. How may your CLI Discipler pray for you to evangelize (share the gospel)?

31. How will you pray for those you are discipling to evangelize (share the gospel)?

NOTE: If you would like more information on sharing the gospel with non-Christian religious groups, please ask your CLI Discipler to send you the Witnessing Addendums (A & B) for Lesson 9.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 9
CLI Disciple of Christ Study: Sharing Christ

Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review. Include a personal letter with your answers. This study is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Even short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: _____ Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. What are some things you are doing that sets you apart as a Christian?

2. From your knowledge of the Bible, list some things that Jesus is interested in:

3. On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), how would you rate your attention to the interests of Christ?

4. Prayerfully choose one of the items from your answer to #2 that could use improvement in your own life. With the Holy Spirit's help, take a keen interest in that item this week so that you are looking out for Jesus' interests. Write the item and explain the result:

5. What is Jesus telling His disciples they will receive when the Holy Spirit comes on them (8a)?

6. Define the word power in your own words:_____

7. How does knowing the fact that the Holy Spirit brings Jesus' disciples power encourage you?

8. What are we to do with this power (v. 8b)?_____

9. Define the word witness in your own words:_____

10. Is there anything that would keep you from witnessing for the Lord Jesus? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) If the answer is yes or maybe, what will you do to overcome your fear, lack of faith or other roadblocks?_____

11. What were the disciples doing right before Jesus commanded them to make disciples?

12. How do you know there were more than the eleven disciples with Jesus?

13. What connection do you see with worshipping Jesus and making disciples?

14. Within this Great Commission, how does Jesus verbalize the importance of the triune God for the disciples (v. 19)?

15. What do you think Jesus means when He says to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”?

16. How are *you* living out the reality of baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

17. Have you been baptized with water since believing in the name of Jesus Christ? Yes No

18. How are you helping believers to authentically (truly) live in the character, nature and spirit of Christ?

19. Please share what God said or impressed upon you:

20. Write a short personal testimony of how you placed your faith in Jesus. It should include what your life was like before meeting Jesus and how it changed after accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. The goal of this witness (statement, evidence) is to honor God and not yourself. Focus on who He is and what He has done for you.

23. How will the Holy Spirit help you in sharing the gospel? _____

24. When was the last time you shared your faith in Jesus Christ and how did it happen?

25. How would you rate your desire to defend the Christian faith? Little Desire Medium Desire Great Desire (Circle One)

26. *If* you think God is asking you to be an apologist, what will you do to practice and perfect your calling? _____

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Five) *Witnessing in love and pain*

27. After reading Sabina's story, what are your thoughts? _____

28. Which of the above motives for evangelism encourages you in sharing the gospel and why?

29. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and then share your faith with a nonbeliever. Explain what happened: _____

30. How may your CLI Discipler pray for you to evangelize (share the gospel)?

31. How will you pray for those you are discipling to evangelize (share the gospel)?

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

NOTE: If you would like more information on sharing the gospel with non-Christian religious groups, please ask your CLI Discipler to send you the Witnessing Addendums (A & B) for Lesson 9.

Next: Lesson 10: Godly Relationships

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