

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>LESSON 1</b>	THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF EVANGELISM
<b>LESSON 2</b>	MODELS OF EVANGELISM
<b>LESSON 3</b>	RELATING THE GOSPEL TO HUMAN NEEDS
<b>LESSON 4</b>	BEING A WITNESS
<b>LESSON 5</b>	LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM (PART 1)
<b>LESSON 6</b>	LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM (PART 2)
<b>LESSON 7</b>	TO BE A SOUL WINNER THROUGH BEING A FRIEND
<b>LESSON 8</b>	PRACTICAL EVANGELISM
<b>LESSON 9</b>	PRAYER AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WITNESSING
<b>LESSON 10</b>	7 REASONS WHY I AM A SOUL WINNER
<b>LESSON 11</b>	WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART 1)
<b>LESSON 12</b>	WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART 2)

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
TEACHER'S GUIDE**

Welcome to your guide to Foundations 3. We hope that this Teacher's Guide will be useful to you as you teach your disciple this third series of 12 lessons on Principles of Witnessing. This course is a follow up to Foundations 2.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The lessons in the Foundations 3 course can be broadly divided into three distinct units:

- Basics of evangelism
- Methods of evangelism
- Preparation for evangelism

As you teach each lesson, keep these units in mind and the overall big picture of Foundations 1 to 4.

	LESSON THEMES	LESSONS
FOUNDATIONS 1	Basic Christian Doctrines and Practices (Part 1)	
FOUNDATIONS 2	Basic Christian Doctrines and Practices (Part 2)	
FOUNDATIONS 3	Basics of evangelism	1 - 4
	Methods of evangelism	5 - 8
	Preparation for evangelism	9 - 12
FOUNDATIONS 4	Principles of Discipling	

Table 1: Breakdown of lessons and themes in Foundations 3.



## LESSON OVERVIEW

In each lesson, there will be key concepts that you want your disciples to learn and apply. Most of these concepts can be applied practically. You may wish to conduct role-plays and set tasks for your student each week (e.g. sharing a testimony, the Gospel, etc with a friend).

	LESSON	KEY CONCEPT(S)	KEY APPLICATION(S)
BASICS OF EVANGELISM	1: The Meaning and Message of Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definitions of evangelism and the Gospel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are living testimonies of Christ's saving power and grace.</li> </ul>
	2: Models of Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples of Jesus and Paul</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can study the way Jesus and Paul shared the Gospel and apply the same principles when we witness.</li> </ul>
	3: Relating the Gospel to Human Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How the Gospel meets man's physical, emotional and spiritual needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gospel has the answers to all of man's needs – we need to know what these are to be effective witnesses.</li> <li>We must be willing to express the love of God to others tangibly as we witness.</li> </ul>
	4: Being a Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giving evidence on behalf of Christ</li> <li>Demonstrating the love of Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witnessing is not just about speaking, but also about doing. Our lives need to exemplify Christ in word and deed.</li> </ul>
METHODS OF EVANGELISM	5: Lifestyle Evangelism (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exemplifying Christ in our society, families and workplaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whatever our role and wherever we are, we should be exceptionally different and exemplify Christ.</li> </ul>
	6: Lifestyle Evangelism (Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exemplifying Christ as a married individual and as a parent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can learn to exemplify Christ as a spouse and a parent, whether in the present or in the future.</li> </ul>
	7: To be a Soul Winner through being a Friend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus, the best example for soul winning through friendship</li> <li>7 principles for winning others through friendship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our friends need Jesus. We should seize every opportunity to share Christ and demonstrate His love to them.</li> </ul>



	LESSON	KEY CONCEPT(S)	KEY APPLICATION(S)
	8: Practical Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evangelism is actively sharing the Gospel of Christ and not just "doing good"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doing good is great, but it is not a substitute for sharing the Gospel message.</li> </ul>
PREPARATION FOR EVANGELISM	9: Prayer and Leading of the Holy Spirit in Witnessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of prayer in witnessing</li> <li>3 key areas which the Holy Spirit can lead us in witnessing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to pray so that the Spirit of God will lead us to the right people at the right time.</li> </ul>
	10: 7 Reasons why I am a Soul Winner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biblical reasons for soul winning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The love of God and for people should compel us to win souls.</li> </ul>
	11: Witnessing to People of Different Religions (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biblical concept of approach to witness to other religious groups</li> <li>Witnessing to Hindus, Buddhists and Taoists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witnessing is not about winning a religious debate but about listening and posing the right questions to help the other person think.</li> </ul>
	12: Witnessing to People of Different Religions (Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witnessing to Muslims and Atheists</li> <li>Other considerations when witnessing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In our enthusiasm to share Christ, let's remember to depend on the Holy Spirit and demonstrate the love of God.</li> </ul>



**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 1      THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF EVANGELISM**

**INTRODUCTION**

Evangelism is to tell, proclaim, and spread the good news of Jesus. About 4000 years ago, the gospel was preached to Abraham: 'in you all the nations will be blessed...'

The Bible does not just contain the gospel, it is the gospel. Just as God makes Himself known to us through the Scriptures, we likewise must make Him known to others.

**I.    THE MEANING OF EVANGELISM**

A.    Definitions of evangelism

1.    The proclamation of the gospel

The common definition of evangelism. Read **Mark 1:14, 15**. Sharing the gospel is evangelism.

2.    Making disciples

**Matthew 28:19** "... make disciples of all nations...". "Disciple" can also be termed as "learner" or "student". Not just get them saved, but follow up on them, make them disciples of Christ.

3.    Bear witness to Christ

**Acts 1:8** uses the word 'witness' to describe the work of the disciples "you shall be my witnesses..."

a.    The New Testament uses different words for "witness" like "testimony", "testify", "martyr" etc. The Gospel of John and 1 John 5 use the word 'witness' frequently.

b. <b>John 5:31</b>	Jesus bore witness to Himself.
<b>John 8:13-19; 5:37</b>	God the Father also bore witness to Jesus.
<b>John 5:33</b>	John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus.
<b>John 5:36; 10:25; 15:24</b>	His works bore witness to Him.
<b>John 21:24; 15:27</b>	The apostles also bore witness to Jesus.

B.    We are Christ's testimony

1.    We are the salt of the earth (**Matthew 5:13**).

Salt penetrates, preserves, flavours. Jesus always used illustrations that were relevant to His time. In those days salt was a very vital substance as it was used as preservation for food and life. Elaborate on the 3 words "penetrate", "preserve" and "flavours".

2.    We are the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14; John 9:5**).

We are the light in the midst of darkness.

3.    We are the aroma of Christ (**2 Corinthians 2:15**).

a.    Evangelism is bearing the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere (**2 Corinthians 2:14**).

b.    Through our lifestyle we bear the fragrance of God (we will elaborate more on lifestyle evangelism in further lessons).



4. We have the ministry of reconciliation (**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**).
  - a. Reconciling people to God.
  - b. Reconciling people to people.

## II. DEFINITION OF GOSPEL - GOOD NEWS

Gospel comes from the Greek word 'aggelia' meaning good message.

The Gospel is good news!

- A. It is for every person, rich, poor, illiterate, educated, slaves, masters, etc.
- B. **Romans 1:16; John 8:36** - the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
  1. The power of God is made perfect in the weakness of man.
  2. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.
  3. This power will liberate the people of this world who are in darkness and under bondage.
- C. The gospel is the good news that meets the needs of every man.
  1. The gospel of Christ will lift up the downhearted and the discouraged.
  2. It lifts people from the pit of hell to everlasting life with the Father.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

## **LESSON 2     MODELS OF EVANGELISM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Question to stimulate students' thoughts - "Who should be our models for witnessing?"

#### **I. JESUS**

- A. Scriptural reference to see what Jesus said
  - 1. **John 13:15-16** - "for I've given you an example ..."
  - 2. **John 14:12** - "Truly I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do and greater works..."
- B. Jesus' character and attitude
  - 1. Jesus loved the sinners.
  - 2. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit.
  - 3. Jesus was prepared at all times (being in season and out of season).
- C. Jesus' example and approach
  - 1. Individuals - Jesus ministered to individuals and led them to the Way.
    - a. Zaccheus the tax collector (**Luke 19:1-28**)
    - b. Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4**)
    - c. Young ruler (**Matthew 19:16-30**)
  - 2. Groups (**Luke 6:13-18**)
    - a. Jesus also ministered and shared with groups of people (**v. 18**).
    - b. Later, out of the large crowd, Jesus had a small group of people, His apostles who went around with him, and whom He taught and nurtured.
    - c. The reason for the size of the group was because they were willing to learn and such a number was easy to manage in terms of discipling, and Jesus was able to give them close and personal attention.
  - 3. Jesus spent time with them.

We see Jesus spending time with Zaccheus and went to his house to eat. He talked to the Samaritan woman and went to stay in her village for several days. He spoke to the 12 apostles and spent time with them. Time has to be spent in witnessing to people and also discipling those who are saved.

NOTE: Discipling is not just going through Foundations 1 to 4 with a disciple! It means being a friend, being their guide in the Lord, being their counsellor, praying together, studying the bible together, etc. This involves spending time.



4. What Jesus gave His disciples.

He gave them His peace (**John 16:33**), His joy (**John 15:10**), His glory (**John 17:22, 24**) and His life (**John 15:13**).

We all can't give something we don't have. So similarly, we must have Christ in our lives before we can give Christ to people we witness to. We also need to put our sinful nature to death before we can really give Christ to others just as Jesus gave Himself for us, and by His strength we are changed.

5. What Jesus showed His disciples.

- a. Jesus showed His disciples His prayer life and His use of the Word of God. He often went off alone to pray, and quoted Scriptures and what the Father said many times. This was so people could learn by looking at His actions and from hearing what He said.
- b. Jesus showed His life as an example for His disciples to follow.
- c. In turn, He ordered His 12 disciples to live their lives in such a way that others will come to know Christ, and see and learn to be like them (**John 17:20**).
- d. Then those who were disciples of the 12 will then witness and disciple others (**John 17:21-23**). We are to do the same as indicated in **Matthew 28:19**.

6. Jesus watched and directed.

- a. Jesus taught His disciples lessons e.g. **Luke 4:26**, etc.
- b. He sent them out to practise what He taught them (**Luke 10**).
- c. The disciples asked Jesus more questions about their work when they returned.
  - i. In the future when you bring new believers, they will have questions to ask you, too.
  - ii. A new believer should still be taken care of, watched over and directed.
  - iii. When a new believer makes mistakes, the Christian who discipled him must be patient with him and correct him (**Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:51-56**).
  - iv. The new Christian should be under the care and guidance of the Christian who discipled him until he has grown in the Lord to a level where he can take care of himself.
  - v. The vision for lost souls must be made clear to the disciple when he is being discipled.





## II. PAUL (ACTS 19:8-10)

### A. Discipling and teaching

**Acts 19:9b** says, "He took the disciples with him and had discussions in the school of Tyrannus every day." This continued for 2 years, so all Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia heard the Word of the Lord.

NOTE: Some holy writings add that the discussions went on from 11.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. (5 hours) every day for 2 years!

### B. Principle of Reproduction and Multiplication

All of Asia in Paul's time heard the gospel. How? He disciplined others and sent them out to share the gospel. This is the principle of reproduction and multiplication.

## CONCLUSION

Discussion 5 to 10 mins.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 3     RELATING THE GOSPEL TO HUMAN NEEDS**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Man has a spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
2. God always meets man's need, (whatever the need may be). We have to share a gospel that is real to people, so we must relate it to the needs of man.
3. NOTE: We must not share a gospel that only meets the needs of people. Christ has to be the main subject when we share. This is because we want to produce real Christians, and not Christians who only want their needs met all the time.

**I. MAN HAS PHYSICAL NEED (E.G. OF FOOD, SHELTER AND HEALTH)**

- A. Jesus said that God our Heavenly Father knows our physical and material needs (Matthew 6:32).
- B. Jesus also told us what to do in Matthew 6:33, so that God will meet our physical and material needs.
- C. Jesus showed He cared about the physical needs of man when He healed those who were sick and fed those who were hungry. We see this in the gospel books. E.g. feeding of the 5,000, healing of the sick, lame and mute, etc.
- D. But Jesus met their physical needs so that He could reach out to them and have a relationship with them.
- E. APPLICATION: Everything we do to meet the physical and material needs of people (in the context of our subject) must have the purpose of winning the person to Jesus Christ.

**II. MAN'S EMOTIONAL NEEDS**

- A. The need to be accepted
  1. God accepts us.
    - a. Sin has separated man from God (Genesis 3).
    - b. But God made it possible for man to be reconciled to Him (2 Corinthians 5:19).
    - c. God invites all men to come to Him (Matthew 11:28, 29; John 6:37).
  2. We can accept ourselves.
    - a. We need to learn to accept ourselves because God has accepted us the way we are.
    - b. Then He changes us into the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:29).



B. The need to be loved

1. It is said that men's basic emotional need is the need to love and be loved. God loves us.
  - a. His love is for everyone, but it is also a personal love (**John 3:16**).
  - b. His love is one of sacrifice and without condition (unlike other gods where you have to appease in order for your requests to be answered) (**Romans 5:8**).
  - c. His love is also everlasting, without end (**Jeremiah 31:3**).
2. But love is a relationship where two person's feelings are reciprocated. So God loves us and wants us to love Him also.
  - a. We love Him because He loves us first (**1 John 4:19**).
  - b. We are to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength (**Luke 10:27**).

C. The need to answer the basic questions of life

1. Where did I come from? A question of origin.  
Answer: God made us (**Genesis 1:26, 27**).
2. Who am I? A question of who we really are.  
Answer: I am a child of God who has received new life (**John 1:12, 13**).
3. Why am I here? A question of purpose and meaning in life.  
Answer: To live my life for Christ, and to die for Him if necessary.
4. Where am I going? A question of where we will be at the end.  
Answer: I am going to be with my Lord Jesus Christ (**John 14:1-6**).

### III. MAN HAS A SPIRITUAL NEED (A SPIRITUAL VACUUM THAT NEEDS TO BE FILLED)

- A. The need to receive new life from God. The present is a vicious cycle and does not have lasting meaning (**John 3:1-7**).
- B. The need for spiritual life, spiritual fulfilment (**Ephesians 2:1-5; 1 John 5:12**).
- C. The need to be forgiven (from guilt and past doings) (**Romans 3:23, Ephesians 1:7**).
- D. The need for grace to live our life as a Christian (**Titus 2:11**).
- E. The need for grace so we can stand strong during sufferings and problems in life (**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**).



## CONCLUSION

1. Choosing to love is the key to meeting the needs of people (**Acts 4:33**).
2. We must be willing to be involved with people and love them with the agape love of God.
3. True love hurts. It sometimes hurts to love someone. It hurts God to give His Son to die on the cross and also come to the earth. It hurts Jesus to die on the cross as He had to be separated from the Father.

Everyone who has loved deeply knows that love hurts.

- It may hurt when people are not responsive to your sharing.
- It may hurt when people are curt or slam the door when we try to share the gospel etc.

Sharing God's love may hurt, but God's love also heals.

Discussion.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 4     BEING A WITNESS   ACTS 1:8**

**I.    GIVING EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF CHRIST**

- A.    Scenario: a court scene/ trial where witness is giving evidence.
  - 1.    Jesus is on trial.
  - 2.    Every sinner declares Him guilty (replay the scene of Jesus before Pontius Pilate and the High Priest and scene at the cross).
  - 3.    We are just like the early apostles and believers, testifying that Christ is Lord, to our friends and family members who are not believers.
    - a.    He is the Holy, Sinless one;
    - b.    He is the Son of God;
    - c.    He rose again.
- B.    We are witnesses for Christ
  - 1.    We have experienced the goodness of God personally (the sharing of our testimony).
  - 2.    That is our job as Christians.
  - 3.    In everything we do, we are to declare His glory **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**.
- C.    Christ, the Risen One has returned to heaven
  - 1.    He can't show Himself bodily.
  - 2.    We are the only ones who can prove His reality.
  - 3.    We must speak about Christ.
- D.    Christ desires to reveal Himself through us
  - 1.    We are His body.
  - 2.    We are to be living examples.
  - 3.    We are the method God has chosen (Colton Wickramaratne's favourite phrase: "God's method is a man!").

**II.    SHOWING LOVE THAT IS NOT OF THIS WORLD (JOHN 13:35)**

- A.    Choosing love is not the natural thing
  - 1.    We tend to put our own needs before the needs of others.
  - 2.    People do not want to reach out (too lazy, not bothered, too much trouble).
  - 3.    Everyone wants to look out for themselves.
  - 4.    The human's natural instinct is self-preservation.



- B. Christ was love personified - it was a new revelation to man (Explain a little about the concept of how the people perceive God the Father in the Old Testament times. It was one of fear, reverence, etc., but it was beyond them to perceive Him as a God of love.)
1. They had the Law.
  2. They had religion and the priests.
  3. The religious leaders were jealous of Christ (Love Personified) and rejected Him because it exposed what they had as being empty and hollow.
  4. They had rituals.
  5. They did not have real love.
- C. Everyone deserves to have love
1. A human love.
  2. A love that they invest in.
  3. A love they expect in return.
- (Give illustration)
- D. Christ's love was agape love
1. 100% giving.
  2. Expecting nothing in return.
    - a. No condition;
    - b. Giving of His all (**John 3:16**)
  3. It wasn't human love.
- E. This is the type of love Christ wants us to show to others

## CONCLUSION

Being a witness is not just 'speaking' but 'being'. We must be willing to be obedient to what God wants us to do.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 5     LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM (PART 1)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Witnessing through the way we talk and live is just as important as verbal witnessing. Therefore, whether we are citizens of a country, members of a family, employers or employees, or students, the testimony seen through our lives is very important and can have a great impact. In other words, lifestyle evangelism takes into consideration character, attitude, behaviour, speech, etc.

**I. JESUS GAVE US THE POWER TO FULFILL HIS DESIRES AND HIS WILL (JOHN 1:12)**

- A. We don't have the strength in ourselves.
- B. But we are enabled by Christ.
- C. When we demonstrate the power to live a righteous life, we prove that Jesus is real.

**II. DEMONSTRATING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE**

- A. Being the best citizens (1 Timothy 3:7).
  - 1. Obey the law of the land (1 Peter 2:13-17).
  - 2. Showing our care and concern to society in times of need.
  - 3. But note that if there is discrepancy, God must always be obeyed (Acts 4:19, 20).
- B. Being the best family member (Ephesians 5 & 6).
  - The best child (Ephesians 6:1-3).
    - 1. Minority age (below age 18)

Being obedient, submissive, respectful, responsible, helpful at home, hardworking in studies, resist negative peer pressure, displaying proper Christian testimony.
    - 2. Adult age: single (age 18 and above)

Obedient, submissive and respectful, responsible for duties at home, contributing financially, being responsible in BGR relationships and being a testimony of obedience to the Lord.
    - 3. Adult age: married

Submissive and respectful, willing to learn and take counsel, responsible in financial support and visit home regularly, demonstrating Christian parenthood.



C. Being the best employee/employer. (1 Peter 2:17).

1. Employees

Should not take for granted the relationship with the employer.

- a. May be friends, etc, but normal job roles should be upheld during work. Jesus still upheld his role as Rabbi.
- b. Employee should perform his duty joyfully, should not rob time, should pray and ask God for wisdom, should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit.

2. Employers

- a. Not to look down on the employees, and be unreasonable.
- b. Not to carry their worldly position into the church e.g. Perpetua and Felicitus, Aristocrat and slave, martyred hand in hand.
- c. Should look out for the best interests of the employees.
- d. Demonstrate love to employees.

D. Being the best student

Be diligent, persevering, honest, have right Christian priorities and perspective e.g. demonstrate a good time management skills between Church ministry and other aspect of life etc., and being a witness to classmates through the manifestation of love and fruit of the Spirit.

## CONCLUSION

Whatever our role or place, we are to bring glory to the name of God. We are to be exceptionally different, drawing attention to the fact that we are Christians.



**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 6      LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM (PART 2)**

**Text: Ephesians 5 & 6 (esp. 5:22 to 6:4)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Lifestyle Evangelism Part 2 continues from our last lesson. In the last lesson, we shared on how to be a witness for the Lord by being the best citizens, best student, best employer/employee and being the best family member. Today we want to elaborate more on being a witness for Jesus through being the best family member. Today's aspect is on the best husband, wife and parent.

**I.    BEING THE BEST HUSBAND**

- A.    He has to be the head of the home (1 Corinthians 11:3).

It is a role given to him by God. His leadership is to be patterned after Christ and the church (Philippians 2:7, 8).

- B.    He is to love his wife the same way he loves himself.

He is to cherish and nourish her, to love and to care for her, to minister to her needs. He is not to become embittered, but be patient, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, treating her as another precious soul in Christ.

- C.    He is to honour his wife.

Respect her, honour her opinions, taking into consideration her wants, etc. To honour means not putting her down. Some husbands like to put their wives down in front of other people, or even say things in conversation to tear her down. Be conscious of how you treat your wives, the opposite of demeaning her is to honour, respect and esteem her.

- D.    Be the manager and spiritual leader of the home.

As mentioned in Part 1, God gave the role of leadership to man. Thus, he is to manage the house and be the spiritual leader. He is to provide for the family financially, spiritually, emotionally, etc. In other words, he is to be the financial, emotional and spiritual shelter of the home. He is to be the leader in guiding his wife and family in the ways of the Lord and be there for them in times of their needs. He is not to be a hen-pecked husband and let the wife dominate him.

- E.    He must minister to his wife foremost.

Don't take your wife for granted. Her needs, her wants, her opinions are very important to her, thus they should be important to you. You will not know her needs if you don't spend time communicating with her, and most importantly, you have to spend time listening to her. If your wife is fulfilled, the family will experience greater sense of fulfilment. Have you ever heard of the disgruntled and unfulfilled wife who vented her anger on the children?

- F.    Demonstrate a godly example to the unsaved wife.

Husbands who have wives that are not saved, should not have the attitude that just because your wife is not a Christian, she doesn't understand you, so you spend more time at church and neglect her. Since now that you are a Christian, all the more you should show a Christian testimony at home. Fulfil your responsibilities as the head of the house.



- G. Pray for your wife whether she is saved or not.

## II. BEING THE BEST WIFE

- A. She is to be a helper to the husband (**Genesis 2:18**).

Women were created not to be slaves, etc. to men, but helpmates, helpers, or companions. As a wife, she complements him, this makes him complete. **Genesis 2:24** says, 'they shall become one'.

- B. She is to live for her husband, submit to him as the head of the home (**Ephesians 5:22-24**). Submit means to give in to the decision of the husband. He has the final say.

- C. She is to be the keeper of the home.

As the husband is the breadwinner, she keeps the house. Sometimes, both husbands and wives are working so as to supplement family income. But **Proverbs 31:10-31** tells us of the godly woman whose role is to keep the house and be a wife to her husband and mother to her children. That doesn't mean the working mother cannot be the keeper of the house also. This is still her role.

- D. She is to be the spiritual teacher of the children.

Both parents are to teach the children, but usually the husband works and the wife is the one to teach the children the ways of the Lord as she is the one who spends the most time with them.

- E. She is to help the husband fulfil his ministry.

The famous (may be infamous) phrase goes, 'the wife is the neck that turns the head'. Some wives have real influence on their husbands, whether for good or for bad. As Christians, wives are to be a moral and emotional support to their husbands and encourage them to put God first and help him fulfil his ministry for the Lord. Be a part of his ministry whether working beside him or supporting him in encouragement.

- F. To the unsaved husband, a wife is to be:

1. Submissive, but not compromise her Christian standards.
2. Maintain Christian virtues and standards as a testimony to the husband.
3. Be the spiritual leader of the home, bring the children up the right way etc. until the husband gets saved.

## III. BEING THE BEST PARENT

Statistics show that the amount of time you spend with your children during 0-16 years is:

0-5 yrs	=	60%
6-10 yrs	=	25%
11-16 yrs	=	15%

Therefore the first 6 years of a child is most impressionable. Christian mothers, if they can, are encouraged not to work during the first 6 years of their child's growth as values are learnt most effectively then.



A. To your infants:

1. Show love and comfort.
2. Ensure they have a positive outlook and self-acceptance.

This has to do with the way you communicate with your child and how you teach them to view themselves. If you teach them to have confidence in themselves, they will have it.

Instil within them the foundation of Christianity e.g. telling them about Jesus, telling them Bible bedtime stories, sing songs to them and pray for and with them, bring them to Sunday school, etc.

B. To your children:

1. Spend quality time with them, e.g. helping them with school work, teaching them, doing things together, etc.
2. Discipline: correct rather than punish.
  - a. Correct wrong actions, attitude, and spirit.
  - b. Punish defiance/rebellion and disobedience, they have to know who has the authority.
  - c. Method of punishment **Proverbs 13:24** "Spare the rod and spoil the child, but the one who loves his child disciplines him."
  - d. After punishment, it is important to explain purpose of punishment so that they will know that they are being punished for what they did wrong, not for no reason.
    - i. Know every aspect of their lives, what they are doing, their schoolwork, who they are mixing with, their needs etc.
    - ii. Teach them the Word of God and what the Lord commands us to do.
    - iii. Guide them to the right values in life e.g. God first, fruit of the Spirit, etc.

C. To your teenagers.

1. The teenager is a product of what was created during their childhood.
2. You still have to discipline them and be a leader to them. Be a model they can pattern after
3. They need your love and understanding. You have been young once. Don't be overbearing, or over-domineering, but be someone they can respect, model after, and be someone they can come to when they have problems.
4. Give them opportunities to spread their wings, developing responsibilities within them. Some kids are too sheltered.
5. Help and show concern in their BGR relationships. Be their counsellor.



## CONCLUSION

Pray and ask God to help us be the best parents we can be. For those not married, this is good preparation as we are to be a witness in every aspect of our lives.

We will conclude with a saying:

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to have confidence.  
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.  
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to find love in the world.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 7      TO BE A SOUL WINNER THROUGH BEING A FRIEND**

**INTRODUCTION**

There are many ways to win people to Christ. One of the most natural and effective ways is through friendship.

To spread the gospel through friendship is to win the respect and liking of the person you witness to, before you try to lead him to accept Christ as Saviour and Lord. So the key to win people to Christ is through friendship.

**I. JESUS IS OUR BEST EXAMPLE OF BEING A SOUL WINNER THROUGH FRIENDSHIP**  
LOOK AT THE VERSES FROM THE WORD OF GOD BELOW AND NOTE THE IMPORTANT POINTS.

**A. Luke 7:36-50**

1. Jesus was invited to dinner with the Pharisees and He went (v. 36). This was a good way to win them and other sinners.
2. Jesus accepted sinners with joy in His heart (v. 37-39, 48, 50). The Pharisees looked at these sinners as outcasts\*.

**B. Luke 15:1-7**

1. Sinners come together to Jesus to hear Him (v. 1).
2. Jesus not only welcomed sinners, but He ate with them (v. 2).
3. The religious people spoke evil against Jesus because He mixed with sinners (v. 2).
4. Jesus' purpose for being with sinners was to lead them to repentance and give them everlasting life. This should be our purpose too.

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

1. Jesus visited sinners and people spoke evil against Him because of that (v. 5-6).
2. Zaccheus was saved because Jesus went to visit him (v. 9).
3. Jesus clearly told the reason why he came into the world, and that is, "to seek and to save those who are lost."

NOTE: To be separated from the world does not mean to keep away from the world completely (2 Corinthians 6:17-18; John 17:15). Read these verses.

- We, as Christians, must separate ourselves from the world and the ways of the world.
- But we, as Christians, are not to keep ourselves completely away from sinners. How can we be the "salt" and the "light" of the world if we keep ourselves away from sinners?
- We cannot be a part of the things of this world and take on the values of the world, if we want our friends to know Jesus Christ and accept Him as Lord and Saviour. We will lose their respect for us and they will not have any confidence in the gospel, if we are very much a part of the world as they are.



## II. SEVEN WAYS WE CAN USE TO WIN SOULS THROUGH FRIENDSHIP

- A. We must be friendly ourselves if we are to win people to Christ through making friends. Proverbs says, "A man who has friends must show himself to be friendly."
  - 1. You don't have to be full of life or be everybody's friend so as to be friendly, you can be friendly if the likeness of Christ (or the fruit of the Spirit) is seen in your life.
  - 2. You cannot help but be friendly, if you truly care for the spiritual, physical conditions of people. To be friendly is not something we put on once in a while. It is the life of Christ shown through us to others.
- B. We must be willing to mix with those who are not saved or who do not know Jesus Christ. Try to attend their social gatherings when you are invited. Just remember what we said about "being separated from the world" and "keeping away from the world completely". We have seen from the verses above that Jesus went when the Pharisees invited Him for dinner.
- C. We should not try to impress our friends with a "I'm better than you" attitude. Sinners strongly do not like it when we act this way. We can stand strong in what we believe in and stand strong for Christ without telling them in our actions that "I am good and you are not."
- D. Accept our friends who are not saved as they are (sinners), but that does not mean we agree with or accept the things they do or the way they live.
- E. We must be willing to love our friends without any condition (**Romans 5:8**). Try to show them God's love that is without condition through us. God loved us not because we deserved it but because He wanted to love us. We should love our friends who are not saved so they will come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, not because they deserve it, but because we want God to love them through us (read **Romans 5:8**).
- F. Look out for needs in their lives that are not met and try to help them to meet their needs. Below are some examples:
  - 1. They need strength and comfort when someone who is close to them has died.
  - 2. They need someone to talk to who understands and cares, when they are lonely.
  - 3. They need to be visited and prayed for when they are sick.
  - 4. They need help in the form of money when they have material needs.

The best way to cause people to think of you as a true friend is when you show them Christian love and care in their times of need.

NOTE: People also need to share their joy and happiness, their success and what they achieve. This is why they invite us to attend their weddings, gatherings in their new house, celebrations of the birth of their babies, and when they have completed their studies in the university, etc.

We need to show people that we are happy for them in what they have succeeded and in what they have achieved.



- G. Share with your friends, about what Christ has done in your life and what He means to you at the right time. This is an indirect way to win your friend to Christ.
1. Do not push or force your friend to accept Christ.
  2. Remember that making friends, and gaining their respect and confidence take time.
  3. Also remember that to make friends is to build up a good relationship with people. This does not only take time, but also much effort and sacrifice.

## CONCLUSION

1. Your friend who is not a Christian may just be waiting for you to share Christ with him, if he knows you are a Christian.
2. Continue to share about the Lord to your friends even if you have done so before. Try your best to continue your friendship and your witness. You will have the joy of seeing your friend accept Christ when the right time comes.
3. Ask your student about other possible ways he could think of on how to win to Christ those who are not saved.
4. Strongly encourage your student to start to pray for his friends who are not saved, and to witness to them.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 8      PRACTICAL EVANGELISM**

**INTRODUCTION**

It has been said that "a church that does not evangelise will eventually fossilise." This is true not only of a church body but also of individual Christians.

Let us look at three aspects of evangelism: its meaning, message and method.

**I.    ITS MEANING**

A.    What it is not

1.    Evangelism is not everything we do.
  - a.    We do a lot of different things in the name of Christ that are good but are not in themselves evangelism. E.g. we visit the sick, old folks, prisoners, drug addicts, etc.
  - b.    Doing good and evangelising are two different things.
  - c.    We never evangelise until we stand directly before the heart's door of a sinner and clearly confront him with the Gospel of Christ.
2.    Evangelism is not merely leading people to unite with the church.
3.    Evangelism is not merely enlisting people in a new kind of activity.

B.    What it is

1.    The definition

Evangelism is to bear witness to the Gospel with soul aflame, and to teach and preach with the express purpose of making disciples of those who hear.

2.    The definition explained

- a.    To bear witness with soul aflame.
  - i.    Aflame with love for Christ;
  - ii.    Aflame with love for people;
  - iii.    Aflame with the living presence of the Spirit in one's heart.
- b.    The proclamation.
  - i.    Its content: the person and redemptive work of Christ;
  - ii.    Its purpose: to win the hearer to Christ and His church.





## II. ITS MESSAGE

### A. Sin and salvation

1. Sin
  - a. The nature of sin (**1 John 3:4; James 4:17**).
  - b. The universality of sin (**Romans 3:10, 23**).
  - c. The penalty of sin (**Romans 6:23; Revelations 21:8**).
2. Salvation
  - a. It is salvation from sin (**Matthew 1:21; 1 Timothy 1:15**).
  - b. Salvation is God's grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).
  - c. Salvation is by believing in Jesus Christ (**Acts 16:31**).

### B. Repentance and faith

1. Repentance
  - a. Repentance is commanded by God (**Acts 17:30**).
  - b. Repentance is basically turning to God from idols or other sins (**1 Thessalonians 1:9**).
  - c. Repentance is a prerequisite to receiving forgiveness of sin (**Acts 2:38**).
2. Faith
  - a. Faith is confidence in God (**Hebrews 11:1**).
  - b. The object of saving faith is Jesus Christ (**Acts 16:31**).
  - c. To have faith in Christ means to accept Him (**John 1:12-13**).

## III. ITS METHOD

**John 1:43-51** contains some principles that show us how to share Christ with others in evangelism.

- A. Have a genuine knowledge of Christ yourself (**v. 43-45**).
- B. Know your contact as much as possible - his needs, goals, problems, etc. (**v. 47-48**).
- C. Give your contact an honest compliment, if you can (**v. 47**).
- D. Use the direct approach or personal contact, if you can (**v. 43, 45**).
- E. Speak from personal experience (**v. 45**).
- F. Appeal to existing and accepted authority e.g. Moses (**v. 45**).
- G. Don't argue with your contact (**v. 46**).
- H. Invite your contact to "Come and See" Christ for himself (**v. 46**). This is the invitation to accept Christ and experience Christ personally today.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 9 PRAYER AND LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WITNESSING**

**INTRODUCTION**

Prayer and how the Holy Spirit leads us when we witness, are two different things. But prayer plays a very important part in the leading of the Holy Spirit, so we will share on both of these subjects in this lesson.

**I. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN WITNESSING**

- A. We must pray so as to receive the spiritual power to witness (**Acts 1:4, 8, 12-14**)
  - 1. The followers were praying when the Holy Spirit came and gave them divine power to witness.
  - 2. We must spend time with God in prayer like the early followers, if we want to receive divine power from the Holy Spirit to witness.
- B. We must ask the Holy Spirit to lead us when we pray for others and their needs
  - 1. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the burden and the power to pray for others and their needs, and this is very important if we want to witness in the most effective way.
  - 2. It is this type of prayer that causes God to influence sinners to accept Christ as the Saviour and Lord of their lives.
- C. Prayer is the weapon to fight the spiritual war (**Ephesians 6:10-18**)
  - 1. Witnessing is a spiritual war because we are trying to set free sinners from the kingdom of darkness, when we witness to them about Christ.
  - 2. The "full armour of God" (**v. 11-17a**) is the weapon we use to defend ourselves. God's Word and Prayer are the weapons we use to attack (**v. 17b-18**) and fight with the spiritual powers of darkness.

**II. EXAMPLES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The great importance of prayer in causing the Holy Spirit to lead us when we witness, as seen clearly in the Book of Acts. Read the verses below:

- A. Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray when the Holy Spirit strongly asked Peter and gave him the ability to heal the man who could not walk (**Acts 3**).
  - 1. I do not believe that it just happened that Peter and John were on their way to the temple when the miracle of healing took place.
  - 2. This miracle of healing gave Peter and John the opportunity to witness to a lot of people about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Sadducees were among these people.



- B. The leaders of the Antioch Church were praying and fasting when the Holy Spirit told them to send Barnabas and Saul as missionaries (**Acts 13:1-4**).
  - 1. **Acts 13:1-4** does not tell us what they were praying about. They were probably praying for the missions work that their church started. It was at a spiritual time like this that the Holy Spirit spoke to them.
  - 2. This was the start of Paul's witness to the Gentiles and the result was that churches were started in the important cities of the Roman kingdom.
- C. Paul and Silas were praying inside a prison in Philippi when there was a great shaking of the earth, and the prison doors opened (**Acts 16:16-40**).
  - 1. Paul and Silas were able to witness to the person in charge of the prison and lead him to Christ through this thing that happened.
  - 2. The church in Philippi started because of this situation.

### III. THREE AREAS WHERE WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LEAD US WHEN WE WITNESS

- A. It is the Holy Spirit who causes us to have a spiritual attitude that gives us the desire to witness
  - 1. The Holy Spirit causes us to see that sinners really need Christ.
  - 2. The Holy Spirit gives us the love and mercy for sinners and He gives us the courage to witness for Christ.
- B. The Holy Spirit guides us to the right person or group of people
  - 1. The Holy Spirit causes us to see that sinners really need Christ.
  - 2. The Holy Spirit gives us the love and mercy for sinners and He gives us the courage to witness for Christ.
- C. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom to be able to say the right thing, at the right time and to the right person
  - 1. There is so much to share from the Word of God, but the Spirit can tell us the right word to use at the right time.
  - 2. It is important to have the wisdom of God when we witness, because it is easy to cause people to not want to listen to us if we don't use God's wisdom to witness to them.



## CONCLUSION

A great theologian, Charles Finney said, "Truth will never produce the result that we want, if it is without the Spirit of God."

We know it is always the will of God for us to witness, but we must pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us so that:

1. We will become what God wants us to be, to share the right word, at the right time, to the right person, and to get the right results.
2. We can be very sure that what we are doing is also what God tells us to do, when we witness.
3. We can keep away from mistakes that need not happen, so those people whom we try to witness to will listen to us and not turn away.

## Footnotes

Theologian     A person who has studied much about the Bible and its teaching, and has great knowledge about it.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 10    7 REASONS WHY I AM A SOUL WINNER**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. It is a responsibility of every Christian to win people to Christ.
2. We must have real and good reasons from the Word of God why we should win people to Christ. This will help us to be intelligent soul winners.
3. This lesson is adapted from Sister Betty Baxter's sermon on "Seven Reasons Why I Am A Soul Winner."

**I. IT IS BECAUSE JESUS WAS A SOUL WINNER**

- A. The reason why Jesus came into the world is to seek and save those who are lost (**Luke 19:10**). He didn't just talk about bringing people back to God, He did it Himself. Zaccheus is a good example.
- B. The apostle Paul understood Christ's purpose for coming into the world (**1 Timothy 1:15**). Christ did not come just to start another religion. He came to save sinners.
- C. Jesus shared to both big crowds of people and individuals (**Mark 6:30-42; John 3-4**). He was not just interested in numbers, He cared for every single person. Jesus spoke to the woman at the well and Nicodemus.
- D. We should follow our Lord's example and let winning souls be our main work as Christians.
  1. We should do this no matter what season of life we are in and what we are called to do in life, a doctor, a teacher, a businessman, etc.
  2. We should do this no matter what our position in church is, a pastor, a Bible teacher or a Sunday school teacher, etc.
  3. To win souls to Christ is not the responsibility of preachers only, but it is every Christian's responsibility.

**II. IT IS BECAUSE THE HARVEST IS VERY GREAT**

- A. The Lord said, "The field is the world" (**Matthew 13:38**).
- B. Jesus also used the ripe harvest field to describe men (**John 4:34-38**).
- C. The prophet Joel saw great crowds of people who had to make decisions (**Joel 3:14**).
  1. Great crowds of people can be saved and brought into the Kingdom of God.
  2. Great crowds of people can be saved from darkness and being lost eternally.
  3. Great crowds of people like a ripe harvest can fall to the ground or die without Christ and be lost forever.
  4. There are much we can do and say as Christians, to decide if these people go to heaven or hell.



- D. Think about it. Not even 1/3 of the more than 5 billion people in the world have heard the name of the Lord Jesus Christ yet!

### III. IT IS BECAUSE THERE ARE VERY FEW WORKERS

- A. Jesus said this in **Matthew 9:37-38**.
1. Christians are so few compared to those who are not Christians.
  2. The number of committed Christians compared to those who are not Christians are even fewer.
  3. That is why we can say the harvest is great and ready but there are few workers, when we compare it in this way.
- B. Why did Jesus tell His followers to "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His field"?

ANSWER This is because those followers who pray for workers are the ones who hear and obey the call of the Lord of the harvest.

### IV. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE GREAT COMMAND

- A. The command to go into all the world and make disciples, is the order of our Lord Jesus for the church.
- B. Christ ordered the church as a body and every Christian to win and disciple nations, and not just a few people here and there.
- C. As committed Christians who love the Lord, we do not have a choice but to do as the Lord tells us.
- D. The world for us starts where we live, and it spreads out to the ends of the earth.
- E. We may not be able to go into other countries, but we can go across the road from our house or area to share the gospel and win somebody for Christ.

### V. IT IS BECAUSE THE PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S RETURN HAVE NOT COME TRUE YET

- A. There are 10 signs in **Matthew 24:4-14** that point to the Second Coming of Christ to earth.
- B. For the prophecy in verse 14 to come true depends greatly on whether we will obey the Lord and preach the gospel to all the world.
- C. We Christians can "bring back the King" sooner when we preach the gospel to all nations.



## VI. IT IS BECAUSE WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLOOD OF SINNERS IF WE DON'T WARN THEM

- A. This is what God said in **Ezekiel 3:18-19**. Turn to it and read it.
- B. The apostle Paul knew about this, so he did something about it (**Acts 20:26**).
- C. We must be like Paul and do everything we can to warn those who are evil that God will judge them, if we don't want to be responsible for their blood during judgement day.

## VII. IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN JESUS CHRIST

- A. The blind man said to the Pharisees, "One thing I know is that I was blind, but now I see" (**John 9:25**). It has been said that "the person with an experience will never lose to a person with an argument."
- B. Christ did not save us, fill us with the Holy Spirit, or heal us without purpose.
- C. What Christ did for us and what He means to us must be shared with others so that they also can experience Christ.
- D. Jesus ordered an evil spirit to come out of a man, and after the evil spirit had come out, Jesus told him, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." (**Mark 5:19**).

## CONCLUSION

I must add one more reason why every Christian must be a soul winner. The reason is that heaven and hell are real. Yes, there is a heaven to gain and a hell to turn away from. Jesus told us this in **Matthew 25:41, 46**.

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 11     WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART 1)**  
HINDUS, BUDDHISTS AND TAOISTS

**INTRODUCTION**

In order to witness effectively to Buddhists, Taoists and Hindus, we need to engage them in a logical discussion that leads to a sound conclusion. This means we need to know what we believe in, be able to master the subject matter under consideration with regards to the prospect's religion and be able to ask the contact probing and directive questions not to manipulate but to clarify the truth.

**I. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF APPROACH FOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE**

There are a number of examples in the Bible that shows us how Jesus or the apostle Paul witness to philosophers, people of intellect, etc. Some of these include:

- A. **Acts 17:16-32** - Philosophers at Athens (Paul).
- B. **Acts 19:1-5** - Paul at Ephesus.
- C. **Romans 3:1-5** - God's judgement defended (Paul).
- D. **Romans 9:19-24**
- E. **John 4** - Jesus with the woman at the well.
- F. **Luke 10:25-37** - Christ led the lawyer to understand the true meaning of life through a series of pointed questions.
- G. **John 10:31-39** - Jesus dealt with His self-righteous critics.

**II. BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF APPROACH TO WITNESS TO THESE RELIGIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE**

In studying the above examples, the following principles or concept can be derived:

- A. Raise an issue of importance. For example, in **John 4:16, 21**, Jesus asked the Samaritan woman a personal question and confronted her with a religious statement.
- B. Ask about the basis of the contact's belief.
- C. Provide questions that will lead the prospect to the truth.

**EXAMPLE: WITNESSING TO A HINDU**

Hindus believe that god is undefinable and totally impersonal. He is faraway and remote. Christians believe that God is a God of love. He is a personal God.

Ask and reason with the Hindu.

1. If god is impersonal then he can't hear, see, reason or exercise his will. In which case he is less than a human being. If god is less than a human being then he can't be god since god is by definition of a higher form.
2. Do we accord respect to an electrician or electricity? The former is personal but not the latter.





- D. At the heart of every issue (public or private) what we struggle with is our world view. At the heart of our world view is our faith and spiritual beliefs.

TO THE HINDU IN THE EXAMPLE ABOVE, WE CAN SAY:

1. We Christians believe that our God is a God of love. He sent Jesus, His Son to die for our sins instead of we having to pay for our own sins.
2. Christians also believe that God is a personal God. We can talk to Him and pray to Him and He can answer us and provide for all our needs.

### III. SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. Witnessing to Hindus.

1. Founder : None  
Definition : The source of everlasting life.  
Background : Hinduism is a very complex religion. It is very vast and includes the highest abstract philosophy to the crudest superstition. Hinduism is everything. Could be polytheistic, monotheistic, agnostic (God doesn't really care, even though he is there). Hinduism is vast and keeps absorbing more teachings.  
Religion : Oldest in the world. One universal god, Brahman, and countless other gods after him.

Hindus are very tolerant people, they believe all gods lead to heaven. They have more than 300 million gods that are worshipped. It's like the more the merrier.

2. Salvation: This is not salvation from sin, but a process of overcoming life and bringing it to an end. Life is a vicious cycle of problems, suffering, etc. so salvation is ultimately merging with the universe.

Hindus believe in reincarnation, rebirth etc. Lead a holy life and be reborn into a more comfortable life next time.

Methods of salvation:

- a. By works - do all that is right, fulfil vows, religious duties, laws, rituals etc.
  - b. By knowledge - meditating on knowledge and increasing in knowledge (philosophy) until one breaks out of the cycle of life.
  - c. Devotion - worship one particular deity and obey the deity.
3. Caste System - Brahmin - priests and high class people.  
Kshatriya - warriors and rulers.  
Vaisyas - craftsmen.  
Sudra - slave, servants.
  4. Contrasts between Hinduism and Christianity.

- a. Hinduism - god is undefinable and totally impersonal. He is faraway and remote.

Christianity - God is a God of love. He is a personal God.

- b. Hinduism - Sin is not something done against a holy God, but deeds done one to another on earth.

Christianity - Sin is an act toward a holy God.



c. Hinduism - Salvation is free from endless cycle of rebirths etc.

Christianity - Salvation is free from eternal separation from God through Christ.

d. Hinduism - Hindus believing and praying to so many gods may just accept Jesus and take him to be another God to add to their collection of idols.

Christianity - But **John 14:6** says Jesus is the only way, the only truth and life.

B. Witnessing to Buddhists.

1. Founder : Siddharta Gautama Buddha.

Purpose of Buddhism - so that man can reach enlightenment (nirvana), and be free from the suffering of the world.

2. Basic Teachings: There are 4 noble truths that Buddha advocated:

a. The suffering - life is just suffering, whether in birth, living or death.

b. The cause of suffering - people seek and desire after their own pleasures, longing and greed take over, thus need to be reborn.

c. The end of suffering - release from the cycle of birth and rebirth, no longer lust after the pleasures of life, and is at peace with oneself.

d. The end of all pain by following the 8 fold path: right knowledge, right attitude, right speech, right action, right occupation, right effort, right contemplation (thinking) and right meditation.

3. Salvation: To achieve nirvana (enlightenment), which means a complete stop from births and rebirths. No longer lusting after worldly life and pleasures - completely absorbed into the universal soul which is god.

Method of salvation: Depends totally on own thoughts and actions, following the 8 fold path, no dependence on any gods.

4. Ancestor Worship: Most Buddhists today do not strictly adhere to original teachings of Buddha. Most of them today incorporate ancestor worship as part of their beliefs and superstition as part of their life.

5. Contrasts between Buddhism and Christianity.

a. Buddhism - no promise of salvation for the soul, neither teaches existence of God.

Christianity - eternal life is promised to those who accept the Lord and God is revealed to us.

b. Buddhism - body is a hindrance to nirvana.

Christianity - body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

c. Buddhism - desire is evil.

Christianity - desire to live a righteous life is vital.

d. Buddhism - teaches one on how to lead a righteous life.

Christianity - God is the one who enables us to live a righteous life, the hope of man is God.



C. Witnessing to Taoists.

1. Founder : Lao Tzu

Taoism is a mystical religion. Some say the founder was really a person, others say he was the culmination of ideas put together.

Teaching: Don't get involved in anything. Avoid trouble. Just merge into nature, be a part of nature.

Advocated "the Way". It is not a god, but a power. It is part of nature, illusive.

All things beautiful come from the Way. All things on earth have to do with the Way.

Teaches about Yin and Yang (opposites) e.g. hot and cold, good and evil. Advocates that everything in life is created by these 2 forces. More of one force will force out the other e.g. too much hot will cause "heatiness", etc. Therefore yin and yang have to be balanced, so that problems, sickness even death will be kept to the minimum.

2. 2 types of Taoism

a. Philosophical - More a state of mind, not getting involved in anything, just go through life, merge with nature, etc. e.g. Chinese nature paintings etc.

b. Religious - Praying to deities, fish paper, magic, offering food to deceased, communication with the dead, etc. Through the years, geomancy, Qigong, martial arts have also been assimilated into the belief system.

3. Contrasts between Christianity and Taoism.

a. Taoism - no god, more an abstract philosophy.

Christianity - there is a supreme being.

b. Taoism - no assurance of eternal life.

Christianity - promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

c. Taoism - merge into nature and be a part of cosmic power.

Christianity - not illusive and abstract, but concrete and assured with a personal relationship with a true and living God.

## CONCLUSION

The whole aim or objective of this process is not to win an argument but to listen and pose directive questions and lead the prospect to a sound conclusion. It is not a "hit and run" episode, occurring in one place, at one time and then is completed. It is a process that requires multiple conversations on multiple issues. In fact, it is geared toward building a fairly intense and intimate personal relationship (**Proverbs 19:2**).

**VICTORY FAMILY CENTRE  
LIFE IN THE WORD - LEVEL I  
FOUNDATIONS OF NEW LIFE III  
(PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING)  
TEACHER'S NOTES**

**LESSON 12     WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART 2)**  
**MUSLIMS AND ATHEISTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

In witnessing to Muslims and Atheists, we need to review our previous lesson on the concept and the approach we need to take.

**I.    REVIEW ON THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF APPROACH**

- A.    Raise an issue of importance.
- B.    Ask about the basis of the contact's belief.
- C.    Provide questions that will lead the contact to the truth.
- D.    At the heart of every issue (public or private) what we struggle with is our world view. At the heart of our world view is our faith and spiritual beliefs.

**II.   SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- A.    Witnessing to Muslims.
  - 1.    Founder: Mohammed.
    - a.    Date of birth                :    570-632AD.
    - b.    Place of birth             :    Mecca, Arabia, then the centre of animism and idolatry.
    - c.    Job                         :    He was a shepherd and also did some trading.
    - d.    His social contacts     :    Travelled to Syria and Palestine where he mixed with Jews and Christians. (That's where the strong influence of Christianity seen in the Quran started.)
    - e.    Marriage                  :    Married a rich widow Khatijah who was his employer.
      - i.    She was 40 and he was 25 when they married.
      - ii.   She died after they had been married for 15 years.
      - iii. After marrying the rich widow, he had more time to meditate, pray and preach.
    - f.    He died in Medina at the age of 62.



2. Basic beliefs.

a. There is one God, Allah.

i. Allah, the Eternal, is the source of all creation.

- He is just and merciful, all-knowing, present everywhere.
- He is the judge of all men, and the determiner of their eternal destiny.
- He had created all things and had predestined all events (Koran 16:38).

ii. Allah, long ago removed himself from active direction of his creation but he established three ways to reveal his will to men: a prophet, the Koran, and the angels.

b. Mohammed is Allah's prophet.

i. The Muslims statement of faith is: "I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet."

ii. Muslims respect other prophets - including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus who is sent only to the Jews.

iii. But Mohammed is the last and the greatest prophet sent to the entire world.

c. The Koran (Quran) - written by Mohammed's followers shortly after his death.

i. Muslims believe the Koran is the divine word of God, His last word to the world.

ii. the Koran states that both the Old and New Testaments are likewise divinely inspired, but they have been altered by Christians and Jews. In any place where there are conflicts, the Bible is wrong and the Koran is correct; the Koran is the final authority (Koran 33:40).

d. The angels.

i. Muslims believe in angels as messengers of God.

ii. They believe that the most important angel is Gabriel, known to them as the "angel of revelation" who brought Allah's message to Mohammed. Gabriel is the Holy Spirit (Koran 2:81).

iii. They believe that angels intercede with Allah for the forgiveness of sins (Koran 40:7-9; 42:3).

iv. Satan is called "Shaitin."

e. Belief in Judgement, Paradise, and Hell.

i. Resurrection and judgement (Koran 50:41; 36: 51; 74:8-10; 96:8).

ii. Paradise to the faithful Muslims will be a place of good food, ease, and women (Koran 52:17-22; 9:249; 56:12-23; 9:263).

iii. Hell is a place of torment for anyone who is not a Muslim (Koran 14:34; 18:28; 9:17; 20:76; 9:39).

f. Belief in Predestination.

i. Everything is predestined by Allah's appointment, even men's belief and unbelief (Koran 16:38).

ii. Every person dies according to Allah's permission and appointment (Koran 3:139; 6:63; 9:51; 6:180; 8:17; 9:165).



3. The essential Islamic duties

(Called "The Five Pillars Of Islam")

- a. Repetition of the creed: "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the prophet of Allah." This creed is called the "Kalimah," which every Muslim is required to repeat everyday in original Arabic, "La ilaha illa `llahu, Muhammad rasulu `llah."
- b. Pray five times a day: at dawn, early afternoon, later afternoon, after sunset and after dark, facing the Sacred Mosque at Mecca (Koran 11:116; 17:80,81; 20:130; 30:16,17; 50:38, 39).
- c. Almsgiving (Koran 2:40; 64:16; 98:4). Also the paying of "zakat," which is 2.5% yearly of a Moslem's capital, not income.
- d. Fasting during the days of the month of Ramadan (Koran 2:179-183).
- e. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Koran 22:28; 3:91).

4. The following points are ten major differences between Christianity and Islam:

- a. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is not just a prophet. He is God incarnate (**John 1:1, 14**). Muslims believe that Jesus Christ is just a prophet lesser than Mohammed.
- b. Christians spread their faith by preaching and teaching the gospel in love (**Matthew 28:19,-20**). History shows that Muslims have forced people to embrace their faith by the power of the sword (especially during the first 1000 years of their existence).
- c. Christians separate religions from politics (**Matthew 22:21**). Muslims mix religion and politics as the very principle of the totality of life.
- d. Christians believe the Bible to be the only authoritative Word of God to men. Muslims believe the Koran superseded the Bible.
- e. Christianity is a religion of divine grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Islam is a religion of human effort. A Muslim will earn his way to heaven by his obedience (service) to Allah.
- f. Christians believe that it is possible to know God (**John 17:3; Philippians 3:10**). Muslims believe no man can know God and have fellowship with God.
- g. Christians are taught to call God "Father" (**Matthew 6:9**). The Koran never uses the word "Father" on God.
- h. Christians believe that the Bible is a revelation or self-disclosure of God. Muslims believe that the Koran is simply a revelation from God, but not of God.
- i. Christians believe that Christ died on the cross, was buried, on the third day He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and sat at the right hand side of God. Muslims deny all of these.
- j. Christians believe that all men need Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin (**Matthew 1:21; Romans 3:23; 1 Timothy 1:15**). But it is a cause of grave offence to a Muslim's pride to ask him to look to Jesus for salvation.



B. Witnessing to Atheists.

1. Atheists means people who absolutely do not believe in the existence of God, and Atheism is very humanistic because of its belief that man is 'start all and end all'.
2. Witnessing to Atheists is like witnessing to anybody else, using the ways we have discussed throughout lessons 1 to 11, from methods to prayer, love, guidance of the Holy Spirit etc. But some may like to argue with you, below are some proofs that God does exist:
  - a. Man's moral nature
    - i. The religious nature in man looks for something to worship. This explains why people worship spirits and things. This also explains why "man is religious by nature."
    - ii. The sense of right and wrong in men needs a Being to whom he is responsible and answerable to.
  - b. The law of cause and effect: Reason teaches that every effect must have a cause. The universe is the effect, the cause is God.
  - c. The law of design: The existence of design shows the existence of a designer. There is a design in the universe and the designer is God.
  - d. Those who do not believe in a god still have problems and cares of life to contend with. Ask him if he is able to solve the problems himself or do the problems remain. Challenge him on this and tell him that only God is the answer to his every need.

**III. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHEN WITNESSING:**

- A. Be sensitive to whether the contact is comfortable to pursue a deeper line of reasoning.
- B. Reinforce reasonable conclusions by affirming common ground.
- C. Move at a comfortable pace.
- D. Use biblical principles without citing chapter and verse.
- E. Be real.
  1. Honest and heartfelt communication is more effective because non-believers already have been exposed to most of the traditional or streamlined, standardised approaches to telling the gospel.
  2. Use personal experiences and be willing to be vulnerable.
  3. Non-believers want to feel as though they are conversing with a fellow traveller, not a know-it-all or master salesman.

**CONCLUSION**

Besides the brief lesson on how to witness to people of different religions, let us remember two other important points when we have the opportunity to witness to them:

1. Prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. Love and our life testimony.