

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITHOUT FEAR

Leading people to _____ Jesus and start living with Him.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Philemon 6

Three things cause us fear of sharing our faith:

1. We don't _____ what to say
2. We aren't convinced our faith is real, true and _____
3. We haven't _____ enough amongst friends

We fear telling our friends about Christ. Yet we have no fear of telling someone about a new game we have found.

The reason we fear Evangelism: We are invading _____ Territory.

We will fix these fears in this class.

One Great C _____:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, 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

Three great _____:

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15-16

Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:8

And the Lord's servant must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

God answers the questions people want to know about their life.

1. Where did I come from?
2. Why did God make me?
3. What can I trust?
4. What am I made for?
5. What will give me the best life?
6. What shall I do with my life?
7. What is my future?

Discovering My Life Mission

A Purpose to live out – Evangelism or Mission

A Goal to live for – Bringing people to know Jesus Christ.

A Slogan to live by – *be active in sharing your faith* – Philemon 6

Make it hard for people around you to go to _____!

The **Mission / Evangelism Commitment** is a commitment to give your life to the mission of telling people everywhere, about salvation found only in Christ.

Our mission objective is -

To enlist you in the worldwide mission of proclaiming Christ.

Communicate God's _____ (**Evangelism or Mission**)

Here is our objective: _____ your mission field.

Pray for _____.

We need strong purposes in our life.

When you know your _____, you know your _____.

When you know your direction, you know your _____.

*"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is **the Lord's purpose** that prevails."*
Prov.19:21

Each person wants the answers to two basic questions:

S_____ and S_____.

Christ is calling you to a **great purpose:**

A commitment to fulfill ... the Great _____,

... the great _____,

... the great _____

... and the great _____ of Jesus Christ.

*"The most important thing is that I complete my **mission** – the work the Lord gave me to do – **to tell people the Good News** about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)*

I. THE GREAT _____ OF JESUS CHRIST

(His summary of our life work)

"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, **BAPTIZING THEM** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **TEACHING THEM TO DO everything I have commanded you.**"
Matthew 28:19-20

Here is how that was fulfilled as the first church was started.

"Those who accepted His message were baptized... They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All

the believers were together... they gave to anyone as he had need... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:41-47

II. **THE GREAT _____ OF GOD**

This is stated throughout the Bible – it was true both in the old covenant and the new covenant.

A. Who does God want in His kingdom - _____! God wants everyone saved. There is nothing more clear in the Bible!

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?' Ezekiel 33.11

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2.3,4

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. Matthew 18.14

I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. Ezekiel 34.16

Men, women, and children from every nation, tongue and tribe will be assembled with Christ in Heaven.

And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Revelation 5:9

I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, language and people. Revelation 14:6

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22:1,2

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.
Daniel 7.13,14

B. His will in this is absolutely _____.

- There is no question how to pray. Don't pray, "should I talk to...?" Pray for: "boldness" Acts 4.29-31 (read this now)
- There is no question what to share. Pray for the "Right words"; or for the "Spirit to be already at work" Acts 5.42; 8.12, 35; 9.27; 15.35,36; 26.20; 1 Cor. 15.1-4; 1 Tim. 3.16; Heb. 4.2; 1 Peter 1.22-25

III. THE GREAT _____ OF JESUS CHRIST

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19.10
Luke 19.10 tells what was Jesus' mission on Earth.
Matthew 28.19,20 tells what is Jesus' mandate to believers.

**A. There is only one way to Heaven, Forgiveness, and Eternal Life:
The _____ way in – is through Jesus Christ!**

Memorize these:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4.12

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2.5,6

B. He came to pay the _____ owed for our sin.

Someone has to pay for your sins. Either you are going to pay for them or you may have Jesus pay for them. If you choose to pay for your own sins you will never be through paying. If you could somehow pay for your sins, then Jesus died needlessly!

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God's son, Jesus Christ is the one and only savior. If another way were possible we could use it, but there is none! Without having Jesus Christ as our Savior we remain in our sin and we are heading toward an eternity away in Hell.

*Now my (heart) has become troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this **purpose** I came to this hour.* John 12:27 NAS

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Jesus calls people to a new covenant relationship, a new commitment of their life, a conversion from one nature to another, and a change in their life. Do not short-sell the gospel.

We receive forgiveness, mercy and eternal life by our belief in what Jesus has done on the cross, and placing our faith in Him as our Savior and Lord.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

Belief or faith is more than mentally agreeing with the facts of His death, burial and resurrection. Scripture says we respond in 4 ways to our faith in the facts:

- We must _____ of (turn away from) our sins.

That repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations ... Luke 24:47 NAS

- We must _____ Christ as the Lord (master) of our life.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9,10

- We must be _____ into Christ who washes our sins away.

Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name. Acts 22:16

- We must _____ to live our life in submission to His authority and wishes.

IV. THE GREAT _____ HE HAS GIVEN TO EACH CHRISTIAN

**Pray for ones to harvest the ready crop of people.
Will you be one of those harvesters?**

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9.35-38

The _____ Commandment.

What is hindering people from coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus? Not hearing about it! What are we to do? We have a distinct command. Yet, how long since you have prayed earnestly for laborers to be sent into the harvest? How long since this has been done in worship? How long since you shared your faith?

The harvest is plentiful.
More harvesters are needed.
Jesus is asking YOU to be a harvester.

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, **I am sending you.**"* John 20.21

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10.13-17

I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself. Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before him, he will die. Since you did not warn him, he will die for his sin. The righteous things he did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the righteous man not to sin and he does not sin, he will surely live because he took warning, and you will have saved yourself. Ezekiel 3:17-21

Your responsibility is warning others about the consequences of their sin!

For people to be saved – _____ are the ones sent out.

There is one thing in your life that God cannot use;
there is one sin that consigns **others** to hell: **your _____!**

A. _____ **people to come to Christ.**

Go out into the highways and along the hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be full. Luke 14.23

God wants his Church full of people.
How many of your friends are not yet Christians? _____

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Philemon 6

The _____ Jesus uses to accomplish His purpose.

1. **We are called to be _____**

You will be My witnesses... Acts 1:8

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 5.42

Myths about witnessing...

(if you say nothing, you have made their choice for them)

- God won't send anyone to hell.
- My good life is a good enough witness. ("Give an answer for the hope that's in you.")
- God doesn't need me.
- There must be another way.
- Being good gets you in.
- I don't have the Talent or the "silver tongue" for the job. You are hired as a page turner.
- You can already tell who is not going to get in.
- You can already tell who is not interested.
- We have enough already.
- Witnessing is not my gift.
- I have to convert the person.
- I don't know enough (John 9.25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!")
- I might make a mistake (the only thing in your life God cannot use is your silence - the greatest sin any Christian can commit)

2. **We are called to be _____**

For Christ's love **compels** us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live **should no longer live for themselves** but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of

reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the **message of reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's **ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As **God's fellow workers** we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 Corinthians 5.14-6.1

3. **We are called to be _____ to share our faith.**

Preach the Word; **be prepared in season and out of season**; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. 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. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 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

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

The Scriptural Purpose for your Mission:

"To see that all people, everywhere, have the opportunity to hear, respond to and enjoy life with God through salvation in Jesus Christ."

1. To fulfill the Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20
2. To proclaim Christ's love for the world: Luke 10:2, Ephesians 2:11-22
3. To minister to human need: Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 4:16-20, James 1:27, James 2:14-17
4. To bring men and women to the knowledge of God: Romans 10:13-15, Matthew 18:10-14
5. To obey Christ by confessing Him to the world: Matthew 10:32-33
6. To instill a sense of urgency for sharing the gospel: Romans 13:11-14, Jeremiah 8:20, 1 John 2:18, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 10:9, Luke 16:19-31
7. To encourage prayer for the unsaved: Romans 10:1

From our Mission's Ministry Leader (Eric Elliott): "I believe it is essential for a missions-oriented church to develop strong local, state, national, and international ministries. Christ taught in his own area, but his sphere of influence did not end there. Likewise, our sphere of influence should not end at the church. We can not be afraid to share our faith at home, work, with friends, family members, or anyone else we come into contact with. "Make disciples," he commands us, "baptizing and teaching them in the name of the Lord." This cannot be ignored."

**Who else will tell them?
_____ else will they find the answer.
Their Eternity awaits _____ life mission.
No matter who they are, no matter what they are;
You know something they _____.
You know something they _____.**

We share our faith – we communicate the Gospel because:

1. We are _____ to evangelize.
2. We _____ about people. We don't want people to go to hell. At least invite them to church.
3. We love the _____ life. We would love for everyone to be a Christian. To know the joy of serving Christ. Why wouldn't I want people to hear, know and accept Christ as Savior and Lord?

You live with a new objective! You are not merely going about doing business, but out doing God's business. Think of how that changes how you do business. You aren't going to do anything to hinder the witness you are going to give. Witness of your changed life, and witness to their changed citizenship. Every person you meet will stand face to face with Jesus Christ. There is not one mortal person around you. All will spend an eternity in either heaven or hell. And you have the opportunity and privilege of helping to determine which it will be. (Luke 19.13)

B. The _____ Jesus has for using 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

The power is the Holy Spirit: We are the ambassadors of conversion, the Spirit is the agent of conversion.

The progression is the same today: your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and on into the entire world.

Jesus describes a progressive evangelism strategy:

- To Jerusalem
- To Judea
- To Samaria
- To the Ends of the earth

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
Matthew 24.14

He has placed you in a strategic position to share your faith right where you live now, where you work now, and with the people you deal with. If you do your job well, God has more in mind for you to accomplish.

C. You will _____ the world.

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Genesis 22:18

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9,10

His people will stamp out evil, crime, hate and eternity in hell.
The gospel is going to be offensive – you don't have to be.

YOU MUST _____ THE GOSPEL.

The gospel summarized:

*Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For **what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.*** 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

We want to take each Christian to the next step in their Christian walk.
We are all making commitments, let's make the next one.

Make the commitment to be ready to share your faith at every opportunity.
Everywhere you go... Everyone you meet... Every opportunity you have.

Some people are going to be interested, some eager, and some against the idea of hearing about Christ. Jesus tells us this in His parable of the 4 soils:

1. beside the _____ – easy prey
2. upon the _____ – no roots
3. among the _____ – choking out potential
4. in fertile _____ – eager to grow

Jesus gives us the principle of wiping the dust off your feet. Go on to the next person. But don't throw them away though – put them on the "back burner."

You might still be saying:

"I don't know how."

In no other life pursuit will you stop because you don't know how. Learn how! You practice in every area of your life. You are always pursuing perfection; job skills, athletic competition, hobbies. You don't quit because you don't do it perfect the first or even the second time. If you want it, you practice to excel.

WHY WE MUST _____ PEOPLE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1. There is no other hope for man outside the saving power of the blood of Jesus. Outside of Jesus Christ there is no salvation. 1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; Acts 4:12. We have the only remedy. There is no alternative. Only Christ's action on the cross can change our condemned position before God. Hebrews 2:3.

The lost are lost, eternally and hopelessly, without Christ. There is no way to have forgiveness of sins, eternity with God, peace of mind and heart now, and the joy of fellowship in God's church without a commitment to Jesus Christ! The reality of hell and its sure future for the lost compels us to tell the Good News. Luke 16:23.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3

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

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

2. Because of the desperate need of perishing people. God loves the world and Christ died for the sins of every individual thus creating the way for man to be reconciled to God. Men and women are priceless to God. 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16, 36; 1 Timothy 2:3,4; Ephesians 2:12
3. We are commanded to witness. Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15. The church is called to preach the gospel to every person with the intent of leading them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and this privilege is entrusted *exclusively* to the church. No one else has been commissioned to preach the gospel but the church. Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:16; 17:18.

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4. If you do not preach the gospel, sinners will never hear the gospel and salvation will never take place. Romans 10:13-15; 2 Peter 3:9. Christ was a soul winner; believers in the early church were soul winners. You are next in line. Luke 19:10; John 3:1-21; Acts 2:40; 8:26-40; 16:25-34. Evangelism is not an *option* for the church of Jesus Christ.
5. Because of the great reward that awaits us, 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 11:26. That reward will be satisfaction now as you see people come to Christ, and when Christ says, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
6. As you fulfill your mission you will find yourself at war with Satan and his forces of wickedness who are trying to keep sinners from responding to the grace of God. Ephesians 2:1,3; 6:10-18; Acts 26:18; Revelation 12:11

Spiritual warfare is the normal state of affair between Christians and Satan. You will see the battle for their soul rage in their eyes as you share with them. Expect it, be eager to see them win the battle. Luke 9:1; 10:19; Mark 16:15-18; Revelation 12:11

Be a **Marine leading the attack** and taking the flak. Don't be a **Prisoner of War** nor **Missing In Action**.

Pray for Divine Appointments. "Lord make them ready and me bold." The Holy Spirit wants them more than we do. The Holy Spirit draws them and makes them ready to hear, remember Cornelius.

THE QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS:

1. The _____ of our own salvation.
2. The conviction that all are _____ without Christ.
3. A genuine _____ for lost mankind.
4. A life of _____ to the Word of God.
5. A working knowledge of the _____.
6. Dependence on the Word and the _____.
7. Earnest, believing _____.
8. Willingness to step out on God's _____.
9. Witnessing can be done by any believer, anytime, anywhere, in many ways:
 - a. The Ethiopian was won by a _____ (Acts. 6:5; 8:26-38)
 - b. Peter was won by his _____ (John 1:41)
 - c. Nathanael was won by his _____ (John 1:45)
 - d. Luke, the doctor, was possibly won by Paul, his _____ (Col. 4:14)
 - e. Timothy was won by members of his _____ (2 Tim. 1:5)

"When I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32

SHARE YOUR FAITH WITHOUT FEAR

Step 1: Raise Questions

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died right now, where would you go?
If heaven: *Why would God let you in?*
If hell: *Would you like to go to heaven?*
If they don't know: *Would you like to know?*
5. Would you like to see what God says?
If yes - *Open the Bible.*
If no - *I know you wouldn't be afraid to read a couple verses that would settle this in your mind. Would you mind reading this first one?*

Your objective is to get the Bible open! Fear Not! Your job is merely to turn the pages.

Open the Bible, turning it toward the other person:

- ✓ They will be doing the reading. (Romans 10.17)
- ✓ They will be doing the talking.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit will be doing the convicting.
- ✓ The Word of God will do the convincing.

Success is acting out your Christian life,
sharing the Gospel
and trusting God for the results.
Success is planting the seed.

You haven't failed if the person doesn't accept Christ right then.
Failure is when you are silent – when you say nothing about Christ.

"My Word never comes back empty." Isaiah 55.11

The questions are:

1. To start a conversation about God.
2. To probe with a thermometer to see where the Holy Spirit has been working.
3. To get the Bible open and in their lap. Let it do its work. They will see how easy it is to understand. God's word will convict.

Step 2: Read Scripture:

Have the person read each one out loud.

With each scripture, ask: "What does this say to you?"

If there is a question on any scripture, have them *Read It Again- Out Loud*.

1. Romans 3.23 - All have sinned. Does that include you?
2. Romans 6.23 - The wages of sin is death.
Notice it says 'sin' and not 'sins'. One sin sends us to Hell.
3. 1 Peter 2.24 - His work on the Cross in our place.
4. Romans 10.9 - If you confess Jesus as your Lord.
What does the word lord mean? Is this true for you?
5. 1 John 5.13 - He who has the Son has life.
You may **know for certain** where you will spend Eternity.
6. Acts 2.37,38,39 - They asked what they should do to be saved.
What is God's promise? What are we to do to receive forgiveness of sin?

Repent means to change your heart and the way you live.

Baptism means to identify ourselves with Christ and be united with Him.

Expect a battle! Satan never gives up ground without a fight.
A war will be waged in the persons will.

Step 3: Reach Commitment – Receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

1. Are you a sinner?
2. Do you want forgiveness of sin?
3. Do you believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose again?
4. Are you ready to ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior and your Lord?
5. From the scriptures you just read, what do you need to do to respond to Christ and be forgiven and go to Heaven? (Romans 10.9; Acts 2.38)
6. Are you ready to do that? (Repent, believe, confess Christ as your Lord, be baptized into Christ)
7. Baptize them immediately into Christ. Acts 16.33
8. Help them discover their **privileges** and their **responsibilities** found in the New Testament.

**TO SHARE OUR FAITH – WE MUST BE SURE.
YOU CAN HAVE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR SALVATION
AND IN JESUS THE SAVIOR YOU PROCLAIM.**

Jesus was not a fake. He is not one of many options. He is the only savior and master.

Jesus is LORD.

1. He _____ what He claimed to do. (be the savior of all who believe in Him)
2. He _____ who He claimed to be. (God in the flesh and the only one able to pay for our sin and offer us eternal life)
3. Therefore, He has a _____ upon my life. (either you reject him or place your allegiance in Him)

This will not change a person who chooses not to change. It will change a person who earnestly desires to seek truth so he may live his life by it.

Who Jesus was and what He claimed to be, fits only 1 of 4 possible explanations:

Maybe - He was a LEGEND

Did He really exist? No historian today would claim that Jesus did not exist as a real live person.

Maybe - He was a LIAR (He knew he wasn't)

There was no physical, financial or political gain from this. The Friends of Jesus knew the truth. If it was a lie, they played a dastardly, unthinkable fatal trick upon their friends. (Stephan Acts 7.59) We'd have to say He was the most deceitful, depraved man ever to live. Yet he retained the purest and noblest of character.

Maybe - He was a LUNATIC (He thought he was)

There is no evidence of this.

His mother and brothers thought He must be "insane". (John 7.5)

His friends didn't believe He was insane.

He would have had to be totally out of reality: He claimed to be God, and He said "believe in me for your Eternal destination." Self deception with an intellect so clear and sound is absurd. His response was always serene and evenly balanced, giving the wisest answers to gravely accusing questions.

The Only Choice left - He is LORD of all

He rose in 3 days.

His mother and brothers became believers.

His friends became believers.

His enemies became believers. Acts 6.7

- A. Changed _____ – His friends didn't just say: "let's fulfill His last wish". No – no one would die for what he knows is a lie. Thomas wouldn't believe. Then he saw the evidence, and he believed. He died a martyr. Was he deceived? He gave his life for what he knew to be true. These eyewitnesses gave their testimony and their lives upon the reality of His resurrection.

- B. Biblical _____ – Paul said in 1 Cor. 15 "if it's false we are foolish to follow." Jesus can't be a good man and a dead hero at the same time, because He claimed to be the one and only Savior dying for the sins of all mankind.
- C. Current Day - If a Government or a corporation, wanted to do a 'cover up', what would they do? They might assassinate the witnesses, lie, discredit their story or concoct an alternate story. This is precisely what happened. The religious leaders simply said "shut up or we will kill you". Acts 5.40.

BUT, the Tomb was _____! The Apostles spoke to a crowd who had been on the scene. It would be impossible to lie or deceive those people. It was a short walk to the grave-site. Anyone could have said: "let's go see." The Apostles sealed their witness by their blood. We seal our destiny with His. Some reject this evidence because of obvious moral implications. They don't want to face the responsibilities and implications of calling Him Lord.

Jesus Christ is either _____ or He holds our ultimate _____.

Pointless – this is all a coincidence.

Since Jesus claimed to be God in flesh, and our resurrection hinges upon His - without the Resurrection - this life is all there is.

- or -

Purpose – this is all that really matters.

Then the universe was planned. Our future is settled. We are not going to fade from existence. What we do matters, for ourselves and others! How old are you right now? You aren't going to put in your 80, retire for good, get a gold casket and quit. Nothing we do is unseen; everything we do matters.

Men, whom He appeared to, gave their life to Him. Has he appeared to you?
1 Corinthians 15.5,7

We can give our lives to Him in absolute _____ that we are doing the right thing, we have a place guaranteed in _____ for us, and we have a _____ to do.

**Go and make _____ of Jesus Christ!
Everywhere - Every place
Everybody - Every opportunity**

Your Life Mission involves *presentation* and *preservation* (the poor, needy, hungry, imprisoned). **Your mission is to see that the news goes everywhere. God desires all tribes and tongues to know Him.**

*You are the **salt** of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the **light** of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its*

*stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.***

Matthew 5.13-16

Not silent, absent or hidden - nor dark and tasteless like the world.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11.28-30

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18.19,20

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16.15,16

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4.18,19

But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

Luke 4.43,44

Ask God to use you as a witness today.

Trust God in faith to see what He will do. Ask for and recognize *Divine Appointments*. When you get up in the morning, ask God to give you the ability to minister to people, to open your mouth, to use your mind in a positive way for His honor and glory. Joe Aldrich calls this "Lifestyle evangelism." (ex: Block parties, do things for people, help wash their car, mow their lawn)

Engage them in conversation.

Say hello, ask questions about their life, their family, what brought them to Alaska, how they were raised ...

3 things in life interest people: family; occupation, vocation-work; recreation.

Ask non-threatening questions to begin a conversation about God:

1. Are you involved in a church right now? (often, they will say "I'm not but I know I should")
2. Who is Jesus Christ to you?
3. Have you thought about what will happen when you die?
4. Do you know if you would go to heaven if you died today?
5. Do you feel there is any purpose to your life beyond right now?
6. Did you know God has a special plan for you?

7. Is there any reason why it's not in your best interest to give your life to Jesus right now?

At the restaurant, the grocery store, the gas station, show interest in people. Be friendly. People want to know why you care, why you aren't grumpy like so many of their customers.

The Institute for American Church Growth asked over 10,000 lay people this question: 'What was responsible for you coming to this church?' This is their reply:

- I had a special need 2%
- I just walked in 3%
- I liked the pastor 6%
- I visited there 1%
- I liked the Sunday School 1%
- I liked the programs 3%
- **A friend or relative invited me 79%**

You could become that friend!

- ⇒ What is the Evangelist's responsibility? Train up ministers who know how to share their faith. That's what we're doing right now.
- ⇒ "I wanted to share my faith and chickened out" - why? God cannot use your silence. 85% of those converted, heard the gospel an average of 7.6 times before they responded. Many are ready for the .6 right now.
- ⇒ Practice with fellow Christians. Become skilled at it.
- ⇒ Purpose of the questions – to start a conversation about God, to open God's word, to find out what the Holy Spirit has been doing.
- ⇒ Evangelism is not a project – it's a lifestyle. Take any conversation and insert the 1st question.
- ⇒ Carry a small Bible with you at all times.

MY COMMITMENT:

- ✓ I will learn how to share my faith.
- ✓ I will ask for boldness to do so.
- ✓ I will ask the Spirit to go before me and ready the person hearing, to respond to the message of life.
- ✓ I will pray each morning as I wake up to have eyes open to the opportunities and a heart ready to share.
- ✓ I will see every person as a potential convert.

Name

Date

YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Personal testimony is an effective method of evangelism. Keep in mind that evangelism in its purest and simplest form is sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ.

- Methods must never compromise or take priority over the message. Get the Word open and let it do its work.
- Methods used must be consistent with Scripture and must never appear to manipulate or deceive.
- Methods are not sacred, the Gospel message is. This is a template.
- Methods can be adapted and changed to meet the needs of the person witnessing and the particular audience.
- Methods should not exalt the messenger above the message.

1 Corinthians 2:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

The gospel proclaimed in God's power through the life and lips of a Godly person will produce fruit.

The Biblical emphasis is on:

- The Power of God
- The Power of the Gospel
- The Proclamation of the Truth

Romans 1:14-17

Statistically, at least in Western cultures, most people are saved through the personal testimony and witnessing of a friend or relative. The best preparation for personal witnessing is living a godly life because it will earn you the right to speak about Christ. People need to see Christ in you and the fact that you care about them. People don't care what you know until they know that you care! What you say and what you do makes a significant statement about our Christianity.

Evangelism may occur in:

- A casual, unplanned way or
- A planned, scheduled encounter

As Christians you should always be ready to seize every opportunity to share the Gospel and recognize the opportunity.

Colossians 4:3-6; 1 Peter 3:15-16

Hints for giving a personal testimony

- A. Prepare a short personal testimony (5-8 minutes) which
 1. Is not a personal history or biography of your life; remember, Evangelism is sharing the good news about Christ, not yourself.

2. Covers briefly:
 - a) your life before you were saved
 - b) how you came to sense your need for Christ (i.e. your lost-ness)
 - c) what and who God used to save you
 - d) how you were really saved (by Grace through faith)
 - e) what has happened as a result of salvation
 3. Focus on Christ
 - a) who He is
 - b) what He did on the cross, what His empty tomb means to you.
 - c) what He offers as the way to salvation

NOTE: You should be able to share quickly and accurately a basic plan of salvation.
 4. Lead the person to a response, if possible. "What will you do with Christ?"
- B. Always be ready to give your personal testimony, but:
1. Don't force it on anyone
 2. Don't use your employer's time for which you are paid (share before or after work, or during breaks. lunch).
 3. Don't insist that someone respond as you did.
- C. Be sensitive to the person with whom you are sharing – you may only be able to plant a seed at that time.
- D. Answer from the Bible any questions which the person asks. If you don't know the answer, say you don't know, but will find out.
- E. A personal testimony of how Christ saved you and what that has meant to your life since, can be used in any number of different situations such as:
1. Visitation witnessing;
 2. Appointment or planned encounter witnessing;
 3. Friendship, associate, or relative (family/kinship) witnessing.
- F. Read these Biblical examples of personal testimonies:
1. Acts 22:1-21
 2. Acts 26:1-29
 3. Galatians 1:11-24
 4. 1 Timothy 1:12-17

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Write your own personal testimony using the following as a guide:

1. Name and background

2. Life before salvation

3. How you became aware of your lost-ness

4. When and how you were converted

5. Life after salvation
