

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6

Bible Overview — Witnessing

**Raymond and Pamela Williams
Beautiful Feet Ministries**

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YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 1

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 1)

THEME OF THE WEEK: The seven lessons of this Bible overview are designed to give a very broad and general introduction to the events and characters that are covered in the Bible. This is done to make more understandable the historical framework of the Bible as a whole and to enhance personal Bible reading.

MEMORY VERSES: “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)
“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

In this and the seven following lessons we will look at an overview of the history in the Bible. That means we will look at just the main stories of the Bible. We are doing this in order to help you grasp the overall background of what you’re reading. We won’t be talking about the main ideas because that is what we’re already doing every week anyway.

Well here goes:

Once upon a time in a land far away with a people long ago....

Hey! Wait a minute! What’s wrong here? I’m reading this like it’s a fairy tale. The problem is that a lot of people read the Bible like they are reading fairy tales. They forget they’re reading about people who lived real lives. Let’s start over.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He created the seas, lands, plants, animals, and people, and he did it in that order. The first two people, Adam and Eve, lived in a beautiful paradise where everything was wonderful! God tested their love for Him, however, by putting the Tree of the

Knowledge of Good and Evil into the Garden of Eden and telling them not to eat from it. You probably know the rest of the story. Along came the devil, tempted them to eat; they sinned, died spiritually, and got themselves kicked out of the Garden. That was bad news for us because it meant we inherited their sin, causing every human being born after that to be born with sin. Sin separates people from God. Right there in the Garden of Eden, God promised to send a Savior Who can heal people of the sin disease. But that comes later—much later.

In time the earth became full of people—evil people. God could find only one righteous man, Noah. God told Noah to build an ark, a huge boat, load his wife, 3 sons, their wives, a pair of each kind of animal that lived on the earth, and 7 pairs of a few kinds, and wait for God to send rain. God sent enough rain to drown every breathing thing on the planet except those that were in the ark. The earth itself was never the same after the Great Flood.

After the Flood, people began to repopulate the earth. God planned to build a race of people who would worship Him and who would show other people how to worship Him. God chose a man named Abraham and his wife Sarah to be the parents of that race of people, who would later be called the children of Israel. Abraham left his old home, Ur of the Chaldees, to go to Canaan or Palestine, the land God promised to give Abraham's descendants.

When Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children, God gave them a miracle child, a son they named Isaac. Isaac grew up and had twin sons that he named Jacob and Esau. Esau was the older son, but God's special blessing was on Jacob. This was only fair because Esau cared nothing for God's blessing.

Jacob, in turn, had 12 sons. Next week we'll learn about the wicked trick 10 of the sons played on their younger brother Joseph and on their own father, Jacob.

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 2

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 2)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

If you'll remember, last week we started an overview of the Bible. We learned how the first people, Adam and Eve, sinned, got kicked out of the Garden of Eden, and passed that sin on to you and me. Thanks Adam and Eve! Then we heard about when God sent a Great Flood to destroy every living thing on the earth except Noah, his family, and the animals that were on the ark.

After that, God chose to raise up a race or nation of people to worship Him. The fathers of that nation, whom we call the Jews, children of Israel or Hebrews, were Abraham, Abraham's son, Isaac, Isaac's son, Jacob, who was later called Israel, and Jacob's twelve sons. Jacob's twelve sons are called the children of Israel.

Because ten of Jacob's older sons were jealous of their younger brother, Joseph, they sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt and led their father to believe Joseph was killed by wild animals. Later, the ten brothers were sorry for what they had done. In the meantime, we find poor Joseph a slave down in Egypt.

However, God had a plan however, for Joseph. God raised up good Joseph from slavery to be a great leader in Egypt—in fact, second in command. Joseph's word was law. When a widespread famine struck, Joseph brought his family down into Egypt to care for them.

The children of Israel, or Jacob, stayed in Egypt for around 450 years. A new dynasty came to power whose pharaoh did not like the Israelites. He forced them to be slaves. Still, the Israelites multiplied until there were probably millions of them.

God, through many miracles and under the leadership of Moses, led the Israelites out of Egypt and even caused the Red Sea to part so they could cross over. Unfortunately, because of their constant murmuring, complaining, and unbelief, God had to punish the Israelites by causing them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Understand—they weren't lost. They weren't allowed to go into the land. They did know where they were going.

Moses died and God raised up another leader named Joshua to lead the Israelites into Canaan—their promised land. The Israelites were told by God to destroy all of the wicked Canaanites who lived in the land. This may seem harsh to us, but the Bible says that God had given these wicked people hundreds of years to repent of their wickedness. They had refused to change. It is always wise to listen when God speaks. Many of the people of these evil nations were demon possessed and because Christ had not yet died on the Cross, these people could be freed neither of their demons nor of their sins, and they did not want to repent.

Next week we will talk about the Israelites in their new land.

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 3

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 3)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

Last week we saw the Israelites flee from Egypt, but we left them at the threshold of Canaan, their promised land. Moses is dead. God has raised up a new leader, Joshua. Joshua will lead the Israelites into the Promised Land.

First of all, God parted the Jordan River. Second, God caused the walls of Jericho to fall. The Israelites fought many battles before, they could settle down in their new land, which would now be called, of course, the land of Israel.

The Israelites set up their lovely tent church, called the Tabernacle, where they would worship God for hundreds of years. Priests and Levites were in charge of the Tabernacle and taught God’s laws, while regular Israelites did regular kinds of work.

For hundreds of years, judges ruled Israel. Some important people to remember from the time of the judges are these judges: Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Samuel. Another important name to remember is Ruth, a non-Israelite woman who became the great-grandmother of King David, the greatest king to rule Israel.

The first King of Israel was Saul. He unwisely disobeyed God, and God replaced him with David. David led a very exciting life. One favorite story is about how David killed a Philistine giant named Goliath. David trusted God. Many of the Psalms in the Bible were written by King David.

David's son Solomon became the next king of Israel. God was so pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom to rule God's people that God made Solomon the wisest man who ever lived and, as an added reward, the richest man as well. While Solomon was king, a beautiful temple was built in Jerusalem to replace the Tabernacle.

When Solomon's son became king, Israel divided into two kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel; the Southern Kingdom was called Judah. Hence, people from Judah were often called Jews or Jewish people, a name which they still bear today. Jerusalem is located in Judah. Israel was now two nations, ruled by two kings. This period, which lasted hundreds of years, is called the time of the Divided Kingdom. Judah, the Southern Kingdom, continued to be ruled by David's family, some of whom were godly kings, and some of whom were evil. The Northern Kingdom never had one really good king.

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 4

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 4)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

Last week we watched the Israelites conquer and occupy their promised land which would then be called Israel. Judges ruled for a time. After that, kings ruled. King Solomon, the wisest man who has ever lived, built a beautiful temple for God in Israel.

After Solomon, the Kingdom divided into the Northern Kingdom, called Israel, whose capital was Samaria, and the Southern Kingdom, Judah, whose capital was Jerusalem.

The divided Kingdom was ruled by two kings. Judah, the Southern Kingdom had both good kings and bad kings. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, never had even one king who was truly good. By bad, we mean kings who worshiped other gods and led their people to do the same.

God sent many prophets, including Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, and Jeremiah to warn the people to repent and return to God. God warned both kingdoms that if they didn't change their evil ways, He would have enemy nations destroy them. Finally God fulfilled His promise by having the Assyrians conquer and carry off

the people of the Northern Kingdom. Later, God brought King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to destroy Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and carry off her people.

The people of the Northern Kingdom never returned. The people of Judah or the Southern Kingdom were told by God that He would allow them to return to Judah after seventy years of captivity in a far away country called Babylon. The Babylonians completely destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's beautiful temple.

Some heroes of the captivity were Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego also known as the three Hebrew children. One time Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into a fiery furnace because they wouldn't worship a giant statue Nebuchadnezzar had made. God delivered them alive from the fire much to Nebuchadnezzar's amazement. Another time, with a different king, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions because he wouldn't stop praying. God shut the mouths of the lions.

A heroine during the time of the Captivity was a Jewish woman named Esther who was chosen by a Persian king to be his wife. Queen Esther saved all of the Jews living in the kingdom when she uncovered the evil plot of one of the king's highest ranking officers to destroy her people, the Jews.

Finally, King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Israel. Over the next few years enough Jews had returned to be able to rebuild Jerusalem, the walls of Jerusalem and the Temple.

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 5

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 5)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

Last week we saw that even though God sent prophets to warn Israel and Judah to repent of their idolatry and to return to godly worship, they refused. At last God had to destroy them. Both kingdoms were carried away by enemy nations. Israel never returned, but many Jews were allowed to return to Judah after many years of captivity.

The Babylonians were conquered by the Medes and the Persians while the Jews were still in captivity. The Persian King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return around 539 BC. The Temple was rebuilt around 515 BC.

Judah was under the control of the Persians until Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and captured Judah. Although Alexander was a Macedonian, he chose to think of himself as Greek and caused the Greek language and culture to be used everywhere he conquered, including Judah. Later, for a time, Judah was somewhat independent until Rome conquered her in 63 BC. In 37 BC, the Romans made Herod the Great a king over the Jews. This was the

condition of Judah when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Judah or Judea around 3 or 4 BC.

Remember way back in the Garden of Eden when God had promised to send a Savior to save people from their sins? The time had come at last! An angel told a young virgin girl named Mary that she would be the mother of Father God's son. The angel told Mary that the Holy Spirit would place God's son in Mary's womb. This tiny baby would be 100% God, 100% man and 100% sinless. Mary and a man named Joseph married, but did not come together in the way of a husband and wife until after Jesus was born.

Because Mary and Joseph were traveling, Baby Jesus was born in a humble stable. Angels announced the glad news to shepherds in the fields who, of course, ran to see the holy Child. When Jesus was a year or two old, wise men from the East brought Him expensive gifts.

Jesus astonished teachers and priests with His knowledge of God's Word and His wisdom of God's ways when He visited the temple at twelve years of age.

John the Baptist was baptizing people at the Jordan River when Jesus showed up one day to be baptized. Jesus was 30 years old. From heaven, Father God announced His blessings and approval of Jesus by saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" and by sending the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove to alight on Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17). Here we see a perfect picture of the Trinity or three parts of One God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This was the official start of Jesus' earthly ministry which would last for three and a half years.

Next week we will follow Jesus' earthly ministry.

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 6

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 6)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

Last week we learned that the Romans conquered Judah in 63 BC. They were still in power when Jesus, the Son of God, was born in 3 or 4 BC. You will remember that Father God placed Jesus in a young virgin girl’s womb. That girl was Mary. Jesus was 100% man, 100% God, and 100% sinless.

We find Jesus now a grown man. Jesus’ earthly ministry did not begin until He was 30 years old, and it lasted only three and a half years. Jesus chose 12 special men who are called the 12 apostles or the 12 disciples. These 12 men were trained to take over Jesus’ work after Jesus would go back to heaven.

Great crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went! He taught them about the Kingdom of God; He healed them of all kinds of diseases; He cast devils out of demon-possessed people. Sometimes He even raised people from the dead.

Jesus knew that the most important reason He had come to earth was to die for our sin, for you see, the Bible says there can be no remission of sin without the

shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). But only sinless Blood could pay that price, and only Jesus Christ was sinless.

One time, Jesus, with three disciples, climbed to the top of a high mountain. Moses and Elijah came down to meet with and talk to Jesus about His upcoming death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus' face shone like the sun and His clothing was glistening and white.

The night before Christ was to die on the Cross, He and His disciples celebrated a Passover meal together. Often this last meal is referred to as the Last Supper.

One of Jesus' own 12 disciples, Judas, betrayed Christ, helping the evil religious leaders among the Jews to find and arrest Him. Of course, Jesus knew all along that Judas would do this. The Jewish religious court condemned Jesus to die but really couldn't do that without the permission of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Although Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, in order to make the Jewish religious leaders happy, he sentenced Christ to die by being nailed to a wooden Cross by Roman soldiers.

As Christ hung dying on that Cross He forgave everyone who had put Him there and as His Blood flowed from His ripped and bruised body, He was paying for our sins. He hung on the Cross from 9 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon before finally dying. This was on a Friday.

Christ's body was laid in a cave tomb, and the mouth of that tomb was covered with a large, flat stone. Early Sunday morning, when His disciples visited His grave, they were shocked to find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Christ appeared to His disciples and to many other people before finally returning to heaven after 40 days.

Next week we will learn about the day Christ's Church was born and about her early years and development.

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 7

BIBLE OVERVIEW (Part 7)

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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27 (NKJV)

Last week we followed Christ’s earthly ministry of teaching, healing, deliverance, and sometimes raising the dead. We followed Him to the Cross and, later, the burial cave where His dead body was laid. From there He rose from the dead after three days.

Christ breathed His Holy Spirit into His disciples so that their spirits could receive life, that is, be born again. After they had received this gift, they could finally understand the spiritual truths that Christ had been teaching them for three and a half years.

After staying on earth for 40 days and appearing to about 500 people, Christ told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit to give them power for witnessing, and then He returned to heaven.

At a holy Feast called the Feast of Pentecost, while waiting in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, 120 people, including the 12 disciples and Mary the mother of

Jesus, were all baptized with God's Holy Spirit and began speaking in other tongues. With new boldness, the disciples spilled out into the street and began sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to crowds gathered for the Jewish Feast day.

On this same day 5000 people came to a saving faith in Christ. This special time is known as the birth of the Church. God did great miracles that were recorded in the Book of Acts, as He still does today in the lives of people who believe in Him. The Book of Acts is full of exciting adventure stories about the early Church. Paul, though not one of the original apostles, is one great hero of the faith we get to meet in the Book of Acts.

The rest of the Bible after the Book of Acts, with the exception of the Book of Revelation, is made up of extremely important teaching letters sent mainly to the young churches.

The Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, tells of the end times; the return of Jesus Christ to rule and reign on the earth; of the eternal destiny of the godly and the wicked; and of the coming of the New Jerusalem, and the New Heavens and the New Earth.

This concludes our overview of the Bible. As we said at the beginning of the overview lessons, we did not discuss the actual teachings of the Bible in this overview because that is what we do year round with our weekly Bible topics. This overview has been done mainly in the expectation that when you read your Bible daily, as we hope you are already doing, you can do it with more confidence knowing the general history covered in your Bible.

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 8

WITNESSING (Part 1)

THEME OF THE WEEK: These six lessons on witnessing are designed to enable the members of your group to share the message of salvation with others more effectively.

MEMORY VERSES: “[H]e who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30b (NKJV)
“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

(Teacher: See references Mark 16:14-20; Matthew 5:14-16, 44; 5:21-22; 7:13-14; 13:1-9, 18-23; Acts 1:1-9; 1 Corinthians 13:8; James 4:4; 1 John 3:15)

The Bible tells us to be witnesses for Christ. Simply put, to witness for Christ means to tell others how to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We know that if people don't pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord before they die, their sins cannot get washed away, and they will be separated from God for eternity because God is a holy God and cannot look upon sin. For these unhappy people, they will have to live for eternity separated from God in hell. Everyone deserves a chance to hear about Jesus. Some people will receive Jesus and live for Him all their lives; some people will receive Jesus and then backslide, that is, leave Jesus, and other people will reject Jesus. It may seem as though not many people will pray to receive the Lord, and fewer still will serve Him seriously, but the Bible says it will be like this. Those people whom you tell about Jesus who end up going to heaven will thank you eternally. It's up to us to tell people; it's up to those people to decide what to do with what you've told them. It's our responsibility to witness; it's their responsibility to listen and receive. When people reject the Christ you're offering them, don't take it personally; it's Christ they are rejecting, not you. The Bible says it will be like this.

For young folks in the room, listen up, this part is just for you. A lot of times kids and teenagers wait for grownups to tell other young people about Jesus. But, this doesn't make sense. Parents can be very fussy about other grownups telling their kids or teenagers about Jesus or anything else. The public school teachers can't talk about Jesus in schools. If young people don't tell other young people about Jesus, who will?

Kids trust kids. Teens trust teens. Trust me, this is true. It is hard for even the most caring adults to get a chance to witness to young folks. It is up to you. If you don't tell your friends, classmates, and the kids on the playground or the teens at the basketball court about Jesus they probably may never get told. How you tell them is your business—tell them in groups or one by one, but tell them. But, whatever age you are—five or ninety-five, Christ needs you and asks you to share your faith in Him with anyone who will listen to you. What to tell them and what your attitude is to be is what we'll be talking about for the next few weeks.

(Teacher: Pull out a good basic salvation tract and read it over. Give some to each of the people attending your meeting for them to take home and to share with others. Don't give them a handful, overwhelming them the first week. Give them two or three. Tell them one is to keep and study and the other one or two are to share with other people during the week.)

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 9

WITNESSING (Part 2)

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“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

Again, this week we are going to talk about the exciting subject of witnessing. It really is so exciting because if you tell someone how to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord and that person does invite Christ into his or her life, then you have saved a person from eternal damnation in hell. Isn't that exciting?

One of the biggest problems people deal with when they try to witness is that they don't know what to say. For that reason, for the next several weeks, every week we will go over a witnessing tract that will teach you exactly what someone needs to know to be born again. Jesus said if someone isn't born again that person won't be able to see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3). Until a person is born again, he doesn't really understand what you're talking about when you talk about spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Bible says it will be like this. The reason it is like this with people is that until a person's spirit is born again his or her human spirit is not alive yet to spiritual things.

Since this is how it is with people, then we can see that for people who are not born again, the part of the Bible they need to understand first is how and why to get born again. Our wonderful Bible, full of God's truth, will be nonsense to them until they become born again.

There are different words that different Christian groups use to mean “born again.” Some say “praying to receive Jesus as Lord” or “making Jesus Lord”; some say being “born from above”—it all means the same thing. These are the four points someone needs to understand to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)
4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

(Teacher: Go over a 4 point tract and get your group to repeat the points back to you.)

Next week, more about witnessing!

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 10

WITNESSING (Part 3)

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“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

Jesus commanded us to preach the Gospel in Mark 16:15, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel.” In other words, Jesus gave us no choice, we are told to witness.

Let’s read together what is called the Great Commission out of our Bibles. **(Teachers: Read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:1-9.)**

Jesus said for us to go and preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). When should you tell others about Jesus? He said, “As you go, preach.” That means, as you go about your daily business, preach whenever and to whoever will listen. When people don’t listen, don’t worry about it. Keep telling different people, and some of them will want the gift of eternal life that Christ is offering them through you.

Let’s go over again what to preach whenever you get the chance.

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised

Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)

4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

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QUARTER 6 LESSON 11

WITNESSING (Part 4)

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“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

Jesus told us to let our lights shine before people. **(Teacher: Read Matthew 5:14-16 together.)**

We are living in a sinful world full of sin’s darkness, but Christians have spiritual lights within them to help give light to themselves and others. That light was turned on within you when your spirit became born again and when the Holy Spirit came to live in you. The Bible says to let that light shine. Don’t try to hide it.

The Bible says that when people ask you why you are full of hope, why you have joy and peace and love, to be ready to tell them the real reason—that it’s Christ who has given you these things. When you tell people you’re just lucky or that you are just naturally peaceful when others are “freaking out,” you are stealing Christ’s glory for yourself, and you are losing the perfect opportunity to share Christ with someone. Those people are asking. Don’t hide the truth from them. That’s putting your light under a bushel. It’s like saying this is my light, and you can’t have any.

God gives us chances to witness to people. Look for those chances. Care about people enough to tell them the truth.

The world tells people to keep their religious views to themselves. But God isn't a religion—He's God, and He tells us to tell everyone we can about the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's just backwards, isn't it, when the world wants to tell God how things ought to be instead of God telling the world how things are? Believe God. Trust in His wisdom: He says tell, so we should tell.

Again, let's go over the plan of salvation so we'll know it by heart so that we can share it. **(Teacher: Go over salvation tract.)**

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)
4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

Now, let's go over a sample salvation prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that Christ died on the Cross for me, and that You raised Him from the dead after three days. I renounce satan, the devil. I turn away from my sins and ask Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus, be my Lord. I love You and will live my life for You. Come into my life and make me pure and holy as You want me to be. In Jesus' Name. Amen”

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 12

WITNESSING (Part 5)

THEME OF THE WEEK: These six lessons on witnessing are designed to enable the members of your group to share the message of salvation with others more effectively.

MEMORY VERSES: “[H]e who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30b (NKJV)
“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

The Bible says we are a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9 KJV). That just means we are different—different in a good way. Witnessing isn’t just about telling others about Jesus, although that’s a very important part of it. To witness to others effectively, you need to be a good witness yourself. What this means is that the way you live your life witnesses to others along with your words. If your life is a bad witness, then people won’t listen to you when you tell them about Jesus; if your life is a good witness, people will think about what you are saying.

Imagine that when you came in here tonight, I was drunk, swore at you, threw beer cans at you and then talked with you about Jesus. Would you take me seriously? Of course you wouldn’t. You’d probably laugh at me, leave, and never come back again. But instead, you know I’m sincere, that I believe what I preach, that I live the Christian life to the best of my ability, and I hope you respect me for it. All of these things help for you to take me seriously when I talk with you.

Well, people are watching you too. We have to live holy, godly lives for people to take us seriously when we talk with them about the Lord. If you act as badly as the next guy, or act in a bad way like some worldly people around you,

you won't win people to Christ, or, even if you do, they will have the wrong idea about what following Christ is all about and probably won't make it as Christians. People in the world need to see people who are different—people who are serving Christ.

Again, let's see if everyone can remember the four points to the plan of salvation and then let's practice a sample salvation prayer you can pray with people.

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)
4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

“Heavenly Father, I thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that Christ died for me on the Cross, and that You raised Him from the dead after three days. I renounce satan, the devil. I turn away from my sins and ask Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus, be my Lord. I love You and will live my life for You. Come into my life and make me pure and holy as You want me to be. In Jesus' Name. Amen”

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 6 LESSON 13

WITNESSING (Part 6)

THEME OF THE WEEK: These six lessons on witnessing are designed to enable the members of your group to share the message of salvation with others more effectively.

MEMORY VERSES: “[H]e who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30b (NKJV)
“[T]hat if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.” Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)
“And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV)

The Gospel is good news not bad news. Tell people the good news about what Jesus has done for them.

Most people already know they do bad things, so telling them that, and telling them they are bad is not witnessing. Jesus will help them to change. That’s what they need to hear.

Again, let’s go over the four points you need to remember when you tell people about Jesus and we’ll read a sample prayer of salvation too. **(Teacher: Read 4 witnessing points and sample prayer of salvation.)**

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)
4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

“Heavenly Father, I thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that Christ died for me on the Cross, and that You raised Him from the dead after three days. I renounce satan, the devil. I turn away from my sins and ask Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus, be my Lord. I love You and will live my life for You. Come into my life and make me pure and holy as You want me to be. In Jesus’ Name. Amen”

The Bible also says that people will know us by our love. If you are mean and unholy, why should people listen to you when you tell them about Jesus? Would you? The way you act will cause people either to respect you or to disrespect you, which can cause them either to listen to you or to laugh at you when you tell them about Jesus. It doesn’t always work this way, but normally it does as long as the person you’re talking to is able to recognize love and goodness in others.

Christ told His disciples to tell others who had heard the Good News or had seen a miracle, that the Kingdom of Heaven had come near to them. You, too, can let people know that God is reaching out to them.

After you have done all of this, you have done your part. Whether people accept or reject Christ after you’ve told them the good news is their own business. Their blood is not on your hands—it’s on their own heads (Ezekiel 3:17-21). If they pray to receive the Lord, rejoice with the angels; souls have been saved from hell. If they reject Christ, pray for them. If they makes fun of you (and most people won’t), then the Bible says to rejoice, for great is your reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12).

Always remember to pray for people before and after you witness to them. And pray, too, for opportunities to witness.