

7. Witnessing

Introduction

What would you say is the greatest threat to Christianity?

- Ungodly people.
- Our culture.
- Antagonistic governments.

Someone has *perceptively* suggested that ...

“The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into heaven without ever sharing their faith.”

One of the great privileges we have as God’s children is the **authority** and **privilege** to invite others to be reconciled with God! *There is no greater decision people can make than trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.* In this lesson, we will learn *five ways* to share our faith in Christ with others.

Sharing our faith, or **Witnessing**, is one of the most important factors in growing as a Christian. It keeps our faith *fresh* and *exciting* as we watch others being transformed by a miracle from God! But we need to remember the following to be effective **Witnesses** for Christ:

1. **Be Available:** Yield your life to God. God uses Available Servants.
2. **Be Prayerful:** Ask God to lead you to people to share with. Pray that God will make them open to His Word!
3. **Be Filled with the Spirit:** Only God can bring others to Himself. Our part is simply to be filled with His Holy Spirit and allow Him to **share His love** with others through us!

Sharing Christ With Your Testimony

We may not know much about the Bible or Theology, but all of us are **experts** in our own lives. **Although people may not be interested in hearing what we have done for God, they are interested in hearing what God has done for us!** Our **Testimony** is the story of what Christ has done in our lives! Use the following outline to prepare your **Testimony**.

- ▶ How could Christians not sharing their faith be the *greatest threat* to Christianity?
- ▶ Why do you think many Christians do not share their faith?



Romans 10:13-14



John 6:44



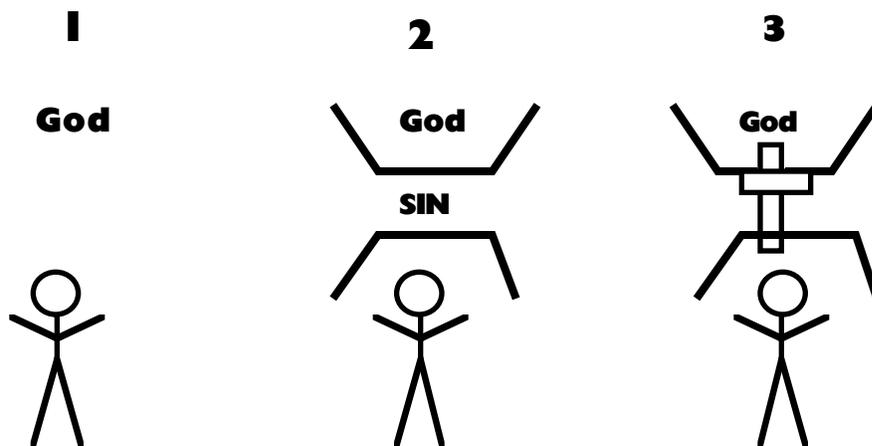
Acts 26:1-29

Preparing Your Testimony

- 1. Your Life Before Christ:** Share specifically about *an area of your life* in which Christ changed you. *Resist the temptation to dwell on how bad you were.*
- 2. How You Came to Know Christ:** Explain *clearly how you heard about Christ, and how you made the decision to trust in Him for forgiveness.* This will help the person you are sharing with hear *a clear presentation of how to know Christ in your Testimony!*
- 3. Your Life After Receiving Christ:** Share *how Christ changed you* in the area of your life mentioned above.

- ▶ Pray before you develop your *Testimony* and ask God to give you *His Story* to tell.
- ▶ Write out your *Testimony* and look for a theme that will tie it together.
- ▶ Develop your *Testimony* along that theme following the outline at left.

Sharing Our Faith with Pictures



God Our Creator
Loves Us and Offers
Us Eternal Life.

Our Sin Has Separated Us
From God and His Life.
Man is Unable to Bridge
This Gap On His Own.

Jesus Christ Died On the Cross
for Our Sins. Through Him
Alone, Can We Experience
God's Love and Life.

- ▶ Draw just one picture and simply add to it as you share. *(You do not have to draw three separate pictures.)*
- ▶ *Memorize* the Scriptures that accompany the *Four Truths* on pages 4 & 5 and use them as you share and draw these pictures.

The Gospel can be quickly and easily drawn using **simple stick pictures**. After completing the pictures, *use the final one to illustrate how we must choose to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ who is the bridge. This is an excellent way to share Christ with children!*

Sharing Our Faith After a Presentation

After reading, seeing or hearing a Gospel presentation through a *booklet, video, drama, movie, tape, etc.*, use the following **four questions** to introduce the Gospel.

- 1. What did you think about the (booklet, video, concert, etc.)?**
- 2. Did it make sense to you?**
- 3. Have you ever trusted Christ to forgive your sins as presented by the (booklet, video, drama, concert, etc.)?**
- 4. You would like to wouldn't you?**

- ▶ Recite these *Four Questions* without looking at them.



Romans 1:16

Sharing Our Faith With a Booklet

There are a wide variety of booklets available, but each contains the same message ~ *How to Find Eternal Life in Jesus Christ*. Described below is a method developed by Campus Crusade for Christ.

Benefits

1. **Easy:** Booklets make *Witnessing* easier by including the *essential truths* of the Gospel, as well as a *Prayer* to help a person trust in Christ.
2. **Clear:** Booklets present the Gospel in a *logical* manner, usually in four statements supported by Scripture.
3. **Small:** Booklets are *easy to carry* wherever we go.
4. **Concise:** Booklets usually take only *10 - 15 minutes* to read.
5. **Givable:** Booklets *can be left with people* we share with so that they can read them later. *Many people have come to Christ this way.*
6. **Transferable:** Booklets can be *passed from one person to another* several times.

Introducing the Booklet

The biggest *obstacle* to overcome is *introducing the subject of Christ to others*. It is always best to relate the Gospel to a *need* in the person's life. Here are some ways you can introduce a Booklet in order to share it with them.:

1. *"The message contained in this booklet has helped me more than anything else. May I share it with you?"*
2. *"Has anyone ever shared with you how you can know God in a personal way? This Booklet explains how. May I share it with you?"*
3. *"If you died right now, would you be absolutely sure you will be in heaven? This Booklet shares how you can be. May I share it with you?"*

► Can you think of other ways to introduce the Gospel to others?



John 4:7-14
Acts 8:26-35

Presenting the Booklet

1. **Hold the booklet steady** between both of you. Make sure the person you are sharing with is able to see the pages easily.
2. **Maintain the person's attention** by pointing to relevant words or illustrations as you read. Sometimes it helps to fold the pages back to ensure you are both on the same page.
3. **Simply read through the booklet!** Resist the temptation to add to the message of the Booklet. This often only confuses the person you are sharing with, and can lengthen the time needed considerably.

Sharing Our Faith With Prayer

Although many people are hesitant to talk about God, **most people are happy to have you pray for them.** This opens up a great opportunity to share Christ with others.

Offer to pray for the needs of *friends, co-workers, acquaintances, neighbors, etc.* Pray that God draws them to Himself and look for opportunities to share Christ with them as God provides.

Application

- 1. Review** each of the above ways to share your faith and practice each one.
- 2. Pray and ask God** to show you people who need to hear about God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, then make a list of the names God brings to mind.
- 3. Pray for each person daily** asking God to draw them to Himself.
- 4. Take advantage of every opportunity** God gives you and share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Be available** to share with people you meet through the day. You never know when God has set up a **Divine appointment** for you to share with someone!
- 6. Always remember** that it is God who brings people to Himself ~ not our techniques or charm. **Be continually filled with God's Spirit and expect God to use you!**

- ▶ Keep a journal of prayer requests and answers. Record the dates the requests were received and answered.
- ▶ Pray diligently for each request expecting God to work in people's lives!
- ▶ Find out if God is answering your prayers and look for opportunities to share His love!



Colossians 4:5