

**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

LESSON 1	THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF EVANGELISM
LESSON 2	MODELS OF EVANGELISM
LESSON 3	RELATING THE GOSPEL TO HUMAN NEEDS
LESSON 4	BEING A WITNESS
LESSON 5	LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM I
LESSON 6	LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM II
LESSON 7	TO BE A SOUL WINNER THROUGH BEING A FRIEND
LESSON 8	PRACTICAL EVANGELISM
LESSON 9	HOW TO ANSWER A HARD OR HOSTILE QUESTION
LESSON 10	7 REASONS WHY I AM A SOUL WINNER
LESSON 11	WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART I - HINDUS, BUDDHISTS AND TAOISTS)
LESSON 12	WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS (PART II - MUSLIMS AND ATHEISTS)

**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
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**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. A. Definitions of evangelism**

1. The proclamation of the gospel - the common definition of evangelism. Read **Mark 1:14, 15**. The gospel is evangelism.
2. Making disciples - **Matt. 28:19** “... **make disciples of all nations** ...”. “Disciple” can also be termed as “learner” or “pupil”. 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 NT uses different words for “witness” like “testimony”, “testify”, “martyr” etc. The Gospel of John and I John 5 use the word ‘witness’ frequently.
  - b. **Jn. 5:31** Jesus bore witness to Himself.  
**Jn. 8:13-19; Jn. 5:37** God the Father also bore witness to Jesus.  
**Jn. 5:33** John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus.  
**Jn. 5:36; 10:25; 15:24** His works bore witness to Him.  
**Jn. 21:24; Jn. 15:27** The apostles also bore witness to Jesus.

**B. We are Christ's testimony**

1. We are the salt of the earth. **Matt. 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. **Matt. 5:14; Jn. 9:5**

We are the light in the midst of darkness.
3. We are the aroma of Christ. **II Cor. 2:15**
  - a. Evangelism is bearing the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere. **II Cor. 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. **II Cor. 5:17-21**

- a. Reconciling people to God.
- b. Persons to persons.

## **II. DEFINITION OF GOSPEL - GOOD NEWS**

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

A. The Gospel is good news

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

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

**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. **Matt. 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.
    - a. 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 LEVEL 1 to 3 with the 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.
  - a. He gave them His peace (**Jn. 16:33**), His joy (**Jn. 15:10**), His glory (**Jn. 17:22, 24**) and His life (**Jn. 15:13**).  
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 (**Jn. 17:20**).
  - d. Then those who were disciples of the 12 will then witness and disciple others (**Jn. 17:21-23**). We are to do the same - elaborate on it.
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. New converts will have questions to ask you, too.
    - ii. A person 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. (**Mk. 9:38-41** and **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 discipled others and sent them out to share the gospel. This is the principle of reproduction and multiplication.

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

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

**Introduction:**

1. Man has a spirit, soul and body. **I Thess. 5:23**
2. God always meet man at the point of his 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. **Matt. 6:32**
- B. Jesus also told us what to do in **Matt. 6:33**, so that God will meet our physical and material needs. **Matt. 6:33**
- 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 bring them to Himself.
- 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. **Gen. 3**
    - b. But God made it possible for man to be reconciled to Him. **II Cor. 5:19**
    - c. God invites all men to come to Him. **Matt. 11:28, 29** and **Jn. 6:37**
  2. We accept ourselves.
    - a. We accept ourselves because God has accepted us the way we are.
    - b. Then He changes us into the likeness of His Son. **Rom. 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. **Jn. 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). **Rom. 5:8**
    - c. His love is also everlasting, without end. **Jer. 31:3**
  2. But love is a relationship where 2 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. **I Jn. 4:19**
    - b. We are to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. **Lk. 10:27**
- C. The need to answer the basic questions of life
1. Where did I come from? A question of origin.  
Ans: God made us. **Gen. 1:26, 27**
  2. Who am I? A question of who we really are.  
Ans: I am a child of God who has received new life. **Jn. 1:12, 13**
  3. Why am I here? A question of purpose and meaning in life.  
Ans: 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.  
Ans: I am going to be with my Lord Jesus Christ. **Jn. 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. **Jn. 3:1-7**
- B. The need for spiritual life, spiritual fulfilment. **Eph. 2:1-5** and **1 Jn. 5:12**
- C. The need to be forgiven (from guilt and past doings). **Rom. 3:23** and **Eph. 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. **II Cor. 12:9-10**

**Conclusion:**

- a. Love is the key to meeting the needs of people. **Acts 4:33**
- b. We must be willing to be involved with people and love them with the agape love of God.
- c. True love hurts. It hurts God to give His Son ... 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.
- But we don't stop because they reject what we are sharing.

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

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

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

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

- A. Scenario like a court scene
  - 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. Just like the early apostles and believers, we are bringing forth evidence 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 truth personally (the sharing of our testimony).
  - 2. That is our vocation as Christians.
  - 3. In everything we do, we are to declare His glory (**I Cor. 10:31**).
- C. Christ, the Risen One has returned to heaven
  - 1. We are here to testify on His behalf
  - 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.

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

- A. Love is not the natural thing
  - 1. People are self-centred (men are basically selfish creatures, Darwin's allegation that the fittest will survive is true, as it is based on man's self-centredness).

2. People do not want to reach out (too lazy, not bothered, too much trouble).
  3. Everyone wants to look out for themselves.
- B. Christ was love personified - it was a new revelation to man
- C. Everyone reaches out for love
1. A human love.
  2. A love that they must give something for.
  3. A love they expect in return.
- D. Christ's love was agape love
1. 100% giving.
  2. Expecting nothing in return.
    - a. no condition.
    - b. **John 3:16** giving of His all.
  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.

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

**LESSON 5 - LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM I**

**Introduction:**

Witnessing through the way we 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 be 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. **(I Tim. 3:7)**
  - 1. Obedience to the law of the land. **(I 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. **(Eph. 5 & 6)**
  - 1. The best child. **(Eph. 6:1-3)**
    - a. minority age
      - i. being obedient, submissive, respectful, responsible, helpful in the home, hardworking in studies, resist peer pressure, displaying proper Christian testimony.
    - b. adult age: single
      - i. obedient, submissive and respectful, responsible for duties at home, contributing financially, being responsible in our romantic relationships making sure we are abiding by the Word of God and not by the standard of this world and being a testimony of obedience to the Lord.
    - c. adult age: married
      - i. 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. (**I Peter 2:17**)

1. Employees

- a. should not take for granted the relationship with the employer.
  - i. 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.

D. Being the best student

- 1. Be diligent, persevering, honest, right Christian priorities and perspective e.g. not skipping church because of school work 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.

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

**LESSON 6 - LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM II**

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

**Introduction:**

Lifestyle evangelism II continues where we left off last week. 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. **I Cor. 11:3**

It is a role given to him by God. His leadership is to be patterned after Christ and the church.  
**Phil. 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, manifesting 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 honor, respect and esteem her.

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

As mentioned in Pt. I, 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 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. **Gen. 2:18**

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

- B. She is to submit to him as the head of the home **Eph. 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 spiritual teacher of the children.

Both parents are to teach the children, but 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.

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

- submissive, but not compromise her Christian standards.
- maintain Christian virtues and standards as a testimony to the husband.
- 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.

- A. To your infants.

- show love and comfort.
- 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,

- 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.

- spend quality time with them, e.g. helping them with schoolwork, teaching them, doing things together etc.
- discipline: correct rather than punish.
  - a. corrects wrong changes actions, attitude, and spirit.
  - b. punishing brings about defiance/rebellion and disobedience,
- be responsible for every aspect of their life, what they are doing, their schoolwork, who they are mixing with, their needs etc.
- teach them the Word of God and what the Lord commands us to do.
- guide them to the right values in life e.g. God first, fruit of the Spirit, etc.

C. To your teenagers.

- the teenager is a product of what was created during their childhood.
- you still have to discipline them and be a leader to them. Be also a model they can pattern after.
- they need your love and understanding. You yourself have been young once. Don't be overbearing, or overdomineering, but be someone they can respect, model after, and be someone they can come to when they have problems.
- give them opportunities to spread their wings, developing responsibilities within them.

**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.

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**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

**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 (**verse 36**). This was a good way to win them and other sinners.
2. Jesus accepted sinners with joy in His heart (**verse 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 (**verse 1**).
2. Jesus not only welcomed sinners, but He ate with them (**verse 2**).
3. The religious people spoke evil against Jesus because He mixed with sinners (**verse 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 (**verses 5 and 6**).
2. Zaccheus was saved because Jesus went to visit him (**verse 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 (**II Corinthians 6:17, 18** and **John 17:15**). Read these verses.

1. We, as Christians, must separate ourselves from the world and the ways of the world.
2. 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?
3. 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 more holy 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 they 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, by your love that is without condition. 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 wedding, their gathering in their new house, their gathering to celebrate the birth of their baby, and when they have completed their studies in the university etc.

We show to 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.

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**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 (**verse 36**). This was a good way to win them and other sinners.
2. Jesus accepted sinners with joy in His heart (**verse 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 (**verse 1**).
2. Jesus not only welcomed sinners, but He ate with them (**verse 2**).
3. The religious people spoke evil against Jesus because He mixed with sinners (**verse 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 (**verses 5 and 6**).
2. Zaccheus was saved because Jesus went to visit him (**verse 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 (**II Corinthians 6:17, 18** and **John 17:15**). Read these verses.

1. We, as Christians, must separate ourselves from the world and the ways of the world.
2. 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?
3. 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 more holy 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 they 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, by your love that is without condition. 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 wedding, their gathering in their new house, their gathering to celebrate the birth of their baby, and when they have completed their studies in the university etc.

We show to 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.
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**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.

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**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. Examples: 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 is it

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. (**I John 3:4; James 4:17**)
    - b. the universality of sin. (**Rom. 3:10, 23**)
    - c. the penalty of sin. (**Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8**)
  - 2. Salvation
    - a. it is salvation from sin. (**Matt. 1:21; I Tim. 1:15**)
    - b. salvation is God's grace. (**Eph. 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. (**I Thess. 1:9**)
    - c. repentance is a prerequisite to receiving forgiveness of sin. (**Acts 2:38**)
  - 2. Faith
    - a. faith is confidence in God. (**Heb. 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 prospect as much as possible - his needs, goals, problems, etc. (**v. 47-48**)
- C. Give your prospect 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 prospect (**v. 46**)
- H. Invite your prospect to "Come and See" Christ for himself (**v. 46**). This is the invitation to accept Christ and experience Christ personally today.

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**LESSON 9 - HOW TO ANSWER A HARD OR HOSTILE QUESTION**

**I. BE PREPARED**

- A. Know Scripture
  - i. The better you know The Gospels in the New Testament, the better you can answer for your faith. They make you wise, show the way to salvation and equip you for the work (**2Timothy 3:14-17**).
- B. Pray
  - i. To be equipped for the work and in the right spirit (**Luke 11:13**).
  - ii. To have wisdom (**James 1:5-8**).
  - iii. To have the words of life (**Proverbs 10:11, John 14:6**).
  - iv. For spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6:10-18**).
- C. Physical preparation
  - i. Dress like you plan on living where you'll witness. It gives you time for a long conversation if needed. It helps you fit in. It takes your mind off your flesh.
  - ii. Bring breath mints and water. Offend with the word of God, not your breath.

**II. BE IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT**

- A. Remember your purpose – to reconcile sinners to God. It's not your job to save the lost, fix the broken, free the addicted or heal the sick. It's your job to tell them WHO can (**2Corinthians 5:18-21, Luke 4:17-21**).
- B. Reply to the need, not the words. Jesus is the example. Ask questions back to determine the real need. (Read and meditate on **John 4:7-30**.)
- C. A gentle answer defuses anger. A calm voice and manner bring peace (**Proverbs 15:1, 4 and 25:15**). Look them in the eyes. Square your shoulders to their shoulders. Maintain a conversation distance. Do not touch or act aggressively. Relax your posture.
- D. Love always wins. Turn every response back to the person, not their philosophy or ideas. Care more about their condition than anything else. Listen to what they say (**1Corinthians 13:1-8**).
- E. Be led by the Spirit of God. He'll give discernment, wisdom, words and boldness. God knows the heart cry of the person you're talking to (**Acts 1:8, 12-14**).
- F. You're not the Bible Answer Man or Woman. Don't play word games, IQ tests or Bible Trivia. Some people just want to prove they're smarter than you (**2Timothy 2:14-16, 4:1-5**).
- G. If you're not making any progress or if they get more hostile. Ask if you can pray for them. Pray for their spoken need. Ask for their name to pray. Ask if they'll let you give them a tract or flyer. Leave them.
- H. You should always go in pairs or groups (**Luke 10:1-2**). If you encounter a hostile person or pair, one of you should talk and the other should pray. Do not let them separate or corner you. Walk away from an angry group while praying for protection.

**III. SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**A. General approaches:**

- i. Keep coming back to Jesus or heaven. Use that as a segway to sharing the plan of salvation.
  - ii. Know the plan of salvation. Memorize **John 3:3, 16-18** and **Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:9-10**. Make sure to include repentance in the plan.
  - iii. Know your own salvation story and be able to relate it in a short version.
  - iv. Even if they aren't willing to change. Ask them to pray to God to have Him show them the truth. He will. (**Luke 11:9-10**.)
- B. If some good person dies without hearing this Gospel you peddle. I heard that God would send them to hell forever. How is that fair?**
  - i. God is fair. Jesus came to earth to die the most painful way imaginable to take away our sins so that we could be with Him in heaven. Not to keep some people away. (**Use John 3:16-18**.)
- C. Heaven is boring. I don't want to spend forever praising some God.**
  - i. Jesus came from heaven and talks about it a lot. (Tell them about heaven. Ask if they think someone they love is there now. Ask if they want to go there some day. Share the plan of salvation.)
- D. What do you want me to give up to follow Jesus?**
  - i. God wants to have a loving relationship with you based on your free will. To do that you have to give up the things that are destroying you (sins). The real question is, don't you want to be free of the things you hate to do that control you? Don't you want to be blessed? (Name blessings and share your testimony if it relates. Then share the whole plan of salvation.)
- E. My family are all \_\_\_\_\_ (name a religion). That's just who I am.**
  - i. Identity is important to who we are. What does your family teach about how to get into heaven? Are you sure that will work for you? I'm absolutely sure I'm going to heaven because it's not about how good I am. (Share the **Roman verses**.)
- F. I'm a good person. I go to church sometimes.**
  - i. You're probably good compared to other people. But you have to be perfect to get into a perfect heaven or you'd ruin it. (Use the book of **Roman verses**.)
- G. The Bible is just a myth, passed down by word-of-mouth to gain control of stupid people.**
  - i. Everything I've ever tried, that the Bible said, worked the way it said it would. All you have to do is try with sincerity. (Share the Gospel.)
- H. Jesus can't (or won't) save me! I've been too bad.**
  - i. Jesus came to earth to die the most painful way imaginable to take away our sins so that we could be with Him in heaven. The punishment Jesus took in your place was so incredibly horrible because it had to be fair to cover the worst sins any human will commit (Share what Jesus suffered to save their soul. **Use John 3:16-18**.)
- I. I tried this before and it didn't work.**
  - i. What exactly did you try? (Don't just share the Gospel. Gently try to figure out what went wrong. Make it clear what they must do to be saved. Immediate follow up is critical in this case. Rarely, you may encounter someone who's in bondage to demonic forces. If you have good, strong reasons to believe that, they will only be set free if they choose to be and are delivered. If you don't know what to do, don't experiment. Try to get them to someone who can do spiritual warfare.)

**J. People have used your Bible as an excuse to rape, kill and enslave people since it was written.**

- i. People are all basically bad. Some people pervert the Bible to hurt others. They aren't anything like Jesus. Jesus never did anything wrong. (Share what Jesus did to save the lost. Share the plan of salvation).

**K. I believe in reincarnation.**

- i. Okay. What if you're wrong? Are you absolutely sure of that. Do you know anyone who had died and came back to confirm that. Because hundreds of thousands of people have died and come back to report they went to heaven or hell. None ever said anything else, even Hindus. Why don't you try God? Pray that He'll show you the truth. **(Use Luke 11:9-10.)**

**IV. ALWAYS FOLLOW UP**

- A. Refer to the teaching on Next Steps.
- B. Leave them with as much Bible as you can afford, such as a tract, sermon portion, New Testament or whole Bible. (Note: The Gideons give out free New Testaments with waterproof covers. Consider partnering with them.)
  - i. Make sure that what you give them has the address of a good church or ministry.
- C. Get with your partner after the outreach and pray for the people you talked to and prayed with.
  - i. Keep praying for them every day for at least a week. It's very important that you pray for the people who said the sinners' prayer. Pray for:
    1. Protection for the Word of God seed planted in them **(Matthew 13:1-23)**.
    2. That someone else follow up to "water" the seed in them.
    3. That they find a Christian friend who will encourage and strengthen them.
    4. That they get into a good Bible-believing, Spirit filled group of Christians.
    5. That they can separate truth from lies.

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

**Introduction**

*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 (**I 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 single persons. (**Mark 6:30-42** and **John Chapters 3 & 4**). He was not just interested in the number of people, 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 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. Think about it. Not even 1/3 of the more than 7.8 billion people have come to know Jesus!! Indeed the harvest is VERY great.

**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 COMMISSION

- 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. The world for us starts where we live, and it spreads out to the ends of the earth.
- D. We may not be able to go into other countries, but we can go across the road from our house 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.

#### 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 (Turn to **Acts 20:26** and read it).

#### 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**.

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**LESSON 11: WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS  
(PART I - HINDUS, BUDDHISTS)**

**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 prospect 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. **Rom 3:1-5** - God's judgement defended (Paul).
- D. **Rom 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** and **21**, Jesus asked the Samaritan woman a personal question and confronted her with a religious statement.
- B. Ask about the basis of the prospect'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, 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. So it would be important to emphasize that accepting Christ is NOT just accepting Him to be part of the myriad of other gods- it is accepting Christ INSTEAD of those other gods.

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 increase 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 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. Westerners have embraced 'yin and yang' not realizing this is one of the main pillars of Taoist.

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 of using the mind, not getting involved in anything, just go through life, merge with nature etc
  - b. Religious - praying to deities, fish paper, magic, offering food to deceased, communication with the dead etc. through the years, geomancy, martial arts also go into the beliefs.
3. Contrasts between Christianity and Taoism.
  - a. Taoism - no god, more an abstract philosophy.  
Christianity - there is an Almighty God.
  - 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 (Prov 19:2).

**INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING**

**LESSON 12 : WITNESSING TO PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS  
(PART II - MUSLIMS AND ATHEISTS)**

**Introduction:**

In witnessing to Muslims and Atheists, we need to review 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 prospect's belief.
- C. Provide questions that will lead the prospect to the truth.

**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 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.
      - i.i. He is just and merciful, all-knowing, present everywhere.
      - i.ii.. He is the judge of all men, and the determiner of their eternal destiny.

- i.iii. 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 2½% 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).

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

- i. Muslims believe: Jesus Christ is a prophet lesser than Mohammed  
Christians believe: that Jesus Christ is not just a prophet. **He is God incarnate (John 1:1, 14).**
- ii. Muslims have forced people to embrace their faith by the power of the sword (especially during the first 1000 years of their existence). And we see this happening in the Middle East today with ISIS.  
Christians spread their faith by preaching and teaching the gospel in love (**Matt. 28:19, 20**). The times in history when the 'Christians' used force to establish their beliefs- this was done in 'religiosity' not in the true Christian relationship.
- iv. Muslims believe the Koran superseded the Bible.  
Christians believe the Bible to be the only authoritative Word of God to men.
- v. Islam is a religion of human effort. A Muslim will earn his way to heaven by his obedience (service) to Allah.  
Christianity is a religion of divine grace (**Eph. 2:8, 9**).
- vi. Muslims believe no man can know God and have fellowship with God.  
Christians believe that it is possible to know God (**John 17:3; Philippians 3:10**).
- vii. The Koran never uses the word "Father" on God.

Christians are taught to call God "Father" (**Matt. 6:9**).

viii. Muslims believe that the Koran is simply a revelation from God, but not of God.

Christians believe that the Bible is a revelation or self-disclosure of God.

ix. Muslims deny all of these.

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.

x. It is a cause of grave offence to a Muslim's pride to ask him to look to Jesus for salvation. A Muslim has to work to be free from sin. Pray 5 times a day and give alms and do good. Even with all this work, he has no assurance that he is truly saved.

Christians believe that all men need Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin (**Matt. 1:21; Rom. 3:23; I Tim. 1:15**)

#### 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'. (Remember a person that believes God exists but has no dealing with us is NOT an atheist but an agnostic) A true Atheist does not believe God exists.

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: 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."

b. Man's moral nature: The sense of right and wrong in men needs a Being to whom he is responsible and answerable to.

c. The law of cause and effect: Reason teaches that every effect must have a cause. The universe is the effect, the cause is God.

d. 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.

e. 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 prospect 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. Fresh communication is more effective because pre-believers already have been exposed to most of the 'canned', standardised approaches to telling the gospel.
  - 2. Use personal testimonies and verses from the Word of God and be willing to be vulnerable.
  - 3. pre-believers want to feel as though they are conversing with a fellow sojourner, 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 2 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.