

## What Does It Mean to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?

### A Disciple Testifies to Christ and his Power to Save by Annette Gulick 10/1/2001

#### Lesson Eight

Bible Passage: Acts 2: 14-41

Bible Truth: Peter boldly told people that Christ could save them if they repented of their sins.

Lesson Objective: That students desire to testify to Christ and his saving power.

What you need: balloons (one color per team and at least 10 of each color); two volunteers to help with the skit; white board and marker; one copy of "My Life as a Fisherman" handout from lesson 1; copies of the handout "Dear Lord."

#### Opening

**Search and Rescue.** Before the meeting blow up the balloons and spread them around the room, sticking some of them in partially hidden places. Make sure that each team starts out with the exact same number of balloons of the color for their team (at least 10 but as many as you want.) Divide the group into teams and assign each team a balloon color and a "home base." The goal of the activity is for each team to find and rescue their balloons, while popping balloons of the other team(s.) The rules are as follows: balloons can only be popped with the students feet; once a balloon is in a team's "home base" it cannot be popped by the other teams. Stop the game when all of one team's balloons have either been popped or are safe at their base. At this point the team with the highest number of balloons at their base wins. After you congratulate the winners say,

*There is a search and rescue mission going on every day where the prize is not balloons but human lives. God is in the process of rescuing people from their sin and the punishment they deserve for that sin, while Satan prowls around the world like a lion looking for what he can destroy. Today we are going to learn how we can be a part of this exciting mission.*

#### Interactive Learning

Before the meeting, ask two people to participate in the following skit. The written dialogue here should serve as a guide, but the participants should feel free to improvise along this basic plot line.

Person #1 and #2 enter through a doorway, waving good-by to the people they have just been talking too.

Person #1 (calls back through the doorway) "I'll be praying about that, and I'll call you on Tuesday to find out how things turned out."

**(To Person #2, obviously excited) "That was so great. I thought I would be scared stiff to "do evangelism" but once we got talking with them they were so nice, and we have so much in common that it was really fun. My father was out of work for most of last year so I know what a tough time Mary is having. It was neat to be able to use the hard times that I've gone through to be able to encourage her that God really is there and that he really does care about her and will take care of them. I can't wait till Sunday to tell our youth group how things went. Hey, what's the matter? You don't look very excited."**

**Person #2 (obviously irritated) Excited?!? How can I be excited. It was a total failure! There were five points on our evangelism outline and we only got through the first two. How are they ever going to become Christians without having heard the last three points. I had asked my prayer group to pray that I would lead someone to Christ today and now I've let them down because you kept taking about their lives and wouldn't let me get through the last three points.**

**Person #1 Boy I'm really sorry. But I have an idea, when I call Mary on Tuesday I was going to ask her if she wanted to come over to my house. If she does maybe I can tell her the other three points.**

**Person #2 Mary? Who is Mary?**

***What was the difference in the priorities of these two people when it came to evangelism? (The first person focused on the people and the second focused on a "strategy" instead of on the people.)***

***Has anyone ever made you feel like you were his or her project? If so what was the situation and how did it make you feel?***

***What are some benefits of having a strategy for evangelism?***

***What are some of the pitfalls of having a strategy for evangelism?***

***It is easy to laugh about someone who is so focused on making sure that they tell the five points of their evangelism plan that they don't even remember the name of the person they were talking to. But the truth is most of us probably don't even try to talk with other people about our faith. We have lots of "reasons" that we use to cover up our guilty feelings for not sharing the Truth with others, like the fact that we are afraid that we don't know what to say or won't know the answers to their questions.***

***In her excellent book "Out of the Saltshaker and into the World" Rebecca Pippert says, "Our problem in evangelism is not that we don't have enough information--it is that we don't know how to be ourselves. We forget we are called to be witnesses to what we have seen and know, not to know we don't know. The key is authenticity and obedience, not a doctorate in theology. We haven't grasped that it really is okay for us to be who we are, when we are with non-Christians, even if we don't have all the answers to their questions or if our knowledge of Scripture is limited."***

***So today we are not going to focus on learning a step-by-step plan for evangelism, instead we are going to look at how Peter shared his personal experience with Christ with other people and how you can do the same.***

### Bible Application

Write the following chart on the board, but don't fill in the suggested possible answers in "How Peter did it" and "How we can do it." Read through Acts 2:1-38 once out loud, while the students follow along in their Bibles. Then have someone read the verses from a section and get ideas from the students as to how Peter demonstrated this principle of evangelism. Write down a summary of their answers and then brainstorm on how they can live out this principle. If your group is advanced in their ability to read a passage and pull out main points you can also leave blank the "principle of evangelism" and let them come up with possible principles from the verses.

Acts 2	Principle of Evangelism	How Peter did it	How we can do it
1-4	Have the Holy Spirit	He was a Christian and had the Holy Spirit	By becoming Christians; asking the Holy Spirit to help us
5-12	Speak in a way others can understand	Peter and the other disciples spoke in languages the people could understand	Use ideas and words that non-Christians can understand clearly and easily; avoid Christian "lingo", phrases like "blessing", "redeemed", "born again" and "are you saved?"
13-15	Don't give up because of criticism	Peter didn't stop preaching but got bolder, "raised his voice," when people said he was drunk	Get together with other Christians for encouragement; pray for patience, love and endurance
16-21	Use the Bible	v. 17-21	Know the Bible well enough to be able to tell other people what it says
25-36	Tell about Jesus	Peter's whole sermon focus on who Jesus is	Don't just talk to people about God as though he were some impersonal force, but focus on Jesus, God who became man and died to save us
22,32,33	Talk about what you have experienced	Peter had seen with his own eyes Jesus' miracles, death and resurrection	Tell other people what you have personally experienced about God
37	<i>(Leader: just fill this one in) God convicts people of the truth and makes them want to be saved</i>		
38	Explain how they can know Christ personally	Peter told them exactly what to do: repent and be baptized	Clearly explain to people how to become a Christian

### Commitment

**Most people don't become Christians through a debate where they see how illogical it is not to trust in Christ for their salvation, or through a discussion with a theology professor who answers all of their intellectual questions. Instead most people become Christians through a friend or family member whose life shows that God's love and forgiveness is real.**

**You may not have all of the answers to all someone's questions. You may still have questions yourself, and that's ok. But if you are a Christian, you have some reasons why you believe what you believe and probably even some experiences that have strengthened your faith. If these are enough for you, what makes you think that they aren't enough for a friend or family member?**

**Write the following questions on the board. Break the students into pairs and have them share with each other their answers to the following questions. Suggest that one person answers all of the questions first, and then the second person should answer them all. Make sure they understand that you want them to talk about their experience as a Christian and that there is not just one "right" answer. Try to create an atmosphere of honesty so if there are students in the group who have not yet given their life to Christ, they can feel free to explain the doubts or questions they have.**

**How did you become a Christian?**

**Why did you decide to become a Christian?**

**What advantages are there to being a Christian?**

**What disadvantages are there for people who aren't Christians?**

**If someone wants to know more about being or becoming a Christian how can you help them?**

## **Closing**

**Write on the board the basic diagram from Pedro lesson 1 "My Life as a Fisherman" and ask the students to take out those handouts if they still have them (possibly stuck in their Bibles.) Review the stages and remind them that at the beginning of this series each of them was asked to decide where they were in their spiritual journey. Ask them to analyze where they are now and have a few people share what, if any, "progress" they have made in their journey, and why. Explain that you would like to close this series by seeing all of them wanting to "catch people." Give each person a copy of the handout, "Dear Lord," and have the students to write down the names of three people to pray for who do not have a personal relationship with God. Ask them to put this piece of paper where they will see it often as a reminder to pray for these people and for the wisdom to know how to share with them their experience with God. Close in prayer.**

## **Interactive Learning Skit**

**Persons #1 and #2 enter through a doorway, waving good-bye to the people they have just been talking too.**

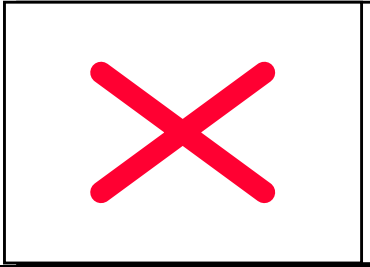
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**Person #2 Mary? Who is Mary?**



*Dear Lord,*

*I ask you to work in the hearts of these people so that they come to know you in a personal and saving way.*

1.

2

3

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