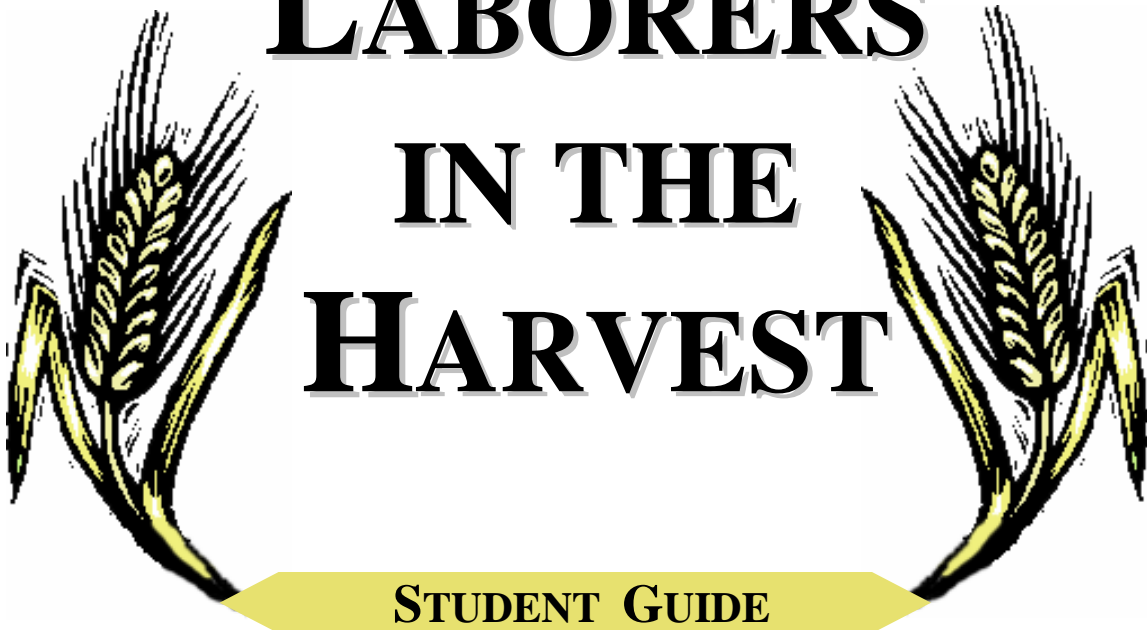


*RICHARD C. HOBBS*

**TRAINING  
LABORERS  
IN THE  
HARVEST**



*LABORERS IN THE HARVEST SERIES*



# Laborers in the Harvest Series: Training Laborers in the Harvest

By Richard C. Hobbs

 First Printing 

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.



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## **About the Author**

Richard Hobbs is the Founder and President of Mercy Street Ministries and a soulwinner for Christ. He is an Ordained Southern Baptist Evangelist training laborers in the harvest in every nation on earth. Since his teachings do not focus on doctrine but our need and how to share Christ, many Christian churches of different denominations use his materials. He is the author of numerous biblical studies and evangelism training materials committed to helping to fulfill the Great Commission. He has shared his heart for world evangelism through media to over a billion people.

His call from God has led him into the streets to share the Gospel of Christ to a lost and hurting world. From years of experience and the teaching of the Holy Spirit, he has taken the principles of soulwinning and published a teaching titled *Training Laborers in the Harvest* along with many other publications. He has distributed his publications freely on the Internet in hopes others would discover their calling to reach this world for Christ. In the first five years of publication his books were circulated in over seventy nations. He invites you to prepare yourself for the greatest harvest of souls that this world has ever seen.

## Foreword

Welcome to this course! I completely endorse and recommend this course of study and inspiration. My dear friend and fellow evangelist Ricky Hobbs has done an excellent job. It is geared for people of all ages, nations, and cultures. The purpose is to help you become a consistent, effective, and fruitful witness for Jesus in your world. The object is to live, love, and witness in the lifestyle of Jesus our Lord. This course helps teach you to live a life and witness led by the Holy Spirit. The emphasis is on Jesus and others and not a plan but the person of Jesus.

To tell others of life in Jesus is a natural response to our 'new birth' in believing in and following Jesus. The early believers told friends and strangers of their personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Jesus asks us to be His witness and commanded us to go into all the world. Sharing Jesus should be natural to your personality and unique character. Telling others of what has happened to you and the way of Jesus should flow from an overflowing heart of love, joy, and peace. Witness training should take into account diverse approaches and the special call of God for ones life. It is not techniques, gimmicks, judgment, pressure, or rudeness that is to be our attitude but love, sensitive and deep concern, and ones being led by the Holy Spirit that reflects our Lord.

Remember, it's God's kingdom and not your kingdom! Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. In love and in the power of the Holy Spirit, lift up Jesus.

Ricky is available to come to your church, witness group, city, or nation to teach, lead an outreach, and training. Ricky, Kay his wife, Sarah and Sally their daughters are close to our hearts and we are in regular contact.

Now, whisper a prayer for Jesus to lead, bless, and change you in His way for you to be His true witness in our world today. Please follow the teachings chapter by chapter.

Pilgrim followers of Jesus,

Arthur and Denise Blessitt  
Carrying the Cross around the world for Jesus  
Luke 18:1

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Arthur Blessitt, the man who carried the cross around the world and to every nation, for spending so many hours of his time to share his heart with me. The burden that Arthur has for this world and the love he has for all the people has touched my heart in such a way that I will never be the same. Arthur has taken time to be a friend and a motivating force in my life.

Most of all the Holy Spirit has quickened my heart and has given me love for all people. I love people and enjoy the opportunity to share the gospel in the streets with those I have never met. Also, the Holy Spirit has opened the doors for our ministry to train laborers in the harvest. For the love, favor, and mercy the Lord has given me, I give Him my life to share the gospel to the lost.

I am thankful for the many intercessors that pray for our ministry daily. They have spent many long hours and many tears praying for us in the streets and for the lost. Only God knows what their cries and prayers have accomplished.

Lastly, I am thankful for my family. They have helped me with the many tasks that needed to be completed. Also, for the trust they have that I will return each time that I go to the streets. They have shared the call the Lord has on my life and have been part of this ministry since its beginning.



## Introduction

Christians have become so busy that we have failed to extend our outreach past the walls of our churches. Only a few hundred feet from any church there are lost, homeless, and hurting people. Christians are the representatives of Jesus Christ on this earth. The Lord wants so much to love those in this world and He wants His love to flow through you to all the people of this world. All of us need to awaken and allow the Lord to complete His work in this world. So many times the Lord's witness is limited by us. Let's join the prayers for this world with our actions and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our streets.

I hope that this course will challenge all of those who read it to take their church and their love to the streets. In this book we have included simple principles to share the Gospel to the lost. While this book is intended to be instructional, we pray that it is also inspirational.

Every day, I am amazed at the Christian love I feel from others as I make friends in the streets. Most of the material shared in this book is from experiences of actual street and door to door witnessing. The Holy Spirit has led me from the beginning of our witness in the streets. I started in the very streets of my hometown and quickly realized that I could not win the world alone. It would take all the churches of this world to win all to Christ. From this beginning, the Lord has led me to train churches in evangelism. We are thankful that the Lord has opened the doors of so many churches to our ministry.

### **Revelation 3**

**8** *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied My Name.*

From this simple beginning we are going from church to church equipping Christians to share the Gospel. We have called our ministry Mercy Street Ministries. It is our desire to share this simple method of evangelism in all Christian churches of the world. We trust that you would join with us and extend your hand to your neighbor and begin to care for those in the streets that you have never met.



# Unit One: Section One

## Being Led by the Holy Spirit


We must take the message of Christ to our streets and allow the Holy Spirit to have hands, feet, and a voice in this world. The Holy Spirit wants to use you to share the Good News. As we study how to witness, we can learn together. I am still learning how to witness from the Holy Spirit every time I go to the streets and by sharing with others that have witnessed alongside me in the streets. As you learn more about evangelism, allow the Holy Spirit to be more real to you than your best friend. Allow your witness to become a way of life. Many will witness with a team in the streets and never witness any other time. Remember the Lord wants us to take every opportunity to witness. If we listen to the Holy Spirit and allow His life to flow into ours, He will lead us in our witness. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and hear the urgency that He is speaking to all of us. He is saying the time is short and the laborers are few. Will we begin to prepare today to witness in the streets and go door to door in the cities where we live?

### Romans 13

**11** *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

**12** *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

This verse is often called the Dawning of a New Day. I wonder if the time in that heavenly clock right now is two minutes until midnight. I truly believe we are down to minutes in this world as we know it. The Lord would ask us to be aware that this day may soon come to a close. It is so important that we realize that many will not see the next sunrise for our life is but a vapor, and there will be some that will face death even tomorrow. My own call to take the message of Christ to the streets began with a realization that those who have not received Jesus as Lord are burning in hell. Although Jesus Christ died on the Cross for all, there are many that have never heard the Gospel of salvation and others that have not taken the opportunity to pray to receive Christ. We must be willing to share the Gospel with this lost world and be willing to do so soon. Are you prepared to go to the streets and door to door today? Are you ready to answer the questions of the lost?



**“Allow your witness to become a way of life.”**

## Bible Study

1. Study the scriptures references in the New Testament describing the leading of the Holy Spirit in someone’s life.

### Acts 21

**4** *And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.*

### Acts 8

**29** *Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*

### Acts 16

**6** *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

### Acts 10

**19-20** *While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. <sup>20</sup>Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.*

### Notes:

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## Bible Study

2. Study the witnessing life of Jesus through His conversations in the Gospels.

### Matthew 16

**13-15** *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? <sup>14</sup>And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup>He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

### John 9

**34-38** *They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? <sup>37</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

### Notes:

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### 1 Peter 3

**15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

The Lord will make a way for everyone to have an opportunity to receive Christ. It is the Word that will change someone's heart as it is planted as a seed into their life. So often I have watched a life change as the Word of God is sown into a person's heart.

### 2 Peter 1

**11** *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

### Psalms 119

**130** *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

How many of you want to launch out deeper and learn how to be bold and share the word with someone? I challenge those that are led to prepare for a street ministry to learn how to witness where you are. We must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit. Our witness will be more effective if we are led by Him. Only the Lord knows the heart of man. The Lord will arrange that perfect opportunity to share with that one lost person. Allow the Lord to lead you. Every time I take a team of witnesses to the streets or door to door evangelism, I share with them that we will go out for that one lost person that the Lord would lead us to. Oftentimes, there are many souls saved, but we must be content to share with the one. Being led by the Holy Spirit brings wonderful joy. I am always excited every time someone gives their life to Christ.

Below are some examples of the Lord leading me to that one lost soul. These experiences have been so beautiful to experience. Words are so limited to describe what I really saw as these individuals came to Christ. I hope these stories will motivate you to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We offer the stories as a testimony to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and as an encouragement for all to witness. We realize that in ourselves we can do nothing without the Lord. It seems that much of witnessing is not about our ability but our availability. We hope that you see through these stories that God is moving across our land and in the hearts of many. These stories describe only a few of the many things that we have seen in the streets.

### Call to the Park

One evening when I was studying, the Lord seemed to call me to go to the park in my community. I did not respond to the first call and continued studying in my den. The Lord spoke to me a second time and I was sure that I must go. I drove into the city park and noticed that there was only one vehicle in the parking lot. It was about 9:30 at night and the park was very quiet. I walked over to the pavilion and sat down at one of the tables. As I was walking over to the pavilion I saw a man and woman hugging each other. I sat and turned so that I could not see them and began to pray for their souls. In a few minutes they were walking by the pavilion. I said something to them and the man stopped to speak to me. I walked over to him and introduced myself. I told him that the Lord had led me to come to the park. He knew that he and his friend were the only two people in the park and seemed touched to know that the Lord and someone else cared and took time to respond. I prayed with him and was so glad to see his sincerity. I asked him about speaking to the lady and he walked with me to speak to her. She knew Christ but had nearly become insensitive to the Gospel. I prayed with her and gave her a Bible and WWJD bracelets for her children. The man and woman each had their own families; however they had intended to commit adultery that night. It seemed that God had intervened in their lives through an act of His Grace. I encouraged both of them to follow Christ at all cost and do what is right.

I walked back over to the pavilion and sat down at the table. The man was about to drive away and got back out of his truck and said, "I want to thank you so much for coming here tonight, man. It meant so much to me. Thank You."

Ironically, I was working on my book called, *The Spiritual Timing of God* when God led me to the park that night. It was so beautiful to experience His timing and see lives touched by God.

### Isaiah 12

*3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*

### Led to an Alley Over 30 Miles Away

One enjoyable weekend that I will never forget is a Saturday afternoon that the Holy Spirit led me to an alley in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, nearly thirty miles from where I live. As I went into the alley, a young man was walking toward me. I told him, "The Lord heard your prayer this morning and I am here to speak to you."



*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:27*

### Group Discussion

1. In the story "Call to the Park," we can see God intervening in the lives of people to rescue them from their sins. Oftentimes, He seeks to direct our lives through our Heart and the Word of God He has placed within us. We must yield to His direction and turn from our sins.

### 1 John 1

*9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Are there areas in your life that are not pleasing to God and what is your response?

### Response/ Notes:

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## Group Discussion

2. What different ways have you been led to share the Gospel with someone?

### Response/Notes:

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3. Describe opportunities that you had to share with someone where you did not have confidence or boldness to lead them to Christ.

### Response/Notes:

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The convicting power of the Holy Spirit began to touch him as he heard the Word of God and was saved in the alley where the Lord had led me. Yes, it is so rewarding to follow the leading of the Lord. Many search for miracles and revival and miss the most powerful acts of the Holy Spirit in the very streets where they live. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and allow yourself to be a servant for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Truck Driver Led to My Home Town

One evening we were traveling in our van back from visiting an injured friend who lived south of Fort Smith, Arkansas. My family and I had taken a lady evangelist to our friend's home for prayer and fellowship. We were returning home and we saw a man in a truck with a load strapped on the back of it. As we saw him beside us at a red light, we felt led to pray for him. We all agreed in prayer for his soul to be saved and asked the Holy Spirit to send someone to him to lead him to the Lord. We continued in prayer for a few moments and we saw the truck go on down the road.

We stopped at a hotel, dropped off the evangelist, and talked to her for a few minutes. We left the hotel and continued on our way home. To our amazement, we were beside the same truck as we were going over the Arkansas River Bridge. Once again, we prayed for his soul. We noticed as we continued to our home that his journey was paralleling with ours. I said to my family, "If he turns and heads north I want to follow and see if he stops at the truck stop. I will stop and witness to him." We discussed the possibility that the Lord had paralleled our journeys. We all agreed that something was happening. The truck continued past the intersection and headed toward our home. Then the truck pulled into a grocery store parking lot and stopped only a few blocks from my home.

I took my family home and came back quickly. He was still on the parking lot sitting in his truck. I pulled my van into the parking lot and walked up to the driver-side door. It seemed that he was reluctant to roll down his window. I told him I wanted to speak to him. Finally, he rolled down his window. I introduced myself to him and asked if the Lord was dealing with him. He said that He was and wanted to know how I knew. I said, "Do you remember seeing a green van parked beside you at the light when you came into Fort Smith?" He said, "Yes, I do remember the van, and I noticed you guys looking at me and I thought that my engine noise was bothering you." I told him that we had been praying for him and that he had ended up in a parking lot nearly thirty miles away. The time was two minutes before midnight and we were in my hometown. I asked him if he thought that God may have arranged all of this. He said that he believed God was doing something. However, he said he was an ex-convict and had been in prison for five years and had just been released. He said that he did not feel worthy of what the Lord was wanting to do for him. I assured him that God loved him and that I cared. I told him that if I did not care I would not be there standing in the middle of the cold night to speak to him. I issued an invitation for Him to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and explained the scriptures to him. He gave his heart to the Lord and told me about his beautiful family back home. He said, "I was lost and now I am found." I prayed for his safety in his travel and gave him directions to his destination.

I was so excited about what the Lord did. Although I witnessed all of this, I could hardly believe what had just taken place. I can not understand how all this happened. I knew that I had seen the hand of the Lord that night and how much He loved that man. Everything I had ever done for the Lord was worth it to see that man come to know Him.

As I thought about the man, I wondered how many people had been sent by the Lord to witness to him on his 490 mile journey from Houston, Texas to Fort Smith, Arkansas. He had left Houston earlier that morning to make a delivery in Missouri.

How many people on his journey were asked by the Lord to witness to him? Was there no one who would respond whenever he stopped for fuel or food? Only God knows.

### Led to a Park

I was about to begin an evangelism class at a church across from a park in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the Holy Spirit seemed to be speaking to me. It was a few minutes before the class was to begin and I was led to go to the park across the street from the church. I prayed as I walked the length of the park and went to a young man and his son on the basketball court.

I spoke to this young man and quickly discovered that he was lost. He was a good person but had never received Jesus Christ as his Lord. He said that he had thought for a long time that he must make a decision for Christ. This was to be the day he would pray to receive Jesus Christ. This was what the Lord wanted to do. He wanted to prepare the park and prepare the hearts of people for His purpose. I was so thankful for others praying for a harvest in this area. Oftentimes an effective witness is an answer to hours and hours of someone's prayers. The presence of the convicting power was so strong. I knew it would be a good day to witness as I walked back to the church to teach others in evangelism.

Let's act on what the Lord wants us to do and be His hands and feet in this world. Time is short and the laborers are few.



*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,  
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here am I; send me:*  
**Isaiah 6:8**

## Group Discussion

4. How does the Holy Spirit speak to you? Describe different ways that He speaks to people.

### Response/Notes:

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### Assignment

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to share His heart with you for the lost and allow Him to speak to your heart.
2. Spend much time in prayer for the lost in your community.

## Bible Study

# Unit One: Section Two

## Listening to the Heart

1. Study the scriptures references where God was speaking and the person did not recognize His voice.

### 1 Samuel 3

**4 - 8** *That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. <sup>5</sup>And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.*

### John 9

**35-38** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? <sup>37</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. <sup>38</sup>And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

### Notes:

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When I meet people in the streets they often deal with emotions of their heart that they were no longer aware of and some that they were. When the convicting power of God deals with a heart, the darkness is lifted and the truth is exposed. I remember a man named Jeff that I met at a bus station. God led me to follow him, and I did as he started to walk off into the darkness. I encouraged him to stop and I began to share with him my concern for his soul and shared Christ with him. He listened and was eager to pray and to receive Christ into his life.

Jeff shared with me and said, “The words you spoke were so truthful and full of light.” This man’s words gave me an insight into what was happening in his heart as I spoke to him. Somehow God used my simple words and pierced this man’s heart and reached down deep into his soul and shined the light of the Gospel into it. This man shared with me that he had lived with prostitutes and drug dealers and he felt he had to leave and get away from all of it. Other sins in his life were exposed and he began to walk the best way he knew how but still did not have a relationship with Christ. He said he took a job as far as he could from where he had lived and tried to stay busy so he would not revert back to his old life.

Jeff was following his heart, the best way he knew how and his heart was leading him to Christ all along, without him even knowing it. I found it encouraging that God was dealing with him so intensely and He was leading Jeff to Him. Every day Jeff was walking further away from sin. Then one day God arranged for me to share Christ with him and to help him complete his new life. Now Jeff has a heart that is new and a heart that will not fail him but will lead him into eternity with Christ. I will always remember that night when I went to the bus station. I had been in one of my favorite areas in town witnessing and felt led to go across town to the bus station. Oh, how precious is our Lord who can direct our lives if we will just listen to our heart.

I am reminded of a Scripture in the book of Acts that is much like others who heard the Word and their heart responded to what they heard. Remember, when we share Christ with others there is more happening than what can be seen. The person of the Holy Spirit will speak to their heart with such intensity that they will hear Him, that they will come to knowledge of Christ, become saved, walk away from their past, and repent of their sin.



**“Use the Word of God in your witness to produce faith and conviction in a heart.”**



**Acts 2**

**37** Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

**38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Most of us deal with certain aspects of our heart on a daily basis. We must let God examine our lives and allow Him to expose our heart to the Light of the Gospel. God is speaking to His creation, but are we listening? In my own life when God called me, He began to cause me to deal with certain things in my life. For years, He has spoken about what I needed to change in my life and I had to deal with these areas of my life to walk further in my calling with God. It is a choice to follow God further and we must be willing to change.

For years, the Lord has preserved my life in some of the worst areas in our nation. I have had guns, knives, and ice picks pointed at me and attempted robberies but God has protected me through all of this. I do not trust in what I have seen or what I have experienced in the streets. I simply trust in Him. I have come to know that I can enjoy life to its fullest by walking free from fear. Only God can produce this trust that I have in Him. It is my prayer that if God is calling you to this type of ministry, you too would find peace in the midst of uncertain circumstances and trust Him with your life. We must not fear those who we are there to help. The Bible speaks of love being able to conquer our fear.

**1 John 4**

**18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

My night ministry began with my witness in city parks at night. These parks were in the inner cities and had many addicted people and youth identifying with gangs. At first, I was concerned for my life when it became dark. While it seemed that the number of conversions for Christ would increase, I would often quit witnessing at dark or stay close to well lighted areas. It seemed that the darkness brought fear, and I was not enjoying the freedom that I would like to have to witness.

One evening while I was in a park, I was walking along side a lost person and sharing the Gospel. As I witnessed, I started feeling very uncomfortable as a group of youth who considered themselves as a gang began to follow me. The further I walked, the closer they seemed to get. I was witnessing in the darkest area of the park with a gang of youth coming closer and closer. I would look at them and then turn back to witness and then look back again. I finished my witness, and now I was alone and seemingly in danger. I prayed and said, "God I cannot witness with fear in my life. I want to be able to see the hearts of the people." Immediately, I heard the Lord say, "Then give me your life, and I will remove the fear." I simply said, "Lord, I give you my life." I said these words with all of my

**Group Discussion**

**1.** Study the scripture references describing the presence of God indwelling a believer. Do you remember the moment Christ came into your heart and have full assurance that He dwells your heart?

**Isaiah 57**

**15** For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**Revelation 3**

**20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me

**Romans 10**

**8 - 10** The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Response/Notes:**

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## Group Discussion

2. How do you hear the voice of God?

Response/Notes:

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3. What hindrances have you experienced in hearing the voice of God?

Response/Notes:

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heart. Amazingly, from that night forward, I have never had fear in my life. Since that time I have walked alone at night in many of the worst cities of America and have felt at peace. Any of us may die at any time. I have come to trust God more than this life itself.

### John 3

**30** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

Our walk with God would become so clear if we could simply change our focus. Most people have their eyes and lives focused on this world and life’s struggles. Our life must be focused upon the Kingdom of God. This life is so short and the rewards are so meaningless. Only our relationship in Christ will endure eternity. The question is where is your focus?

Many people have asked me how they can hear God. The most powerful and assured way to hear God is in His Word. The Word of God was inspired by God and therefore contains His voice. You can hear His voice as you begin to read His Word. The more you can hear His voice in the Word the more you will hear His voice. This concept is so simple and yet so true. I enjoy following the life of Christ through the Gospels and see Christ walking from one need to another. He spent so much of His time sowing His life into those that would simply follow Him. He is looking for those who will follow Him today. I see a Jesus in the Scriptures who stopped along a street one day, saw a man in a tree named Zacchaeus and spoke to him and said, *“Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.”* He spent time with people and spoke to them regardless of wealth or their stature. This same Jesus is alive today and extending His hand to the lost as you extend your hand. Be a follower of Jesus Christ and listen to His voice!

### John 10

**27** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”*

It is time for all of us to begin to listen to the Scriptures for ourselves. Many Christians will go from church to church to hear from God and yet He was with them all along. We must obey the voice of God to continue to hear His voice. Adam and Eve heard God’s voice and failed to obey it. In the beginning man was given the ability to hear from God. Adam walked with God. The longer that sin grips a person’s heart, the further that heart will lead them away from God. After Adam and Eve sinned they could still hear from God.

### Genesis 3

**8** *“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.”*

Although Adam and Eve heard from God, they were not looking for Him. They already had their heart full of sin. This is much like those we witness to in the streets. They are walking so deep in sin that they choose to ignore the things of God. Only an encounter with the convicting power of

God will expose their sin and allow them to hear God. It was God's desire to restore His creation back to Him.

Moses heard from God and God used him to direct the lives of many. He enjoyed the fellowship of God on a daily basis. Others that followed Moses often found themselves in disobedience and wanting to go back to Egypt. Although God was speaking through Moses, the people were not hearing for themselves. It is the will of God to speak personally to all of His creation. We must put ourselves in a position to hear Him.

**John 5**

*37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*

*38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*

*39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

How many times do we seek to hear from God in times of tragedy or trouble? We need to prepare to hear from God and maintain our relationship with Him. We should not ignore the condition of our heart because someday we may not recognize the symptoms of sin in our life anymore when we no longer struggle because we no longer resist. When we have accepted defeat and sin into our life, we are out of fellowship with God. There is hope in this struggle. Never ignore the storm warnings that come to your life. Begin to walk closer to God and hear His voice in His Scriptures and in your heart and life. God has made a choice for you to enjoy freedom. There was a cost and that was sending His Son to pay the price for your sin. There is a cost for you and that is to deny yourself and take up your Cross and follow Him.

**Matthew 16**

*24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

I challenge you to walk closer to God and He will walk closer to you. Listen for His voice in your daily life and in the scriptures. What I enjoy so much about God is that I find great comfort in knowing that He is always listening to my prayers and thoughts I have of Him.



*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*  
**1 John 3:21**

**Bible Study**

2. Study the scriptures references in Acts 9:11-12 depicting an example where Christ spoke to Ananias and sent him to a specific street, a specific house, to pray for a specific person that was expecting him to pray for his sight.

**Acts 9**

*11-12 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, <sup>12</sup>And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.*

**Notes:**

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**Assignment**

1. Spend time in the Gospels and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. What has the Holy Spirit spoken to you through these Scriptures?

**Response/Notes:**

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## Bible Study

1. Study the New Testament Scripture references describing Christ's heart to reach the lost.

### Luke 15

**4-6** *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? <sup>5</sup>And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost*

### Luke 14

**23** *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

### Matthew 13

**1-8** *The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. <sup>2</sup>And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup>And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup>Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup>And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup>But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold*

### Romans 10

**14** *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

**15** *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Christ is wanting to be among His people and is looking for someone that will go in His name. Will you go?

Christ called many along His journey and sowed His life into them. It was His hope to leave behind witnesses that would share His message with this world. Those He chose first were simple fishermen along the shore. As He walked further He called others to carry His message. The New Testament depicts those that accepted this call as the Apostles. Christ chose simple people like you and me. What made them different was the time they spent with Him and their choice to follow Him.

### Matthew 4

**18** *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

**19** *And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**20** *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

Peter and Andrew were to be the first called by Christ to follow Him. The message to follow Him was the condition to receive from Him. We must be a follower of Jesus Christ. To share His love we must first experience His love. Also, they were to expect further training from Christ. He said, "And I will make you fishers of men." I feel these Scriptures are saying that if they followed Him then He would teach them personal evangelism. There is no doubt that personal evangelism is the way Christ expected to share His message with the world. We can see from the scriptures below that the call of Christ upon Paul's life led him to minister to all people. We must be willing to accept the same call.

### Acts 20

**18** *And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,*

**19** *Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:*

**20** *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,*

I remember one night that Jesus surely walked among His people. My wife and I went with over twenty Christians on a trip. I especially enjoyed the stops that we made during our trip. Each time that we stopped, I had another opportunity to lead someone to Christ. It was so beautiful to see God change lives in every town we stopped. Some say the harvest is here

and others say the harvest is over there. I say the harvest fields are the world and it is harvest time. Lives everywhere are waiting for someone to share Christ with them and to let them feel the love of God through you.

**John 4**

**34** *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

**35** *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

Our bus stopped at a gas station convenience store. My wife and I were checking out at the register and a man standing beside us was cussing and being rude to us. He was leaning over looking in her purse as she opened her billfold to pay for our food. He laughed at the name Mercy Street Ministries on my shirt, He mocked and said, "You need to buy my beer." From the world's standard this man was worthless. However, God saw something different. The Lord impressed on me to wait outside and speak to him. I felt compassion for his soul rather than anger for his rudeness.

**John 3**

**16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

As I stepped outside, a man apologized to me for his friend's behavior. I asked this young man if he was saved and he said that he was. Then the man that was rude to us came out of the store. I walked up to him and placed my arm around his back and told him that God loved him and that I cared. At that moment he felt the love that God wanted him to feel. I began to share with him about Christ and he said he was not a Christian and, by his own words, would go to hell if he were to die that night. I felt God had already prepared his heart and the man seemed to be touched even before he prayed to receive Christ.

When he opened his eyes he saw things differently. He found Christ as his Savior and he was set free from his past sins. As I was preparing to leave, I tried to get my hand back from him. He would not turn loose of my hand and let me go.

He was totally changed and seemed to be a new person. As he held my hand he talked about what he should do with the rest of his life and what he should do with his beer that was on the gas station parking lot. He still would not turn loose of me. I placed my other hand on his heart and said, "Let me pray for you." I prayed that God would keep him and further free him from his past. The Lord's presence was so real and He seemed to touch him again. The man dropped my hand and now held my hand that was on his heart. He said that he had never felt that before. He was standing in the midst of God's presence for the first time. He knew it was the Holy presence of God that had visited him. He continued to hold my hand against his heart as we both stood in God's presence.

**Group Discussion**

**3.** What is the Holy Spirit's role in salvation of souls? Find Scriptures to explain your discussion.

**Response/Notes:**

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## Assignment

1. As we walk among the people allow the Lord to show you the people as He sees them. Let Him use your eyes and your heart.

### Notes:

The bus was now loaded and everybody on board was watching this man hold on to me. The man was crying and saying, "You can't go. You can't go." He asked me how far I was going and when I would be back and so many other questions. I explained that what he felt was the presence of the Holy Spirit and that He loved him and would be with him. I handed him a Bible and said that he would find all about the Lord in the Bible. He asked, "What if I can't understand it?" I said, "You can go to church and someone will help you." He then said, "I don't know where to go." I turned to his friend that I had met earlier and asked him if he would help him get to church and find someone to help him understand the Bible. The young boy said, "I will! I will!" It seems even his friend watching was touched by what God was doing in this gas station parking lot.

It was so hard for me to pull my hand away and leave this man. He took steps with me as he followed me and was grabbing my shirt. I will never forget that moment. It was God's love that he was feeling. So many people in this world will never know the peace and presence of God unless we reach our hearts and hands out to others.

While Jesus paid the price for the sin of the world, He did not save the entire world Himself as He walked this earth. He was here to begin His plan of evangelism on this earth. He sowed His life into a few that in turn would sow their lives into many. When our witness began in the street of our hometown, I stepped out of my car and in moments many people came to Christ. I went back to that corner and led person after person to Christ. The Lord seemed to speak to me that He wanted me to take my church out. Within a few weeks I trained over forty youth from my church and took them to the same street corner. With more witnesses in the streets we saw more people saved. I thought this was to be my ministry and the Lord spoke to me saying He wanted me to teach churches.

In a few days, a church found out about our work and I took them to the streets. In a period of several months there were over four hundred individuals saved and we had knocked on most of the doors of that town. Church after church contacted me and we trained many witnesses for Christ. Once again, I thought this was my only calling.

The Lord spoke again and told me He was calling me to the world. Within the course of a few years I had led thousands to Christ and trained thousands how to witness. I placed our training on the Internet and people all over the world have found it and trained themselves and others. To God be all the Glory!

All along the way Christ was teaching me evangelism and giving me His plan to teach others!



*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19*



# Unit One: Section Four

## Why Witness

### Bible Study

God has chosen us to be His witnesses. We are the only way the world will know who Jesus Christ is. Many times, as I share the Gospel with people in the streets, I am amazed at how many people I speak to who have never heard the message of the Cross. Many of these individuals are of different ethnic origins. I have asked myself how could this be? How could anyone not have heard the message of the Cross? Other times we find people that have never thought about making a decision for Christ. I have noticed that two-thirds of those people we speak to say, by their own words, that they are lost and would go to hell if they died. This is the very reason we are in the streets sharing the Gospel. We are there to reach that one lost soul. It is our privilege to communicate the message. Are you ready to accept Christ's challenge, and if you are not who will? Examine the Scriptures below and see why we need to witness.

#### If we do not deliver the Good News, who will?

##### Romans 10

13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*

14 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

15 *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

#### We are not to hide the witness in our heart.

##### Psalms 40

8 *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

9 *I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.*

10 *I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.*



***For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10***

1. Study the Scriptures below and see the effect of one person's life on an entire city.

##### John 4

39-42 *And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his own word; <sup>42</sup> And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*

#### Response/Notes:

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## Group Discussion

1. Why does the Holy Spirit need people to share the Gospel with others?

Response/Notes:

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2. How does your community change as more and more people come to Christ?

Response/Notes:

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**We are asked to witness in the streets.**

### **Psalm 144**

*12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:*

*13 That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets:*

**We are asked to go and witness to the world.**

### **Mark 16**

*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

I remember one of many times that I was witnessing in an impoverished area of a city and went door to door. We often notice the homes and know there are children living there by seeing swing sets or bicycles in the yard. Other times we see pictures in the windows, or the many tennis shoes on the front porch. As we looked at one house we saw an electric meter on the front of the home and it was not moving. It looked like the home was empty or abandoned. We knocked on the door and someone told us to come in. It is never a good idea to open someone else's door and go inside. Therefore, we knocked again and a man opened the door. He invited us into his home. He was cooking fried chicken on the stove. His gas was turned on but he had no electricity. He seemed so happy that we were there to visit him.

We shared with him why we were there and he was surprised. He said he had just asked God how to be saved. He said the Lord had been dealing with him about his life. He knew he needed to be saved but did not know how. When I extended my hand to pray with him he wiped the chicken grease off his hands and took my hand. This was truly a divine appointment by God. We need to remember that we are often an answer to someone's prayer. I was excited to learn that he had just prayed and we knocked on his door. According to the world's standards, this man had nothing, but I believe he had everything. He had a hope that somehow he would find Jesus Christ. The Creator of the Universe loved this poor man so much that He sent someone to him to share the Gospel and to hug him. I was so thrilled to be an answer to this man's prayer. Although this man only had a pan of chicken he was willing to share all he had with us. Are we ready to share all we have with others? I will always be touched by this moment.

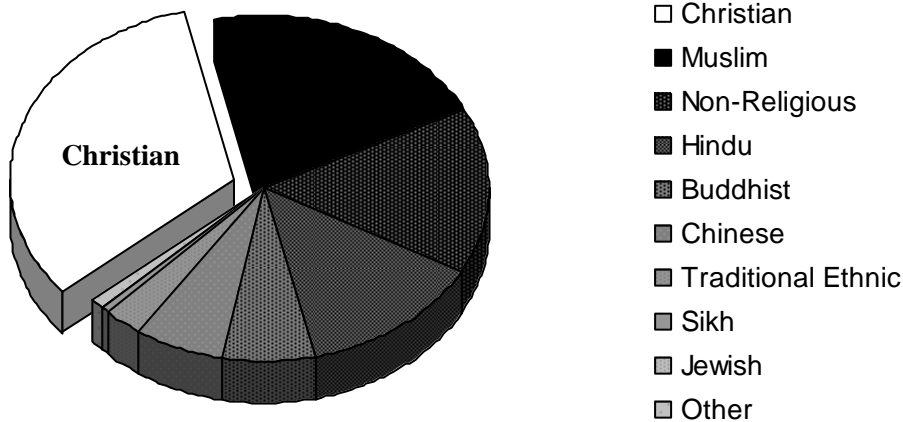
Sadly, the next home we went to had no heat. The man that came to the door had the coldest hands I have ever touched. There are people who are hurting in this world and we must allow our love to extend past ourselves. God wants to share His love with this world and he has chosen you to carry His love.

I am amazed that by spending a few moments with someone and showing a genuine concern for them, many times my witness will result in someone giving their heart to the Lord. I remember one occasion that I was

led to two people in a public park. As I approached them, they appeared very uncomfortable. I followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and shared the Gospel with them, listened to their comments, and answered their questions. I soon discovered that I was talking to two gang members from Chicago. During the witness it seemed hopeless; I continued to press on as I was led. When I issued the invitation for them to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, they prayed with me and a wonderful change appeared on their face. They were moved by the Holy Spirit and were looking down at the two New Testaments that I had just given them. One man looked up at me and said, "What do I do now with the rest of my life." I told them both to go back to the Chicago inner city with a new message and new mission. You see, they were radically saved and no longer drug pushers. One said that he knew what he was doing was not what he felt he was suppose to do, but it was all he knew. He said that now he knew God had a call on his life because he was always protected from danger and had an ability to captivate kids. He said he would share the witness of Jesus with the kids of his city. This was one of the most remarkable experiences that I have ever witnessed. Truly they both received a new heart.

We cannot wash our hands of a lost, sick world. We want to allow the Word to create a desire in our hearts to reach the lost. The most important thing is that we know the Lord and live our life for the Glory of God. Your witnessing must be motivated from deep within and should be an overflow of your life in Him. God wants to enlarge our hearts so He can enlarge Himself in us. He is interested more in you than what you do for Him.

### Over Two-Thirds of Our World Is Lost



Data Source: *Operation World*. CD-ROM. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Publishing, 2001.

### Bible Study

2. Why did no one share the message of Christ with Saul? Would you have been prepared or willing?

#### Acts 9

21–22 *But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.*

#### Response/Notes:

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### Assignment

1. Spend time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to show you the lostness of the people in your community and the need for witnesses to share Christ with others.

#### Notes:

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## Bible Study

## Unit Two: Section Five How to Witness

1. Study the Scriptures below in the Bible on the assurance of salvation through the Word of God and Jesus Christ.

### Colossians 2

*2-7 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; <sup>3</sup> In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

*<sup>4</sup> And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. <sup>5</sup> For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. <sup>6</sup> As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: <sup>7</sup> Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

2. Locate additional Scripture references on the assurance of salvation and be prepared to discuss.

### Response/Notes

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I have seen many approaches to witnessing and many books on the subject. Many of the teachings are based upon an organized way to lead someone to the Lord. We choose to teach how to rely more upon the Person of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures in our witness. We have no formulas or complicated methods to win the lost. The most powerful witness is allowing the love of God to flow through you as you witness. People in the streets or those we meet as we go door to door can quickly see through a person. They know if you genuinely care for them. Remember to make friends first, and then share the Gospel with them.

Your witnessing will be more fruitful if you see the heart of the person you are speaking to. I try to listen to the person. Allow them to speak all they want. Allow yourself to see their heart. Oftentimes their words will describe their heart. We find many people that are hurting and turned off by religion. Don't jump into their conversation and interrupt it. Let them share all their hurt with you. Listen to the heart of the person and be sensitive to what they are saying. Tell them that you care and that you feel that this is why you are in the streets. People will then understand that you care for them. Take time with the one person you are with. Don't be thinking about the time or anything else. Give that one person all of your attention. They are the reason that you are in the streets. Now when you speak, you will speak with your heart into their heart. The very love of God will penetrate their heart. As you share the Scriptures with them don't just read it. Experience the Scriptures with them. Let it come into your own heart as you read it like it is the first time that you heard it. When you pray the sinners' prayer with them, pray with the same emotion and compassion as the first time you prayed it. If you will open your heart while you are witnessing, the Holy Spirit will lead you and speak through you. He will give you the words to speak to that one person that He has led you to.

Our simplest and yet most effective example comes from the Book of Acts. Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to an Ethiopian and was effective in leading him to Christ and on to water baptism. All of my witness in the streets has followed this simple pattern. Yes, the words and the surroundings may vary, but the methods do not. We must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God, use the Scriptures, explain them, and ask the question. Also, we need to share with them about water baptism and this new life they have experienced.

### Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you

#### Acts 8

*26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.*

*29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*

**Share the witness**

**30** *And Phillip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?*

**31** *And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Phillip that he would come up and sit with him.*

**Use the Word of God**

**35** *Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

**Ask the question**

**37** *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

**Water Baptism**

**38** *And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*

Lead them in prayer and share about the new life and water baptism.

We should be excited and bold with our witness and not let an abnormal world make us an abnormal witness. Your witness must be motivated from deep within you. One who has chosen to be a witness for Christ must be willing to be an example of Him. Others are watching your life. I was witnessing to an eighty-three year old man and he said something interesting to me. He was saying that the Bible he reads is people's lives. He watches their lives to see if the Gospel is true. Apparently, he had found no one in his opinion who was an example of Christ. However, we should note that it is sad if there are few living the life of a Christian as found in the Word. This man did receive Christ as his Lord after we shared the Scriptures with him. It was not our life that impressed him to be saved, but it was the Scriptures. I am sure that most who had previously witnessed to him pursued the argument rather than the witness of Christ. It is so sad that he found no example all those years. Allow the love of God to flow into others' lives. Don't allow the world to control your witness but rather speak to the heart. Also, allow your Christian love to flow into them. When we met this man he was going through trash cans to search for aluminum cans. His clothes and hands were dirty, yet we extended our hands and a hug to him as we extended our hearts. Allow the Lord to love others through you.

It is the Lord's will that all be saved. I have often thought that if you know enough to be saved, you know enough to witness. The assurance we find in the Scriptures for our own salvation are often the same Scriptures used to present the Gospel. Oftentimes when we see people's circumstances or their appearances, we wonder if God can really save them. Yes, the Lord can save anybody and He can use you to lead them. It is so important that we don't debate religion, but simply witness with the truth. Witnessing is

**Group Discussion**

**1.** Discuss the witness of the Holy Spirit through Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch. Acts 8:26-37.

**Notes:**

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## Group Discussion

2. Describe what you felt and experienced when you came to know Christ.

Response/Notes:

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3. What are additional things that should not be done when witnessing?

Response/Notes:

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not a plan but it is presenting the person of Jesus Christ. It is not a method that saves, it is the message. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Let's rely more upon the Holy Spirit than our techniques.

To know Jesus you must repent, believe, and have knowledge. We should let the emphasis and focus be on Christ. It is very important to use the Word of God when we witness. Take a Bible with you when witnessing to be identified as a follower of Jesus Christ. People are convicted just by the Word of God. You should open the Bible and point to the verse so the person that you are witnessing to can read the Word of God with you. Be sure and have them read it or you can read it and put their name in the scriptures where it seems appropriate. Have the Word of God with you at all times. If you don't have the Word with you it indicates you don't think you are going to need it. When you carry the Word, you are prepared for God to use you.

If someone says they don't believe the Bible, you should act like you didn't hear them the first time and continue reading. If they say that they don't believe the Word, then say, "Then it won't hurt you will it?" If they continue to say they do not believe the Word, then say, "What is there about Romans 6:23 that you don't believe?" Read the Scriptures to them and explain to them that since salvation is a free gift and if hell is a real place, then it would not hurt them to pray and allow the Lord a chance to show them that He is real.

### Romans 6

*23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Quickly you will see that they are discussing the Word of God with you. Always remember that it is not you convicting them, it is the Holy Spirit. It is not your words but the words of the Holy Spirit. If they are going to argue, let them speak until they are finished and simply use the Word and stay with the message of the Cross and the Word of God. You should have only one purpose and that is to share Christ by using the Word of God. Don't get sidetracked. Just simply share Christ. Don't defend your church but rather just talk about Jesus. God is able to produce the fruit of a new birth from the Scriptures you share with them from your heart.

Our witness must be consistent and we should establish a pattern of witnessing all the time. I go out witnessing almost every weekend whether I feel like witnessing or not. Every time I begin witnessing I am so glad I came. Oftentimes, I wonder when someone is saved what would have happened if I had not come. Sometimes we will sow seed as we witness. Sometimes we will harvest seed. We can be an effective witness and we can plant, cultivate, and harvest all at the same time. Yes, we are in a time that the Holy Spirit is harvesting souls as the Word of God is sown.

**Amos 9**

*13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.*

To be an effective witness we must issue the invitation by inviting others to Christ. We need to develop an attitude for witnessing and realize that God can save and that He will work through you. Also, an effective witness shows love toward everyone. We must witness with an attitude of understanding and not be confrontational. Let's have an attitude that Jesus is with us when we witness. Your witnessing life will not be any stronger than your own life in Christ.

We don't need to wait for the ideal circumstance because it may never come. Simply be bold and compassionate with your witness. Sometimes I create an environment for witness. What I mean by this is if I am in a disruptive area, I will ask the person to step over to an area where I can speak to them. Occasionally someone may want to argue with you. If someone is arguing loudly, just keep your pitch soft and volume levels the same. They will come down to your volume. We should stay in the spirit of communication as we witness and further develop our prayer life. There is no substitute for prayer.

The following are a few of the common sense things that a witness should remember as they are in the streets and sharing the witness of Christ.

**Assignment**

1. Have a practice session and go through the way of salvation with someone that is already saved.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone that is lost and prepare their hearts to receive Christ. (Obtain witnessing materials and have them with you.)

**Notes:**

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**DO**

- Ask them if they would like to receive Christ.
- Use sidewalks as you walk door to door and respect others' property.
- Invite others to your church.
- Obtain follow-up information for the pastor or minister of visitation.
- Drive your vehicle as a witness in the streets and obey all laws.
- Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Have them pray the sinners' prayer aloud with you.
- Use Scriptures in your witness.
- As you walk from door to door pray and ask God to be with you.
- Prayer walk the area you will be witnessing in.

**DON'T**

- Don't take risks.
- Don't repeat anything told to you in confidence.
- Don't debate religion.
- Don't be confrontational with others.
- Don't be disruptive.
- Don't say words that can be misinterpreted.
- Don't be judgmental.
- Don't stay past your welcome.

## Bible Study

## Unit Two: Section Six The Approach

1. Review the Scriptures below that can be used in your witness.

Romans 10: 8-10; John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:13; Revelation 3:20

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### Preparation

Approaching someone can oftentimes be the most important part of the witness. As Jesus Christ approached someone, He did not approach them with some great precision nor did He try to impress. He approached, however, with an overwhelming love and friendship to the person that He was approaching that they were overwhelmed with something they had never felt before. They experienced a supernatural expression of God being shared through Him. As we can see in the Scriptures below, Jesus has told us how He prepared Himself to share with others. He sanctified Himself so others may be sanctified. He prayed that others may believe in Him through the Word. He asked the Father to give others the same relationship He had. He shared His Glory and wanted all to have it. This is the attitude that we need when we approach someone. We want to present all that God is to them in the hope that they will commit all that they are to God. Yes, the approach begins with us as we spend time in prayer and sanctification. Prepare your heart and your life to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you to others. Remember that your witness is an expression of your life and the life you experience in God. Be prepared to share by spending time in preparation.

### John 17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.



### Approaching in the Streets

Witnessing on the sidewalks and public places is my favorite method of witnessing. I am often amazed to see how quickly individuals receive Jesus Christ as their Lord right on a public sidewalk. When I approach someone, I have something in my hand to give them. If you try to stop them on the sidewalk by speaking to them it is difficult to get their attention. This is true especially in airport terminals and other busy public areas. People seem to be busy and will pass you by.

I have found it necessary to have a Christian sticker to give them. However, don't let material be a substitute for the witness of the Word of God. Remember that a tract or sticker is simply a means of contact. We are to be the witness and not to simply rely on material. If you use a tract, they are not as interested because of other groups such as cults and political advocates that are distributing literature. However, it seems that a sticker gets their attention. As they hold it in their hand they will begin to read it and stop to listen to what you have to say. In a busy area, the sticker can also serve as a way to identify the people you already have spoken with. You should have a sticker on your shirt to be an example of someone wearing one. I sometimes hand them a sticker with the paper off of it exposing the sticky part of the sticker. Now they have to deal with the sticker and it is easier for them to put it on rather than holding it or placing it in their pocket. Oftentimes, people in the streets begin to see the stickers and actually come to me to get one. Many times, they ultimately receive Jesus Christ as their Savior or rededicate their lives to Him after they come to get a sticker. I say to them as I offer a sticker, "Let me give you a Jesus sticker." I have seen those who have I witnessed with ask, "Do you want a Jesus sticker?" When they ask if someone wants a sticker, people will usually say no. When you say, "Let me give you a sticker," people seem to extend their hand and receive the sticker. The words we choose to say in our approach are very important.

Now that I have them stopped by giving them a sticker or placing it on their shirt, I continue my approach. I may make general conversation about the day or their children if they do not appear to be in a hurry. I allow the Holy Spirit to direct me at this point to ensure He speaks to them what He would want to say. Truly, He knows their heart and will help you to share. Trust Him to lead you while you are speaking to them. It is very important to look directly into their eyes with a smile and introduce yourself and tell them why you are out on the sidewalks or knocking on their door. I say, "Hi, my name is Ricky and I am witnessing in the streets today. What is your name? Are you a Christian?" As I introduce myself, I have my hand extended and warmly shake their hand. Don't be surprised if at this moment they begin to cry because of the convicting power of God beginning to work within them. Time after time, I have witnessed the Holy Spirit prepare someone's heart in such a powerful way that they are immediately convicted. As I continue with my witness, I ask them the Question after I shake their hand. I say, "If you died tonight, would you know without a doubt that you would go to heaven?" Sometimes I ask the person, "Are you living for Him now?" This simple question produces effective results. Although the person may have first said they were a Christian, they are

### Group Discussion

- 1. Discuss how to approach different types of people with your witness. A homeless person and a business person on the street are approached differently. Be prepared to simulate the different approaches.

#### Response/Notes:

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## Optional Assignment

1. Witness with someone by going door to door in your neighborhood or witness with someone on a sidewalk in your city.

### Notes:

convicted when we ask them if they are living for Him now. It is at this point that we ask if they would like to come back to Christ. You will find many respond to this simple method of witness.

Initially, it seemed to be difficult for me to approach a large group of people. I was concerned that I might be embarrassed by their reaction. However, after I have spent so much time in the streets I have seen the Holy Spirit save several people at one time. Don't let fear have an effect on your witness. When I feel the Holy Spirit say that it is time I say, "Take my hand now. I'll lead you in prayer to receive Jesus Christ as Lord." I continue to say, "Be bold and do it right now!" as I take their hand. I have seen even those in a gang take my hand to receive Christ. Don't expect a negative reaction. Also, as you approach, don't distinguish someone's dress or actions. If we let the way people look affect how we witness to them, then we are trying to do the works within ourselves rather than with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Allow Jesus Christ to have compassion on this world and speak through you to the homeless, the poor, and all that come across your path. As you allow this love of God to stir your heart, you too will be blessed. God loves all people and wants to use you to share with them.

### John 3

**16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

After spending time in the streets I am comfortable talking to anyone. I am not moved by rejection or rudeness. I simply continue on down the road to the next person in expectation that at least one person will come to know Him. It is so wonderful to see the one come to know Jesus Christ. Yes, I have seen gang members come to know Him, along with drug users, homeless people, those just released from prison, doctors, business men, and young people.

### Matthew 25

**35** *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

**36** *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

**37** *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

**38** *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

**39** *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

**40** *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

Remember not to approach young children without their parents present. You should approach the parents of young children, and ask permission to give their children a sticker. This is very important to remember in today's society. Your actions could be quickly misinterpreted by parents or others watching.

You should approach people in the streets with boldness and with mercy for everyone. Allow the Holy Spirit to use you to lead others to the Lord Jesus Christ. Approach others by first spending time in prayer and preparation then your results in the streets will produce many changed lives.

**Going Door To Door**

The church should be focused on door to door and outreach evangelism. The early church in the book of Acts witnessed in the streets and in homes. We can see this in the Scripture below.

**Acts 5**

**42** *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

We should remember that those that we witness to by going door to door may never have attended a conventional church. Others may have once attended a church, have been hurt, and plan to never return. Some may have never even had an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord. With all this in mind, we need to witness with an attitude of understanding as we approach someone’s door and be prepared for whatever the reaction is. Oftentimes, I receive strong reactions when going door to door. I have seen entire families come to the Lord as I am invited into a home, while other times I have a door slammed in front of my face. Your efforts will produce results and many will be saved if you knock on enough doors.

I approach door to door evangelism first as a way to make friends that I have never met before. I simply walk down the street or sidewalks praying silently and ask the Holy Spirit to go before me. I go to a door and ring the door bell and step back a few steps so those inside can see me through the glass in the door. Stepping away from the door makes the person opening the door less fearful. If you stand too close to the door, you will produce fear instead of a witness for Jesus. When they come to the door, tell them why you are there. I would say, “Hello, my name is Ricky and I am with a local church, and I am visiting everyone in our community. Let me give you a sticker. If you have any children may I give you more stickers?” I often notice if there are children in the home by the bicycles, playground equipment, stickers on the children’s windows, and sounds in the home. Notice when I said the name of my church that I did not say the denomination. Saying the denomination of the church immediately may cut off your witness with the person. When handed a sticker they will take it and look at it. While they are looking at the sticker, ask them if they attend church. Pay close attention here. When you hear any delays in their response or reaction, you will quickly know the condition of their heart. Sometimes people tell me they attend a certain church, but in actuality they may have attended the church many years ago. You can discover this by asking if they are currently attending. Sometimes they will tell you the name of a church, and yet they are as lost as anyone you will ever meet. After discussing what church they attend, I will then ask them the Question. I say, “If you died tonight, would you know without a doubt that you would

**Notes:**

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**Notes:**

go to heaven?" Be prepared to lead them to the Lord as the Holy Spirit prepares their heart.

If your witness results in someone saying that they are not interested, then say, "Let me give you this tract, please." You may ask if you can return some other time. It is always better to at least get Gospel material into their home or have an opportunity to return rather than simply getting a negative response. Be sure to point out the service times on the tract and invite them to attend your church. Some people may feel more comfortable coming to your church rather than praying with you at the door. I do not leave Gospel material at the home if no one comes to the door. I always want to place it directly in someone's hand.

If you are invited into a home and the person is of the opposite sex, be sure someone else is home before you accept an invitation to enter. Being invited in a home most often results in someone or many being saved. Don't stay past your welcome and be sure to invite them to know Jesus Christ soon after you are welcomed in the home. Oftentimes, if you wait too long a distraction will appear and your opportunity to witness will be lost. If the entire family is there, ask everyone the Question at the same time. You may be surprised to see all come to the Lord. When you are in the home, if they smoke or if the television or radio is on, ignore it. Witness in the environment presented. You will never have a perfect opportunity to witness, and your efforts to create one will make people angry or disturbed with you.

**Fast Food Drive Ins**

Have you ever seen anyone come to the Lord in 10 seconds? You will when you witness at a fast food restaurant. You will have to move quickly because you do not have long to present the Gospel. Prayer and being led by the Holy Spirit is really the key to leading someone to the Lord at a fast food drive-in. I once witnessed to a young girl at a drive-in as she stood across the island and handed me my food. I asked her if she went to church as I was getting ready to leave. I notice she hesitated for a moment with her answer. I said with a really big smile, "Come over here." She walked around the island and to my driver door. I extended my hand and said, "Just take my hand and receive Christ right now." She did it and in a few seconds she was saved. My efforts were the answer to her mother's prayers. I had asked her if she had a church to attend, and she told me that her mother had been inviting her for a long time and she will attend the next service. She was so excited to receive Christ. An evangelist was with my wife and I in the van and as she watched she could not believe how easy it was to lead someone to the Lord. Weeks later we visited the young lady, and she was still going to her mother's church.

It is exciting to give Jesus stickers to someone at a drive-in window and ask them to hand others stickers. Although they have never witnessed before, they will sticker everyone they work with in the restaurant. Surely Christians can be as enthusiastic as a waiter or waitress in a restaurant. If the drive-in has two windows, then you have two opportunities to witness.





he said, "Yes." Both young men accepted Jesus as Lord. It was a beautiful witness day. I will remember this day and I will return in hopes of more souls.

Several months later a deacon from my church and I went back to this same park to witness. We met the eleven year old boy who was saved as the Holy Spirit seemingly convicted so strong. He was playing basketball on the same basketball court where I had spoke to him before. I remember this boy had something unusual happen to him as a pastor and I witnessed to the other boy that day.

This boy told us his story in his own words. It was a powerful testimony and so pure. He told us that he had been saved on the basketball court and he has new friends. It seemed that he had not chosen the friends but they found him. The Lord prepared him new friends. I told him that I remember him standing beside a pastor as we started to pray for another young man. I said that I remembered him crying, reaching out, and being overtaken by God as he asked for salvation. I asked him to tell us what had happened that day. He said that God spoke to him that he must be saved at that moment and that he felt the presence of God going through him. It was interesting to hear what happened to this boy in his own words. Surely God was on the basketball court that day through the person of the Holy Spirit.

We gave him a WWJD bracelet and explained what it meant. I am sure God will keep this young man. It seems that He chose Him on the basketball court. I was excited to see that day on the court as we saw the convicting power of the Holy Spirit radiate onto this young man as we prayed with another.

This is what it is all about. The fruit remains and the young boy was changed, not by us but by the power of God. Continue to pray for those that come to know Christ in the streets that God would keep them from evil.

I thought later that the convicting power of God took longer for Robert than his friend. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and allow Him time to work in the hearts of those who we speak to. We need to take our time with the one person we are speaking to and not be concerned or distracted with anything else. Have we missed opportunities to win others to Christ by expecting an immediate response? While we see people saved sometimes as quickly as in ten seconds, we need to be prepared for those that require longer for the Lord to deal with them.

**Psalms 25**

*2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.*

*3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.*

*4 Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.*

*5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*

**Group Discussion**

1. Discuss the concept of the delay of the heart. Discuss examples when you have seen this delay when you were in a church service and people did not respond until the last altar call was given and how this relates to witnessing in the streets and the delay of the heart.

**Response/ Notes**

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## Optional Assignment

1. The next opportunity that you have to witness, take your time with the person you are witnessing to. Watch for the delay of the heart.

### Notes:

**6** *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.*

**7** *Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

On another occasion, we met a young girl in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and her name was Candy. She was sitting on the passenger side of an old red pickup truck. We shared with her about Christ, and I asked the Question as I extended my hand and placed it on the ledge of the pickup window. She looked at my hand, and for some reason, just sat there and trembled with conviction. At an early age, Candy had already been involved so deep in sin that it was difficult for her to make a decision. It was so sad to watch as she tried but could not take my hand to receive Christ.

Her mother returned to the truck, and I spoke to her as I left my hand on the truck window's ledge for Candy to take. The mother said that they both were Christians. I told her mother that Candy was not a Christian and was lost in this world and for her to begin praying that her daughter would come to Christ. As her mother cried, I waited and waited. Finally, about ten minutes later it seemed to take all her strength to reach and take my hand. Candy took my hand that day and I was glad that I waited for her to come to Christ. I was so excited to see this miracle of salvation as Candy was born again. There seemed to be a delay in Candy's heart as the Holy Spirit worked within her soul. Candy wanted to make the decision, once and for all, for Christ. Was it unusual to lead someone to Christ in a pickup truck? Should I have waited until she somehow found the front door of a church? Would she have had the courage to come? Only God knows!

In the Bible, we have seen many examples of delays working in the life of an individual. We can see that the answer to Daniel's prayer was delayed twenty-one days.

### Daniel 10

**12** *Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.*

**13** *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

While the Lord answers immediately, it seems that Daniel's prayer was delayed from spiritual influences in this world. Oftentimes, we see this in the lives of those that we speak to as they try to choose between Christ and that which they plan to do even that night or next week. The Holy Spirit causes all of us to deal with sin and offers us a choice to receive Christ.

### Psalms 130

**5** *I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*

**6** *My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.*









**Group Discussion**

- 1. Discuss the preparatory prayer and how it could be beneficial to effective witnessing.

**Response/Notes:**

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*“Father in Jesus Name, we ask that you would touch them and strike the Blood of Jesus across their heart. Father, give understanding to my words as I speak and help them to know you in a more personal way. Lord, it is our prayer that the Holy Spirit would surround them with conviction and that your mercy would be poured into their life. And Lord, give them long life and health and help them to follow you all the days of their life. Lord, we ask for a hedge of protection about them. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.”*

After the prayer, I read Romans 10:8-10 to them and issue another invitation and I have seen person after person pray to receive Christ. I feel that praying for them made the difference. When I am in a bad area in the heart of an inner city, I will often begin my witnesses with the preparatory prayer. When I approach them and introduce myself I will say, “Let me pray and ask God to bless you.” As I am asking, if I can pray for them, I reach and place my hand on their shoulder. Most people will respond and allow you to pray for them.

I remember the first time that I prayed the preparatory prayer. I was visiting a friend’s mother that was thought to have a terminal illness. It was imperative that she become saved since it was not known if she would live or die. Family members and others had tried to share Christ with her and she would not pray with them. I approached her bedside and was about to pray when I thought it was important to follow the leading of the Lord. He wanted me to first pray for her before I issued the invitation. I prayed a simple prayer and then issued the invitation. To everyone’s surprise she held my hand and followed me in a prayer inviting Christ into her heart. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so wonderful that day as she was saved. Although she departed this earth from her illness, we knew that she had indeed received Christ. She was the first of thousands that would come to know Christ from the preparatory prayer. Let the Lord touch lives as you reach out and pray the preparatory prayer.

**Assignment**

- 1. Practice leading someone to Christ by using the first preparatory prayer.

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## Unit Three: Section Ten

### Sharing Christ

## Bible Study

### Who to witness to

When you are out witnessing, be in an attitude of prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone. It is important to have someone with you to help assist with any distractions from others. Your witness will be more effective if the person you are witnessing to can hear just you. If you are not sure who to speak to, then speak to everyone unless the Holy Spirit says not to. Jesus said that He was not willing any should perish.

### Proverbs 3

*27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.*

### Matthew 18

*11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*

*12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?*

*13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.*

*14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*

Therefore, we should feel free to witness to anyone. However, I do not witness to young children. In today’s society your intention to share Christ with a young child could be misinterpreted.

When someone tells you they are not a Christian or that they never professed Christ as their Lord and Savior then you should be prepared to lead them in prayer. First, I recommend that you pray a preparatory prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to convict them. This prayer seems to allow the words you speak to be heard by their heart. When I do not pray this prayer, many times the witness ends up in much discussion on their part about religion or some other subject.

### The Approach

As you approach the person it is always a good idea to have something to give them. A Christian sticker or tract is always good to hand someone. Many times this is the easiest way to make contact with someone. Introduce yourself and listen for their name so you may use it later in your conversation. If they do not speak English, see if one of their children can interpret for you. I often use their family members to interpret for me as I witness. Also, see the chapter called “The Approach” for more detailed information on how to approach someone with your witness.

1. Study the Scripture references about our new life in Christ.

Romans 5:9; Romans 6:18; Colossians 1:12; Psalms 27:1; 1 John 5:4; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:17; 2 Peter 1:4; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 3:21; 1 John 5:13; Romans 8:2; Romans 8:36; Colossians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17

2. Study the Scripture references that are examples of Christ speaking to someone’s heart.

John 4:4-26; Mark 10:17-22

3. Make a list of the different types of people that Christ shared with. The poor in Matthew 11:4-6. A good moral man and a leader in John 3:1-10. An adulterous woman and the religious in John 8:3-11. A rich man in Luke 19:2-10.

### Response/Notes:

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After I have read and explained the Scriptures, I tell them, "You too can have the Word in your heart and be saved right this moment and you can know without a doubt that you will go to heaven when you die. If you would like to pray that prayer to confess Christ as your Lord then simply take my hand right now and we will pray together." You see it is easier to take someone's hand and thereby say yes than to first say yes with their voice. Also, this gives you a point of contact as you pray for them.

Now pray the sinners' prayer with them that we discussed and tell them about this new life that they have just received. It is always a good idea to give them a tract that has the scriptures you used in it and to give them a Bible. I always like to write their name in their Bible and the date they were saved. Also, I write the Scripture references that I used in the front of the Bible.

**Prayer of Rededication**

Oftentimes while someone has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior once in their life, they may not be living for Him right now. They may be backsliden and according to their own words feel they would not go to heaven if they were to die. I find that almost one-third of those I speak to in the streets once knew Christ and have fallen away. It is so important to ask the Question and issue the invitation to receive Christ even if they have once been saved. I generally use the same techniques on those that have backsliden as I use with those that have never known Christ. We do ask them if they want to come back to Christ instead of asking if they want to know Christ. Sometimes those that have fallen away have become hardened to the scriptures and God.

Now you may ask them if they would like to rededicate their life. And say the following:

*"If you feel that He is not as close to you as when you first began to walk with Him or if you have fallen away, would you like to pray and rededicate your life right now? Then simply take my hand and we will pray together."*

This gives you a point of contact as you pray for them. It is a very important point to note that you will lead the prayer. I have seen some confused and did not want to come to Christ because they did not know how to pray. Make it clear that you will lead them in prayer. Also, I have seen that those that I train will have more success if they ask for someone to respond by an acknowledgment of simply taking your hand, and thereby saying yes in their heart to praying with you.

If they say yes, then have them pray the following aloud. Tell them sometimes it is best to begin new with Christ when someone has fallen away.

**Sinner's Prayer**

*"Father, in Jesus Name I ask you the best way I know how that you forgive my sins and take my life and direct it, lead it, and guide it, all the days of my life. I want to know You in a more personal way and help me to grow in*

**Assignment**

- 1. Practice leading someone in a prayer of rededication.

**Notes:**

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## Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures describing where and how Christ shared with others.

### John 4

**6-14** Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) <sup>9</sup>Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. <sup>11</sup>The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? <sup>12</sup>Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? <sup>13</sup>Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: <sup>14</sup>But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

### Notes:

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This type of unity with other churches will produce results and be received by the religious community as you evangelize areas. Too often, I have seen criticism of those who go door to door by other churches if witnessing teams try to direct other congregations to their church. Let's look for the lost and those who do not attend church and focus on them. Be sure and keep a record of the homes that you have visited and the results learned from the visitation. You may use your records in the future to revisit the doors of the lost.

One afternoon we were going door to door in a city and saw a Laotian man standing in his yard watering his lawn. Several of us approached him and we began to make friends with him. We were so thankful that he could understand English. He had been heavily influenced by eastern religions and knew nothing about what we spoke. I saw an old dog walking across the street. I said, "Do you see that dog? Should a car run over him, his life is gone forever. However, should you get run over that is not the end of your life. We were made to live forever." The man leaped with joy and said, "I knew I was more than that dog. I knew! I knew! I knew!"

I went on to explain that God had written a book called the Bible and he took it from my hand and began to read. He sat down in the middle of his yard and read the scriptures that I had shown him. For once in his life he had found what he was looking for. He had found hope. That day in the middle of his yard we led him to Christ. I was so excited to see his expression to know that he would live forever in a place called heaven.

We went on down the street door to door and met many other people along that street. We witnessed for several hours and came back by this man's home as we walked to the church. He was still sitting in the middle of his yard reading his new Bible. Oftentimes you will see that God does such a deep work in the life of an individual. Our witness that day was not dynamic or special. We simply shared the basic truths of the Word and the whole time it seemed that God was speaking to his heart and knew what he needed to hear. He found hope and an opportunity to read the Words of his Creator to know what life in Christ is.

### Fast Food Restaurants

Witnessing in fast food restaurants is so exciting and can be explosive. As we witness in a restaurant, we often see two or more people come to Christ at the same time. You need to be kind, avoid any debates and don't be pushy. If you are pushy or disturb people, you will be asked to leave by the manager or challenged by the person you are speaking to. I often will purchase a soda or food before I witness. As a patron of the restaurant, I have a right to be there. We are often so welcomed that people come to us for stickers and WWJD bracelets. Many times people will ask us for Christian materials and not even know Christ. It is in this kind of atmosphere that many will come to Christ. The atmosphere seems to be spiritually charged with the witness of Christ. As you witness you will see God move sovereignly as He wishes. We have seen many lost people find Christ in seconds as we witness in restaurants. I hope you enjoy the next

example where a class we trained in California experienced witnessing in a restaurant.

I went to a beautiful church at Nipoma, California to teach a group from two different churches on how to witness in the streets. As I approached the platform to speak, I looked up at the pulpit and it just did not seem comfortable to me. I stepped down from the platform and told the group that the step would be my curb and the carpet would be my street. You see, I am more comfortable in the streets than in churches. I have spent so much time in the streets that it has become my church. Once again, I shared my heart with the people. I was so excited to see the tears from many that listened. It is the tears that are released from the heart. Certainly God was sharing His love for the lost of their community.

I was shocked to see so many hands go up when I asked how many wanted to go to the streets with me to witness. We prayed for the city and departed for a McDonald’s located near the church. As I was leaving for the restaurant I was reminded how difficult my ministry would seem. I am always a spectator and must wait to see what God is going to do in the lives of those we encounter. All those who had just listened to what God does in the streets were now ready to see lives changed. I remembered when I was on the plane on the way there praying, “God, you must move! The people of California are expecting you to begin a work in the streets.” It seemed that God spoke to my heart and said, “That is my responsibility and yours is to go.” My ministry is totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to protect our lives and to convict and save souls.

At McDonald’s, we stepped out of our vehicle, walked less than ten feet, and spoke to a lady by the pay phones. The young lady’s name was Genese. The witness was so moving and yet was so typical. In response to questions about her relationship with Christ she said, “I pray. I pray everyday.” Oh, I hear this so often! I asked her if she knew Christ and if He was in her heart. She said, “I believe in Him.” I pursued the witness a little further and asked her if she was living for Christ. She was lost and without Christ. The witness and the Holy Spirit had brought her to a point of conviction. She only knew of Christ. We shared the scriptures from Romans 10:9-10 and she quickly came back to Christ. Within less than a minute someone had already found Christ. God is so good!

We went into McDonald’s and before I could sit down, a customer called me to their table. I knew God was about to do something again. He was moving so quickly. I call these events explosions in the spirit when God is moving. I have seen this happen so many times in the streets. Sometimes it happens quicker than we can imagine. So I pulled up a chair and seated myself at the end of their table. I said to the family, “What’s up?” They were curious about the orange sticker on my shirt. I told them it was a Jesus sticker and gave them one. I gave the children WWJD bracelets and simply tried to be friends with this family that showed an interest in my sticker. I have had gang members before ask what was in the bag I was carrying. It was so neat when I showed them it was Bibles and often they would come to Christ when I witness to them. Certainly God can stir

## Bible Study

2. Study the Scriptures describing where and how Christ shared with others.

### Matthew 13

*1-9 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.*

*<sup>2</sup>And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup>And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup>Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup>And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup>But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. <sup>9</sup>Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

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## Bible Study

3. Study the Scriptures describing where and how Christ shared with others.

### Luke 4

**16-21** *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. <sup>17</sup>And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, <sup>19</sup>To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. <sup>20</sup>And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

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someone's curiosity. Surely God looked down and arranged it for me to be at this table. I looked over my shoulder and the groups from the church were seated around me at the nearby tables. They expected God to move and He did.

As all looked and watched I asked a young girl at the table about her relationship with Christ and she had fallen away from Him. God had already started working on her life and she quickly came back to Christ. I had new friends in California and another person came to Christ. Since the time we drove into the parking lot, less than ten minutes had passed and two people were now saved. Praise God! He was moving in the midst of all of those that watched.

Next, I told the pastor that the Holy Spirit was leading me to two people and I would like for him to assist me. I showed the pastor the lady that he was leading me to. I thought that we would miss her before we could reach her. She was at the register paying for her gas at the station adjoining McDonald's. We stood outside and waited. She then went to the payphone and we waited. Finally, she walked by us and we had an opportunity to speak to her. It seems her credit card was rejected and she now had time to wait and speak to us. She was waiting on a relative to pay for her gas. We asked her several questions about her relationship with Christ. She was raised in a religion that did not know Christ and had recently chosen not to follow this doctrine. She seemed to be ready for a personal relationship with Christ. We showed her the scriptures and she came to know Christ. Her name was Regnal. Praise the Lord for that day she had chosen Christ. She then asked for the name of a church that she could attend. Now I introduced her to the pastor standing next to me. The pastor began to share with Regnal and immediately shared with her more about Christ. It seemed that Regnal enjoyed meeting with the pastor and accepted an invitation to visit his church. What a joy to have many from the church and the pastors in the streets as we witness!

We had one more person to speak to now. It was the cashier. We spoke to her and she was lost. She knew she needed to come to Christ. It seemed that before we could finish a sentence, another customer came to the register. We presented our witness a sentence at a time. In the midst of all of this, God still moved. We did not have an opportunity to pray, but I introduced her to the pastor. We agreed that he would come back at another time when things were not so busy and pray with her to lead her to Christ. Yes, this was most unusual but God moved.

It was now the end of our witness and we were excited about what God had done. I was glad that all had an opportunity to see the moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people in a restaurant setting.

### Sidewalks and Streets

Witnessing on sidewalks and in the streets is my favorite type of witnessing. When you encounter someone on the sidewalk, they are out of their surroundings and more likely to respond.





To be a witness means that we must obey authority and live peacefully. I remember the Roman soldier that understood the message of Christ and the authority of his government.

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**Matthew 8**

**8** *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

**9** *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

**10** *When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

We must cooperate at all times with store owners who ask us to leave and with those in authority. Sometimes the presence of too many people witnessing in an area can create a problem for law enforcement. They are concerned anytime large amounts of people congregate in an area at night.

In my witnessing experience, I have been asked to leave very few private businesses and public places. Without exception I have always cooperated. I have been asked to leave many bars and clubs that we were witnessing in. If too many enter a bar it will cause a disruption or if you are too pushy you will be asked to leave. Bars are privately owned and you will have to cooperate. In bars that are in very bad areas, I will ask the owner or tell them what I am doing there and oftentimes they will let me hand out the stickers and witness to a few people, especially when I place a time limit of how long I will be there.

I have been in the worst bar in our community that is shut down nearly every night for fights and drugs. However, the night we decided to go in we had about fifteen people we were training in the parking lot and only a few of us went to the door. I went to the door and the bouncer would not let me in. I told him that I must go in to talk to the people because God had led me there, and I asked to speak to the manager. He invited me in and the manager agreed that we could come in and he went out and invited the rest of my group in. I could not believe that he let all fifteen of us in this bar. We were given fifteen minutes to share our message and then to leave. I thank God for the experiences that we have seen as He has given us favor with all people. This was the third bar that I had ever been in and it was quite an experience. Every substance you could imagine was being smoked and drank inside. It was so sad to see the addictions. All of us wanted to reach all of the people for Christ that night. It took a move of God to get us in and we pray that even today lives would remain changed from our visit to that bar. Expect God to move and you will experience great joy when you see the results of His hand moving even upon the life of an unsaved bar owner to prepare the way to win others to Christ.





## Unit Three: Section Twelve Night Street and Gang Ministry

### Group Discussion

Ministry in the streets of the night and inner cities is exciting. Those who are called to this ministry need to be prepared to expect to meet people that are without hope and in need of Christ. I feel that cities have different moods at different times. During the day, everyone is on a busy schedule and will often appear too busy to speak to you as you witness. However, during the evening hours, nights, and weekends, people seem to be more relaxed and willing to listen to your witness. Many people have asked us how to witness to gangs or people at night. We hope this teaching and stories contained in this chapter will give you courage and knowledge that will help you to share with those that others often judge. The teaching in this chapter is recommended only for adults who are called to this type of ministry. My own call has taken me deep into the inner cities of America and into the streets of the night. Without this call from God and a love for all people, I never would have taken a step into many of the areas I now find comfortable.

I actually find it easier to witness at night, and it is so much fun with all of the beautiful lights, the excitement, and not knowing what will happen next. I tell others, "Make it easy on yourself." If you are called and your heart is set upon a night ministry or a gang ministry, I would suggest that you begin by witnessing near restaurants or convenience stores located near an area that you hope to penetrate with the witness of Christ. Instead of going into the midst of where the gangs are, I suggest you let them come to you by witnessing in public places they frequently visit. Soon you will find yourselves becoming friends with those you desired to minister to. Once you become familiar with the people and they are familiar with you, then you will feel comfortable going into the streets wherever the Lord leads you.

### 2 Corinthians 4

**3** *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

**4** *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

**5** *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

**6** *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

Your communications to those in the streets needs to be geared toward the youth. I would describe the communications similar to that of a youth pastor. The scriptures that you share should be modern translations, or interpret your reading of the King James Bible translation to them. If you read straight from the King James Bible version, you will loose their attention quickly because they will not understand the older style language.

1. Practice sharing Christ in a way geared toward the youth. Interpret Scriptures into simplistic language that can be easily understood.

### Response/Notes:

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## Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures where the Lord sent Ananias to a certain city and a certain house to speak to a man named Saul. Review Ananias's response to ministering to someone that had done much evil. Also, notice the Lord's response in verse 15. These Scriptures remind me of the Lord's Heart towards those in the streets. He wants us to go because He cares.

### Acts 9

**10 – 15** *And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, <sup>12</sup> And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. <sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: <sup>14</sup> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

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I would not recommend you to pickup anyone in the streets and drive them anywhere. Drugs and illegal firearms are very prevalent in the streets, and you could find yourself in trouble if you are stopped by law enforcement and the person in your vehicle is in possession of illegal substances or firearms. You need to be careful receiving anything from someone in the streets. A homeless friend of mine picked up a simple pipe in the streets, and when he was arrested, they found the pipe in his backpack. He was unaware there was drug residue in the pipe. His one night stay turned into six months in jail because of the pipe.

I do not give anyone money in the streets. I will walk with them to a restaurant or go and buy them food and bottled water and give it to them. Christians have the responsibility to feed the hungry. I encourage you to help those less fortunate. Have addresses and phone numbers of the various community services that can benefit the people. Oftentimes when they come to Christ, they will be looking for a place to stay to remove themselves from previous associations. I would not recommend that you let others in the streets lead you to places. I would stay in well lighted areas and not go into old buildings with them. You may find yourself in a dangerous situation or trespassing. Be very careful crossing the streets. When you cross the streets in an inner city, you should not expect cars to yield to you in the streets. Watch your step in the streets, sidewalks, and alleys. The inner cities of our nations are filled with debris of syringes, vials, broken bottles, and many other infected waste.

### Street Etiquette

There is a code in the streets: don't tell others about things you have seen or heard. Oftentimes, people will share details about their lives or others, and I politely interrupt and tell them that I don't need to know these things to pray for them or to help them. You will gain respect in the streets if you respect confidentiality. It is of the utmost importance that you do not repeat other things to team members in the street. You can easily be overheard and promote a situation that could risk your lives and the lives of others.

I don't feel Jesus looked for individuals to turn over to the authorities but rather to touch the hearts of those He met. I remember one time that I was being followed for a period of time by undercover officers and became uncomfortable with this. I had spent so much time in an inner city that I was not understood by law enforcement. I went and met with the Chief of Police and shared with him who I am and what I was called to do. I told him that I don't keep records and will never repeat anything that I have heard. The Chief of Police understood and wished me the best. He said that everyone who I am able to reach will be one more person he will not have to deal with. Since then I have enjoyed free access by all into the areas of this city. I don't make an effort in the streets to witness to the police. I thank God that they are in the streets; however, I cannot be seen spending time with them and then walk into the alleys at night. I do not want my intentions misunderstood by those who we are there to meet. I highly recommend that you take proper ID with you to show any law enforcement when asked. Leave large amounts of cash or credit cards at home. I don't take anything





**Matthew 14**

**14** *"And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."*

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I remember one night that God called my wife and I to go out and witness. We went into the street of an inner city and witnessed outside a convenience store and along the streets. We went out at midnight and stayed out several hours. I met a man that was about two hundred pounds heavier than me and his hand was so large he offered three fingers for a handshake as I extended my hand to greet him. I witnessed with him and hoped so much he would receive Christ. He prayed with me and smiled as I saw all of his solid gold teeth that were crowned and his gold necklace. I thought he was a gang member but I was not sure. We walked into the convenience store, and the teller was crying and told me that I had just led to Christ the main gang member who was the most looked up to. She went on to tell me that he prayed with me in the very spot that a young boy was shot by a gang member. This man seemed so kind and yet his heart had been so hard. This man and I became friends for over a year and we spoke to each other often. Unfortunately, one night he was busted and he lost his home, a limited edition Cadillac Seville, and all of his friends. I found out later that his influence in the gang connected across several cities and states. I was sad to hear that he was in prison for the rest of his life. The man that was to be feared by all in the streets became my friend and I miss him. I pray that he will continue to know Christ and remember that when no one else cares, one preacher in the streets of the night and the Lord cares. This is what night street witnessing is all about. It is about someone willing to care.

I asked a gang member one night at a restaurant how I could enter their area to witness and his response was, "Just treat them like you are treating me and everything will be all right." I knew he was right because that is what I do. We do need to treat everyone the same no matter how they look or how they appear. Take time in your ministry before you launch out into the streets of the night and let God develop love in your heart for all people. Another night in the streets, I went to a crack house where a few gang members were sitting on the porch. Their names were Mole and Jesse. They were very nice young men, and I presented the message of Christ to them. They said, "Sure we will pray." We all took hands that night and bowed our heads and prayed. They opened their eyes and both said at the same time that they could see. I said, "What do you mean." They said, "All the darkness is gone." When Christ came into their hearts, the Lord delivered them from their addictions and sin. Although they never expected anything to happen, they were saved as they prayed in faith and honor to Christ.

Almost a year later I ran into Jesse, and he was a little upset with me. I said, "What's wrong?" He said, "You guys never came back to take me to church." I told Jesse that I was sorry. I told him the pastor who was with me promised that he would come by and check on you guys. He said, "Well, he never came by. I still read my Bible. I'm not doing anything wrong. I might as well be in church." I saw that day in spite of our inability to follow up on them that God had kept him. I am often criticized by the religious that say, "It doesn't do any good to lead someone to Christ in the streets. They will



## Unit Four: Section Thirteen

### Follow-up Evangelism

#### Group Discussion

Follow-up for those that recently come to Christ is very important. Help your church's visitation team follow up on those that have been led to Christ. If you don't have a follow-up team, form one. If you have enough knowledge to witness you have enough knowledge to lead a follow-up group. Follow-up will produce results in the lives of those who come to Christ. You will see a higher rate of individuals attending church or becoming discipled for Christ if you visit them again. Follow-up is a key to effective evangelism.

In Acts 14, we can see Paul determined to follow-up on those he had shared his life with. Although Paul was stoned and left for dead, he picked himself up and went back to the cities from where he came. This sets the pattern for the concept of "follow-up" work among new converts. This emphasizes the need to return to those you have ministered to and help them to resist the temptations that all face and to share how to follow Christ.

#### Acts 14

**19** *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

**20** *Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

**21** *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,*

**22** *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

I often use the term "Follow-up Evangelism." I have seen that when you visit a home of a new convert you are often welcomed into the home. When you first encountered the person in your initial witness you were a stranger and now you are a friend. When you are allowed entry into the home it can become an opportunity for others in their home to come to Christ. I have seen many times that the whole family will come to Christ.

Another purpose of follow-up is to remind the person to become water baptized. Their need to fulfill the commission of Christ to be baptized may be the very opportunity the Lord will use to bring this person to your church and thus begin the discipleship process. It is important to help bring the new converts to church and be around others who can help them. Be prepared to explain water baptism but not to pressure the person. So often I have seen God change people's lives over the period of many years. Allow God this opportunity and be patient with the person. A friend of mine was saved and I knew many areas of his life that were not right but I never condemned him. Over a period of time I watched and was shocked that nearly a year later he cleaned his home of the things that were not of God, he changed his music, continually studied the Word, and began attending church. When you see

1. Discuss how follow-up may have encouraged you to walk further with Christ.

2. Discuss how to include follow-up into your ministry.

#### Response/Notes:

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#### Bible Study

1. Study the Scriptures in Acts 14 and see how determined Paul was to return to those he had ministered. Search the Scriptures and you will see that much of the letters he wrote in the New Testament were composed of encouragement to those of the church.

#### Response/Notes:

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that you would be driven to share His love with others. His love will cause you to have a heart for the lost and for the impoverished. His love will move you to pray for those you have never met. Allow God to share part of His heart with you and join in prayer for those that are hurting. Those that are lost cannot pull themselves out of their circumstances and God desires other Christians to be in prayer agreement for His will in their lives. God is moved by prayer. Accept the challenge to step into another dimension of our prayer life and allow God to place more of His nature in us. He is looking for vessels to pour Himself into.

**Bible Study**

- 2. Find Scripture references where God has dealt with entire cities. Jonah 4:10-11; Psalms 127:1; Mark 6:5-6; Jeremiah 29:7.

**Response/Notes:**

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**Optional Assignment**

- 1. Form a group of prayer warriors and walk in the areas that you intend to witness. Walk and pray onsite with insight.

**Notes:**

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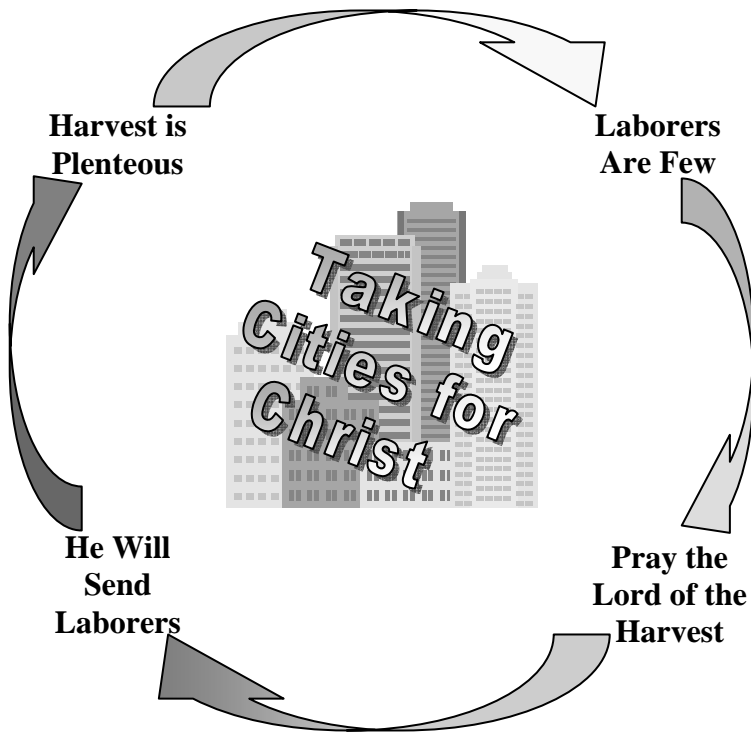
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**“Pray that the hope of Christ may abound in the hearts of the people of your city.”**



**Matthew 9**  
**37** Then saith he unto his disciples, *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*  
**38** Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

**Group Discussion**

**Unit Four: Section Fifteen  
Witnessing on the Telephone**

1. Discuss opportunities that you had to witness on the telephone and explain the results of your witness.
2. Discuss different ways to create general conversation with someone on the telephone that you have never met.

Witnessing on the telephone presents an unique opportunity to lead someone to Christ. My favorite way to witness at home is talking to a telemarketer. Most people abruptly and rudely hang up on them. Ironically, I see many of these telemarketers that call are lost, hurting, or have fallen away from God. Oftentimes they pray with me and some make a commitment to serve Christ.

**An Effective Witness Is a Good Listener**

If you want to be an effective witness on the telephone you need to be a good listener and allow the caller to fully explain their message and make their presentation. Be sure and listen for their name so you can use it in your conversation. Don't be in a hurry to ask them about their relationship with the Lord. First, it is important to try to establish a two way conversation. If you use their name in the witness you will be more effective and appear to be more personal and caring. Be sure and ask them their name if they did not share it with you. Introduce yourself by sharing your name. However, most of the time the telemarketer asked for you by name. Once the introductions are over it is time to listen.

**Make Friends by Making General Conversation**

Be careful and don't make a commitment to any sales orders by staying on the phone with them unless you are really interested in what they are selling. Now that they are finished with their sales presentation, it is your chance to make general conversation and make friends. Sometimes I start off by saying, "I am always interested in where people are calling from." This seems to work for me to start a general conversation. You could ask them if they know of a good church there. Now ask them if this is where they attend. This will establish if they are going to church. Oftentimes, once I establish conversation, I ask the 'Question'. Now is the time to listen closely again.

**Lead Them in Prayer**

Their response is very important so listen carefully. If you hear any hesitation or slowness to their response try to help them with it. Say to them, "So are you not right with God right now?" Sometimes a slow response means the person doesn't know because of the condition of their life. They see all of the things in their mind that they have done wrong and they are wondering if they are saved. What an opportunity to lead them to salvation, rededication, or assurance! Now I say, "Let's do this, let's pray and ask God to help you and to lead you." When they acknowledge that they will pray with you I begin a prayer for them. I begin a general prayer then connect the sinners' prayer to it. Almost always they will go through the prayer with you. Be sure as you pray and have them repeat the part of your prayer with the sinners' prayer. Just allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Remember you will never have an ideal circumstance to witness. Use the opportunity you have.

**Response/Notes:**

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If the person does not want to pray or allow you to pray for them excuse yourself off the phone by saying, "May the Lord bless you and that you may find grace in Him." After you hang up the telephone ask God to reach their heart. I have two telephone lines in my home and it is interesting when the same person calls again and they remember speaking to me a few minutes prior. Sometimes their second call to me results in a commitment to Christ. Oftentimes, this is how close the person is to Christ after your witness. Many times when our witness does not result in someone making an immediate decision, it does result in a seed being planted in their heart.

**A Witnessing Example**

One evening, a telemarketer named Nathan called from Iowa. He was selling life insurance and I used our conversation as an opportunity to witness to him. I hope that his story will give you an example of how a simple conversation can lead to a change in someone's life.

We need to be a consistent witness for Christ. Too many times we miss opportunities to share the Gospel. In this witness, I learned something that was so interesting. First, I allowed Nathan to share with me about what he called about. Then, I told him that I had all the life insurance that I needed. Next, I asked him if he was a Christian and I used his name often in the conversation to make it personal. He said that he was saved but not as close to the Lord as he should be. Also, he shared about his life and an opportunity to go to Arizona for missions.

I prayed for Nathan and shared about what God is doing with hearts in the streets. The witness convicted him and he rededicated his life and decided to go on the mission's trip. A few minutes with Nathan, a person that I have never met, resulted in him going further with the Lord. It is so important that we take time to witness to the hearts of those that we speak to. I praise the Lord for the opportunity to share the glorious message of the Gospel.

Nathan shared a story with me about another person he worked with that was a testimony to the power of the Word of God. He said that his friend called a lady in California who tried to share Christ with him. His friend mocked her to another coworker. The next day the coworker came to work and told the friend that she gave her heart to the Lord because of the words he had shared with her from the lady in California. The Word of God is so powerful. It was repeated by a sinner to someone not saved and they got saved. Yes, it is the Word that is the power of God that brings salvation.

**Romans 1**

*16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

We are simply the messenger. We need to begin to share this witness to all the telemarketers that call and be patient with those that cross our lives. Even an interruption in your daily life could be an opportunity for a witness. The next time the phone rings, share Christ with someone.

**Bible Study**

1. Find Scripture references that describes planting seed into someone's heart and another person leads them to Christ.

**John 4**

*37-38 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.*

**Response/Notes:**

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**Optional Assignment**

1. Witness to the next telemarketer who calls you on the telephone.

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I pray that you have clearly heard the heart of God for His people though the words He inspired me to write from the many experiences He has given me and the scriptures that show the need to share Christ with all people of this world. I am unable to record all my life experiences into this course because His works continue in my life. I have chosen to be a witness for the rest of my life and I challenge you to do the same. We cannot let generations perish from this earth without an opportunity to know Christ as Lord and Savior. Choose to serve God with a pure heart and follow the ways of Christ by showing His love for all people.

It has taken me over three years to write this book because I had to first experience what I have written. Thousands of individuals have been trained with this course and thousands of souls have come to Christ through these teachings that were given to me by the Holy Spirit and my good friend Arthur Blessitt, the man that carried the cross around the world and to all nations.

May God lead you to the streets and homes of this world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. May your life reflect the Glory of the Lord. I hope that many will know Christ as you share the witness of the Word. Always trust that God will be with you.

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