

WEEK 3 – WHAT STOPS EVANGELISM
DAY 1 – SIN

Last week we learned about the evangelist.

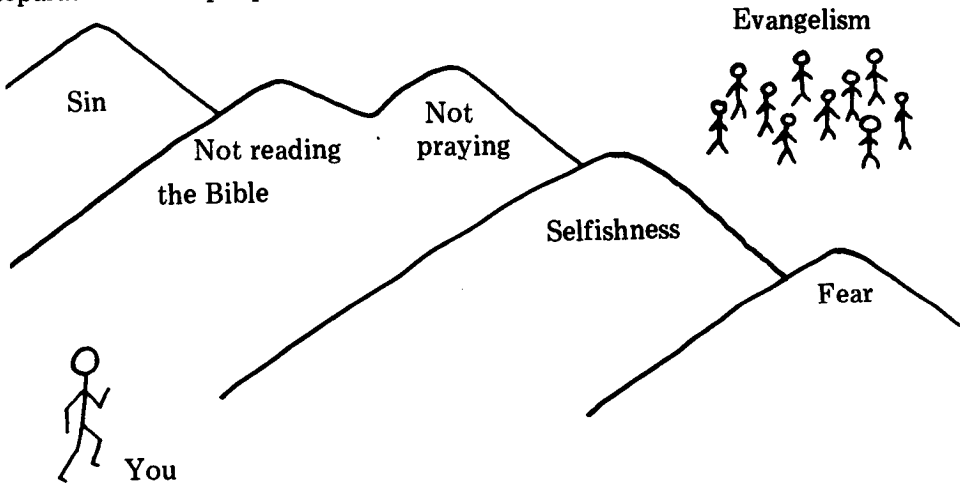
1. What kind of a person is an evangelist?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

But sometimes when an evangelist works, nothing happens. Sometimes we talk to people for years. But they do not become Christians. What is wrong? This week we will learn the things that keep us from doing evangelism. As we learn these things, I want you to look at your own life. See if you have any of these things which stop evangelism.

2. Stop now and ask God to help you. Ask Him to show you if you have things which stop evangelism.

Here are the things which stop evangelism. They are like mountains which separate us from people.



3. What is the first thing which stops evangelism? _____

The biggest thing which keeps us from evangelism is sin. We are like the children of Israel in the Old Testament.

You know how God fought for his people in the time of Joshua. They defeated very big cities like Jericho. The walls of the city fell down. All the enemies were afraid.

But do you remember what happened at Ai? This was just a little city. Open your Bible now and read what happened. Read Joshua 7:1-5.

4. What happened to the children of Israel at Ai? _____

5. What made the children of Israel to be defeated at Ai? If you do not know, read Joshua 7:1 again. _____

Yes, a man named Achan took things from the city of Jericho. But God had said no one should take anything. What Achan did, brought trouble to the whole nation of Israel. They could not do the work God had given them. They could not fight the sinful people of Ai.

6. Can one sin keep a whole nation from doing God's will? _____

We look at Achan. We say that he did a very bad thing. But let us look at ourselves. God has given us work to do. He says we should do evangelism. One sin can stop us from doing this.

7. What can hinder you from helping people receive Christ? _____

Joshua asked Achan about the things he had taken. What did Achan say?

He said in Joshua 7:21:

They are hidden in the earth inside my tent.

Achan had buried the stolen things. At first no one in Israel knew what he had done.

8. When people did not know about Achan's sin, was it all right? _____

The people did not know, but God knew. Because of Achan's sin, God did not fight for them at Ai.

As you think about Achan's sin, perhaps there is a hidden sin which is troubling you. No one else knows about it. It happened a long time ago. You would like to forget it, but you cannot. You are afraid to confess it to God. You are ashamed to make the matter right with people.

9. What will this hidden sin do to your evangelism? _____

Here is good news. There is a way out of this trouble for you. God is waiting to forgive you. He will take this sin away if you confess to Him. He will help you make the matter right with other people.

10. What in our lives can hinder evangelism? _____

Any sin in our lives will stop us from helping people receive Jesus. But if we confess and leave that sin, God will use us. David knew this. In Psalm 51 he confessed his sin. He knew that if he did this, God could use him again. Psalm 51:12-13:

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.

11. What should we do if sin stops our evangelism? _____

Here are three things to do to get rid of sin.

- (1) Let God search your heart. Psalm 139:23-24:
Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me.
- (2) Confess your sin to God. 1 John 1:9:
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- (3) Be willing to put this sin away. Hebrews 12:1:
Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

12. What must we get rid of in order to do evangelism? _____

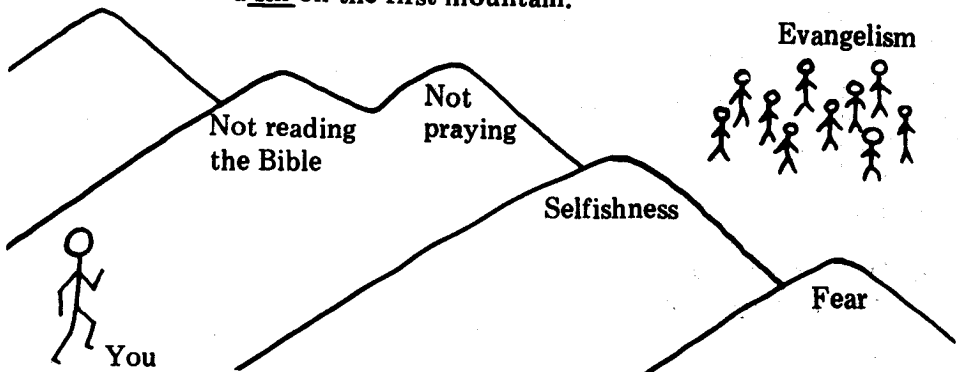
We must get rid of sin. The Bible tells us how to do this. Let us memorize one of the verses. Open your Bible to 1 John 1:9. Read it and try to say it. Do this until you know it well.

13. When you can say it without looking at the Bible, write it here.

1 John 1:9: _____

One sin may look small. But it is like a mountain that stops us from reaching people.

14. Write the word sin on the first mountain.



ANSWERS

- 3. Sin.
- 7. Sin.
- 11. Confess it. If you said confess and leave it, that is better.
 - 1 (1) He is born again.
 - (2) His life is clean now.
 - (3) He knows the Bible.
 - (4) He prays much.
 - (5) He has good reasons for evangelism.
- 5. They sinned, or Achan took a forbidden thing. Both answers are right.
- 9. It will stop it.
- 13. Look in your Bible to see if you have written it right.
 - 2. No answer.
- 6. Yes.
- 10. Sin.
- 14. Did you write the word sin on the mountain.
 - 4. They were defeated, or they ran away, or many of them were killed. All of these answers are right.
- 8. No.
- 12. Sin.

**WEEK 3 – WHAT STOPS EVANGELISM?
DAY 2 – NOT READING THE BIBLE AND NOT PRAYING**

1. What did we learn yesterday that stops evangelism? _____

How can we get rid of it? _____

Last week we learned that an evangelist gives God's word. In order to give God's word, he must know what God says. He must know the Bible. We also learned that an evangelist must ask for God's help. He must pray much.

2. What happens to evangelism if we do not read the Bible and pray? _____

Not reading the Bible and not praying stop evangelism. When we do not do these things we have no power.

3. How many people will repent if we do not read the Bible and pray?

When a Christian does not read the Bible or pray he is in trouble. He begins to go away from God. Then he cannot help other people. Jesus said in John 15:6:

If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

4. When is a man thrown away like a branch? _____

How can a man abide in Christ? He can read the Bible and pray. If he does not do these things he is separated from God.

5. What two things help us stay close to Christ? (1) _____
_____ (2) _____

An evangelist who does not read his Bible and pray is separated from God. The work he is trying to do also fails. Jesus said in John 15:4:
Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

6. What kind of fruit do you think Jesus is talking about here? _____

There are many kinds of fruit in the Christian life. There is the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

There is also the fruit of evangelism. Paul said in Romans 1:13:

I want you to know, brethren, that I have often intended to come to you . . . in order that I may reap some harvest among you.

7. How much fruit can we bear if we do not join with Christ? _____

Jesus said that if we are not joined to Him we will not bear fruit. He said that without Him we cannot do anything. If we do not read the Bible and pray, He cannot speak to us. He cannot show us how to do evangelism. He cannot give us power.

8. In this lesson, what stops evangelism? (1) _____
(2) _____

We may know how to do evangelism. We may try hard to do it. We may spend much time telling people about Jesus. But if we try by ourselves, we shall fail. We cannot do it unless we are joined to Him.

9. In what two ways can we join with Christ? (1) _____
_____ (2) _____
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Not reading the Bible and not praying stop evangelism. The Bible says that not to do these things is sin. Look what the prophet Samuel said to his people. 1 Samuel 12:23:

Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.

10. What are we doing to the Lord when we do not pray for people? _____

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Perhaps in this lesson you see yourself. You do not read the Bible much. You do not pray much. You know that you cannot do evangelism if you are like this. What can you do?

Here is the answer. Let us say that you are on a journey. As you are going, you find that a tree has fallen across the road. There are bushes on both sides of the road. You cannot go around, but you must go on. What will you do? Will you not ask someone to help you to move the tree?

That is how it is with things that stop evangelism. If you ask God, He will help you. Ask Him now.

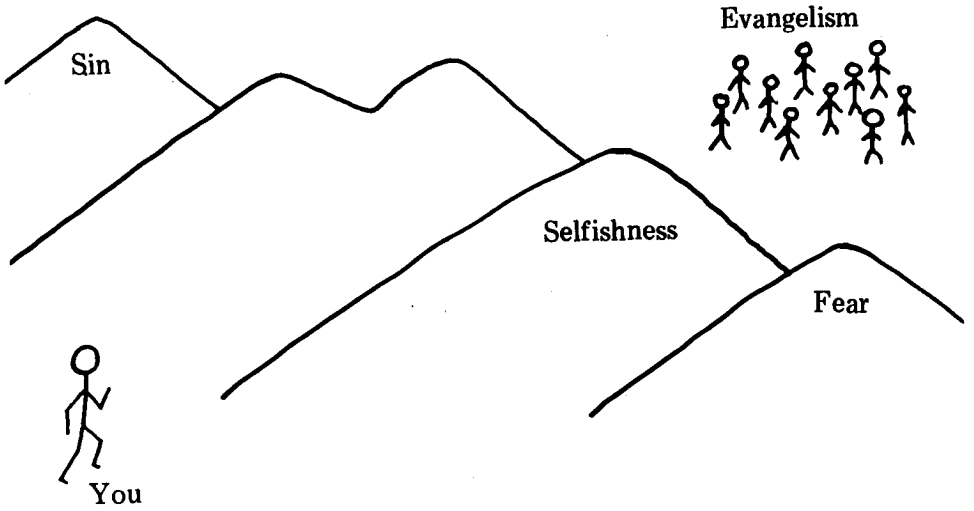
11. In today's lesson, what two things stop evangelism?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Now we have two more mountains which stop us from reaching people.

12. Write the things you learned today on the two mountains on the next page.



ANSWERS

4. When he does not abide in Christ.
7. None.
10. We are sinning against Him.
 1. Sin. By confessing it.
5. (1) Reading the Bible. (2) Praying.
8. (1) Not reading the Bible. (2) Not praying.
11. (1) Not reading the Bible. (2) Not praying.
 2. It stops, or it will not work. Both answers are right.
 6. We will talk about this in class.
 9. (1) By reading the Bible. (2) By praying.
12. You should have written, "Not reading the Bible" and "Not praying" on two mountains.
3. None.

**WEEK 3 – WHAT STOPS EVANGELISM?
DAY 3 – SELFISHNESS**

1. Write three things that stop evangelism. (1) _____
(2) _____ (3) _____
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We said yesterday that some Christians try hard to do evangelism. But there are other Christians who do not try at all. They know that people are lost. They know that God wants to save them. But they do not try to help people receive Jesus.

2. Do you know some Christians who do not do evangelism? _____
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We Christians have our sins forgiven. We have eternal life. What if we do not help other people find these things? How sad it is! We can only call it selfishness when this happens.

We can easily see when a person is selfish in daily life. This person wants everything for himself. He does not care if others get nothing. We do not like this kind of person.

3. Let us say you give two children mangoes to share. What will you say if one child keeps both of them?

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-

But perhaps you have not thought that we can be selfish Christians. God has given us good news. He has given Jesus to die for our sins. He has given us new life.

4. What shall we call it if we do not share this good news? _____
-
-

Selfishness stops evangelism. You and I have the good news. Our sins are forgiven. We are free. But we often forget to tell other people. They are still troubled by their sins.

5. Do you see any selfishness in your heart? _____

I sometimes see selfishness in my heart. I do not want it to be there. I do not want it to stop my work for God. What can I do?

I can ask God to show me how selfishness looks to him. He will show me. Then I can ask Him to take it away.

6. Is selfishness sin? _____ What does it do to evangelism? _____

We are very busy with our own lives. We must work to get food and clothes. We must care for our families. We must get spiritual food for ourselves.

7. If we do not take time for other people, what stops evangelism?

God will help us leave selfishness. He will show us how to love others. He gives many words about it in the Bible.

Luke 14:26:

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

2 Corinthians 5:15:

And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

1 John 3:16:

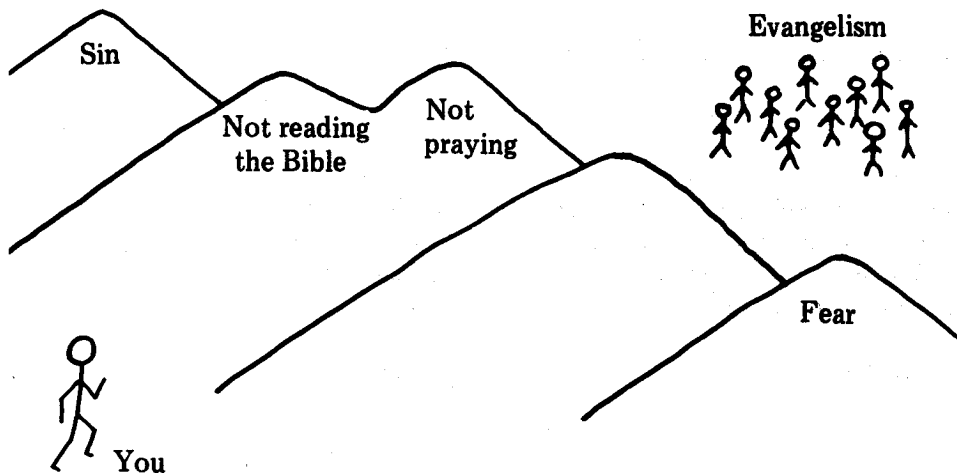
By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

8. What do you think God is trying to teach us in these verses? _____

Christians should care about other people. We should love others. We should tell them the good news. We should help them receive Jesus.

9. What in this lesson stops evangelism? _____

10. Write this name on the fourth mountain.



ANSWERS

5. This is up to you.
10. You should have written "selfishness" on one mountain.
4. Selfishness.
9. Selfishness.
3. You will say he is selfish, or he must share. Both answers are right.
8. He is teaching us to love others, or not to love ourselves. Both answers are right.
2. I think you know some if you think carefully.
7. Selfishness.
1. (1) Sin (2) Not reading the Bible (3) Not praying.
6. Yes. It stops evangelism.

WEEK 3 – WHAT STOPS EVANGELISM?
DAY 4 – FEAR

Yesterday we learned that some Christians do not care about other people. They do not tell them the good news about Jesus.

1. When this happens, what hinders evangelism? _____

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One bad thing in our lives often brings another. That is how it is with selfishness. Selfishness alone stops us from doing evangelism. But it also brings another thing to stop evangelism. It brings fear.

When we love ourselves, we do not want hard things. We want life to be easy. We want everyone to love us. We want everyone to agree with us.

2. Will everyone love us when we do evangelism? _____

=====

No, some people do not want to hear about receiving Jesus. They do not want to see their sins. If we talk to them about these things they become angry. They may even hate us.

3. Has anyone become angry when you told him about repenting? _____

=====

What do we do when this happens? Sometimes we become afraid of people. We do not want to be hated. So we stop talking about the things of God.

4. What happens to evangelism if we are afraid? _____

=====

When Jesus was on earth He told His disciples that people would hate them. John 15:18-19:

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

5. If we stop talking when people hate us, what stops evangelism?

Jesus told us we would be hated. Still it is not easy for us. No one likes to be hated. The trouble comes when we become afraid of people and stop talking to them.

6. What stops evangelism? _____

What can we do with this fear? We must trust God to help us. We can read His words in the Bible about fear.

Joshua 1:9:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Matthew 10:28:

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 21:12-15:

... they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony. Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

7. From these verses, tell why we should not be afraid. _____

God promises to be with us. He helps us not to be afraid. He also gives us something to do. We can fight against the hatred of other people.

Proverbs 15:1:

A soft answer turns away wrath.

Matthew 5:44:

But I say unto you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

When people hate us we can answer quietly. We can love and pray for those people.

8. Who will help us do these things when we are afraid? _____

Does a quiet answer seem strong? Do love and prayer seem like strong things to fight with? No. But they are stronger than hate! Think of the way we fight fire. When something begins to burn, if we have water, we put it on the fire. Water does not seem like something to fight with. But it puts out the fire.

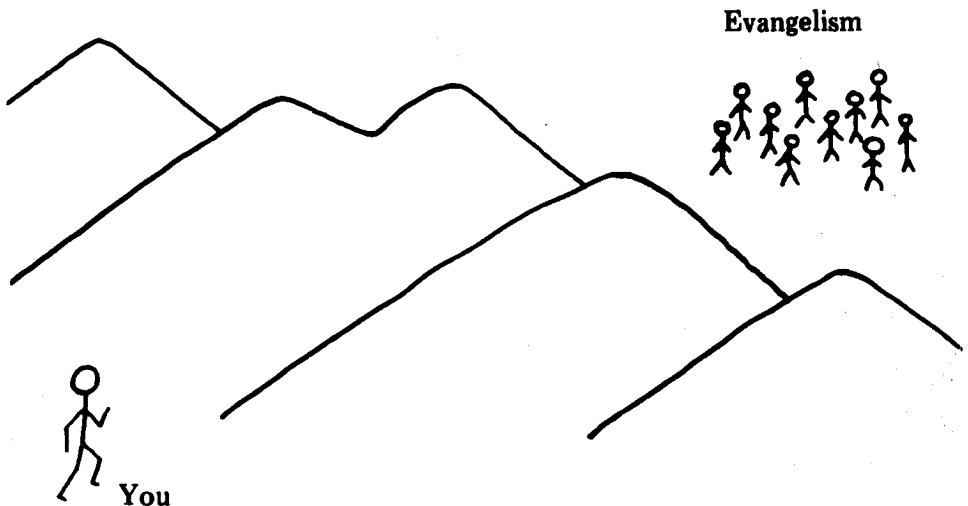
9. What does fear do to evangelism? _____

10. Whom can we trust to help us fight against fear? _____

When we are afraid, we must trust God. We must answer quietly. We must pray. We must love people.

11. In today's lesson, what hinders evangelism? _____

12. Write the names on all the mountains that stop us from evangelism. If you have forgotten, look back to Day 1.



ANSWERS

2. No.
5. Fear.
8. God.
11. Fear.
3. You have to answer this question yourself.
6. Fear.
9. It stops it.
12. I am happy if you wrote these words on the five mountains: Sin, Not reading the Bible, Not praying, Selfishness, Fear.
 1. Selfishness.
 4. It stops it, or it does not work.
 7. God tells us not to be afraid, or God is with us, or God helps us. All these answers are correct.
10. God.

**WEEK 3 – WHAT STOPS EVANGELISM?
DAY 5 – WHAT IF WE FAIL?**

All week we have been learning the things which stop evangelism. Can you write them?

1. What stops evangelism?

- (1) _____ (4) _____
(2) _____ (5) _____
(3) _____
- =====

But these mountains can be taken from our lives. Remember, God can move mountains. He wants to move them. But we must do something before He can do this.

2. What must you do to get rid of the things you wrote above? _____

=====

But what will happen if we let these things stay? Let us say we continue to cover up sin in our lives. We pray only a little. We do not read what God says. We do not care that people are lost. We let fear rule us.

3. What will happen to our evangelism? _____

=====

If we keep these things, we will not do evangelism. We will not be able to help anyone receive Jesus.

4. If people do not receive Jesus, what will happen to them? _____

=====

Yes, people will die without Christ. They will be lost forever. And something

will happen to us also.

Today we want to see what happens to Christians when they do not do evangelism. God told one of the prophets what would happen if he did not give God's word. Open your Bible now to Ezekiel 33. Read verses 1 to 8. Read slowly and think about each verse.

5. What did God say a man of God is like? He is like a _____

Think about the stories the old people told us. We know that in past days many tribes liked to fight. They went into other people's villages. They stole cattle. They burned houses. They killed people.

Sometimes the other tribe sent out a watchman. He went to see if the enemies were coming. He looked around carefully. If he saw enemies coming, he must go and tell his people. Then they could prepare for the enemy.

6. What happened if the watchman saw the enemy, but did not tell his people?

7. Who was guilty if those people were killed? _____

This is just what God said to the prophet Ezekiel.
Ezekiel 33:6:

But if the watchman sees the sword and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes, and takes any one of them; that man is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

8. If the watchman does not warn people and they die, is he guilty or not guilty?

God is not really talking about an earthly watchman here. He is only using that as an example. What He is talking about is the work He gives His witnesses. They must warn the people about their sins.

9. Who are the witnesses whom God wants to warn people? _____

Look at what this is saying to you.

You are a Christian. This means that you are one of God's witnesses. You have the warning from God. He wants you to tell it to people.

10. If you have God's word and you do not tell people, who is guilty if they are lost? _____

This is a very important thing for us to understand. God said again in Ezekiel 33:8:

If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

11. What will God do if you do not do evangelism? _____

God will ask you for the blood of the people who die in sin. He says it is as if you killed them.

Does this seem too hard? Think of it this way.

Let us say that a lion came into your country. Most of the people did not know it. But there was one man who saw the lion. He knew it was there. He knew it could kill some of the people. But he did not warn anyone about the lion. One day your son was coming from school. The lion caught him and killed him. Later you found out about the man who saw the lion. How would you feel?

12. Who would you say is guilty for the death of your son? _____

That is how it is with us. We know people are lost. We know God wants to save them.

13. What happens to people if we do not do evangelism? _____

14. What happens to us if we do not do evangelism? _____

ANSWERS

- 5. watchman.
- 10. You are guilty.
- 6. They would be killed.
- 11. He will ask you for their blood.
- 7. The watchman.
- 12. I think you would say that the man who saw the lion is guilty.
 - 1. (1) Sin (4) Selfishness
 - (2) Not reading the Bible (5) Fear.
 - (3) Not praying.
- 8. He is guilty.
- 13. They will die.
 - 2. Confess them to God.
 - 9. All Christians, or we ourselves. Both answers are right.
- 14. We are guilty, or God asks us for their blood. Both answers are right.
 - 4. They will die.
 - 3. It will be stopped, or it will not work, or we will not do it. All these answers are right.