

LESSON 9

CONDUCTING A SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM

PART II

The first two sessions of the school set forth basic truths which are essential to victorious Christian living and service. The last two sessions reinforce the basic Christian truths and elaborate upon them. No attempt is made to add new concepts to the fundamental truths previously set forth. The objective is to study related Scriptures which teach the same concepts. Only by repetition are these important spiritual principles impressed upon the lives of Christians. Since the majority of Christians have deeply ingrained concepts that serving Christ depends on one's ability and efforts, basic spiritual principles must be repeated to replace traditional views with new concepts. It is essential for the principle that Christian service depends on God's power in the person of the Holy Spirit to replace the concept that human ability and performance are able to bear spiritual fruit.

Both internal and external factors prevent Christians from living fully dedicated lives. When a person's pride dominates him, he desires credit for his Christian service; therefore, he depends on his own efforts to serve Christ in order to be able to gain credit for any success. The external hindrance comes through Satan who influences man to neglect that which he knows and to revert back to the old patterns of life. It is essential for Christians to be aware of their sources of temptation and to know what is necessary in living a victorious life. Spiritual growth is required for Christians to please God. Before growth comes, Christians must be clearly instructed how to nourish their spiritual lives daily.

Wednesday Evening (7:00-9:00)

Bible study (7:00-7:50)

THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN

I. *The Christian Has Access to an Unlimited Source of Spiritual Power*

- Life can be victorious.
 - Christ promised an abundant life to His followers (John 10:10).
 - The Christian does not have to live in defeat (Rom. 8:28-39).
- God helps those who believe (Eph. 1:19).
- Christ has all power and abides within us in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18ff.).

II. *Why Christians Do Not Have Spiritual Power for Victorious Living*

- Because of pride, they depend on themselves (their own ability and strength to serve God and to live the Christian life) instead of God (Rom. 7:18f.).
- They follow their own desires (control themselves) and yield to temptations (Jas. 1:13-15; 1 Cor. 10:13).
- They fail to ask God for His power and guidance (Jas. 4:2-3; John 16:24).
- They depend on feelings instead of faith.

Write *right* or *wrong* beside the two following concepts:

- _____1. Christians have to depend on human ability and performance for successful service.
- _____2. God's power in the person of the Holy Spirit results in spiritual fruit in the lives and service of Christians.

(1-Wrong; 2-Right)

Hindrances to spiritual power in a believer's life are:

1. P_____
2. Control by _____
3. Failure to ask God for _____ and _____
4. Dependence on _____ instead of _____.

(Pride, self, power, guidance, feelings, faith)

III. *How a Christian Can Live Victoriously*

1. He must avoid sin (Rom. 6:1-3; 1 John 3:6). Most Christians are defeated by the power of sin because self has replaced Christ in directing their lives.
2. He must walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:1ff.). This means to be controlled by the Spirit daily (Spirit-filled daily). This is possible:
 - (1) On the basis of God's command (Eph. 5:18b).
 - (2) On the basis of God's promise (1 John 5:14).
3. He must not give up hope when he does sin (1 John 2:1ff.).
 - (1) Christ, our representative, has paid the penalty we deserve.
 - (2) When a Christian sins, he must confess, thank Christ that He has paid the penalty, and appropriate the fullness of the Spirit by faith.

IV. *The Results of Victorious Living*

1. The carnal man is crucified (made lifeless by not being permitted to express himself through man's life) and Christ lives in us (controls—Gal. 2:20).
2. Life is abundant and eternal (John 10:10).
3. The fruit of the Spirit is produced: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22).

Recess (7:55—8:10)

Practical activity (8:10—9:00)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WITNESSING

1. *The Christian's responsibility to witness*

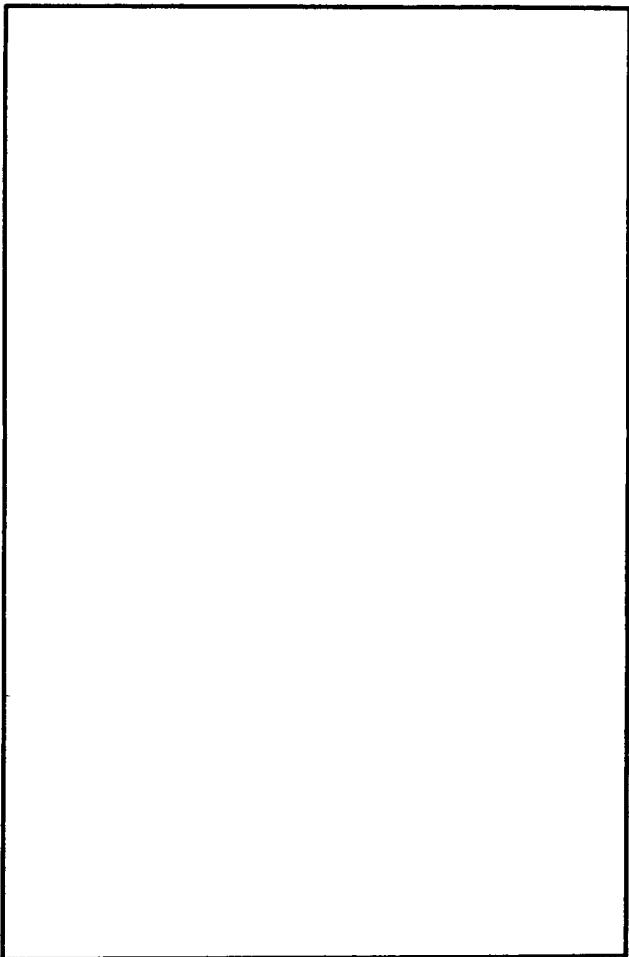
In His appearance to 500 faithful followers in Galilee, Jesus instructed them to make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them to observe all things (Matt. 28:18-20). His followers were to make disciples daily as they went into all the world. Christians make disciples by sharing their faith in Jesus Christ and telling others about Him. A Christian should be prepared to share his faith every day. He meets numerous persons in business and social contacts. Circumstances which bring him together with a person for a few minutes may be God's design for providing him opportunity to share Christ with that person. Christians should not wait for opportunities to speak to lost persons but should seek out those who do not have a faith. They should not feel that they must share their faith with everyone whom they meet; however, they should be sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

2. *Ways to witness*

Three common methods used in sharing the plan of salvation are one's personal testimony, a booklet on salvation, and selected verses of Scripture from the Bible. Particular circumstances will determine which method is most effective. On some occasions, one's personal testimony is appropriate after the salvation booklet has been presented. The booklet clearly sets forth the way of salvation by utilizing verses of Scripture. The personal testimony emphasizes the meaning of Christ to the individual. In order to be fully equipped, a Christian should learn to present his faith by all three methods.

3. *The use of a survey or census in witnessing*

Most Christians have many opportunities to witness but may lack spiritual perception to be able to see those opportunities. In addition, a Christian can create an opportunity for sharing his faith. The religious survey and the census have been used effec-



In the matter of witnessing, a Christian should be sensitive to the leadership of the _____

(Holy Spirit)

Three common methods of sharing one's faith are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)



tively in creating a witnessing encounter. The survey and the census differ slightly; however, either approach secures information concerning the spiritual needs of the person who is interviewed and creates a witnessing contact. The religious survey seeks the opinions of people concerning certain religious beliefs, and the census is more direct in securing information concerning church membership and participation.

Campus Crusade for Christ has developed a community religious survey which is very effective in making a contact for witnessing.¹ The survey secures information concerning the person's occupation, religious affiliation, and family relations. The last four questions focus attention on the person's personal relationship to God. By asking the person being interviewed whom he understands Jesus Christ to be and how he thinks one becomes a Christian, the attention of the person is focused on his relationship to Christ. His answer reveals his understanding of the gospel. The final question of the survey regarding the feeling of need for a more personal faith prepares the way for the Christian to share his witness.

The religious census may be used also to make contacts with people who need spiritual help. The census inquires more directly concerning the person's faith and his church membership. It also secures information regarding other members of the family; whereas the survey focuses on the person being interviewed. The census secures information concerning those who have not received Christ; however, it is not designed to prepare the person from whom information is secured to receive a witness. A transitional statement can be made which will provide the interviewer opportunity to share his faith.²

4. *The survey interview*

The purpose of the survey is twofold: (1) to determine the religious thinking of the people, and (2) to reveal those who are in need of a faith, thereby establishing a contact for the Christian to share his faith. The person taking the survey should introduce himself and his partner and explain the purpose of the survey. The interviewer should be honest with the person he is interviewing so as to solicit his full cooperation in supplying the information requested.

In addition to ascertaining the religious thinking and spiritual needs of the people, the survey should enable the interviewer to help those in need of a faith. If the person being interviewed is cooperative, the survey is continued by simply reading the questions and marking the answers on the form.

After the questions have been completed, the interviewer should express his thanks for the cooperation of the person being interviewed. A transitional statement can then be made which turns attention from the survey to the salvation booklet. The interviewer may simply say, "Have you heard of the booklet, '_____'"? If the person has not heard of it and expresses an interest, the interviewer may proceed by offering to read the booklet with him. If the person says that he has already read the booklet, he may be asked what he thought about it and whether it had meaning for him. The leadership of the Holy Spirit should be followed as the witness proceeds with sharing his faith and helping the person to experience faith in Christ.

¹ The forms may be ordered from Campus Crusade for Christ International, Arrow Springs, San Bernardino, California 92404. See Appendix A for a guide to information to obtain from a survey.

² Further information on the religious census can be found in *The Churchbook* by Gaines Dobbins (Broadman Press).

Match the following words and meanings.

_____ 1. census

_____ 2. survey

a. seeks the opinion of people concerning certain religious beliefs

b. secures information concerning church membership and participation

(1.—b; 2—b)

Both the census and the survey may open doors for

_____.

(witnessing)

The survey interviewer should introduce himself and explain that his purpose is to ascertain the

_____ and _____

_____ of the person being interviewed.

(religious thinking, spiritual needs)

5. Visitation records

Since follow-up visits will need to be made in many homes, a record should be kept on each home visited. A sample form for recording information on home visits appears in Appendix B.

6. Witnessing visits in homes

Some churches may have a list of unsaved persons who will be visited by teams during the school of evangelism. The fact that a team visits a home is a demonstration of the interest of Christian people in the lost. If a friendship can be established with members of the family visited, a second good purpose has been accomplished. The ultimate goal is to share one's faith and to invite the person to receive Christ; the results are in the hands of God.

7. Guidelines for witnessing visits in homes

- (1) Introduce and identify yourself. Most people will invite you to come into the house.
- (2) Get acquainted by showing an interest in members of the family and their occupations. This helps to establish rapport.
- (3) Find out the religious background of the family. This will direct the discussion to spiritual matters.
- (4) Share the booklet on salvation or your own personal testimony.
- (5) If a readiness to receive Christ is indicated, review the prayer in the booklet with him. If the person is not ready to make the decision, suggest that the rest of the booklet be read so that he will know the benefits of accepting Christ as Saviour.
- (6) Thank the person who is visited for his interest and for the opportunity to get acquainted with him. Leave the opportunity open for a decision at a later time and perhaps for a return visit.
- (7) If the person visited makes a decision:
 - a. Make an appointment to come back for further study of the life in Christ.
 - b. Encourage him to attend church with you and make a public profession. In subsequent visits, you can study Scriptures with him which explain the meaning of baptism and the nature and importance of church fellowship.

Preparation for Thursday Visitation

Schedule an appropriate time

Set a time either in the late afternoon or early evening for the beginning of the visitation period and announce that all those who are in training are expected to be present. An early hour might prevent some who have jobs from participating. Ask the Lord to convict those attending the school of evangelism concerning their responsibility to share in the witnessing experience.

Planning for visitation

If the church has a list of prospects, put the names of two or three prospects in an envelope and write the name of the visitor on it. Give each visitor an envelope and assign him to a team with another person who has prospects in the same area. Each team of two will have four to six prospects to visit.

If the church does not have a list of prospects, teams made up of two persons may be assigned a particular area or street to visit house-to-house. Two men could form a team, but it would be better to avoid, at night, sending two women or girls unaccompanied by a man. A plan for making the assignments should be

[Empty box]

True or False

_____ A visitor's genuine interest in members of the family and their occupations helps to establish rapport during a visit.

(True)

If a person is not ready to accept Christ, the visitor should suggest that the rest of the booklet on salvation be read so that he will know -

(the benefits of accepting Christ as Saviour)

[Empty box]

In preparing assignments for visitation, how many prospects will each team be given to visit?

(4 to 6)

In case a church does not have a list of prospects, visitation may be done _____.

(house-to-house)

worked out ahead of time in order that the group will not be delayed when they arrive for visitation. If a survey or census is to be taken, materials should be on hand for distribution.

Young people should be included in the visitation plans. Usually it is wise to include them in teams with adults.

Ask for special working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who are to visit and of those who are to be visited. Announce by Tuesday night the plans for visitation and invite the trainees to begin praying for the guidance and power of God. Expect answers to your prayers and God will not disappoint you. God never fails to do His part!

Thursday Visitation

Visitations assignments (20 minutes)

1. If a survey is to be taken, review briefly the opening statement and remind the visitors to ask the questions as they appear on the survey without additional comment, thank the person for helping by giving his opinion in answer to the questions, then ask him if he has ever seen the booklet on salvation. If possible the visitors are to read it with him according to the previous instructions given. His name and address should be recorded on the report form if he shows an interest.
2. Make the assignments and have prayer for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in every visit.
3. Instruct the teams to return to the church in about an hour and a half for a time of reporting, fellowship, and thanksgiving.

Reports of visits (8:30-9:00)

1. Invite those who desire to share their visitation experiences. This time of testimonies will encourage and inspire those who have participated.
2. Collect the reports from those who visited and get sufficient information to follow up with those persons who need another visit.
3. Give God thanks for the victories; the results are by His power! A highlight of the school will come during this sharing time.
4. Encourage the trainees to return the next night.
5. Encourage them to share Christ with someone the next day.

Friday Evening (7:00-9:00)

Visitation reports (7:00-7:20)

Give those who may not have returned Thursday evening for the report period, and anyone else who so desires, opportunity to share their visitation experiences. Perhaps someone witnessed during the day. Each Christian should be encouraged to witness every day.

Bible study (7:20-8:00)

THE GROWING CHRISTIAN

I. *The Goal of Growth: Likeness to Christ (Rom. 8:29)*

1. Likeness to Christ in devotion to the Father
Victory for Christ came because of His devotions to the will of God. He lived in constant fellowship with the Father, and He sought to please His heavenly Father in every word and action.
2. Likeness to Christ in love
Christ did not live for Himself, but He lived to help others. He could not be accused of being selfish or thoughtless of others. He had few possessions of His own

Instructions for a survey include:

1. _____ statement
2. Questions without additional _____
3. _____ to the person for cooperating
4. Transitional question concerning the booklet on _____

(Introductory, comment, Thanks, salvation)

Plans for visitation should be undergirded by fervent.

_____ .
(prayer)

The goal of growth for a Christian should be _____ to _____

(likeness, Christ)

because He spent His time in ministering to those who were sick, troubled, or sorrowing. His life was given for others.

3. Likeness to Christ in the resurrected life

Paul had spoken previously in Romans 6:4 of the newness of the resurrected life. A new quality of life marks those who are in Christ Jesus, and that new life is everlasting.

II. *Hindrances to Growth*

1. Yielding to the carnal nature (1 Cor. 3:1-5)

Paul rebuked the Corinthians because of their failure to grow and mature as Christians. Their lives were characterized by envy, strife, and jealousy. These attitudes revealed that self had regained the throne of their lives.

2. Failure to study the Word of God (Heb. 5:12ff.)

The Hebrew Christians should have been teachers, but they had need to be taught the Word since they had not taken Bible study seriously. They had to continue on the diet of an infant, and they continued to reveal characteristics of immaturity even though they were old enough to be adults. Babies are lovable, and because of love a mother finds joy in taking care of a helpless infant. The failure of infants to grow and mature, however, is tragic.

III. *How to Grow Spiritually*

1. The prerequisite to growth (John 3:3, 5)

There must be a spiritual birth. Some people are attempting to live the Christian life when they have never been born again (Matt. 7:21ff.).

2. The need of daily cleansing through confession (1 John 1:7-9)

When sins accumulate, fellowship with God is broken and the life becomes defeated and controlled by self instead of the Spirit of God. There is no growth under these circumstances.

3. The need of constant control by Christ (Gal. 2:20)

Paul crucified the flesh daily by renouncing it as sinful (1 Cor. 15:31). He invited Christ to live in him and to speak through him each day. Through faith, the Christian appropriates the fullness of Christ which is the Spirit-filled life. He thanks God daily for filling him with the Spirit to prepare him for the tasks which God assigns to him for that day.

4. The need of daily prayer and Bible study

The Christian should claim God's promises (see Matt. 18:18-20; 21:22; John 14:13f.). The failure to study the Bible frequently results in immaturity and insecurity (see Matt. 22:29; Mk. 13:31; John 6:63; Col. 3:16).

5. The need to witness daily

A Christian should remain sensitive to what God has provided for him through Jesus Christ. As he contemplates what Christ has done for him in salvation and what his hope in Christ is, he is not ashamed to talk about the Lord.

6. The need to abide in faith to experience the power of God (John 14:12f.)

The Christian who daily depends on God and experiences God's power working through him finds joy in making himself available to God. He is relieved from the tension of feeling that he must produce but constantly fearing he might fail.

Hindrances to Christian growth are:

1. _____
2. _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The requirements for Christian growth include:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

(Compare your list with the text.)

7. The need of participation in the fellowship of the church
 Christians need the influence of one another. They need to pray for one another and to encourage one another. If new Christians continue with their old friends, without finding strength through fellowship with Christians, there is danger of their being influenced to return to the ways of the world.

Recess (8:00-8:10)

Practical activity (8:10-9:00)

SHARING AND PLANNING

1. *Sharing experiences*

Instruct the participants to divide into groups of four. Each person should join a group which does not have a member of his family or well-known friends in it. Each group should be a mixture of young people and adults.

Give the instruction that each member of the group will be given three minutes to share two things with his group: (1) an experience during the week which has made his Christian life more meaningful; and (2) his plans for continuing to be faithful as a witness.

2. *Planning for a continuation programme in witnessing*

Invite those present to suggest plans for the church to continue an emphasis on training and involvement in evangelism. The plans should probably include both a time to study and pray, and a time for visits in homes. The study and prayer period each week may last for an hour or more if it is scheduled at a different time than the visitation period. If the two are scheduled together, perhaps the study period should be shortened to thirty minutes, leaving about an hour and a half for visitation. The continuation studies might follow one of the following plans:

- (1) The studies outlined in "The Continuing Activities Manual for the Lay Evangelism School in the Local Church" (see the bibliography for publication data).
- (2) A study of how to present the gospel according to the suggestions of Dr. James Kennedy in *Evangelism Exploration*.
- (3) A study of how to answer frequent questions or problems which arise while witnessing.
- (4) A study of how to guide new Christians in Bible study and how to enlist them as members of the church.
- (5) A study of the areas suggested by those who participate in visitation.

Unless a definite time is planned each week for prayer, visitation, and the sharing of witnessing experience, the interest in actual witnessing is apt to decline.

Saturday Afternoon

A time should be announced for the trainees to meet on Saturday afternoon for another period of prayer and visitation. The procedure will be the same as that followed on Thursday. The prayer should request victory for the Sunday services in addition to guidance for the visits to be made during the afternoon.

After completing a school of evangelism, the church should plan for a _____ programme in witnessing.

(Compare your answer with the text.)

The continuation plans should involve s _____ , p _____ , and v _____ each week.

(study, prayer, visitation)

Various helps for continuation studies which might be used are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3). After reading the study guide, answer the following questions.

1. What wrong conception do most Christians have concerning service? _____

2. Give four reasons Christians do not have spiritual power. _____

3. List three approaches a Christian may use in sharing his faith. _____

4. What is the difference between a survey and a census? _____

5. What two purposes should the interviewer state when he introduces himself? _____

6. How may a person establish rapport when making witnessing visits in homes? _____

7. What should the witness suggest if the person is not ready to pray to receive Christ? _____

8. In planning for visitation, what are three areas that need attention? _____

9. List four instructions which should be reviewed with the visitors before they begin their work. _____

10. What is the goal of Christian growth, and what are two hindrances? _____

11. List six requirements for growth. _____

12. What should be included in a continuation programme in witnessing? _____

13. List four sources for continuation studies in witnessing. _____

Suggested supplementary activities (Levels 2 and 3)

1. Read one of the following assignments:
Taylor, *The Key to Triumphant Living*, pp. 130-136
Paxson, *Life on the Highest Plane*, vol. 2, pp. 217-244
vol. 3, pp. 183-260
2. Prepare two lectures entitled "The Victorious Christian" and "The Growing Christian" and be prepared to share them in the seminar.

Seminar Discussion

1. Why do the majority of Christians not live victorious lives?
2. How can a Christian live victoriously?
3. What is the most effective way to share Christ?
4. When should a religious survey be used instead of a religious census?
5. What activities should be completed before the day of visitation during the school of evangelism?
6. What final instruction should be given as the teams are sent out to visit?
7. Why do most Christians fail to grow spiritually and how can this problem be solved?
8. What continuing programme in witnessing would be effective in your church?
9. Invite students who have prepared supplementary activities to share their lectures on "The Victorious Christian" and "The Growing Christian."