



Unit 2: Blessing Others

Bless others by sharing the gospel and making disciples

Lesson 2 Sharing the Gospel

Day One *The Gospel*

In Lesson One, *Preparing to Witness*, we read about the German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke while readying ourselves to share our faith. Our preparation included studying reasons to share the gospel and specific areas to cover in prayer. We also learned how to share our personal testimonies and identified those with whom we can share the message of Christ.

Now, we will concentrate on understanding and practicing how to present the full gospel message. Our goal is to keep the message concise, recognizing that today's shorter attention spans—shaped by electronic devices, social media, and other distractions—make clarity and focus essential. However, a thorough presentation of the gospel should begin with God as Creator and acknowledge the sin of Adam and Eve. The entire biblical narrative, along with our need for a Savior, finds its foundation in Genesis. When we establish the creation account, we affirm the authority of the Bible, providing a firm basis for the rest of God's redemptive story.¹

Action Step

1. Read the gospel message or “Steps to Knowing God” below, and practice sharing it in your own words. Focus on understanding the message rather than memorizing it or recalling exact Bible citations, though memorizing the verses can be helpful if you are able. Your goal is to communicate the truth of the gospel authentically. Be prepared to share the gospel message with your discipleship team.

The Gospel: Steps to *Knowing* God

(1) God is Love

God loves you and created you for relationship with Him. In this love relationship, He has a good plan for your life.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. 1 John 4:16

¹ To learn more about the book of Genesis go to *Answers in Genesis* website: <https://answersingenesis.org/>. This apologetics ministry is dedicated to helping Christians defend their faith. They focus on providing answers to questions about the Bible—particularly the book of Genesis—regarding key issues such as creation, evolution, science, and the age of the earth.

(2) God is Creator

God created the universe and the first humans, Adam and Eve. Every person is made in His image, reflecting His spiritual nature. Like God, we can think, choose, and communicate—and He desires us to use these abilities to know and connect with Him.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

(3) God Is Holy

God is entirely holy, meaning He is without sin. Though Adam and Eve were created holy, God gave them free will, and they chose to sin, disobeying His command. Sin is turning away from God's law and grace.

God instructed Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15–17). Later, God created Eve from Adam's side, and though distinct individuals, they were united as one through marriage. When they chose to eat from the tree, their disobedience affected all of humanity. Because Adam represented the human race, his sin brought a fallen nature and its consequences—death and suffering—to all people.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

(4) God Is Judge

God, as a righteous Judge, must address wrongdoing. We can rebel against Him actively through actions like stealing and lying, or passively by being selfish, unforgiving, or indifferent to His ways. Such sin separates us from God, and our good works cannot erase it. Without a solution, we face eternal separation from Him.

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.
Matthew 25:46

(5) God's Solution

Over 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Fully God and fully man, Jesus lived a sinless life and perfectly obeyed God the Father, fulfilling the Law—God's standard of righteousness—on our behalf. He willingly died on a cross, paying the penalty for our sins.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

(6) Trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, proving He is the Son of God and Savior. Christ's death paid the penalty for everyone's sins, but each person must personally accept this gift of salvation to be saved from God's righteous judgment. Salvation is freedom from sin's penalty and power. To receive this gift, we must repent—turning away from our sins—and turn to God, committing to follow Jesus as Lord.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. . . 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Acts 3:19–20

(7) Pray in Faith

“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God who died for my sins. I haven't obeyed God and I'm truly sorry. Right now, I turn from my sins and invite You into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want God's plan for my life and in faith, I will follow and obey You. Thank You Heavenly Father for saving me and loving me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit to enable and empower me to serve you. I love You. Amen.”

After explaining the first six steps of creation and the gospel, the final step is inviting the person to pray to receive Christ. This moment becomes a call to action for both you, the presenter, and the person you are speaking with. You now have the opportunity to lead them in a prayer like step seven, or you can encourage them to pray on their own.

Your action step is simple but important—ask this question: *Would you like to pray to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord?*

If they respond positively, follow up by asking whether they would like your assistance with their prayer or prefer to pray on their own. If they want help, you can guide them by saying the prayer aloud, one phrase at a time, allowing them to repeat each phrase after you. If they prefer to pray alone later, that is perfectly acceptable too.

Sharing the gospel is not a one-way conversation; it is important to check for understanding along the way. Ask questions to ensure the person is following, and to make the gospel personally relatable. Since step one is about *God's love*, you might start by asking, *What do you think it means that God loves you?* This can open up a discussion about God's character and His desire for a relationship with us. Then, when explaining sin, you could follow up with, *Have you ever told a lie or stolen anything?*

At this point, we can acknowledge that we have all sinned. Only God is perfect, which is why we need a Savior. If the person is so self-righteous that he or she believes they have never sinned, they may struggle to see their need for Christ. I once shared the gospel with a woman who insisted she had never sinned, and it is likely you will encounter people like this as well.

Today, just as in the apostle Paul's time, people place their trust in various gods, ideas, and idols. When Paul visited Athens, he found a city full of objects of worship, including an altar inscribed, *To an unknown god* (Acts 17:23). Paul used this as an entry point to introduce the Athenians to the one true and living God. In a similar way, we start the gospel message with the one true and living God.

2. Read Acts 17:24. How does the apostle Paul describe God?

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. Acts 17:24

3. Read Acts 17:26. Who does the apostle Paul credit with making the first man and all people?

From one man he [God] made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. Acts 17:26

Read Acts 17:31–32, 34a and answer questions 4–5:

“For he [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man [Jesus] he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” ³² *When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”* Acts 17:31–32 (Sneer means to ridicule, mock, or to scoff.)

Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Acts 17:34a

4. How did the apostle Paul end his gospel presentation (v. 31c)?

5. What were the three responses to Paul's gospel presentation (vv. 32, 34a)?

Accountability: Be prepared to share the gospel per Action Step #1 and your answers to #2–5.

—End Day One—

Day Two

Drawn and Accountable

When we share the gospel, we will encounter responses just like the apostle Paul—some may believe, some may sneer, and some may want to hear more. The way a person or crowd reacts is not our responsibility, as it is ultimately the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts. No matter how delightful our personality or polished our presentation, we cannot save anyone.

Our role is to be obedient in sharing the gospel and to use our God-given wisdom to present it faithfully. Salvation is possible only through the work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). This frees us from the need to boast about our abilities or successes, as well as from self-criticism for perceived failures.

Our dependence is not on ourselves but on God. We rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the lost, empower our witness, and stir hearts to Christ. When the Holy Spirit convicts people, exposing their sin and need for redemption, they begin to recognize their need for Christ (John 16:8).

Read John 3:7–8 and answer questions 6–7:

“You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” John 3:7–8 (Cf. Romans 10:9–10; Titus 3:5–7)

Definitions: The term *born again* refers to a birth from above, a spiritual birth (John 3:3–7). A person is born again when they believe and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior and are regenerated by the Spirit. *Regeneration* is another word for being born from above—a radical spiritual transformation and rebirth that occurs through the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

6. What does it mean to be born again or born from above?

7. According to John 3:8, Romans 10:9–10, and Titus 3:5–7, what is involved in the process of being born again?

The Holy Spirit is compared to “the wind blowing wherever it pleases” because no one but God controls the Spirit of God. No one but God knows what His Spirit is going to do. Plus, no one but God knows who will respond positively or negatively to the gospel message. We, meaning all humans, do not know who the Holy Spirit, the agent of salvation, will regenerate. Our part is to be faithful in declaring who God is and giving the gospel message.

8. Read John 6:44. Who draws people to Jesus?

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. John 6:44 (In this context, the Greek word for “draw” refers to a strong pull, figuratively speaking, in the mental or moral life—an inner compelling by God.)

Later, when addressing all of His disciples (not just the twelve), Jesus emphasized His teaching about those who truly believe in Him (John 6:44). Jesus understood that some who followed Him did not genuinely trust Him. In fact, after He spoke the words recorded in John 6:64–65, many of His disciples left (v. 66).

Read John 6:64–65 and answer questions 9–11:

“Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” John 6:64–65

9. Did Jesus know which of His followers would believe and those who would not (v. 64)? Y | N (Underline One)

10. What must happen first before a person can believe in Jesus (v. 65)?

11. How does it affect your viewpoint on witnessing, knowing that God is responsible for drawing or enabling people to move toward Christ and thus be regenerated by the Holy Spirit?

Even so, the person hearing the gospel still has a role. God has given each person free will, and each individual must choose how to respond when the Father draws or pulls them toward Christ. This invitation is an opportunity to exercise free will and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.

12. Read John 1:12. How do people become children of God?

Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John. 1:12 (The Greek word for *receive* means to take, grasp, or lay hold of—often implying an intentional and personal acceptance. In this context, it reflects a deliberate act of faith in embracing Christ as Savior.)

13. Read Acts 16:31–32. The jailer asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved (v. 30)? How did they answer his question (v. 31)?

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”
³² *Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.* Acts 16:31–32

Notice that Paul and Silas did not declare the gospel to the jailer alone; they shared it with everyone in his household. The entire household believed and was baptized (Acts 16:33–34). Other examples of family evangelism in the early church include Cornelius and his household (Acts 10), Lydia and her household (Acts 16:13–15), and Crispus and his household (Acts 18:7–8). These households may have included various relatives, servants, and even slaves.

In the early church, sharing the gospel often took place in group settings, yet personal evangelism was also practiced (Acts 8:26–28; 9:3–19, 32–35; 13:6–12). We, too, should be open to the Spirit’s leading, whether reaching an individual, a household, a small group, or even a large crowd.

14. How do you think most people come to believe in Christ today? What are some of the common ways people encounter the gospel in modern times?

Gary L. McIntosh explored this topic in his 2016 book *Growing God’s Church: How People Are Actually Coming to Faith Today*. Based on a survey of nearly 1,100 Christian responses he concluded that 60 percent of people came to Christ through family and friends. A previous study in the late 1970s suggested 85–90% of people came to Christ through family and friends.²

While these statistics offer helpful insights, they should not determine how we share our faith. If someone comes to Christ in a way that does not align with survey numbers, does it really matter? Of course not. A clear example is Philip witnessing to the Ethiopian official and eunuch who was neither a family member nor a friend (Acts 8:26–39).

What matters most is that we are prepared with the gospel and sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. While the *decision* for someone’s salvation is not ours to make, the responsibility of sharing the message is. We *are* accountable for giving others the opportunity to respond.

15. Read Romans 10:14–15. What is the point the apostle Paul is making?

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
¹⁵ *And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”* [That is, the beauty of the gospel message we bear.]
Romans 10:14–15

16. Read Romans 10:17. Where does faith come from?

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Romans 10:17

² Biola Magazine staff, *How People Actually Coming to Faith Today?* <https://www.biola.edu/blogs/biola-magazine/2016/how-are-people-actually-coming-to-faith-today> (accessed 2/18/2023)

You may have heard of—or even used—the “Romans Road,” a gospel presentation built around four key verses from the book of Romans. It offers a simple, memorable way to share the gospel, whether by memory or reading directly from the Bible. Regardless of how you present it, be sure your message feels sincere—not scripted or overly preachy (obvious moralizing). This applies to all your conversations. Let your words flow naturally and genuinely, grounded in love and a real interest in the person, group, or audience.

A Concise Gospel Message: The Romans Road

When using the Romans Road, invite the other person to read each verse aloud. Afterward, ask, “What does this verse mean to you?” If they have trouble answering, gently encourage them to read it once more and take a moment to consider its meaning. This creates space for the Holy Spirit to bring understanding—and for you to pray that God will open their heart. You can also recite or read the verses yourself and ask the same thoughtful questions.

(1) Romans 3:23 — The Problem of Sin

If the person you are speaking with is hesitant to admit their own sin, you might ask, “Have you ever done anything wrong—like lying, gossiping, or feeling envious?” When they acknowledge their sin, affirm that everyone has sinned—expect Jesus—and stands that all stand guilty before God.

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

(2) Romans 6:23a — The Consequence of Sin

Read—or ask the individual to read—the first half (a) of Romans 6:23, then ask, “What does this mean to you?” Explain that the cost of sin is death—both physical death and spiritual separation from God. This verse reminds us that every wrong action carries consequences. It’s like getting a paycheck for bad behavior—sin’s wage is death. Then move on to part (b).

(3) Romans 6:23b — The Gift of Eternal Life

If the person does not fully understand or respond, you might say, “God offers a free gift because we could never pay the debt ourselves. Jesus paid the price for us.”

(a) For the wages of sin is death, (b) but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

(4) Romans 5:8 — God’s Love and Sacrifice

After the person shares their thoughts on the verse’s meaning, you might say something like: “God loves you and sent His Son to die on the cross to pay the penalty for sin—saving us from God’s wrath and hell. Jesus was buried for three days, but He rose from the dead and is now our living Savior and Lord.”

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

(5) Romans 10:9-10 — Confession and Belief

Ask questions to be sure they understand what it means to genuinely trust in Jesus and make Him Lord—the Master and rightful ruler of their life. Emphasize that making Him Lord involves accepting God’s forgiveness *and* choosing to follow and obey Him daily as the one with full authority over their life.

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9–10 (The Greek word translated believe also means to trust and have faith in.)

(6) Invitation to Faith.

Ask if they would like to pray to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Clarify that the prayer is not the means of salvation but a way to communicate with God and accept His gift.

Romans 10:10 explains that true belief comes from the heart. Saying words without truly meaning them does not save anyone. The following is a sample prayer that may be useful.

(7) Pray in Faith

Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God who died for my sins. I haven’t obeyed God and I’m truly sorry. Right now, I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want God’s plan for my life and so, in faith, I will follow and obey You. Thank You Heavenly Father for saving me and loving me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit to enable and empower me to serve you. I love You. Amen.

If you are concerned about remembering the Romans Road, consider writing the verses on an index card and keeping it in your Bible. Another helpful method is to memorize Romans 3:23 as your starting point. Then, on the same Bible page, write the reference for the next verse—Romans 6:23. On the page with 6:23, write the next verse—Romans 5:8—and continue this pattern. Underlining each verse in your Bible can also help you find them more easily.

17. Practice the Romans Road using your Bible. At your next meeting, take turns role-playing with another member. Pair up and practice at the same time, or go one at a time in front of the group. Pray and prepare to use the Romans Road with someone who does not yet know Christ.

Remember, sharing the gospel may look different in a group setting than in a one-on-one conversation. When speaking to a small group—like a family—be sure to keep everyone engaged and included. For larger groups, use a clear structure with an outline, relevant stories, and simple illustrations to hold attention.

Be mindful of timing. Stay within your allotted window and end with a clear call to action, inviting listeners to respond to Christ. This might include praying silently, raising a hand, filling out a contact card, or coming forward to affirm their decision. Most importantly, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in every detail.

—End Day Two—

Day Three

A Brief Version of the Gospel

Whether we are called to share the gospel with an individual, a family, or a large group, we should be ready for any opportunity, prepared to adapt to the situation. Whether we have the occasion to speak for an hour, a minute or just 30 seconds—we need to be ready.

Even if we have practiced and feel confident in sharing the gospel, each opportunity is unique. That is why we must remain flexible and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us with the right words and actions. Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke once faced an unusual assignment with very little time to speak. His story shows how he trusted the Holy Spirit and stepped out in faith.

At the end of Lesson 1, *Preparing to Witness*, Reinhard and Anni Bonnke were opening their home to local youth to hear the gospel. Many were saved, their tears of repentance falling on the coffee table—later called the “table of tears.” Not long afterward, Reinhard received a call from a friend inviting him to preach in Kimberly, South Africa, about 160 miles from their home in Maseru. He agreed to a series of messages on Friday through Sunday.

On the first night, 200 people attended, but Reinhard noticed there were no young people in the audience. When he asked his friend Harold about it, Harold replied, “I will show you. Get into my car, and I will take you there.”³

He drove Reinhard to the parking lot of a packed discotheque, a dance club. Reinhard writes, “I felt a shiver go down my spine. How could the church compete for the attention of their youth against such temptation? The quiet little church building we had just come from, and their pulsing, giant warehouse could not seem more opposite. The disco was so large, so energetic, so loud, and so overwhelming.”⁴

But a few minutes later Reinhard felt the Holy Spirit say very clearly, “Look inside. I will show you something you do not know.”

Reinhard recounts in his book, *Living a Life of Fire*:

I took a deep breath then opened the door. The blast of music must have knocked the hair back from my forehead. I have never heard such a volume in my life. It was deafening. But it was in that instant that I received a spiritual vision of the reality of the disco. In the flash of the strobe lights, I did not see young people dancing with joy. I saw frozen images of boredom, fear, loneliness, and insecurity, one after the other, captured [in] the faces of those young people.⁵

Suddenly, I could not care less what anyone thought of me. I knew that I would preach in this disco. Nothing could deny the love of Jesus I felt.

³ Reinhard Bonnke, *Living a Life of Fire* (Jupiter, FL: Harvester Services, Inc., 2019), 205.

⁴ Ibid., 206.

⁵ Ibid.

I shut the door and looked at Harold. I heard the Holy Spirit say in my heart, *Find the owner of this place*. And so, I said to Harold, ‘Help me to find the owner of this disco.’⁶

After they located the owner, there was much discussion about Reinhard receiving permission to preach to the young people. The owner was not receptive to the idea. Finally, the owner relented and told Reinhard he could have five minutes at midnight the following night on Saturday.

The next evening at midnight Reinhard took the microphone and told the young people he had something very important to tell them that he brought all the way from Germany. Reinhard explains:

I started to preach one minute, two minutes; suddenly the Holy Spirit was there; I mean the word of God blew into that disco. Suddenly I heard sobbing. I saw young people getting out their handkerchiefs and starting to wipe their eyes, crying everywhere. The disco dance floor was quickly becoming another table of tears. And I had preached enough to know that when people start shedding tears, it’s time for an altar call. I said, ‘How many of you want to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior? How many want to find forgiveness for your sins and enter God’s plan for your life, as of tonight?’

Every hand that I could see in that place went straight up. I said, ‘Alright, repeat after me.’ We prayed the prayer of salvation together. My five minutes were up. My work was done. I left walking on cloud nine, rejoicing, absolutely rejoicing that I had been privileged to help these young people find what they would never find in a disco.⁷

A year later when Reinhard returned to Kimberly, he found the disco had closed and had been transformed into a church. He was able to meet with many of the young people whose lives were changed that fateful night. The disco attendees were now serving the Lord in this new church.

18. What about Reinhard’s disco story encourages you?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer to #18 with your discipleship team next week.

God works in distinct and exceptional ways. His divine appointments bring together the presenter of the gospel message and the receiver. Sometimes there may not be an immediate and positive response to the message, like there was with Reinhard’s gospel presentation in the disco. But no matter the response, our goal is to glorify God and obediently walk in His will. We leave the results up to God.

Notice when Reinhard approached the disco owner, he was prepared to preach the gospel—even in unfamiliar territory. When God arranges divine appointments, we may not know the circumstances or how much time we will have. That is why we should be prepared to share our faith briefly—whether it is five minutes, as Reinhard had, or even just 30 seconds.

⁶ Ibid., 208.

⁷ Ibid., 211.

A Brief Gospel Message: Creation, Fall, Savior, Peace

The brief version of the gospel can be remembered by four words—*Creation, Fall, Savior, and Peace*. This version can be shared in 30 seconds or expanded as time permits, offering a simple yet biblical approach to evangelism.

Here is an example of the brief version of the gospel:

God created the world and made the first humans to live in loving relationship with Him. But when they disobeyed His one command, sin entered the world, bringing separation from God. Today, we all sin, and this separates us from a holy God. Out of love, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and pay for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead, offering forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life to all who trust in Him.

19. Write a 30-second version of the gospel in your own words and be prepared to recite it aloud without looking at your notes. If you prefer, you may use the example above or any part of it.

20. We have learned how to share our personal testimony (lesson one), as well as a full, concise, and brief version of the gospel. Which method are you most comfortable with and why?

Accountability: Be prepared to share #19, your 30-second version of the gospel, and your answer to #20 with your discipleship team.

When sharing the gospel, it is helpful to understand your audience. The message of salvation is simple yet profound—especially when engaging with people from other religious backgrounds. Groups such as Mormons, Muslims, or Jehovah’s Witnesses may not fully understand the truth of the gospel. Gaining insight into what others believe allows us to respond wisely and graciously, always pointing to Jesus as “*the way, the truth, and the life*” (John 14:6). A good place to start is by learning the beliefs of your family and friends, so you can share your faith with clarity and compassion.

Learning about other worldviews—whether agnostic, atheistic, or religious—can strengthen our confidence in engaging with those who hold different beliefs. While it is helpful to study these perspectives, keep your focus on the simple truth that has the power to pierce any heart with God’s light: *Creation, Fall, Savior, and Peace*. To keep it fresh in your mind, build confidence, and grow in fluency, make it a habit to write or recite the brief gospel message weekly.

While it is beneficial to study other belief systems, we may not always know what beliefs we will encounter, and this uncertainty can feel intimidating. Instead of focusing on what we do not know, it is helpful to focus on what we do know—Jesus and His love. We must ask ourselves: *Do we genuinely care about the person before us?* Sharing the gospel is an act of love, offering others the opportunity to be saved from God’s wrath and eternal separation from Him.

21. Read the list below. Which of the following is your greatest fear when it comes to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Underline one)

A. Disrupting a relationship **B.** Being rejected **C.** Saying the wrong thing **D.** Not knowing how to explain the gospel **E.** Not being able to answer follow-up questions afterwards **F.** Making someone angry

22. What will *you* do to overcome your greatest fear in sharing the gospel?

Read John 15:12–13 and answer questions 23–25:

My command is this: Love each other as I [Jesus] have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. John 15:12–13

23. How are we supposed to love each other (v. 12)?

24. How did the gospel of Jesus Christ come about (v. 13)?

25. Read 1 John 3:16. How can we follow Jesus in laying down our lives for the gospel?

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16

Love is a universal language, and it is one worth cultivating. It not only impacts those we communicate with but also transforms our own hearts. When our hearts are filled with Jesus’ self-sacrificing love, our fears will melt away. Trust Him.

26. How can *you* shift your focus from seeing the gospel as a task to complete, to focusing more on loving the person before you?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #21–26 with your team.

—End Day Three—

Day Four

Bridging into Spiritual Conversations

In Lesson One, we discussed how small talk can lead to spiritual talk. Whether we plan to share about Jesus with our family or a stranger, it is often best to start with a friendly, non-threatening conversation. However, if we do not have a plan to shift the topic toward spiritual matters, we may miss the opportunity for someone to hear about God.

What if you find that the person you are speaking with is already a committed follower of Jesus Christ? Do not be disappointed—this is still a divine appointment. God’s timing is always perfect. Stay open, pray, and discern why God has placed this person in your path. You may be called to encourage, support, pray with, or help this person in a specific way. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you.

27. Read Galatians 6:10 below. As disciples, we are supposed to do good to all people. Which group of people are we especially encouraged to help when we have the opportunity?

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10

In our small talk with others—whether they are seekers or believers— we want to find ways to gently guide the conversation toward deeper, spiritual topics. This approach requires *active listening*. Rather than focusing on what we want to say next, we must pay close attention to what the other person is saying. By listening carefully to their responses, we can discern how to proceed—whether by asking clarifying questions, offering encouragement, or sharing truth.

Prayerfully rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation because only He can tailor, adapt, or alter our interactions to meet each person’s unique needs. With this in mind, we will look at eight ways to bridge or steer the conversation towards God.

Ways to Bridge into Spiritual Subjects

(1) Be Direct with Those You Know: With someone you are familiar with, you might say: *Even though we’ve been friends for a while* (or “I’m your brother, cousin, daughter etc.), *I’ve never had the opportunity to share the most important thing in my life. May I?*

(2) Listen for Openings: Listen carefully for comments that can naturally turn the conversation toward God. Challenges like health, relationships, or financial struggles can be opportunities to share how we find strength through God. Joyful moments work well too; for example, at the birth of a child, we could comment, *What a blessing from God!*

(3) Offer to Pray: A simple offer to pray for someone can open the door to meaningful spiritual conversation.

(4) Ask Thoughtful Questions:

- *Do you ever think about spiritual things?*
- *Do you ever wonder about the meaning of life?*
- *What are your spiritual beliefs?*
- *What's the most meaningful experience you've had?*
- *Growing up, what was your family's spiritual beliefs?*
- *Are you a reader—what are you reading now?*

Follow-up and clarifying questions:

- *Can you tell me more about what led you to feel that way?*
- *What do you mean by that?*
- *What experiences led you to think this?*

(5) Ask About Their Church and Share Yours: Ask if they attend a local church. Mention something coming up at your church and invite them to join you.

(6) Comment on Creation: Comment on the beauty of nature—like the sky, trees, or flowers—and point to God as Creator.

(7) Discuss Accountability: If the topic of crime or evil comes up, ask if they believe those responsible will ultimately be held accountable.

(8) Ask About Religious Symbols: If they are wearing a religious symbol or have one as a tattoo (including a cross), consider asking, *What does that symbol mean to you?*

28. Which of the above ways have *you* used to bridge into spiritual conversations?

29. Are there any other ways you have used to steer conversations toward spiritual topics that are not listed above?

When people open up, allow them to express emotions like anger or frustration without telling them how they should feel. Acknowledge their feelings, and when the time is right, gently guide the conversation toward how God demonstrated His love through Christ. While the gospel is the answer, sometimes people need time to process their hurt and frustrations before they are ready to hear it.

If the conversation becomes antagonistic or indifferent, consider shifting to more neutral topics. Our goal is to draw people closer to Christ, not push them away. It may be that our role is simply to plant a seed, not offer a full gospel presentation. In all situations, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us—whether to continue the conversation or step back.

No matter the question or problem, Christ is always the answer. This is God's design. But avoid being condescending or patronizing. Instead, be patient, ask questions, invite theirs, and show understanding.

Sometimes, steering a conversation toward the gospel can be challenging. If that is the case, consider asking, *Would you mind if I ask you a few spiritual questions?* With the rapport you have built, the person may be open to it. Here are five questions that can naturally lead to the gospel presentation. Be sure to listen closely to their responses and engage meaningfully.

Five Questions to Guide a Gospel Conversation

- (1) What is your purpose in life? (What is the meaning of life?)
- (2) How do you know what God is like?
- (3) Who is Jesus to you?
- (4) If you died tonight and God asks you, *Why should I let you into my heaven?* how would you answer?
- (5) May I share God's plan for knowing Him, finding purpose, and going to heaven when you die?

If they answer "yes" to the last question, share the gospel, guided by the Holy Spirit. However, if they say "no," respect their decision. Shift back to light conversation and leave on a positive note. You might offer a tract for them to read later or provide your contact information in case they want to talk about God in the future.

30. Memorize the five questions above. If you have other questions that you prefer, share them with your discipleship team and continue using them. If memorizing is a challenge, write the questions on an index card or in your phone's notes. Then simply ask, *Would you mind if I asked you a few questions?* If they agree, calmly read from your card or phone.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #28–30 with your team next week.

As you share your faith, you might encounter some common objections that prevent people from exploring Christianity further. Here are five objections often raised and responses that may open up thoughtful, respectful dialogue.

Addressing Common Objections to Christianity

(1) Objection: If God exists, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?

God created humans with free will, allowing them to choose good or evil—God or something else. This freedom is essential to genuine love, but it also allows for suffering and evil. Although

God does not cause evil, He permits it within His sovereign will. Satan tempts and deceives, leading to sin and suffering. Still, God works through evil to fulfill His purposes, using suffering to draw people to Himself and reveal His redeeming power. Scripture assures us that in the end, God will eliminate all evil and suffering, bringing justice and restoring creation (Revelation 21:4). See Unit 1, Lesson 1, *God Is Good*, regarding God's goodness and the origin of evil.

(2) Objection: I don't believe in your God—the Christian God.

It is helpful to ask, “*What is it about God or Christianity that you find hard to accept?*” Often, misunderstandings or past experiences have shaped their views. Christianity presents a unique God who does not just demand worship but offers relationship and sacrificial love through Jesus Christ. The Bible shows a God who enters into human suffering, offers forgiveness, and gives purpose. Share that a relationship with God can be personally experienced and that Jesus invites people to “come and see” (John 1:39).

(3) Objection: I'm convinced God doesn't exist.

Evidence of God is seen through the intricate order in nature, the existence of moral laws, and the inner human search for purpose. Consider sharing the cosmological argument (creation points to a Creator), the fine-tuning of the universe, or the historical life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as unique events pointing to God's reality. Encourage them to explore with an open mind, as God promises to be found by those who seek Him earnestly (Jeremiah 29:13).

(4) Objection: We don't need God to determine right from wrong.

While people do have an innate sense of right and wrong, Christianity teaches that this sense comes from God, who has imprinted His moral law in our hearts (Romans 2:15). However, this sense can be influenced by personal desires, cultural norms, or sinful tendencies, leading to inconsistency. The Bible provides a clear, unchanging standard for right and wrong that aligns with God's character and intentions for humanity. Without this consistent foundation, moral standards would shift according to individual or societal changes. God's moral law, revealed in Scripture, serves as an objective guide, offering wisdom and truth that transcend personal or cultural biases.

(5) Objection: I don't trust the Bible.

The Bible's reliability can be shown in several ways. Its historical accuracy is supported by archaeology—such as discoveries confirming ancient cities like Jericho and Nineveh—and external documents. The New Testament, for example, has more manuscript evidence than any other ancient text, preserving its content reliably over time. Additionally, the Bible's prophecies—such as those about Jesus' life—have been fulfilled, showing a supernatural accuracy. Beyond facts, the Bible has transformed lives for centuries, speaking directly to human needs and offering wisdom that resonates across time and culture.

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Witnessing to those with Questionable Faith

It is now time to share your faith. Some of you are already witnessing and allowing God to use you to expand the kingdom—keep up the blessed work! For all of us, let us make a fresh start by revisiting the list of prospects we prepared in Lesson One.

Action Step

31. Choose someone from your list of people you compiled in lesson 1—someone with whom you have not previously shared the gospel. Pray for this opportunity and for the disciples on your team as they also take this step. Afterwards, make a few notes about your experience.

We meet strangers all the time, often overlooking these moments as gospel opportunities. Whether at work, in the grocery store, at the doctor's office, or simply running errands, we can be ready to engage others in a friendly and sincere way. This could mean presenting the gospel verbally or giving them a gospel tract to read later.

Check with your church for outreach opportunities, and if none exist, consider working with your pastor and other staff members to start one.

Remember, changing hearts is God's work; our part is to faithfully share the good news of Jesus Christ. Let this action step be the first of many in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20).

Read Acts 5:42 and answer questions 32–36:

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. Acts 5:42 (Previous to this verse, the disciples had been flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus.)

32. How often did the first disciples teach and proclaim the gospel?

33. Where did the disciples preach and proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah?

34. How does their example encourage you to share the gospel regularly?

35. Will you surrender and commit to God to pray and look for at least one opportunity per week to share the gospel? Yes No (Underline One)

36. If you answer no in question 35, please explain why you will not commit to sharing the gospel.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #31–36 with your discipleship team.

When sharing the gospel, you will encounter those who attend church regularly and express a trust in God, yet their lifestyle and actions seem far from biblical. This can make witnessing to them challenging, as we do not want to appear self-righteous or judgmental. However, just as it is an act of love to share the gospel with nonbelievers, it is also loving to gently question the faith of someone whose life shows no signs of true transformation. Many of us were once churchgoers without a real, saving relationship with God.

People in this category might show some outward signs of faith, but there may be indications they have not truly been “born again.” For instance, they may live in ongoing sin without repentance, bear little or no spiritual fruit, or hold views that are inconsistent with biblical truth.

Here is an illustration involving a man we will call Joe:

Up until God saved me, if you had asked me if I was a Christian, I would have said yes. If you asked me what that meant, I would have said that being a Christian meant that I was going to heaven. If you inquired as to how I knew I was going to heaven instead of hell, I would have said that I had invited Jesus into my heart when I was six years old. I was the poster child for ‘It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere.’ But it does matter what you believe. It really matters! I was staking my eternity on something I believed wasn’t true.

Unfortunately, no one asked me any questions about my professed Christianity. If they had, and God gave me the illumination to answer accurately, I would have said something like this: ‘Well, I do remember praying with my grandma. But, I’ve had no interest in God or the Bible. I don’t obey Jesus; in fact, I’ve been hiding my sin from others for years. I’m a hypocrite. I have guilt and shame that are overwhelming and there’s nothing I can do to help myself. Everything I’ve tried has led to more disappointment and enslavement. So I don’t see how anyone could see that I love Christ or even want anything to do with him. I’m not a Christian, I’m not saved, and I’m headed for hell rather than heaven.’⁸

Too often, when someone like Joe says they have invited Jesus into their heart, we assume they are saved or born again. Yet Joe admitted he had no interest in the Bible, disobeyed Jesus, and hid his sins for years. How should we respond to those who claim to be Christians but show no evidence of being born again (John 3:3)?

Outward signs can be misleading, and we may misjudge someone’s true spiritual state. While their lifestyle might not align with their professed beliefs, none of us is infallible—we could be mistaken about their faith. Even a born-again believer can be temporarily caught in sin. In such

⁸ “I Thought I Was Saved. But I Wasn’t.” *He Gave It All* (blog), December 20, 2020. <https://hegaveitall.wordpress.com/2020/12/20/i-thought-i-was-saved-but-i-wasnt/> (accessed 3/13/2023).

cases, we are called to gently restore them (Galatians 6:1). The following suggestions for witnessing may also help bring straying believers back to God.

Witnessing to People with Questionable Faith

People with questionable faith are those who show little or no indication that they are following Christ. But if they claim to be a Christian, how do you declare the Good News to them?

(1) Talk about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

Read Matthew 5:13 and answer questions 37–39:

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Matthew 5:13

Definition: *Salt of the earth* is a description of Christ’s disciples. Being salt of the earth means His followers are to flavor and be flavored by godly lives, holy conversation, correct doctrine, meaningful experiences, knowing and ministering the Word, and communicating divine truth.

37. What does it mean for *you* to be *the salt of the earth*?

38. How do you think being *the salt of the earth* is a form of witnessing to fruitless “Christians”?

39. According to Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:13, what happens if disciples do not flavor their lives with godly actions and communications?

Sprinkle your conversations with salt by talking about your relationship with God and how He is working in your life. Speak in a way that shows the reality of your love and union with Him.

(2) Live out good deeds in a natural way

40. Read Matthew 5:14–16. Why do disciples let others see their good deeds?

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16

(3) Invite them into your world of church, activity, and entertainment

Read Hebrews 10:24–25 and answer questions 41–42:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25

41. What are two reasons for Christians to meet together?

42. Even in New Testament times what did some believers give up doing (v. 25)?

Our churches should be welcoming to both believers and nonbelievers, offering worship services and activities that reflect God’s love and presence. Additionally, consider inviting those with questionable faith to Christian movies or activities. Remember, the ultimate goal is their salvation, so focusing only on secular activities and entertainment may miss the opportunity to share the good news.

43. Read James 4:4. How have *you* been a friend of the world?

You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4 (Enmity is a word meaning hatred or hostility.)

(4) Express your concern

44. Read Proverbs 24:26. What is being honest like?

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. Proverbs 24:26
(“Kiss on the lips” is an idiom meaning respect, obedience, and love.)

Sometimes, the most loving approach is to be honest and express your concern about a family member or friend’s spiritual condition. You might say something like, *I really care about you and your relationship with Jesus. Not that I’m perfect—because I’m certainly not—but I couldn’t help noticing . . .* (fill in the blank).

Or you could also ask, *Have you ever been concerned about your salvation?* and add, *Some people wrestle with that question — wondering if they are truly saved.*

(5) Share encouraging materials (Scripture, Christian books, articles, tracts, etc.)

Read Hebrews 4:12 and answer questions 45–46: being

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

45. What is alive and active and sharper than any double-edged sword?

46. What does the Bible, the Word of God, accomplish?

God's Word penetrates a person's innermost being, fulfilling His purpose and never returning empty. Whether printed in a Bible or written on a page, it effectively convicts people of sin and their need for a Savior.

We can share Scripture-based materials with friends at any time, but with strangers, we may only have one opportunity. Keeping tracts or Scripture cards on hand ensures we are prepared for those divine appointments along the way. Many churches offer these resources for free.

(6) Ask Questions

Jesus used questions to help people see the truth, sometimes answering a question with another question. This nonconfrontational method encourages people to reflect on their spiritual condition. Most people enjoy talking about themselves and will engage when asked thoughtful questions.

47. Read John 5:6. Jesus saw a man who had not been able to walk for 38 years. What is the first thing Jesus does?

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" John 5:6

48. Read Luke. 10:25b–28. How did Jesus answer the man's question (v. 26)?

"Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ *"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"* ²⁷ *He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* ²⁸ *"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."* Luke. 10:25–28

Diagnostic Questions to Determine Authentic Believers

These questions are not in any particular order nor should they all be asked at one time. These are just some of the questions you might ask if someone says they are a Christian but might not have a clear understanding of what it means to be born again.

- (1) What is your idea of a Christian?
- (2) How did you become a Christian and how did your life change?
- (3) Who or what is the central focus of your faith?
- (4) What does being born-again mean to you?

Sharing the gospel is both an art and a science. It is an art because every person and conversation is unique, requiring discernment and the Holy Spirit's guidance to know when to transition into the gospel message. It is a science because the message of Christ is factual, consistent, and unchanging.

49. Memorize the four diagnostic questions used to determine authentic believers (above).

50. Review your B category list of family and friends who show little indication of faith in Christ. Prayerfully choose one person and create a plan from the methods discussed above. What is your plan, and when will you begin?

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers to #37–50 with your team next week.

Talking about imitation Christians or those with questionable faith may have given you pause. You may wonder: *Am I really saved?* What does Scripture say?

51. Read Romans 8:16. What does the Holy Spirit confirm with a believer's spirit?

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:16
(Testify in this context means to confirm, agree with, bear witness with.)

52. Read John 3:6–7. Who gives birth to a believer's spirit so that we are born again?

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' John 3:6–7

53. Read Titus 3:5–7. How is a person saved?

... he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5–7

Believers are born again by God's Spirit through Jesus Christ. When we truly trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior we are regenerated (reborned) by the Holy Spirit. We are new creations. God's laws are written on our hearts, we are His people, and we delight to do His will (Jeremiah 31:33).

54. Read 1 John 3:9. If you are born of God, what stops?

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 1 John 3:9

If we are practicing sin, we have not been born of God. This does not mean we are sinless, but we do not *live* in our sins. Our lifestyle is fixed on Jesus and when we do sin we recognize, confess, and repent of wrongdoing. For most of us, this means daily confession.

Recall how the youth had repented with tears in Reinhard's living room. Remember also when Reinhard preached to the young people at the disco, Jesus transformed them. The disco became a church. Believers' lives are different from the lives of those who have not surrendered to Jesus. They sense it. They know it.

Reinhard knew he was in Africa to share the gospel. God had affirmed it in a dream where he heard the words, "Africa shall be saved." But Reinhard had been in South Africa for five years and while fruitful, not anywhere near denting the 478 million souls who lived there at that time.⁹

God gradually moved Reinhard into preaching in stadiums, tents, and outdoor events where large numbers of Africans accepted Christ as Savior. The crowds grew to thousands and even millions. In closing, read Reinhard's own words when he was retiring after 60 years of ministry.

The Christ for All Nations ministry has had the privilege to see 78-plus million registered decisions for Jesus, so far. What if I had never separated my father's voice from the voice of God? What if I had never obeyed the Lord's call to me? I must believe that God would have raised another servant up who would listen and obey, and those over 78 million souls would have responded to that man's invitation. But I do not have the luxury of knowing that for certain. *Woe is me if I preach not the gospel* (1 Corinthians 9:16). The harvest continues today because I still find myself on my knees, as I did when I was a boy of 19, saying, '... cause me to know the way wherein I should walk...' And He is faithful to lead me."¹⁰

—End Day Five and Lesson 2—

Next—Unit 1: Blessing Others, Lesson 3: Making Disciples

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⁹ Bonnke, *Living a Life of Fire*, 215.

¹⁰ Ibid., 564.