

GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

Topic: **EVANGELISM**

Lesson: **MARK 16:15-20**

Goal: to see what evangelism is

1) Read Mark 16:15-16

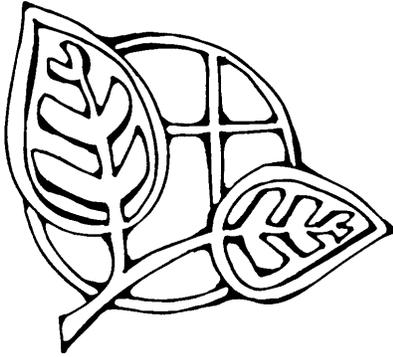
- Underline the phrase “preach the good news” and in the margin write “Evangelism is nothing more than sharing the ‘good news’ about Jesus.” What does the phrase “go into” add to our understanding about how we are to do evangelism? What about the phrase “all the world”?
- In 1 Corinthians 12:3 Paul writes, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is responsible for creating faith in someone’s heart. What does this add to the understanding about our role in evangelism? How does this understanding “take the pressure off” our evangelism efforts?

2) Read Mark 16:17-20

- Jesus told the disciples what they were to preach — the gospel. Now Jesus tells the disciples how he will confirm their gospel message — with miraculous powers and signs. Some church bodies today are so interested in signs that they lose sight of what is vastly more important — the gospel! The Bible makes it clear that the proclamation of the gospel is to continue until Christ comes again. Nowhere does it say we should expect the miraculous signs to continue. The following passages help us in our understanding of signs and miracles:
 - 2 Corinthians 12:12 — What is an apostle? Are there any apostles today?
 - Matthew 12:38-40 — What is the only “sign” we need that the good news about forgiveness is true?
 - John 10:40-42 — Did God have all of the great preachers / teachers in the Bible do miracles to authenticate their message?
 - John 12:37 — Do miraculous signs convert people? If yes, how? If no, then what does?
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9 — If a church is caught up in signs at the expense of the Gospel, what might that be evidence of?
- In verse 19 we’re told Jesus ascended into heaven. And yet in verse 20 we read, “...the Lord worked with them.” Underline that phrase and in the margin write, see Matthew 28:20. What gives us courage as we go about the awesome job of evangelism?

3) Applying what you’ve learned

- Jim works on the evangelism committee at church. He has done door-to-door work, trying to share the gospel, but few people take the time to listen to him. He has tried to tell co-workers about Jesus, but they don’t listen. Jim concludes, “I’m just a bad evangelist!” Is he?



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Lesson: **ROMANS 10:11-15**

- Goals: 1) to understand why evangelism is so important
2) to see that evangelism is a privilege and honor

1) Read Romans 10:11-15

- In verse 11 we read about “everyone who trusts in him.” In verse 13 we read about “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.” What do the phrases “who trusts” and “who calls” tell us about salvation? What does the fact that Paul mentions the word “everyone” twice emphasize about salvation?
- Think for a moment about all the Bible study you’ve done in your lifetime. Do you remember anywhere that the Bible even hinted that people will or might be saved *outside of* faith in the Lord?
- Restate verse 14 in your own words. What is the simple cause-and-effect logic of that verse?
- In verse 15 Paul writes, “How can they preach unless they are sent?” What is one way you can do evangelism in a distant location without actually going there yourself?
- The Scripture Paul cites in verse 15 is from Isaiah, chapter 52. Look up Isaiah 52:7 now. What is the “good news” that is being brought?
- Isaiah talks about the “beautiful feet” of the messenger? To whom are these feet beautiful? Why do you think Isaiah talks about the messenger’s “beautiful feet”? Why not talk about the beautiful mouth which spoke the message? What does this tell us about evangelism?

2) Applying what you’ve learned

- Fill out the following list identifying people whom you believe to be unbelievers:

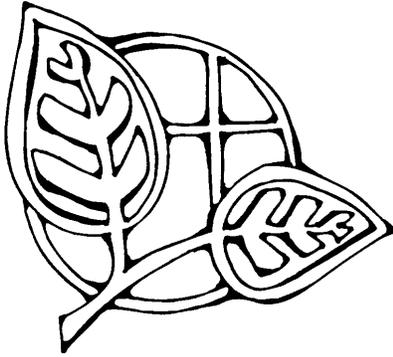
A relative —

A close friend—

A co-worker —

A neighbor —

Perhaps you have been praying and praying for God to do something to save them. What does this lesson have to say to you? Perhaps you have simply contented yourself with the thought, “If God desires to save them, he will make it happen.” If that’s the case, what does this lesson have to say to you?



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Topic: **EVANGELISM**

Lesson: **1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5**

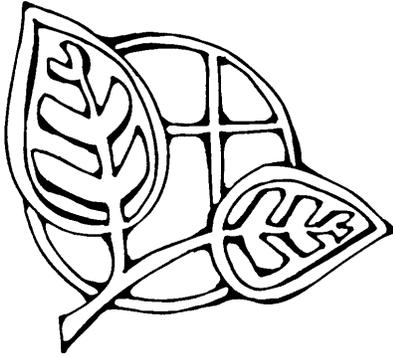
Goal: to learn what is and what isn't required to do evangelism

1) Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- Paul is the one who evangelized the Corinthians. In these verses Paul first of all tells us something about himself, the messenger. He did not display “eloquence” or “superior wisdom.” Then Paul tells us about the message. It did not contain “persuasive words” nor “wise words.” In the margin write, “Evangelism does not require great speaking skills nor great intelligence.”
- Underline verse 2. Double-underline the phrase “nothing except.” What do those words tell us about what is required in order for us to do evangelism?
- Paul writes, “I *resolved* to know nothing...” It wasn't that Paul was unintelligent. Paul was highly educated. But when it came time to spread the good news, Paul put all that behind him. Why? What did Paul know was the true power behind his words?
- In verse 5 underline “God's power” and in the margin write, “See Romans 1:16.” Look up that passage now. Where do we find God's power? How is that power unleashed?
- Think of some of the teachers you've had. Which ones did you like the best? What did you like about them? How can you apply that to your evangelism?

2) Applying what you've learned

- Look up Luke 12:11-12 and 1 Peter 3:15. Those passages describe a sort of “balance” that we want to achieve in our evangelism. After reading those passages, complete the following statements.
When it comes to doing evangelism, on the one hand, we want to be _____ (1 Peter 3:15) so that we are able to answer people's questions about the hope that we have. To achieve this goal we will want to...
On the other hand, there is no need for us to _____ (Luke 12:11-12) about doing evangelism, for we have Christ's promise that the _____ will help us when the time comes.



GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

Topic: **EVANGELISM**

Lesson: **EZEKIEL 33:1-11**

Goal: to realize the responsibility we have (and don't have) as evangelists

1) Read Ezekiel 33:1-6

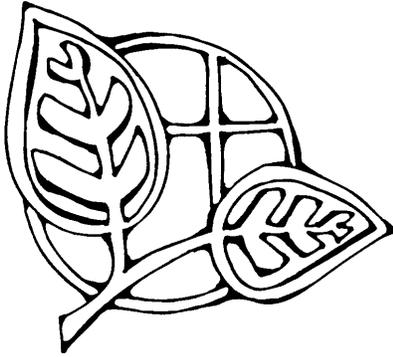
- What are some adjectives you would use to describe the watchman and his job performance if he refused to sound the warning?
- Is the watchman responsible for actually saving the city? Does God make him responsible for counter attacking the enemy? What important truth does this teach us about evangelism?
- In verse 6 we read, "that man will be taken away *because of his sin.*" Even though this man didn't get a warning, what must we make clear will be the ultimate cause of his destruction?

2) Read Ezekiel 33:7-11

- Underline the phrases "I say" and "you dissuade." In God's plan of salvation he gives us the message, and we then share it. What are two ways we can stand in the way of that plan? (Hint — Think of the question first of all from the aspect of sharing the message, and secondly from the aspect of the message itself.)
- Remember, evangelism means "good news." Yet God has Ezekiel warn, "O wicked man, you will surely die." Is there any good news to be found in these verses? Why is it often necessary to share a warning about sin (the Law) *before* we share the good news about our Savior from sin (the Gospel)?
- In the Old Testament, God gave the responsibility of sharing his Word to a select group of people — the prophets and priests. Look up 1 Peter 2:9. Who bears this responsibility in the New Testament era, which we are now in?
- This portion of Ezekiel serves as Law. What do we need to remember when we fall short of what God has asked us to do as evangelists? (Look up Psalm 103:12).

3) Applying what you've learned

- Read Luke 15:7. In the word "evangelism" you see the word "angel." Indeed, the two words are related. Angel means "messenger." Evangelism means "good message." What are some jobs that we normally associate with angels? How was the job that God gave to Ezekiel (and he gives to us) *even greater* than that of angels?



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Topic: **EVANGELISM**

Lesson: **2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21**

Goals: to learn the basic message that we will share as evangelists

1) Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

- “We regard no one from a worldly point of view.” How does the world look at people? What types of things does the world consider to be important? How do we, as evangelists, look at people?
- Paul describes God’s work with the word “reconciliation.” Underline all the places in verses 18 to 20 where this word (or variations of it) occur. What exactly does this word mean? (For help, look up 1 Corinthians 7:10,11.)
- In verse 19 circle the words “God was” and “in Christ.” Draw an arrow from the first circle to the second. In the margin write, “Jesus is the God-man.”
- What does the word “ministry” mean? Therefore, what is a “ministry of reconciliation”?
- What is an ambassador? What gives an ambassador’s message authority? What “message of reconciliation” does God ask us, as ambassadors, to share?

2) Read 2 Corinthians 5:21

- In verse 19 we read that God does not count sin against the sinner. Verse 21 tells us how this is possible. It isn’t that God just lets sin slide. Rather, how did God deal with sin?

3) Applying what you’ve learned.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 illustrates that to share the basic message of God’s word we’ll need to talk about: 1) our sin, 2) Christ’s lack of sin, 3) our lack of righteousness, 4) Christ’s righteousness, and 5) the great exchange that took place between us and Christ. Each of the following passages illustrates one or more of those five points.

Hebrews 4:15 Romans 3:23-24 Matthew 5:48 Romans 6:23 John 3:16

Look up each passage and write it on the back of this sheet of paper. What do those passages illustrate? (Our sin? Christ’s lack of sin? Etc?) If you want to be prepared to share a basic Law / Gospel message with someone who needs it, memorize those passages (and 2 Corinthians 5:21). It will give you a great start! May the Lord bless your evangelism efforts.