

MAKING DISCIPLES



self-study workbook

by Brent Kercheville

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurts, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

All Christians desire to share the gospel with others. We know that we are commanded to share the gospel with the world.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20 ESV)

But there are many reasons why we may not share this good news that we have experienced with the rest of the world. Many Christians lack confidence in their ability to share the gospel and therefore do not tell others about Jesus. This lesson will examine the scriptures to learn what our point of view must be as we try to share the good news of Jesus to the world.

- 1 Write down reasons why Christians would lack confidence in sharing the gospel with others:
- 2 Are there other reasons besides a lack of confidence that explains why you choose not to share the gospel? Do you think other Christians feel the same way?
- 3 What do you define as successful evangelism? When has evangelism been successful in your life?
- 4 **Read Matthew 13:1-23.**
What is Jesus' definition of success?

How does verses 10-17 fit into the meaning of the parable of the sower and the definition of successful evangelism?

- 5 Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.** What two roles do you play in reaching the lost? What role do you not play?
- 6 Read John 6:41-47 and Acts 16:14.** Who is responsible for the result of the word of God in the hearts of people? What does this do for us as we share the gospel?
- 7 Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 10:10.** Based on the previous scriptures read plus these scriptures, can you really “mess up” presenting the gospel to another person? What help does this give you?

What is the one way you will “mess up” in sharing the gospel?

- 8** Write down all the people you can think of in the scriptures who were successful in evangelism but the results were poor.
- 9** Under this new definition of success, have you been more successful than you realized?

10 Read Isaiah 6:1-13. What is the basis for our desire to share the gospel? What is going to be the result? Whose fault is this?

11 Read Ezekiel 3:16-21. What was the responsibility for Ezekiel? What was not his responsibility? What lessons do we learn?

TRANSFORMATION:

1 What is our responsibility in evangelism? What is not our responsibility in evangelism?

2 Make a list of people in your life that you can share the gospel with right now. What can you do right now for them?

3 Make a list of people you do not think you can share the gospel with right now. What can you do right now for them?

- 1 **A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:40 ESV)**

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household." (Matthew 10:24–25 ESV)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV)

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Is it possible to be a Christian without being like Jesus?

- 2 **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20 ESV)**

What truth does Paul express that changes how we live in all areas of our lives?

- 3 **When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36 ESV)**

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14 ESV)

What was Jesus' perspective of people? How can we develop this same perspective?

- 4 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37–40 ESV)**

What does this command look like in our lives in terms of how we share the gospel with others?

METHOD

- 5** Does God give us a formula for how to teach the lost?

Does God give us a special program or series of lessons to share the gospel?

Is there a right way to teach the gospel? Is there a wrong way to teach the gospel?

Are there dangers that you can think of by using a teaching program, formula, or other type of evangelism material?

Are there benefits that you can think of by using a teaching program, formula, or other type of evangelism material?

- 6 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also. (2 Corinthians 6:11–13 ESV)**

Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. (2 Corinthians 7:2–3 ESV)

What is the goal of sharing the gospel? Discuss.

TRANSFORMATION:

1 What are some things you can do to be more compassionate toward sinners?

2 What can we do to open our lives more to those who need to hear the gospel?

- 1 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19–23 ESV)**

What was Paul's point of view in how he would share the gospel?

How can we replicate this approach that Paul describes?

How does this text help us know where to begin when sharing the gospel?

- 2 What two ways did Jesus teach the lost? To answer this question, first consider the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Then consider the woman at the well (John 4).**

What was the apostle Paul's approach that we see in the book of Acts? Consider Acts 20:18-21 in your response.

Can either approach be neglected? Explain.

In the rest of this lesson, let us focus on our efforts to sharing the gospel publicly, as a congregation working together, in your community.

- 3** Think about when you have visited other churches when you were traveling or on vacation. What were some of the concerns or fears you had about visiting that church?

Do you think unbelievers have these same fears and concerns when they are making the decision to visit your congregation?

What must we do to help address and solve those concerns and fears?

- 4** When the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, one of his objectives was that unbelievers would enter the worship, desire to worship God, and recognize God was among them, rather than thinking they were out of their minds (1 Corinthians 14:23-25). We learn an important principle that we need to show and share the love of Christ toward unbelievers who come to worship so that they see we are truly lovers of Jesus.

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ to our visitors before the Bible class hour on Sundays and Wednesdays?

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ to our visitors during the Bible class hour on Sundays and Wednesdays?

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ to our visitors between the Bible class hour and the worship assembly hour on Sundays?

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ during the worship assembly hour on Sundays?

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ after the Bible class or the worship assembly hour has concluded?

What are things we can and must do to show the love of Christ after we have left our gathering together? What can we do during the week?

TRANSFORMATION:

- 1** What do we need to be thinking about at our assemblies when it comes to sharing the gospel and reaching the lost?

- 2** What do we need to change in our hearts, words, or actions so that we can “become all things to all people, that by all means we might save some?”

We noted in the last lesson that there were two primary ways that Jesus and the apostles went about sharing the gospel: public teaching and personal teaching. We see in the scriptures that we must tell people to come and see. But we also see that we are to go and teach. In this lesson we will consider ways that we can go and share the good news of Jesus to the world.

- 1 Who has God placed in your life that you can teach to follow Jesus?

Is there anyone we can rule out or exclude from sharing the gospel with?

- 2 We need each other as we go out to share the gospel. How can we help and encourage each other to continue in our efforts to go into the all the world preaching the gospel? Give a practical list of things you can do.

FIRST STEPS

- 3 PRAY. What can we pray for as we look to share the gospel with others?

- 4 READ THE SCRIPTURES. How will reading the scriptures more encourage our evangelism efforts?

- 5 INVITE. How can you invite people to come worship with you?

How can you invite people to listen to you share the gospel with them?

- 6 LISTEN. What can you listen for in conversations with others that will help you share the gospel with them?

What can you listen and learn from watching others approach unbelievers and answering their questions or difficulties?

- 7 HELP. Think about how you can use God's gospel to help people in their sins and difficulties. Give some examples of conversations that would show how you could do this.

Sharing the gospel is not about quick fixes but truly helping people know the Lord. Read the following scriptures.

And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:18–23 ESV)

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:25–27 ESV)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:3–6 ESV)

What is the goal in our proclamation of the gospel? What are we trying to show people?

- 8** RELATIONSHIPS. Why do we need to build relationships with people to share the gospel with them? What are ways that you can build these relationships in the world?

Do we need have relationships when those we teach come to Christ and are saved? How can we do this?

- 9** BE LIGHT. How can we fulfill Jesus' command to be the light of the world? What will this look like?

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14–16 ESV)

- 10** SHOW. Show people that the scriptures are the means by which we get to know God. The scriptures are not a bunch of doctrines or commandments. Show people the beauty of the scriptures. How can we show people the beauty of God's word?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17 ESV)

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:11–13 ESV)

- 11** HOPE. How can we fight against discouragement when we do not see results from sharing the gospel?

TRANSFORMATION:

- 1** Where will you start today so that you can fulfill God's call to you to go into the world proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ?

- 2** What do we need to change in our hearts, words, or actions so that we can "become all things to all people, that by all means we might save some?"