

SESSION 11: LIVING EVANGELISTICALLY (LEADER)

Intro: At the very heart of what it means to live as a Christian in this world is the spiritual discipline and practice of communicating the good news of Jesus Christ. In this lesson we will learn the very basics of sharing our faith in Jesus with others.

Opening Story: Leader tell an inspiring story of your own from personal experience.

Verses on Evangelism: Read aloud the following Evangelism Scripture Verses.

Phil 6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. NIV

(Romans 10:13-17; 2 Cor 5:17-21)

Our lesson today is going to focus on the 3 basics areas of Living Evangelistically and we're going to study a passage of scripture for each one.

1. Our Conduct Conforming to Christ
2. Our Relationship Connections
3. Our Conversational

Basic #1: I'm living evangelistically when My Conduct is Conforming to Christ

This is not about perfect conduct rather it's about the ongoing transformation of the Christians life evidenced by his conduct changing.

(Leader comments on context: Chapter one of 1 Peter celebrates the believer's conversion and the blessings of being in Christ. Then Chapter 2 focuses on the "what next:")

Scripture Exercise 1: Read aloud **1 Peter 2:1-5** *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Exploration Question 1: What does Peter indicate some of the changes should be after we become "like new born babes"?

Possible Answers: Getting rid of malice, deceit, hypocrisy etc. Hunger for God's word and the desire to grow up in our salvation

Exploration Question 2: What metaphor does Peter use of New Christians and to whom does he liken the new Christian?

Answer: Living Stones, Christ is the living stones

Have someone read the following Commentary: (In the Old Testament stones were erected or piled up to mark a place and remember a time when God did something great there. Peter is using calling the new believer a "living stone" because the Christian is a person in whom God has worked mightily and whose life continues on to declare praise to God for what he has done. Our transformed conduct is a living testimony or marker that says God has and is working the miracle of spiritual transformation and deliverance from sin in my life. Verses 9-12 build on this.)

Scripture Exercise 2: Read aloud **1 Peter 2:9-12** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Exploration Question 3: What does this passage suggest will play a role in evangelizing the pagans and is it something they will hear or see?

Answer: "they may see your good deeds and glorify God"

Group Dialogue: What are some changes that you know God has been working in your life since you came to faith in Jesus Christ? What can people see and observe today that would not have been observable before your conversion.

Basic #2 I'm living evangelistically when I'm building Caring Connections with people around me

Everyday most of us encounter people, most of whom don't know anything about our salvation or faith in Christ. How many people could we actually get acquainted with and show interest in if we tried? How many opportunities for relationship building do we pass up? Who really knows? But can we change that? Can we live a bit more intentionally?

Sharing Exercise: *(At each table or with the whole group)* Share an inspiring story of when someone showed you genuine interest and care or an opportunity when you established a caring connection and you know it made an impact. Invite someone in the class to offer an example? *(Be careful of the time)*

Scripture Exercise 3: Read **John 4:5-10** *So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

Exploration Question 4: What makes this a "caring connection" on the part of Jesus.

Answers: Jesus spoke to her when most Jewish men would not have. He did not avoid contact but intentionally engaged with her

Make a list of 5 people who you could seek to show care and interest in the next time you see them or come across them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Brainstorm Exercise: What are ways that genuine interest and concern can be shown or initiated?
(below are some ideas if the leader needs help. This area is blank in the student guide)

1. Ask about someone's kids, their weekend, or reference some previous conversation
2. Call a relative or friend who is lonely to check in with them
3. Speak to a clerk or waitress by the name on their badge and ask them basic "interest questions"

Basic #3: I'm living evangelistically when I'm taking Conversational Risks

Reread John 4:7-11

Observation Question 1: What was the first topic of conversation? (water and getting a drink)

Observation Question 2: What did Jesus do that took the conversation from the natural to the spiritual? (bridged from drinking water to spiritual water)

Explain: bridging from anything natural to the spiritual (spiritual topic, spiritual events, spiritual activity) are all types of conversational risk.

Examples:

In conversation someone brings up a life problem (problem with a teenage child, they or a loved one has cancer). How can you bridge to the spiritual in a caring way?

In conversation someone is talking about their elementary age children. You also have elementary age children who really enjoy and are learning a lot in promiseland. What questions could you ask that could take the conversation toward the spiritual?

Activity: Break up in pairs of two (two that don't know each other or are not married.) Then have each pair just converse with each other about normal stuff about whats going on in the life (work, family, plans etc.) Look for bridging cues and practice.