

EVANGELISM GROUP STUDY HANDOUT “Go and Make Disciples”

– A Study on Sharing the Gospel

Introduction Before returning to heaven, Jesus promised to send his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. But he also gave his followers a job to do. The message of salvation was meant to be shared with everyone in every nation. Jesus wants us to proclaim this message — that is, to share the gospel — with our words (“teaching them . . .”) and our deeds (“make disciples . . .”). The good news is that God himself has empowered us to be his representatives: “Surely I am with you always.”

1- EVERYONE IS A MINISTER

1. What “ministry” has God given to each believer? **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.
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2. What “message” has God committed to us? **2 Corinthians 5:19** (see full quote above)
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3. What does reconciliation mean, and why do people need to be reconciled to God?
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4. What is an “ambassador”?
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5. What does it mean for us to be “Christ’s ambassadors”? **2 Corinthians 5:20** (see full quote above)
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6. How will other people know that we are followers of Jesus?

John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

7. What was Paul's attitude toward sharing the gospel with non-Christians? **Romans 1:14–16** I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

v. 14 _____ v. 15
_____ v. 16

8. Paul, quoting the Old Testament prophet Joel, promises, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). But what must happen for people to "call on the name of the Lord"? **Romans 10:14–15**
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9. God sent Peter to preach the gospel to a Roman centurion named Cornelius. Who did Cornelius gather to hear Peter speak? **Acts 10:24** The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.
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10. What happened to those who heard Peter preach in Cornelius's house? **Acts 10:44–48** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.
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(The story of Peter and Cornelius shows Jesus calls us to share the gospel even with our "enemies" – Matthew 5:44.)

11. Where did Paul preach? **Acts 20:20-21** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

12. To whom did Paul preach? **Acts 20:21** (see full quote above)

13. What did Paul preach? **Acts 20:21** (see full quote above)

Application & Reflection What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

With whom — friends, loved ones, or even enemies — is God calling you to share the gospel?

2- BOLDNESS

1. Under the threat of persecution, what did the disciples pray for? **Acts 4:29-31** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

2. What were the results of their prayer? **Acts 4:31** (see full quote above)

3. According to Barnabas, how did Saul (Paul) preach — even in the face of a plot to kill him? **Acts 9:19–28** ...and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the

synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. Then Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

4. After Saul's conversion, how long did he wait until he preached the gospel? **Acts 9:19–20** (see full quote above)
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5. Describe the difference between a righteous man and a wicked man. **Proverbs 28:1** The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
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6. What does Proverbs say about those who fear other people? **Proverbs 29:25** Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.
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7. Paul requested prayers that he might preach the gospel in what manner? **Ephesians 6:19–20** Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
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Application & Reflection What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

Take a moment to ask God to give you boldness to share the message of salvation with others.

3- SPIRITUAL CONFLICT AND EVANGELISM

1. What has happened to unbelievers? **2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. How are people taken captive? **Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

3. What did Jesus come to do? **Luke 4:18–21** “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

4. Why did the Son of God appear? **1 John 3:8** The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

5. Who are we struggling against? **Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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6. What happened when Paul preached? **Acts 16:14** One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.
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7. What must happen if people are to come to Christ? **John 6:44** "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."
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Application & Reflection What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

4- MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS

1. When the disciples stepped out in faith and boldly preached the gospel, what happened? **Acts 2:43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 3:16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

2. Why did the people in Samaria pay close attention to Philip? **Acts 8:6-8** When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.
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3. What were Paul and Barnabas doing when the lame man from Lystra was healed? **Acts 14:5-10** There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their

leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the gospel. In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

4. What did James instruct the church to do for those who were sick? **James 5:14–15** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.
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5. What did Jesus promise to those with faith? **John 14:12–14** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
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6. How can we see "even greater things"? **John 14:12–14** (see full quote above)
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7. How was the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate healed? **Acts 3:6–7** Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Acts 3:16 (see full quote above)

8. How much authority is in the name of Jesus? **Matthew 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

9. What happens at the mention of Jesus' name? **Philippians 2:10–11** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

10. What did Jesus say would happen if we have faith in him? **Mark 11:23–24** “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

11. What did Jesus say about the power of faith? **Mark 9:23** “‘If you can?’” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

12. What pleases God? **Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Application & Reflection How have you seen the power of God at work in your life? Think of a time when you boldly proclaimed the gospel. How did God act?

5- TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

1. What did Jesus promise would happen when the Holy Spirit came on his followers? **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. What is a witness?

3. What does it mean to be Christ's witness?

4. Where were Jesus' followers to be witnesses? **Acts 1:8** (see full quote above)

5. What was the first promise Jesus gave to his followers? **Matthew 4:19** "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

6. What was the last command Jesus gave his disciples? **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

7. What are we to do with the disciples we make? **Matthew 28:19-20** (see full quote above)

8. What did Jesus promise to everyone who will "go and make disciples of all nations"? **Matthew 28:20** (see full quote above)

9. What is the condition of the world in relation to the gospel? **Matthew 9:35-37** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like

sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”

John 4:35–36 Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

10. What did Jesus say we should pray for? **Matthew 9:38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

11. Jesus died on the cross to purchase people from where? **Revelation 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Application & Reflection What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

What part is God calling you to play in fulfilling his command to reach every nation with the gospel?

Final Challenge You now have every key Scripture from the study printed in full (NIV). Take this handout home, pray over the verses, and ask God to fill you with boldness and compassion to share the gospel. You are Christ’s ambassador — go in His power!