

The Master's Plan for Evangelism

Jesus Said,

(John 4:35)

Do you not say, *It is yet four months, and the harvest comes? Behold, I say to you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white to harvest already.*

Teacher: Wm. Knudsen, EP

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, may we remember the charter you gave us—to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. May we be true evangelists of the gospel at home and abroad. May we help others know that their only way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ.

Help us to share Jesus, who is the Light of the world, by letting Jesus shine through our lives. You gave your son to die for the sins of the world. Give us strength, courage, and zeal to proclaim this good news to others. This we pray

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

The Master's Plan for Evangelism

Definition of Evangelism: To share the Good News

In your own words tell me what you think is the Good News?

Book of Order, G-3.0300c

The Church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist

Going into the world, making 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 he has commanded;

Q: What does it mean to be a disciple?

Q: What comes first discipleship or conversion?

Teacher: Wm. Knudsen, EP

Method and Motive: How and Why?

– Evangelism Methods

- **Preaching:** In church or open air or non-threatening neutral place
- **Teaching:** S.S., Special Classes,
- **Household:** Small Groups
- **Personal:** Direct or Indirect evangelism
- **Visitation:** prospects
- **Tract or literature**
- **Counseling:** weddings, death of loved one, sickness,

What are your evangelistic Motives?

- To get more people in church to help bring in more money? **I hope not!**
- Called & Commissioned by God to be His Missionary People His Apostolic Witness
- Sense of Gratitude
- Sense of Passion for those who are lost
- Sense of Responsibility and urgency
- Sense of Concern for those who need God

The Master's Plan for Evangelism

Today I have been asked to focus in on individual evangelism: being a lay witness (sharing our faith with others)

Q: What does the Bible mean by being a witness?

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(Act 1:8)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Q: Do you think this Bible verse applies to you and to me in the 21st century?

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✘ What does it mean to be an evangelist?

This is a form of the word ordinarily translated “gospel” except that here it designates one who *announces* that gospel to others “a bringer of good tidings”

Q: Does everyone have the gift of being an evangelist?

✠ What does it mean to be an evangelist?

(Eph 4:11)

And it is he who gifted some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, and still others to be pastors and teachers

Q: Does everyone have the gift of being an evangelist?

Eph 4:11 teaches that Evangelist is particular order of the ministry, distinguished from every other, it is singled out by the Head of the church for this work in a distinctive sense.

All may possess the gift of an evangelist in a measure, and be obligated to exercise its privilege and duty, but some are specially endowed with it.

✠ On the other hand. Every born again believer is called upon by God to share their faith.

✠ To be a witness to God's saving grace.

Q: Is there a difference between being an evangelist and a witness?

Q: What is God calling you to be?

After all, who is Apollos? And who is Paul? We are simply God's servants, by whom you were led to believe. Each one of us does the work which the Lord gave him to do: I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow. The one who plants and the one who waters really do not matter. **It is God who matters, because he makes the plant grow.** There is no difference between the one who plants and the one who waters; God will reward each one according to the work each has done. For we are partners working together for God, and you are God's field. (1Co 3:5-9)

✠ Who does the work of soul winning?

God and You

What is it that God expects you and me to do in witnessing or sharing our faith?

- Tell others what God has done for us**
- Tell others how God has touched us**

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- ✠ **Why is it difficult for us in the 21st century to share our faith? Or to be a witness to God's saving power?**
 - **Fear (why are we so fearful?)**
 - Rejection
 - Persecution
 - Shyness (timidity)
 - **Lack of concern for others?**
 - **Don't see the urgency or need?**

Personal Evangelism or Witnessing

Definition:

Personal evangelism: is a conscious effort to witness to a soul about the saving Christ, with the view to lead them into a relationship with Christ.

It should never be forced... it should be a natural expression of concern and love for the spiritual well being of someone you care about.

When, Where, Why and Whom

✘ When & Where:

- Evangelizing can be done any time as wisdom dictates, or as the occasion warrants.
- In other words as the opportunity arises.

✘ Whom:

- Every one can be reached: the rich, the poor, the young and the old; male and female; the bedridden and the imprisoned.

When, Where, Why and Whom

- **Why:**
- **because we must be Born Again (saved) in order to enter the Kingdom of God.**
John 3:3

When, Where, Why and Who

Who:

Every Christian ought to do personal evangelism...

not all Christians are called to be pastors or full time preachers, but all can and should be able to win others to Christ.

Jesus while on earth trained and taught his disciples to share God's Word.

When, Where, Why and Who

Where:

It is done anywhere and everywhere, for there are souls in the office, along the streets, in the factory; at home, in the market place.

(Mark.16:20) "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following.

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Q: How do we get people to talk about spiritual things? How do we start soul-winning conversations?

"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"

Acts 4:20 -- Peter and John to the Sanhedrin)

Teacher: Wm. Knudsen, EP

***What do you fear the most
about inviting family,
friends, or neighbors to
"come and see Jesus"
at your church?***

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Half of the unchurched Americans surveyed by Gallup pollsters said they intend to return to active church participation some day.

Of that group, one in 5 said they would start back to church if someone would just talk to them about spiritual matters.

So, how do you start that conversation which may lead people into a relationship with God and the assurance of salvation?

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Divide into groups of three and come up with some spiritual discussion starters for the following:

- ✘ Someone you just met**
- ✘ A long-time acquaintance**
- ✘ A good friend**
- ✘ A family member or a "best" friend**

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Spiritual conversation openers

General issues

- ✘ What gives most meaning to your life?
- ✘ What, or who, are your sources of strength in your day-to-day living?
- ✘ When you have problems or crises, how do you manage to get through them?
- ✘ Is religion or God important to you?
 - In what ways?
 - If not, is there any particular reason why not?
- ✘ Wouldn't you like to have faith in something?

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Relationship questions

- ✘ Does God (or a Higher Power) seem personal to you?
- ✘ Do you feel close to God?
- ✘ What is your picture of God?
- ✘ What has God done for you?
- ✘ How is God working in your life right now?
- ✘ Are you comfortable with God's guidelines and laws for living?

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

- ✘ **Do you feel there are any barriers between you and God?**
- ✘ **Have you ever felt anything against God?**
- ✘ **Have you ever done anything for which you feel God could not forgive you?**
- ✘ **Do you understand the way to forgiveness and what it means?**
- ✘ **Do you feel God has a plan for your life?**
- ✘ **Do you feel you are living up to what you feel God expects of you?**

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Devotional life and practice

- ✘ What kinds of devotional readings do you like?
- ✘ What are your favorite authors, writings?
- ✘ Do you like religious music? Kinds? Favorites?
- ✘ Do you read the Bible?
- ✘ Do you understand what you read?
- ✘ Does Bible reading help in living? How?
- ✘ Is Prayer a meaningful part of your devotional life?
- ✘ Do you feel you are growing spiritually?

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

The Church

- ✘ Are you involved in a church?
- ✘ Is your church helpful to you?
- ✘ Do you attend the worship services of your church?
- ✘ What do you like most about its teachings?
- ✘ Are you personally acquainted with the pastor?
- ✘ Are you a member of an accountability or nurturing group in your church?

Talking to unchurched people about God and salvation

Religion and illness, dying and death:

- ✘ Has being ill made any difference in your thinking or feeling about God or your religious faith?
- ✘ Has it affected your devotional life?
- ✘ When you are ill, do you have feelings that God is punishing you or that it is His will for you to be sick?
- ✘ How do you feel about suffering?
- ✘ Do you trust God with your future?

Spiritual conversation starters

Q: "So, how do I get started in witnessing to someone?"

What do You think?

What have you experienced in the past?

Spiritual conversation starters

Lyle Pointer published a series of "spiritual conversation starters" in a little brochure.

His suggested opening lines for soul winning conversations were:

Spiritual conversation starters

- ❖ **Do you give much thought to God and spiritual things?**
- ❖ **Tell me about your most memorable spiritual experience.**
- ❖ **What do you think is a person's greatest spiritual need?**

Spiritual conversation starters

- ✦ **Tell me about your church background; did you go to church as a child?**
 - **How do you feel about your upbringing and your awareness of spiritual things?**
 - **How would you describe your life with God now?**

Spiritual conversation starters

- ✦ How do you think a person begins a personal relationship with God?**
- ✦ When did you feel closest to God?**
 - What factors or influences brought you nearer to God?**
 - What would renew that sense of closeness?**

Spiritual conversation starters

- ✦ On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being closest to God), where do you see yourself in relationship with God?**
 - Where do you want to be?**
 - How do you see yourself moving closer to God?**
 - How can I encourage you to get to where you would like to be?**

Spiritual conversation starters

Dr. Pointer gives some words of advice to those wanting to use his conversation starters:

- Ask questions that tie into former conversations.**
- Listen closely. Be sensitive.**
- Proceed as long as your friend shows interest.**
- Affirm any amount of truth or insight offered.**

Your personal testimony

Talking to people about a relationship with God and His plan of salvation

- *Are you a contagious Christian?*
- *Is your faith infectious?*

You can't give something away if you don't have it to begin with....

Your personal testimony

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith." -- Philemon 1:6

Writing out your testimony will help you be ready to tell your story about Jesus to anyone who asks.

Your personal testimony

- ✦ **There are three reasons why personal testimonies impact people.**
 - **People who know you are interested in you and your life.**
 - **Other people can relate to your story.**
 - **They can't argue with the fact that your life has been changed.**

Your personal testimony

✠ Read Acts 26:1-32

Paul telling his story

Acts 26: 4-11 Before

Acts 26:12-18 How

Acts 26:19-23 After

Your personal testimony

Your answers to the following questions form your testimony.

Before: your life before you knew Christ

- Before you came to Christ, where were you spiritually? How did that affect you -- your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?**
- Before you became a Believer, what were some ways God began drawing you to Christ?**

Your personal testimony

How: your conversion story

- What motivated you to invite Christ into your life as Lord and Savior?
- Specifically, how did you come to Christ, receive His forgiveness and submit to His Lordship?
- If a church played a part in your conversion, how did you come in contact with that congregation? Who and what do you remember from your first visits?

Your personal testimony

After: your new walk with Christ

- What changed in your life after you accepted Jesus as your Savior?
- Finish this sentence: "*My prayer is....*"

Your personal testimony

Take 15 minutes and write your own personal testimony using the following formula:

Before I was a Christian...

How I became a Christian ...

After I accepted Jesus as my Savior..

What does Christian Conversion include?

**What happens after your
moment of decision?**

**"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new
creation; the old has gone, the new
has come!" -- 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Teacher: Wm. Knudsen, EP

What does Christian Conversion include?

conversion should be seen as a process that includes:

- (1) serious heart-searching before making a decision**
- (2) a decision to submit to Christ's lordship**
- (3) a commitment to discipleship after coming to that decision**

12 Steps to Christian Conversion

- 1. We admit we are powerless over sin -- that our lives had become unmanageable & out of control.**
- 2. We believe that only a power greater than ourselves can restore us.**
- 3. We decided to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.**
- 4. We take a moral inventory of ourselves.**

12 Steps to Christian Conversion

- 5. We confess to God, to ourselves, and to others the exact nature of our wrongs.**
- 6. We ask God to forgive us as we forgive others.**
- 7. We humbly repent of our sins and ask God to cleanse us of our sins.**
- 8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all. (Restitution)**

12 Steps to Christian Conversion

9. We make direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continue to take personal inventory. When we are wrong, we promptly confess it.
11. We seek through Prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying for the knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we carry (share or proclaim) this message to others.

Closing Prayer:

God of all the earth, you love all mankind, not merely those who come to church.

Grant that we may be used by you to bring this message of love to those around us.

You are the light of the world. Help us to share eagerly with others the good news of the Gospel.

Help us to guide others to confess their sins, to turn to Christ, to have faith in him, to begin the great adventure of the Christian life.

God, lead us to make that decision made by the scribe who said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go..."

In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Growing Churches have these 10 things in common

- 1. Growing Spiritually—Worshippers grow in their faith (Discipleship)**
- 2. Meaningful Worship—Worship services meet the needs of worshippers**
- 3. Participating in the Congregational life—worshippers are involved in many of the church activities.**
- 4. Having a sense of belonging—people have a sense of fellowship with others.**

Growing Churches have these 10 things in common

- 5. Caring for young people—children and youth are nurtured in their faith**
- 6. Focusing on the community—congregations reach out to and serve those outside their doors.**
- 7. Sharing their faith—members feel comfortable sharing their faith with others (apostolicity) sent-ness**

Growing Churches have these 10 things in common

- 8. Welcoming new people—congregations assist new people to become part of their faith community.**
- 9. Empowering leadership—members share in the leadership of the congregation.**
- 10. Looking to the future—congregations focus on a positive future**