

EVANGELISM 5 – SESSION 1 “DISCOVERING MY MISSION”

LA CASA DEL ALFARERO Mission statement:

Our church exists to help people find CHRISTIAN LIFE in Jesus Christ by ...

L eading them to **Membership**
I nstructing them in **Maturity**
F itting them for **Ministry**
E quipping them for **Evangelism**

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Module 101, “The Starting Point”, you committed to being a member of God’s **family**. In Module 201, “Growing in Grace”, you committed to the habits for spiritual **maturity**. In Module 301, “Understanding Who God Is”, you learned about the Oneness of the Godhead and that Jesus is truly King of Kings. In Module 401, “The Call to Sacrifice”, you discovered how to live out a position of holiness unto the Lord. In this course, “Evangelism” 501, you’re going to begin to **discover** your **mission** in the world.
- B. Every person on earth is either a missionary (saved) or a mission field (unsaved). Our goal in taking this class is to commit the rest of our lives to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people; using our time, our talents, and our treasure for His Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs.
- C. THE BASIS FOR THE CLASS:
- I WAS CREATED TO FULFILL GOD’S PURPOSE. Proverbs 16:4 says “***The Lord has made everything for His purpose.***” (NLT)
 - GOD PLANNED MY LIFE MISSION BEFORE I WAS BORN. Ephesians 2:10 – “***For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***” (KJV)
 - FULFILLING MY LIFE MISSION BRINGS GLORY TO GOD. There is not a more important topic: discovering and developing your life mission, your life purpose in the world.

- MY PRIMARY TASK IN LIFE IS TO FULFILL MY LIFE MISSION. Acts 20:24 – ***"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*** (NKJV)

II. WHY I WAS CREATED!

The Bible says that we were created for four reasons:

- A. First, we were made to have a relationship with God. In Genesis 1:27 it says ***"So God created man in His own image...."*** (NKJV). Human beings are unique in that we're made in God's image. What does that mean? We have a spirit. As a result, we can communicate with God who is a Spirit.
- B. The second thing the Bible says is we were made to become **like** Christ. You are never going to be God. However, the Bible teaches that you can become **godly**. What does that mean? In our **character**, having the **love** of God, the **joy** of God, the **peace** of God, and the **patience** of God.
- C. Third, we were made to serve God's purpose. Ephesians 2:10 – ***"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*** (NKJV). We should be living a life that is built on the purposes of God that He created us for.
- D. Fourth, the Bible says we were made to last forever. There's an eternal warranty on your life. When you realize that this world is not all there is, a lot of things lose their importance. They just don't seem that important when you put them in the perspective of eternity.

III. JESUS' MISSION ON EARTH!

- A. The next thing we need to look at as we consider your mission in the world is Jesus' mission on earth. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to earth because our own selfish choices have severed our relationship with God. The problem is **SIN**.
- B. God's solution was that he robed himself in flesh and took the initiative to bring us back to Himself.

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John 3:16 – ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*** (NKJV)

II Corinthians 5:19 – ***"...that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."*** (NKJV)

What did Jesus come to do specifically?

Luke 19:10 – ***"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*** (NKJV)

John 10:10 – ***"...I am come that they might have life (eternal), and that they might have it more abundantly."*** (KJV)

IV. WHY JESUS' MISSION SHOULD MATTER TO ME!

A. If I want to be like Jesus, **my** life mission must include **His** life mission.

John 17:18 – ***"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*** (NKJV).

B. Jesus expects me to **continue** His mission in the world.

- This is commanded. If you are a Christian, you are commanded to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.
- When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He said something that was so important that He stated it five times, in five different situations and in five different ways. He did it once in each of the four Gospels and once in the book of Acts. These statements are called the Great Commission. Why are they called the Great Commission? Because they are the greatest thing you can **build** your **life** around:

Matthew 28:19-20 – ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."*** (NKJV)

Mark 16:15 – ***"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"*** (NKJV)

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Luke 24:47 – ***"...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*** (NKJV)

John 20:21 – ***"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*** (NKJV)

Acts 1:8 – ***"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*** (NKJV)

C. Sharing the good news is **my** responsibility.

Ezekiel 3:18 – ***"When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand."*** (NKJV)

I Corinthians 9:16 – ***"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"*** (NKJV)

- He's saying the people around me are headed for hell. If I let them go to hell and I don't tell them, I'm responsible. You can't let anybody else be responsible for the **people closest** to you. They are in your life for a reason.

D. Sharing the Gospel is my privilege.

II Corinthians 5:18 – ***"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."*** (NKJV)

II Corinthians 5:20 – ***"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."*** (NKJV)

E. I'm Grateful for what Jesus has done for me.

II Corinthians 5:14 – ***"For the love of Christ compels us..."*** (NKJV)

- Too often we forget how good the "Good News" really is. In Ephesians 2:12 Paul says, ***"In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God..."*** (NLT). It was a miserable life. We were hopeless and we did not have God.

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- The Bible says in II Corinthians 5:14 - **"...Christ's love compels us because we're convinced that one died for all..."** (NIV) God has never made a person that He didn't love.

F. People are lost without Christ.

Acts 4:12 - **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** (NKJV)

Romans 10:13-14 - **"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"** (NKJV)

- Jesus is the only way to heaven, so we have to share it. God could write the good news in the sky but He's chosen instead to use you and that is a **privilege**, is it not?

G. God wants everybody to be saved.

I Timothy 2:4 - **"...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."** (NKJV)

II Peter 3:9 - **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."** (NKJV)

H. I will be rewarded for eternity.

Colossians 3:24 - **"...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."** (NKJV)

Daniel 12:3 - **"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."** (NKJV)

I. I will rejoice when I see people in **heaven**.

Luke 15:7- **"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."** (NKJV)

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I Thessalonians 2:19 – ***"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?"*** (NKJV)

Knowing how important this mission is to the Lord, what should my response be?

Acts 20:24 – ***"...I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."*** (NIV)

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“SHARING THE MESSAGE”

Psalms 96:2 ***“Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.”*** (NKJV)

Psalms 96:2 ***“Sing out his praises! Bless his name. Each day tell someone that he saves.”*** (TLB)

Now that we know we have a mission, we need to understand the “message” of that mission. One of the most important parts of your life mission is your life **message**. Your life message is what God wants to say to the world through **you**. Part of your life message is unique (your own personal testimony). And part of your life message is universal, the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:9 ***“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...”*** (NKJV)

I. What We Believe About Evangelism

A. Evangelism should be “Personality Oriented”. Christians are to **be** the good news before they **share** the good news. There are many different styles of evangelism:

- **Confrontational** Style – Peter in Acts 2

II Timothy 4:2 ***“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”*** (NKJV)

- **Intellectual** Style – Paul in Acts 17

II Corinthians 10:5 ***“...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...”*** (NKJV)

- **Testimonial** Style – Blind Man in John 9

I John 1:3 ***“... that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*** (NKJV)

- **Interpersonal** Style – Matthew in Luke 5

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I Corinthians 9:22 ***"...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*** (NKJV)

- **Invitational** Style – Woman at the Well in John 4

Luke 14:23 ***"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'"*** (NKJV)

- **Serving** Style – Dorcas in Acts 9

Matthew 5:16 ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*** (NKJV)

- B. Evangelism should be **"People** Oriented". When we show a genuine **interest** in others, they will eventually want to know why! An evangelistic "event" tends to **rush** people, but an evangelistic **"process"** is patient with people.
- C. Evangelism should be **"Team** Oriented". A person's coming to God is like a chain with many links. We don't have to be every link, just one link!
- D. Evangelism should be **"Eternity** Oriented". Evangelism is the primary reason that the church is on planet earth. Nothing else is as important to God. Why is **one** soul so important? Read the book of Acts!
- In Acts 3 it was one lame man at the Temple Gate
 - In Acts 8 it was one anonymous Ethiopian Treasurer
 - In Acts 9 it was one Pharisee named Saul
 - In Acts 9 it was one coat-maker named Dorcas
 - In Acts 10 it was one Roman Centurion named Cornelius
 - In Acts 14 it was one anonymous crippled man
 - In Acts 16 it was one seller of cloth named Lydia
 - In Acts 16 it was one anonymous Philippian jailer
 - In Acts 18 it was one ruler of the synagogue named Crispus
 - In Acts 18 it was one eloquent preacher named Apollos

II. Sharing My Testimony

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- A. A personal testimony is still the most **powerful** form of communication today. Advertisers still use personal testimonies.
- Why do they use them? Because it's still the most powerful form of communication: the **personal** story.
- B. The Bible is full of many, many examples of people sharing their testimony.
- David says in Psalms 66:16 **"Come and listen, let me tell you what he has done for me."** (NIV)
 - The woman at the well: John 4:39 **"...many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, 'He told me everything I have ever done.'"** (TEV)
 - The man born blind: John 9:25 **"I was blind, and now I see."** (TEV)
 - Peter and John: Acts 4:20 **"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."** (NKJV)
 - Paul: On six different occasions (Acts 22-26) he used his personal testimony to share the gospel with unbelievers.
- C. You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. All you have to say is, "Jesus Christ made a **difference** in my life." Your testimony has a special value to God and to others around you.
- It is **unique**, there are no others like it.
 - It is **personal** and easy to understand.
 - You are the authority on it, so it is difficult to **argue** with.
 - People love a personal story and remember it.
 - People can relate to it, so it builds a relational **bridge**.
 - In our postmodern world, it may be your most effective witness. A lot of people today aren't going to listen to the **Bible**. But they will listen to **your** story.
- D. The Bible says in I Peter 3:15 **"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..."** (NKJV)
- E. We are to share our hope. Did you know that the Bible never, ever tells you to share your faith? It says share your **hope**. Why? Because faith is what

you believe. Hope is the **benefit** of it. You're to share the difference hope has made in your life.

III. The Parts of My Testimony

A. What my life was like **before** I met Christ. (least time)

- What **common** circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
- What were your **attitudes** that an unbeliever would identify with?
- What was most important to you?
- What substitute for God did you use to find **meaning** in your life?

B. **How** I realized I needed Christ. (more time)

- What significant steps **led** up to your conversion?
- What **needs, hurts** or problems made you **dissatisfied** with the way you were living without God?
- How did God get your **attention**?
- What motivated you to become a Christian?

C. How I committed my life to Christ. (even more time)

- What specifically did you do?
- **Where** did it happen?
- What did you say in your prayer? (be specific)

D. The difference Christ has made in my life. (most time)

- What **benefits** have you experienced or felt?
- What **problems** have been resolved? (give current example)
- How has Jesus **helped** you change for the better?
- How has Jesus helped you in your **relationships**? (very important: husband, wife, family, etc).

E. When speaking to the lost, avoid some of our Christian jargon we so easily toss around.

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Christian Term ...	When Talking To Unbelievers ...
"Blessed"	"Happy, at peace"
"I was born again"	"I was given a fresh, new start"
"I was saved"	"My life changed at that moment"
"Jesus is my Lord"	"Jesus is in control of my life" "I put Jesus in the driver's seat"
"I repented"	"I changed my way of thinking" "I made a mental U-turn"
"All are sinners"	"Nobody's perfect"
"I felt convicted"	"I realized"
"The Holy Ghost"	"God's Spirit"
"It was glorious"	"It was an incredible experience"
"The Lord laid on my heart"	"I felt"
"Praise the Lord"	"I'm really thankful to God"
"Hallelujah"	"Living for God is exciting"

IV. Leading Into Your Testimony

Four ways to lead into our testimony:

- **Listen** for **problems** or **needs** that Jesus has helped you with. Begin by listening to the problems and the needs that folks are expressing around us. Example, "That used to be a big issue in my life too (or my marriage). In fact I felt pretty **hopeless**. But then I discovered something that made a **major** difference in my life."
- **Refer** to something in the news or something **current** that deals with a common need or problem. Example, "Did you read about..." "I can surely identify with that and how people feel." "It wasn't that long ago that I **struggled** in that same area too, then something happened that **changed** everything in my life."
- Start with a statement that they will **agree** with or a situation they can **relate** to. Example, "It seems like life is getting so hectic..." "Sometimes life just gets so complicated..." "Life doesn't always turn out the way we planned or expected."
- Apologize to people you have **known** for a long time but have not witnessed to. Example, "Bill, I owe you an apology. We've known each other for a long time and I consider you to be a very good friend. But friends don't keep secrets and I've **never** told you about the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I was afraid that you'd think I was a little **crazy**. Anyway..." then start into your story.

V. Thirteen "Tips" to Being an Effective Witness.

- A. **Recognize** your "Personal Style". Don't feel guilty about styles you don't naturally use and don't judge others who don't use your style! Remember, Jesus never used the **same** approach twice.
- B. **Think** through what you will say.

Colossians 4:6 ***"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."*** (NKJV)

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Proverbs 16:23 ***"The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips."*** (NKJV)

C. **Show** love.

I Corinthians 13:1 ***"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."*** (KJV)

D. Be **positive** and pleasant.

Proverbs 16:21 ***"The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning."*** (NKJV)

Proverbs 12:25 ***"Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad."*** (NKJV)

E. **Never** use put-downs. (of other people or denominations)

Colossians 4:6 ***"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."*** (NKJV)

Colossians 4:5 ***"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."*** (NKJV)

F. Tell **stories** and give examples.

Matthew 13:34 ***"All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them..."***(NKJV)

G. **Choose** a central theme for your testimony. Some possible testimony themes:

How Serving God Has Helped Me Deal With My:	How Serving God Has Given Me:
Worries / anxiety	Inner peace
Guilt / shame	Forgiveness and a fresh start
Anger / temper	Patience and love
Emptiness / lack of purpose	Purpose and meaning in life
Grief	Comfort and joy
Stress / burnout	New energy and power for living

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Low self-esteem	Significance (I'm valuable to God!)
Poor health	Healing or strength to go on
Disappointment	Trust in God's good plans
Insecurity	Confidence and sense of security
Regrets	A second chance at life
Discontent / frantic activity	Contentment and peace
Fears	Faith to face my fears
Loneliness	Assurance God's always with me
Lack of emotional support	A church family that supports me
Addictions / habits	Freedom and power to change
Self-centeredness	Love for other people
Despair / depression	Hope
Cheap thrills	Real and lasting happiness
Fear of death	Assurance of heaven
Feeling something was missing	A sense of fulfillment
Bitterness and resentment	The ability to be free from my past
Pain of rejection	God's unconditional love
Marriage problems	Positive changes in my marriage
Financial problems	Positive changes in my finances

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- God specifically allows **experiences** in your life so you can help other people who need God and are **dealing** with the same problem. There are all kinds of people with all kinds of problems in the world.
- This is one of the **first steps** in your life mission. You must identify the circumstances that God has brought into your life that you can use to help other people.

H. **Lighten** Up! ☺

Nehemiah 8:10 *"...Do not sorrow, for the **joy of the LORD is your strength.**" (NKJV)*

I. Be **natural** – Don't try to sound "Spiritual."

I Corinthians 2:1 *"**And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.**" (NKJV)*

Titus 2:8 *"...**sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**" (NKJV)*

J. Be **authentic**.

Philippians 1:27 *"**Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...**" (NKJV)*

K. Memorize some key Bible verses. (John 3:5, Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:14)

II Timothy 2:15 *"**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**" (KJV)*

L. Keep it **simple**. (avoid unnecessary details)

I Corinthians 2:4 *"**And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...**" (KJV)*

M. Ask God to help you and **anoint** you.

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I Thessalonians 1:5 ***"For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake."*** (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:19 ***"...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel..."*** (NKJV)

EVANGELISM 501 – SESSION 3 “FISHING IN MY MISSION POND”

I. SPIRITUAL FISHING

A. Jesus’ very first words to His disciples in Matthew 4:19 were – ***“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”*** (NKJV)
Notice two very important things about this passage:

- Following and fishing go **together**. If you’re not fishing, that means you’re not following. He says, “If you follow me, you’re going to be fishers of men.”

Leading people to the Lord is like fishing, not hunting!

H U N T I N G	F I S H I N G
<u>Aggressive</u>	More gentle
Based on confrontation	Based on <u>attraction</u>
Go out there and shoot them	Get them to <u>nibble</u> on the bait
Uses one-size-fits-all bullets	Allows you to try different <u>lures</u>
Take your best <u>shot</u> – it’s over	Requires give and take to <u>reel</u> it in
Scares animal away if you miss	You get more than one <u>chance</u>
The animal has no <u>choice</u>	The fish <u>gets</u> a choice
Must be a <u>skilled</u> shot	Anyone can put <u>bait</u> in water

II. Key #1 - IDENTIFY YOUR FISHING POND.

Acts 1:8 – ***"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*** (KJV)

- A. The scripture first tells us to be a witness. A witness is somebody who just shares from **experience**. It's a definition of what God is doing in our life.
- B. Then He tells us where. In Acts 1:8 He says, ***"... in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth..."*** (KJV) He's saying you start where you are. Your Jerusalem is where you are.
- Your Jerusalem, is your immediate **family** and **relatives**.
 - The next circle out, your Judea, is your **friends**.
 - The next circle out, your Samaria, are your neighbors and **associates**.
 - Finally, your world, which is your **acquaintances**.
- C. Who do you start first with? Those who are closest to you. God holds you responsible for the people you already have relationship with. First you start with your own family and friends.
- Mark 5:19 - ***However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."*** (NKJV)
- D. You need to make a list and invite them. Think of the names of some friends, some neighbors, some co-workers. Two conditions: 1) people you **care** about, and 2) people who **don't** know Jesus.

My Fishing Pond: (List three names for each).

- Immediate Family: _____
- Relatives: _____
- Close Friends: _____
- Neighbors/ Associates: _____
- Acquaintances: _____

III. Key #2 - LEARN ABOUT THE KIND OF FISH IN YOUR POND.

I Corinthians 9:20-23 – ***"...and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law(not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."*** (NKJV)

- A. You've got to know what they are **like** in order to **reach** them. You have to know the kind of people you're trying to reach. What do you need to know?
- B. If you're going to reach people, you need to understand their **needs**, their **hurts** and their **interests** and then share how Jesus Christ can **meet** those needs, hurts and interests.
- C. The second thing you need to ask is: what do I have in **common** with them? Find a common **connection**. (Common experiences, interests, needs, hurts, etc.)

IV. Key # 3 - REMEMBER FISH GET HUNGRY AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

Colossians 4:5 – ***"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."*** (NKJV)

Mark 12:34 – ***"Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*** (NKJV)

- A. **TIMING** is critically important. Sometimes people are very open to the gospel and sometimes very closed to it. Sometimes they'll talk to you about it and sometimes they don't want to talk about it at all. The parable of the soils is a good example of this. (Matthew 13)

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The Parable of the Soils	Four Levels of Receptivity
Hard Soil	<u>Defensive</u> Heart
Shallow Soil	<u>Impulsive</u> Heart
Weedy Soil	<u>Distracted</u> Heart
Good Soil	<u>Receptive</u> Heart

V. Stages Of Spiritual Growth

- A. Most people go through a process in receiving salvation and in spiritual growth. Effective evangelism assesses where they are now and helps them take the next step.
- B. The following diagram is a revised version of a scale called the Engle scale. It shows the stages people go through from total unbeliever to committed, mature believer.

HOW PEOPLE FIND SALVATION and spiritual growth		
- 6	Self-satisfied, skeptical, resistant, or spiritually <u>apathetic</u>	Resistant stage
- 5	Becomes aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in their life	Receptive stage
- 4	Begins looking for answers to <u>questions</u> or solutions to problems	<u>Seeker</u> stage
- 3	Considers the <u>differences</u> between themselves and believers	Consideration stage

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- 2	Learns <u>why</u> and <u>how</u> to become a Christian	Understanding stage
- 1	<u>Ready</u> to believe and receive salvation	Ready stage
0	GROUND ZERO	<u>NEW LIFE!</u>
+ 1	Learning about their new birth and their church family	Membership 101
+ 2	Learning about the <u>habits</u> necessary for spiritual growth	Maturity 201
+ 3	Learning about the <u>Oneness</u> of the Godhead and that Jesus is truly King of Kings.	Maturity 301
+ 4	Learning how to <u>live</u> a lifestyle that is holy and <u>pleasing</u> to God	Lifestyle 401
+ 5	Learning how to <u>share</u> the gospel with other people	Evangelism 501

C. - 6 : The RESISTANT stage. People who are self-satisfied, skeptical, resistant.

D. - 5 : The RECEPTIVE stage. At Minus Five are the people who become **aware** of an unmet need or spiritual void. Do you know what usually causes that? A **crisis** or a sudden **change**.

- a. There's a Holmes Stress Scale that's very popular. He attached certain points of stress to this scale so that if a person has had a total of 300 points in any given year, they might be in big trouble. They might be ready to crash and burn.

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<u>LIFE EVENT</u>	<u>STRESS / RECEPTIVITY LEVEL</u>
Death of a spouse	100
Divorce	73
Marriage separation	65
Jail term	63
Death of a close family member	63
Personal injury or major illness	53
Getting married	50
Fired from work	47
Marriage reconciliation	45
Retirement	45
Major change in health of family member	44
Pregnancy	40
Sex difficulties	39
Gaining a new family member	39
Major change at work	39
Major change in financial status	38
Death of a close friend	37
Son or daughter leaving home	29
Trouble with in-laws	29
Spouse begins or stops work	26
Trouble with boss	23
Change in residence	20

- E. – 4 : The SEEKER stage. They begin looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems.
- F. – 3 : The CONSIDERATION stage. They begin to consider the difference between themselves and believers.
- G. – 2 : The UNDERSTANDING stage. They are learning why and how to become a Christian.
- H. – 1: The READY stage. They are ready! Pray a prayer of repentance with them. Talk to them about **water baptism**. Pray with them at the altar to receive the Holy Spirit.
- I. 0 - GROUND ZERO. Celebrate their spiritual birthday with them! Make yourself available to **encourage** them and get them started in our Christian Development Course.

- J. Evangelism is a **process**. Sharing the good news with other people is a **process** of **moving** people through the stages. People move through these stages at different **speeds**. Some move real **quickly**, while others may take years.

VI. HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

Step #1: Become **Aware**

- Make a **list** of your unsaved family and friends by name
- Realize that they are your responsibility
- **Assess** each person's level of spiritual receptivity
- Discover what their interests and needs are
- Look for areas of **common** ground that you can build on
- Figure out what **kind** of testimony each would respond to

Step #2: Commit To **Prayer**

- Make a prayer list and pray **daily** for your unsaved friends
- Pray that God will **draw** them to Himself (John 6:44)
- Pray that God will **remove** spiritual **blindness** (II Corinthians 4:3-4)
- Pray that God will **guide** them into spiritual truth (John 16:13)
- Pray for an **opportunity** to share a clear witness (Colossians 4:3-5)
- Pray that God will give you **wisdom** in what to say (James 1:5)
- Pray that God will use the **words** you say (I Thessalonians 1:5)

Step #3: **Show** You **Care**

- Treat everyone with **respect** as PEOPLE, not as **PROSPECTS**
(You must be real)
- Be a **genuine** friend; help them in **practical** ways
- Be a good **listener**. It is a great way to show love
- Make **SERVICE** your aim, not RECRUITMENT
- **Invite** them into your home or a Home Group
- Consciously **focus** your concern on meeting their needs
- Go out of your way to **love** them until they ask you WHY!
- Accept people as they are without being **judgmental**

Step #4: Be Ready To Share

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- Identify yourself as a positive, **joyful** Christian (negative Christians are a turn-off)
- Share a testimony when the occasion **naturally** arises (it will! Don't force it)
- Never force the gospel. Be **patient**, for God is working!
- Use crisis situations to show **why** we all need God.
- Ask **questions** that lead to spiritual discussions.
- Give them appropriate message Audio **CDs** or books to read.
- Focus on the essential. Don't get **sidetracked** by hang-ups.
- Invite them to a service that is designed to reach them.
- Offer to **pray** with them (not for them).

CLASS 501 - SESSION 4

"Evangelism"

"BECOMING A WORLD CLASS CHRISTIAN"

I. LOCAL MISSIONS

Acts 1:8 - *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both **in Jerusalem**, and **in all Judaea**, and **in Samaria**, and unto **the uttermost part of the earth**."* (KJV)

Acts 18:9 – *"**Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;"**"* (NKJV)

Acts 18:10 - *"**...for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.**"* (NKJV)

- A. Committing to action brings **reaction**: Newton's Third Law of Motion: to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. That means spiritually, when I am moving, God is moving!
- B. Our vision ILCDA includes evangelizing Montgomery County, our nation, and our world with the gospel!

*Revelation 3:8 – "**...See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...**"* (NKJV)

- We dare to dream of a place where lost people can find **God**, hurting people can find **healing**, and all people can find **love**.
- We dare to dream of welcoming thousands into membership in our church **family**, developing each individual to spiritual **maturity**, and **equipping** them for a significant ministry in the body of Christ.
- We dare to dream of a church that is passionate about evangelism, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the thousands in Montgomery County and surrounding areas, supporting career missionaries on every continent, and sending out hundreds of our members on short-term mission projects around the world.

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- We dare to dream of an army of ministers, committed to using their God-given **gifts**, talents, **energies** and resources to achieve excellence and spiritual impact in every ministry of the church.
- We dare to dream of a congregation **mature** enough to **embrace** Apostolic truth and Biblical holiness, yet compassionate enough to **include** people at any stage in their walk with God.
- We dare to dream of a beautiful church campus, housing beautiful yet simple facilities including a Worship Center where people can experience God's presence and an Educational Center where people can study God's Word and basic life issues.
- We dare to dream of facilities that have athletic fields and a Family Life center that minister to the athletic and physical needs of our church and community.
- We dare to dream of facilities that will allow us to minister to the **needs** of the **abused**, the homeless, and those who are **struggling** with chemical addictions.
- We dare to dream of a church family who **love, learn, live**, laugh and **labor** together, where everyone is included, anyone can be involved, and no one feels insignificant.
- We dare to dream of a church that will **pray** in harmony, give with generosity, work in **unity** and worship with **expectancy** until God hears from Heaven and heals our land with a visitation of His glory and power in Montgomery County and the surrounding area!

Habakkuk 1:5 - **"Look among the nations and watch -- Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you."** (NKJV)

Acts 2:17 - **"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."** (NKJV)

II. GLOBAL MISSION

- A. God's plan is not limited to us locally. God's plan has always been global. He's always been interested in the entire world. Jesus said in Mark 16:15 **"And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."** (NKJV)
- B. The Bible clearly points out that the Great Commission is for every believer. It is your job and my job to take the Gospel, not just to Jerusalem, but to Judea, Samaria and the whole world.
- C. Here is a look at the world situation.
 - 1. The availability of the Bible in other languages has increased dramatically. In the 1800's, it was translated into only 67 languages. By the year 2000, the Bible was available in twenty-eight hundred languages.
 - 2. There are four words that best describe the un-reached people or groups in our world: 1) Asian 2) Urban (we often think of missions and think of the jungles, but most of the people are in cities and mega cities) 3) Islamic 4) Youth under the age of twenty.
 - 3. Urbanization will increase dramatically during the next two decades. For the first time in history, more people live in cities than in rural areas.
 - 4. By 2015, there will be twenty-one cities over ten million in size. By 2025, over 25% of the world's population will live in squatter settlements connected to these huge cities.
 - 5. Currently there are over a hundred million street children in mega cities like Mexico City, Bangkok and Singapore. They **live** and **sleep** on the street.
 - 6. Youth under twenty continue to **increase**. By the year 2010, there will be 2.4 billion youth under the age of twenty.
 - 7. The problem isn't the harvest, it's the lack of **harvesters**! Matt. 9:37 – "Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are **few**."

III. Goals For Becoming a "World Class" Christian!

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- A. Every few months have a mission experience in your local community. (our Jerusalem) This is accomplished through your Home Fellowship group socials, neighborhood outreaches, and your personal evangelism efforts.
- B. Every year have a mission experience beyond your community. This could include a church wide evangelistic effort or a Missions opportunity somewhere else in our state or another state. (our Judea) For example, Youth on Mission trips, etc.
- C. Every few years have a mission experience with another cultural group either in your city or somewhere else in our Country. (our Samaria). For example, Apostolic Youth Corps, etc.
- D. At least once in your life have a mission experience with another culture in another country (our world). Short term mission trips, AIM Program, Oversees crusades, part or full time missionary.

IV. NINETEEN WAYS TO DEVELOP A MISSIONARY HEART

- 1. Invite your friends to events at ILCDA. (picnics, music events, banquets, Holiday Programs or Services, etc.)
- 2. Host an "Open House" to get to know your neighbors.
- 3. Volunteer to get involved at your children's school.
- 4. Always leave an invitation for a waiter/waitress (with a generous tip!).
- 5. Reach out to university students locally and from other states.
- 6. Get yourself a world map or a Missions Map and pray for our missionaries.
- 7. Become a prayer partner for one of our missionaries.
- 8. Become a "PIM", "Partner In Missions", with regular monthly financial offerings and pledges to missions projects through our local church.
- 9. Pray for the countries mentioned in our Missions Updates.
- 10. Become regularly involved at each altar service **standing ready** to **minister** to someone else.

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11. Teach or host a Home Bible Study. (Search for Truth)
12. Provide transportation to bring someone to church.
13. Get involved in the "World Network of Prayer" ministry.
14. Volunteer at the various Homeless shelters or food kitchens in Montgomery County or the surrounding area.
15. Visit a senior citizen who cannot get to church and help them with their needs.
16. Volunteer to help a neighbor with some yard work.
17. Go on a short term missions trip to another country.
18. Help a needy family that is going through a crisis.
19. Provide scholarship assistance for those who are doing mission trips or are going to Bible college.

V. WHAT IT TAKES TO HAVE A MISSIONARY HEART

- A. We must shift our thinking from **SELF-CENTEREDNESS** to **GOD-CENTEREDNESS**.

Matt. 16:24-26 – "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (KJV)

- B. We must shift our thinking from **LOCAL** to **GLOBAL**.

Psalms 2:8 – "Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." (NKJV)

Isaiah 43:5-7 – "Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up! And to the south, 'Do not keep

them back! Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth -- Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." (NKJV)

- C. We must shift our thinking from **TEMPORARY** values to **ETERNAL** values.

Matthew 6:33 – ***"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*** (NKJV)

II Timothy 2:4 – ***"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."*** (NKJV)

- D. We must shift our thinking from **SECURITY** to **SERVICE**.

Mark 8:35 – ***"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."*** (NKJV)

Save it you lose it; lose it you save it.

- E. We must shift our thinking from personal **COMFORT** to personal **SACRIFICE**.

Matt. 16:24 – ***"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*** (KJV)

1. In light of all that God has done for us, we can never **out give** God. Are you willing to do for the truth what cults are willing to do for a lie?
 - In 1938, a group of young people in brown shirts began to follow a fanatical man that ranted behind a podium in a stadium in Munich Germany. A hundred thousand of them shouted, "Hitler, we are yours." They nearly took the world.
 - In the mid sixties, a group of young Chinese took a book called "The Sayings of Chairman Mao" and committed it to memory. They also said, "Mao, we are yours," and turned a country of nearly a billion people upside down in a cultural revolution. It doesn't take a lot of people to make a difference. It just takes **commitment**.

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2. The word "witness" in Greek is the word "*martus*" where we get the word "martyr". There is no **sharing** without **sacrifice**. And if you get serious about fulfilling your life **mission** you're going to have to sacrifice.

Acts 20:24 – ***"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*** (NKJV)

Next Growth Step

Congratulations on completing the entire "Journey Class." We pray that this course was a blessing and a help to your spiritual walk with God.

Listed below are growth steps that you need to take:

1. If you have not already done so, make an appointment to meet with one of the pastors to sign your **Covenant of Commitment**. A copy of this form was provided in Module 401 Session 4. Signing your covenant means that you have received the Holy Ghost speaking in other tongues, you have been baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, you are currently paying your tithes, and you are living a holy life as taught in Module 4 of your "Journey Class."
2. Sign up to attend a Life Group nearest you.
3. Get involved in ministry!

Course Completion Form

I have completed all modules of “The Journey” class.

Student Name: _____

Date Completed: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Journey Teacher - Please turn this form in to
your PASTOR