

# BIBLE 908

## HOW TO SHARE CHRIST WITH MY FRIENDS

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# HOW TO SHARE CHRIST WITH MY FRIENDS

Christians should recognize that the Christian life contains more than the salvation they receive when they recognize Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. This salvation must be shared with others so that they will see their need and will come to know Him as their Saviour. If you were starving and found an abundant supply of food, surely you would not hesitate to inform your starving friends so that their lives would also be saved. Similarly, those of us who have had our souls satisfied by the Bread of Life, Jesus Himself, should be eager to share this exciting news with those who have the same hunger.

The Christian is not asked to be the judge of another's sin or to be a lawyer and argue his case. Rather, he should tell others about what has happened to him and should share his joy in Christ. Sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ is a very simple matter. In this LIGHTUNIT you will explore some of the methods of making Christ known among your friends. You will study personal evangelism, witnessing through outreach and in specific witnessing campaigns. Sharing Christ with others can be an exciting experience!

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIGHTUNIT.

When you have finished this LIGHTUNIT, you should be able:

1. To describe some Scriptural accounts of witnessing.
2. To describe how the Holy Spirit helps us in witnessing.
3. To discuss the significance of God's Word in the process of evangelism.
4. To explain the importance and value of a follow-up ministry.
5. To list some barriers that must be overcome before we can witness effectively.
6. To describe Bible study methods designed for outreach.
7. To discuss outreach meetings that utilize activities or food.
8. To tell how personal or family travel can be used for outreach.
9. To describe church or denominational projects for young people.
10. To describe mission or organization projects appropriate for young people.

**Survey the LIGHTUNIT.** Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

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# I. PERSONAL EVANGELISM

We cannot separate love from the process of personal evangelism. Without love Christians would have no lasting incentive to tell others the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. If we witness out of a sense of duty instead of love, people will be distracted from Christ because they sense our own lack of concern for their needs. Our motives must spring from a heartfelt affection for the Lord Himself and from our desire for the good of our neighbor.

Jesus stated that love is the root of the first and greatest commandment and is the basis for the second commandment (Matthew 22:37-39): “. . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” If we are going to please the Lord with our witness

in this world, we must be sure that we truly love God with our whole being. We should allow His love to flow through us to reach out to others who do not know Him.

As you study personal evangelism, you will see that it must be initiated and continued by the Holy Spirit. Although the world needs to know the Saviour, people come to Him individually. The Lord Jesus Christ set an excellent example of personal evangelism. Although He often addressed multitudes of people during His earthly ministry, He still found time to meet the needs of individuals. His personal ministry to the Samaritan woman at the well is perhaps the most striking example of personal evangelism in the Gospels.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able:

1. To describe some Scriptural accounts of witnessing.
2. To describe how the Holy Spirit helps us in witnessing.
3. To discuss the significance of God's Word in the process of evangelism.
4. To explain the importance and value of a follow-up ministry.
5. To list some barriers that must be overcome before we can witness effectively.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words** to enhance your learning success in this section.

**adept** (u dept'). Fully skilled or proficient in any art.

**constrain** (kun strān'). To compel or force; to urge.

**eunuch** (yü' nuk). A male official of the court or household of a ruler.

**initiate** (i nish' ē āt). To begin.

**ordain** (ôr dān'). To appoint or order.



**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIGHTUNIT appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĩce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



Read John 4:1 through 42.

### CONDUCTED ON A PERSONAL BASIS

Although we may think about preaching the Gospel to multitudes of people during our lifetime, we obviously would not begin a personal ministry on such a large scale. The Bible tells us that we must be faithful in a few things before the Lord will make us ruler over many things (Matthew 25:21 and 23). The starting point for any ministry must be a personal, one-to-one conversation about Christ. If we cannot speak to our family and friends about Him, we probably will be unable to talk about Him to strangers.

Andrew, one of the first disciples to follow Jesus, went to his own brother, Simon Peter, and told him that he had found the Messiah. Andrew then brought his brother to Jesus (John 1:40-42). This procedure would be a wonderful way for us to begin our evangelism. If we do not love our own family and friends enough to lead them to the Lord, how could we share God's love with a stranger? Jesus spent His adolescent and adult years to age thirty ministering to the needs of His earthly family. Then His heavenly Father anointed Him with the Holy Spirit to go forth and preach the Gospel of the kingdom to the troubled people of His day. Although He was sent to minister especially to the lost sheep of Israel, the Jewish nation (Matthew 15:24), He was not too busy to give His attention to the problems of a Samaritan woman.

The Lord Jesus Christ was directed by the Holy Spirit; He delighted in pleasing and doing the will of His heavenly Father (John 8:29). Similarly, if we seek to do God's will, our steps will be ordered by the Lord (Psalm 37:23), and God will lead us to the people to whom He wants us to witness.

John 4:4 states that Jesus "... must needs go through Samaria" on His journey from Judea to Galilee. Jesus could have traveled on the eastern side of the Jordan River to avoid Samaritan territory, as did most of the Jews of that day. However, God's desire was that the despised Samaritans (Jews who had intermarried with foreigners) would experience revival. The personal ministry of Jesus to the destitute Samaritan woman prepared that province for the awakening that followed under Philip's ministry (Acts 8:5-14).

Jesus sat down at Jacob's well in the Samaritan city of Sychar at the precise time that a particular woman came to draw water. Jesus was following His Father's timetable. He was weary from traveling and thirsty for water. We do not know if Christ received the much-needed water, but He ministered to her spiritual need for living water. This meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman was God **ordained** rather than humanly arranged.

**Recognizing the need.** The Lord Jesus allowed no prejudices to prevent Him from meeting the needs of people. Although most Jews refused to speak to Samaritans, Jesus **initiated** the conversation with the woman at the well. We may also be called upon to be the first to speak when we meet someone who needs to hear about Jesus.

We should not let fear prevent us from talking with people. David said (Psalm 56:4), "... in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." In II Timothy 1:7 we read, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Sometimes the fear of being rejected prevents us from taking advantage of an opportunity to share our personal witness with others. Fear is a tool of Satan to keep us from spreading God's message of love to people in need of His love. If we trust in the Lord and resist the fear that Satan puts in us, Satan will be forced to flee from us (James 4:7).

If we look at other people's needs, we soon lose that self-consciousness that hinders us from responding to the needs of those around us. Because Jesus was sensitive to the needs of others, He was able to focus His attention on them and not on Himself. Although Jesus needed a drink of water, His primary concern was to quench the spiritual thirst of the Samaritan woman. The Lord can take an ordinary conversation and change it into a life-giving spiritual message. Jesus recognized this woman's need for everlasting life. When she heard His offer of living water, she recognized her need and accepted God's gift. We too should present a clear message of the good news of salvation to those around us.



**Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

Jesus was aware of the sin in the woman's life. He knew of her need for love, and He was aware of the way in which she had attempted to satisfy that need. He was able to speak words that revealed her need for repentance and a new direction in life.

Equipped with God's wisdom through Jesus

Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30) and the Holy Spirit's direction (Luke 12:11,12), we too shall be able to minister effectively on a person-to-person basis. As we make ourselves available, the Holy Spirit can bring others to true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

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**Answer true or false.**

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ We should witness out of a sense of duty to other people.
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus addressed only multitudes during His earthly ministry.
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ We should witness first to our family and friends about Christ.
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus felt fresh and rested when He stopped at Jacob's well.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus immediately told the Samaritan woman how sinful she was.
- 1.6 \_\_\_\_\_ The Samaritan woman initiated the conversation with Jesus.
- 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_ Fear often prevents people from witnessing effectively.



### Complete these statements.

- 1.8 The Scriptures state that \_\_\_\_\_ is the root of the first and second commandments.
- 1.9 We are first of all to love a. \_\_\_\_\_ and then our b. \_\_\_\_\_ as we do ourselves.
- 1.10 One of the early disciples named a. \_\_\_\_\_ first found his own brother b. \_\_\_\_\_, and brought him to c. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.11 Jesus was sent particularly to the a. \_\_\_\_\_ sheep of the house of Israel, but He still took time to minister to a b. \_\_\_\_\_ woman.
- 1.12 The Jews would not walk through \_\_\_\_\_ because they despised the people who lived there.
- 1.13 If we do not resist Satan, he will try to use a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ consciousness to hinder us from personally witnessing to others about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1.14 Jesus needed well water, but He gave her \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Satisfying the need.** Just like the need of the Samaritan, the need of non-Christians today is to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. The glad tidings that you share on a personal basis with others should present a clear picture of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the salvation He brings. As Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman, her understanding was opened. At first she recognized Him only as a Jew. When He showed concern for her needs, she addressed Him as "Sir." As He gently expressed His awareness of her sinful condition, she perceived Him to be a prophet. Finally, He revealed God as the One to be worshiped in spirit and in truth, and He revealed Himself as the Messiah.

If we have drunk of the water of life, we should be eager to bring others to the well of salvation. God does not intend for us to keep the good news to ourselves. We have done the most spiritually rewarding task of all when we have led a person to accept the lordship of Jesus Christ into his or her own life. The joy of seeing a person saved is surpassed only by watching that person go on to win others to the Lord.

Jesus used the simple illustration of water satisfying a thirst to reach the Samaritan woman. We do not need a complicated list of Scripture verses to convince someone of the value of knowing Jesus personally. A simple approach in which we use a few significant

Scripture verses will help to avoid confusion. Romans 10:9 and 10 is a good passage to memorize and to share the next time you have an opportunity to witness to someone. If we learn the Scriptures well, the Holy Spirit will help us to remember the Biblical truths that He wants us to share with others.

As the truth concerning Jesus became real to the Samaritan woman, she hurried back to tell her friends that Christ had indeed come. John 4:39 states, ". . . Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did."

Jesus followed up His ministry to this woman and to those who believed because of her testimony by staying with them for two days. During this time, He answered many questions and taught them the truths of the kingdom of God, thereby satisfying their spiritual desires and establishing them in the Word of God. At the end of His stay with them, they confessed that He was indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world (John 4:42). The time we spend discipling one individual could someday result in the salvation of a multitude of people!

Romans 10:13 gives the solution to the personal need of every individual: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The Scripture then continues with an explanation of the process preceding salvation. Paul asks (Romans 10:14 and 15),

“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? And how shall they preach, except they be sent. . . ?”  
Ultimately, someone can call on the Lord to be saved because someone else was sent with the good news of the Lord Jesus.

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**Write the correct letter and answer on each line.**

- 1.15 The greatest need of non-Christians in the world today is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. a system of theology  
b. a set of rules  
c. to do good works  
d. personal faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- 1.16 Many of the Samaritans believed on Christ because of the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the woman.  
a. arguments  
b. attitude  
c. deeds  
d. saying
- 1.17 Jesus followed up His ministry to the Samaritan woman by staying in her city for  
\_\_\_\_\_ days.  
a. ten  
b. seven  
c. two  
d. three
- 1.18 A person is saved by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. tears of repentance  
b. deciding to change his attitude  
c. calling on the name of the Lord  
d. refusing to run with a bad crowd



**Complete these activities.**

- 1.19 List in order the steps preceding salvation according to Romans 10:13-15.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
e. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.20 List in order the names referring to Jesus that the Samaritan woman used as her understanding of Him was opened.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_