

FOUNDATIONS

Essentials of Evangelism



AS TAUGHT BY

Robert Tuttle, Jr.

Essentials of Evangelism

as taught by
Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr.



BiblicalTraining.org
Rooted in scripture. Growing in Faith.

Essentials of Evangelism

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BiblicalTraining.org

BiblicalTraining.org not-for-profit ministry that gives all people access to a world-class Christian education at no cost. Our classes range from new believers to biblical literacy (“Foundations”), deeper Bible study (“Academy”), and seminary-level training (“Institute”).

We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit and rely solely on the donations of our users. All donations are tax deductible according to the current US tax codes.

DISTINCTIVES

World class. All Bible classes are taught by world-class professors from major seminaries.

Holistic. We want to see students move through content to deep reflection and application.

Configurable. Ministries can use lectures as well as the own to design the educational program.

Accessible. BiblicalTraining a web-based ministry whose content provided at no cost.

Community-based. We encourage people to learn together, mentor/apprentice relationships.

Broadly evangelical. Our materials are broadly evangelical, governed by our Statement of Faith, and are not tied to any one church, denomination or tradition.

Partners. We provide the content and delivery mechanisms, and our partner organizations provide the community and mentoring.

Overview

Title: Essentials of Evangelism

Speaker: Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr.

GOALS

1. Understand how God was the first evangelist in the Garden, continued with the covenant of Abraham and sent Jesus at the right time.
2. Understand how the gospel spread in the early church by Peter, Paul and others.
3. Understand why Romans 8 is important in giving the Holy Spirit a “low pressure” environment to work in.
4. Identify the barriers to Spirit-assisted evangelism and how to overcome them.

REQUIREMENTS

1. 10 sessions
2. 2 hours per week (lesson and discussion)

PREREQUISITES

None

FORMAT

Audio and video

Your Speaker

Dr. Robert G. Tuttle Jr. has spent a lifetime deeply committed to both ministry and education. His academic journey began with an A.B. from Duke University in 1963, followed by a B.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and an M.A. from Wheaton Graduate School of Theology in 1967. He then earned his Ph.D. from the University of Bristol, England, in 1970. Dr. Tuttle's early ministry took him to churches in North Carolina and Colorado, where he served faithfully before turning to academia. His teaching career spans decades, with positions at respected institutions like Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Oral Roberts Graduate School of Theology, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. In 2000, he joined Asbury Theological Seminary's Florida campus, eventually retiring as the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism. Throughout his career, Dr. Tuttle's dedication to teaching and evangelism has impacted countless lives, leaving a legacy of scholarship, faith, and service.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Bristol

M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Th.M., Wheaton College

B.A., Duke University

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Can We Talk: Sharing Your Faith in a Pre-Christian World

The Story of Evangelism: A History of the Witness to the Gospel

The Runway: Reflections on the Ten Commandments

Weekly Schedule

Listen or watch the lesson. The lesson for each chapter designed to be listened to outside of your meeting. Each lesson lasts for an hour. The crucial step, the meeting time with your fellow students going to be productive and encouraging, everyone the group needs to have listened to and wrestled with the lesson.

Take notes. This guide has the outline for each lesson with a summary of the teaching for each major point. If you are unable to take notes while listening to the lesson, please work through the guide at some point before your meeting.

Questions. Each chapter closes with a series of questions. Some of the questions are data based, confirming that you understand the information. Other questions are more reflective, helping you move beyond the important accumulation of knowledge to challenging you to think through what you are learning about God, yourself and others, and finally to application. Our encouragement is to think through your answers before your meeting and then use the meeting to share your thoughts and interact with others.

MEETING TOGETHER

While some people may have to study on their own, we strongly recommend finding a group with which you can study.

A group provides encouragement to finish the class.

Interacting with others, their understanding and insight, is the most effective way to sharpen your own thoughts and beliefs.

Just as you will need the help of others from time to time, so also they will need your help.

Facilitator's Guide

If you are leading the group or mentoring an individual, here are some suggestions that should help you.

Your role is to facilitate. This is not an opportunity for you to teach. In fact, the less visible role you take, the better. Your role is to listen and bring out the best in the other people.

Preparation. Be sure to have done your homework thoroughly. Have listened to the lesson and think carefully through the questions. Have an answer for each question that will get the conversation going. A great question is, "What is the Lord teaching you this week?"

Creativity. What works to help one person understand may not help another. So listen to the conversation and pray that the Lord help you bring out the greatest interaction among all the people.

Correct error. This is difficult. If someone says something that isn't right, you don't want to come down on them, telling them they are wrong and shutting down their participation. On the other hand, if you let an obvious error pass, the rest of the group may think you agree and what was said was correct. So look for gracious ways to suggest that perhaps the person's comment was incorrect.

Focus. Stay focused on Jesus and the Bible, not on church or religious traditions.

Lead the discussion. People don't want to listen to a sharing of common ignorance. Lead by asking questions that will prompt others to think.

Silence. Don't be afraid of silence. It may mean nothing more than people are thinking. But if the conversation lags, then ask thought-provoking questions to get the discussion started, and then step out of the way.

Discipleship. Be acutely aware of how you can mentor the people in the group. Meet with them for coffee. Share some life with them. Jesus' Great Commission is to teach people to obey, and the only way this happens is in relationship.

Different perspectives. People process information and express themselves in different ways based on their background, previous experience, culture, religion and other factors. Encourage an atmosphere that allows people to share honestly and respectfully.

Privacy. All discussions are private, not to be shared outside the group unless otherwise specified.

Goal. The goal of this study is not just increased knowledge; it is transformation. Don't be content with people getting the "right" answers. The Pharisees got the "right" answer, and many of them never made it to heaven (Matt 5:20).

Relationships. Share everyone's name, email and phone number so people can communicate during the week and follow up on prayer requests. You may want to set up a way to share throughout the week using Slack or WhatsApp.

Finish well. Encourage the people to make the necessary commitment to do the work, think reflectively over the questions, and complete the class.

Prayer. Begin and end every meeting with prayer. Please don't do the quick "one-prayer-covers-all" approach. Manage the time so all of you can pray over what you have learned and with what you have been challenged. Pray regularly for each individual in the meeting.

1

In the Garden

I. INTRODUCTION

Evangelism should be characterized as caring, loving and accepting

II. OVERVIEW OF THE LECTURES

Evangelism is a theme throughout the Bible

2

Covenant with Abraham

I. EARLIEST HIGH RELIGION IS HINDUISM

A. Summary of Hinduism

Karma, caste, works, reincarnation

B. Covenant with Abraham

Covenant making and renewal

C. Story of Balak

Balaam's prophecy about Israel

II. ISRAEL IN THE PROMISED LAND

A. Israel led by judges

God's judgment and redemption of Israel

B. Israel led by kings

Saul, David, Solomon and the divided kingdom

C. Development of higher religions

Religions that were developed in the sixth century BC

D. Intertestamental Period

After the Israelites returned from exile and before Jesus was born

E. New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

3

At the Right Time - Jesus Christ

I. REVIEW

From the Garden to the new covenant

II. MINISTRY OF JESUS

A. Overview of early years

Baptism by John and temptation in the wilderness

B. Beginning of public ministry

Healing ministry and forgiving sins

C. Jesus redeeming humans similar to the process of an Israelite redeeming property

The three conditions and how Jesus fulfilled them

4

The Early Church from Peter to Paul

I. REVIEW

The Garden, Abraham, Jesus at the right time

II. PETER

A. Holy Spirit

Purpose of the Holy Spirit

B. Peter's sermons

Five sermons proclaiming the gospel

C. Story of the Samaritans

Phillip went to the Samaritans who had intermarried

D. Story of Cornelius

Because of the prayers of Cornelius, a gentile, God sends Peter and Cornelius receives the Holy Spirit

E. Church in Antioch

Primarily gentile, sent out the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys

III. PHILLIP

A. Phillip meets the eunuch from Ethiopia

Explains how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 53

5

The Journeys of Paul

I. REVIEW

The Garden, Abraham, Jesus at the right time,
Samaritans, gentiles

II. PAUL

A. Paul's conversion and early ministry

Vision on the road, then Ananias prayed for him

B. Paul's first missionary journey with Barnabas

Preached to gentiles then initiated the Jerusalem Council

C. The Holy Spirit tells Paul to go to Macedonia

God closes doors and opens doors

6. In what way is the story at the end of the lesson an example of the importance of, “showing up and paying attention?” As you are praying about situations in your life, how does God want you to interact with someone to encourage them in their spiritual life?

6

A Short Theology of Evangelism

I. ROMANS 8:1-4

No Condemnation

II. THEOLOGY OF EVANGELISM

A. What God has done for you in Jesus Christ

New covenant

B. There is no condemnation

Guilt vs condemnation

C. The law of the Spirit and life vs. the law of sin and death

The law empowered by the Spirit that gives us freedom from the power of sin

7

Overcoming Barriers to Spirit- assisted Evangelism (Part 1)

I. LACK OF MOTIVATION CAN BE A BARRIER TO EVANGELISM

A. We must speak words that people understand and speak them in a way that people will receive them

Just because you have the truth, there is no guarantee that the world will listen.

B. Bob Tuttle's conversion

Encouragement from people and reading the Bible

II. THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY

Loners get singled out and picked off

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Summarize Dr. Tuttle's theology of evangelism using the law of sin and death vs. the law of the Spirit of life, guilt vs. condemnation, prayer of repentance and faith, high pressure to low pressure.

8

Overcoming Barriers to Spirit-assisted Evangelism (Part 2)

I. OVERCOMING FEAR OF REJECTION

A. Average of 25 witnesses before a real encounter with God takes place

In ministry, you will often experience 24 times more rejection than affirmation

B. Stories about God using us as an instrument of grace when we are faithful to him

Interact with people in a way that allows God's Spirit to do his prevenient work in their lives

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the second common barrier to spirit-assisted evangelism discussed in this lesson?

4. When Dr. Tuttle's congregation member's barn burned down and Dr. Tuttle went to his house to give him a gift from the church, how did Buford respond? How did Dr. Tuttle's response cause Buford to feel convicted? How did Dr. Tuttle's interaction in the parking lot let Buford, "off the hook?" Describe an interaction you have had with someone where you saw evidence of God working. Describe an interaction you had with someone where you responded out of your own emotion rather than the leading of the Spirit.

9

Overcoming Barriers to Spirit- assisted Evangelism (Part 3)

I. WE ASSUME INADEQUACY

A. I Corinthians 12:12

If the preacher is the only person in the church doing evangelism, 90 percent of the needs are not being met

B. Story of the abbot and the rabbi

The message from the rabbi to the abbot that, "the messiah is one of us."

C. Once we become a part of the body of Christ, we are indispensable to it

Each person has a different gift

D. Our greatest strengths are our anointed weaknesses

The first sin in the Bible is self-reliance. Learn to live by faith.

10

The Future

I. REVIEW

God as the first evangelist in the garden, covenant with Abraham, Jesus at the right time, the law of the Spirit and barriers to spirit-assisted evangelism

II. PRAYER

A. There is something about each of us that God loves (1 John 4)

Pray that people will understand how much God loves them

B. Pray that God will help us see people as God sees them

See people as parent see their children

C. Be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit

The same power of the Spirit available to Jesus and the apostles is available to you

III. CHALLENGE

Pray every day for a person in your sphere of influence, that the Spirit will help you lead them into a covenant relationship with God

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Tuttle says that, "God enables us to find things in people that we can respond to." Why is prayer an essential part of this process? How does that change your attitude toward evangelism?

