

Lesson 15

Teacher's Manual

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

READ & MEDITATE ON: Luke 15:4-10

MEMORIZE: I Peter 3:15

INTRODUCTION

YOU CAN be a soulwinner! Jesus gave us supernatural power to be His witnesses when we were baptized with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8). He commanded us to "go" and promised, "lo, I am with you...." Personal evangelism is every Christian's responsibility to their neighbors who do not know the Saviour and are headed for a Christless eternity. We are sent forth as "...sheep in the midst of wolves." Our Lord cautions us to be "...wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). The truth must be preached boldly, in love, and with the greatest of wisdom. As Solomon has said, "...he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). The Apostle Paul admonishes us to, "...have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel..." (Ephesians 6:15). Peter advises us to, "...be ready to give an answer to every man..." (I Peter 3:15). It is our solemn duty to PREPARE the good news and BE READY to share it with someone else. Soulwinning is spiritual business. Without a committed life and intercessory prayer, any techniques will be fruitless. However, with God's power and a plan...YOU CAN be a soulwinner!

(Note to teacher: This lesson is not only helpful in teaching personal evangelism but is effective in helping new converts fully understand the plan of salvation.)

I. SHARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

What God has done for you is a powerfully persuasive and unanswerable argument. What can anyone say? It happened to you! People cannot help but be affected by the thought that, "If it happened to them, it can happen to me." You are living proof of the power of God to change a life through the gospel. You are a living witness of the resurrected Christ.

court to answer how Jesus had miraculously given him his sight. He responded to their difficult theological questions with an answer based on first-hand experience. After the Pharisees accused the Lord of being a sinner, the blind man simply replied, "...whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." This is similar to what the Apostle Paul did when he was called before kings and religious leaders to answer for his faith. Of all people, Paul could have impressed them with his great knowledge and logic. But instead, he used one of his most powerful weapons in defense of the gospel: his personal testimony. (Compare Acts 9:1-18 with Acts 22:1-16.) His technique? Notice the progression: He told them about his life before he knew the Saviour, he told them how he was converted and then what he was like now. This is a good formula for us to follow when giving our personal testimony:

- * BEFORE - What I was like, how I thought: my attitudes toward God, others and myself. Sin's power over me.
- * HOW - How I became a born again Christian using a brief explanation of the full gospel (Acts 2:38).
- * NOW - What I am like, how I think: my attitudes toward God, others, and myself. My power over sin through Christ!

Take some time to write out just how you would share your personal testimony with someone you meet. Keep It Short and Sweet (about 300 words). Practice it, and by all means SHARE IT! After making friendly conversation with people using the "F.O.R." (see Lesson 14), let them know what God has done for you. Every child of God is able to give their personal testimony, hand someone a tract, and invite them to a Holy Ghost filled service. You have something great to tell and you have the POWER to tell it (Acts 1:8).

II. REPENTANCE

There will be times, especially after sharing our testimony, that we will discover someone who is receptive and hungry to know more about God. When this happens, we need to know how to lead the interested person to

our lives are ordered by. I would like to share one of these spiritual laws with you...." To use "The Roman Road," read the scriptures indicated for each step. Explain them simply and then go to the next scripture indicated under the arrow in your Bible margin.

THE ROMAN ROAD

1
↓
Romans 6:23

<p>READ: Romans 3:23</p>
<p>EXPLAIN: We all <u>think</u>, <u>say</u>, and <u>do</u> evil because of our sinful nature. Sin is simply anything that separates us from a pure and holy God. I can think of some things I do that I know are wrong...can't you?</p>

2
↓
Romans 5:8

<p>READ: Romans 6:23</p>
<p>EXPLAIN: As we receive wages on our job for what we do, so shall we receive wages for sin: Death--separation from God in this life and the next life. (See Revelations 20:12-15.)</p>

3
↓
Acts 2:36-38

<p>READ: Romans 5:8</p>
<p>EXPLAIN: Christ died <u>for</u> us...in our place. Just as if we were sentenced to death as punishment for a crime we committed and an innocent man offered to take our place.</p>

4
↓
Matthew 16:19
(continued under
"Kingdom Keys")

<p>READ: Acts 2:36-38</p>
<p>EXPLAIN: When these people realized Jesus was Lord and died for them, they felt sorry for their sins and asked Peter what to do. First, he said, "repent"--turn from sin to God. <u>Name</u>, do you believe that Jesus is Lord and He died for you? I feel sorry for my sins when I think of Calvary...don't you? Are you willing to give control of your life to God? Would you like to <u>right now</u>? (In your prayer, review each scripture.)</p>

6

Acts 1:3-5

READ:
John 3:3-5

EXPLAIN:
Before He died, Jesus told the religious leader, Nicodemus, that unless a man was born again--of the water and of the Spirit--he could not see or enter into God's kingdom.

7

Luke 24:44-49

READ:
Acts 1:3-5

EXPLAIN:
This scripture shows us that after Jesus rose from the dead He was, "...speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God..." (It is also explained here that the Holy Ghost is, "...the promise of the Father.") Let us see what Jesus said....

8

Acts 2:1-17,
32-33,36-39

READ:
Luke 24:44-49

EXPLAIN:
Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, we see Him telling His disciples the reason the Old Testament was written and the reason He suffered, died, and rose again. It was in order that (1) repentance and (2) remission of sins could be preached in his name and (3) so people could receive the promise of the Father (the Holy Ghost). He told them to wait in Jerusalem until these things came to pass. If we could have been there when these words were spoken, we certainly would go to Jerusalem, just as they did. Let us go to Acts 2 and see what happened....

9

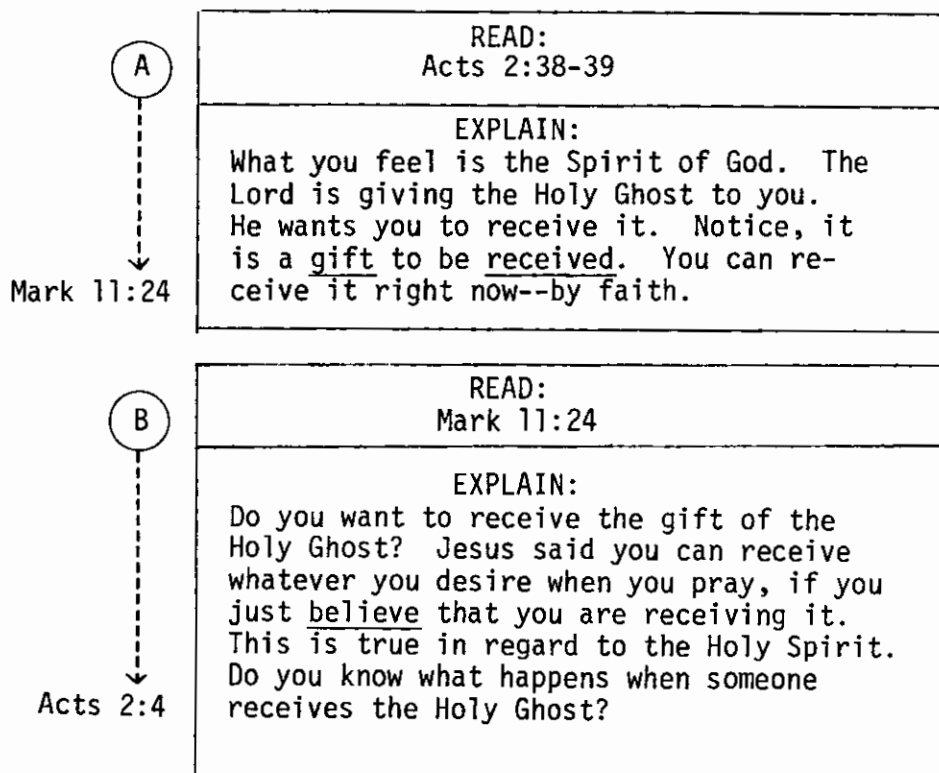
READ:
Acts 2:1-17,
32-33, 36-39

EXPLAIN:
This is an account of the Spirit of God being poured out upon all flesh for the first time in history (verses 1-17). Peter preached referring to the manifestation of tongues as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. "...This is that..." he said (verse 16). He continued preaching Jesus

repentance or the new birth. The Holy Ghost can be received by anyone (who has repented) anytime, anywhere. We need to help people understand the Holy Ghost is A GIFT TO BE RECEIVED BY FAITH. God anxiously awaits to give it to whoever asks (Luke 11:11-13). In fact, He has already given it to every human being--they just have not met God's requirements to receive it (repentance and faith). The price has been paid and the promise has been made. The living water is now available for "whosoever will." With this in mind, let us examine A SCRIPTURAL, FAITH-BUILDING OUTLINE FOR PRAYING WITH SEEKERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT. (Note: the following is unnecessary when someone spontaneously receives the Holy Ghost and should only be used if someone is "tarrying" more than a few minutes. It is also important not to let our enthusiasm get the best of us at the expense of the seeker. Let ONE knowledgeable person explain how to receive the Spirit while the others pray fervently at a reasonable distance. Unnecessarily hollering opposing instructions at the seeker and crowding, rubbing, rocking, and shaking them should be avoided!)

First of all, FIND OUT (by asking the seeker or someone nearby): (1) THEIR NAME--This will not quench the Spirit, and (2) IF THEY HAVE REPENTED--If not, briefly explain that they must believe Jesus Christ is Lord, turn from sin and give their whole life to Him. Pray a prayer of repentance with them in "Roman Road" fashion. Then ask, (3) WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST--If not, ask them if they will. Show them the command in Acts 2:38 if necessary. Finally, ask (4) IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST--If they say, "no," or, "I'm not ready," do not force the issue. If they say, "yes," share the following with them. (Write out the designated scriptures in any convenient place in your Bible.)

POINTING PEOPLE TO A PERSONAL PENTECOST



C

READ:
Acts 2:4

EXPLAIN:

When you receive the Spirit, you will begin to speak in another language. God will give you the utterance-- the words to say--you just speak them out boldly as He gives them to you. Will you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost right now? Let's pray....

The soulwinning techniques given in this lesson are especially designed for use in "one-on-one" personal evangelism. STUDY, MEMORIZE, AND PRACTICE them. You will then be prepared and ready to give an answer to every man. Each person must be dealt with differently. Exercise wisdom and allow the Spirit to lead you in dealing with various individuals. Keep in contact with any prospects you meet. Pray for them sincerely, their eternal life is at stake!

GOOD NEWS! This is what the word "Gospel" means and that is what we have to share. We have a message to tell all men about how they can become a new creature in Christ and how they can live forever in a kingdom of peace, love and joy. Now that is good news! No wonder the scriptures declare, "...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15) There is no thrill-- besides being born into God's kingdom yourself--that can compare with the joy of seeing someone you brought to the Saviour come up out of the waters of baptism and begin speaking in a heavenly language.

Our Lord has called us saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). As we follow Jesus, He continually prepares us to be effective in the purpose for which He came. In the days of His flesh, Christ's only recorded prayer request was, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:36-38). The fields are white and ready for harvest. People everywhere are seeking for something to satisfy. While it is yet day, we must labor to reap the golden grain, "...for the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4). Will you answer the Master's call and dedicate yourself to reaching the lost before it is too late? Someone is counting on you.

Christ and claimed he rose from the dead and had, "...shed forth this which ye now see and hear..." (Namely: "drunkenness" and tongues). His message continued until the crowd asked what they must do (verse 37). Peter (WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM IN MATTHEW 16) then said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for the promise is unto you..." (IN LUKE 24, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS SAID WOULD BE PREACHED.) Peter, who had the keys, was opening the door to God's Kingdom on the day of Pentecost. We can plainly see that his message included a water and Spirit birth (IN JOHN 3, JESUS SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD). This is normal Bible salvation as taught by the apostles and experienced by early Christians.

Now is a good time to say, "These same experiences happened to me! They have happened throughout church history and they are happening today all over the world! The promise is to you, too. Would you like to be baptized in Jesus name and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?"

If further explanation is needed we have four examples of people being born of the water and Spirit in the book of Acts. These scriptures should be sufficient to answer any questions a person may have: (You may want to include them in your chain reference.)

⑩	⑪	⑫	⑬
JEWS	SAMARITANS	GENTILES	RELIGIOUS
Acts 1:13-15, 2:41, A.D. 33--The 120 including apostles and Mary. 3,000!	Acts 8:12-17 One year later-- More than believ- ing and baptism!	Acts 10:44-48 8 Years later-- Cornelius, a devout man!	Acts 19:1-7 22 Years later-- Disciples of John rebaptized!

IV. PRAYING WITH SEEKERS

When the Word of God is delivered to a hungry heart by a Spirit-filled person, things begin to happen. Anywhere in the course of a conversation about the Lord, a person may be ready to receive the Spirit! It can occur when you share your personal testimony, it may happen as you explain

After asking for their important decision and praying with them, ask if they have repented. If they say, "yes," explain, "This is only the first step in the plan of salvation. Now you should be baptized in Jesus name and receive the Holy Ghost!" (Review Acts 2:38.)

(Note: It is not uncommon for people to say "No" when given an opportunity to repent. This is no cause for a feeling of rejection on your part. Simply say, "I understand your feelings and respect your decision. If you ever decide to give your life to Jesus, you know He loves you and can be found through repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost." This response releases the pressure and leaves the door open for future discussions.)

Learning, memorizing, practicing, and using this method (or any variation of it you feel comfortable with) will enable you to be used of God in leading souls to the old rugged cross. Warning: Bringing people face to face with this truth is very powerful. Expect dramatic results!

III. WATER AND SPIRIT BIRTH

The following simple presentation of the water and Spirit birth is designed to be used with those unschooled in the scriptures as well as people who are knowledgeable in the Word. When given in the context of your personal testimony, the following scriptures are especially effective. You can begin explaining baptism in the name of Jesus Christ and the infilling of the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues by saying, "WOULD YOU MIND IF I SHARED A FEW SCRIPTURES WITH YOU? Let us go back to the days of the early church and examine the gospel through the eyes of the first disciples..."

(Continued from
"Roman Road")

THE KINGDOM KEYS

<p>5</p> <p>↓</p> <p>John 3:3-5</p>	<p>READ: Matthew 16:19</p>
	<p>EXPLAIN: When Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Because of Peter's profession of faith, Jesus gave him the keys to God's kingdom. God has a heavenly kingdom on this earth and there is a way to enter into it.</p>

salvation. In order to do this, we must be prepared with a plan. There is a Bible plan in Acts the second chapter and the 38th verse that is impossible to improve upon. It is the very first New Testament plan of salvation ever preached:

"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

Notice that the first step in this plan is REPENTANCE. Repentance is a major doctrine of both the Old and New Testaments. It was preached by prophets, apostles and Jesus Christ very strongly. "...Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). God, "...commandeth all men everywhere to repent:" (Acts 17:30). The reason repentance is so important in experiencing salvation is because it is the first and absolutely essential step that every soul coming to God must take. Without repentance, baptism is meaningless. Without repentance, no one can receive God's Spirit. It is vital that we as witnesses understand this. Many times we get "the cart before the horse." We find ourselves explaining the proper baptismal formula or the initial sign of receiving the Holy Ghost when we know that unless a person repents, they cannot experience these vital things anyway. Let us remember to keep first things first. Our number one objective should be to lead a soul to the cross. Then we can lead them to "the water" and "the fire." Unrepented souls are (more often than not) hesitant about going to church...much like repented souls are hesitant about going to a bar. However, once someone repents they not only want to come to church, but when they come they will be ready to respond to the entire plan of salvation.

Repentance is only the first step in the plan of salvation but it is nonetheless very important and not to be casually passed over. We can lead a soul to faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and a turning away from sin based upon that belief, anytime and anyplace. A person does not necessarily have to be at a church altar to repent. They can be in a home Bible study, on the job, in a store, on a bus--anywhere. The following is A way (not the only way) to lead a soul to repentance. It is called "THE ROMAN ROAD" because three of the four scriptures used are in the book of Romans. This plan is very powerful and effective only because of its simplicity and because it is based upon the Word of God. The scriptures used should be marked in a small pocket New Testament with a simple chain reference. Each reference should be consecutively marked with a number in a circle in your Bible's margin with a small arrow directing you to the next scripture (as shown below). Underline or bracket scriptures as necessary.

When the opportunity presents itself, take out your pocket New Testament and say, "WOULD YOU MIND IF I SHARED A FEW SCRIPTURES WITH YOU?" As you open your Bible, explain, "Just as there are unseen natural laws in the universe, (such as gravity), there are unseen spiritual laws that

A. Witnessing Is Effective

Sharing your personal testimony is one of the most effective and exciting methods of soulwinning. When a child of God is walking uprightly before God and men, his words have irresistible authority. Only when the gospel is lived and told can it be thoroughly effective. Sometimes, the devil would have us believe that if we "just live the life" before people, "they will know what we believe." However, the discerning saint will realize at once this is a half-truth. How can someone possibly know what we believe unless we tell them? On the other hand, one can profess Christianity and not have the fruit of a Spirit-filled life. This is very destructive to the cause of Christ and brings a reproach to His name. We see then, that a spoken witness without a consistent walk with God can be just as ineffective. The point is this: in order to really have an effective personal testimony, we must walk it and talk it, we must possess it and profess it. We must have both a SILENT and a SPOKEN witness. So when you give your testimony, be sure you do it with a K-I-S-S, That is, Keep It Silent and Spoken! It works.

B. Witnessing Is Necessary

According to Acts 1:8, Jesus Christ has commanded us to be His witnesses. "...Ye shall be...", He said. Would our Lord require us to do the impossible? Of course not. This is not an unreasonable demand because all we are expected to do is to be a WITNESS. A witness, according to the greek translation of the word, is merely one who gives testimony as in a court of law. We need only to relate our experience in regard to what Jesus has done for us. Whether we grew up on a church pew or were brought out of an ungodly environment, we all were sinners headed for an eternity without God. Surely we have a story to tell! Surely God has done something for us! Surely we have a miraculous experience to share! Certainly our Lord has not required too much in asking that we testify of His saving grace in our lives.

C. Witnessing Is Simple

Keep in mind that we are called to be WITNESSES--not jurors (casual spectators), lawyers (argumentative experts), judges (sentence-passers condemning people to hell), or defendants (we are not on trial--Jesus our Lord is). We need only to, "...speak the things which we have seen and heard," as did Peter and John in Acts 4:20. This is what the blind man in the 9th chapter of John did when he was called before a Jewish