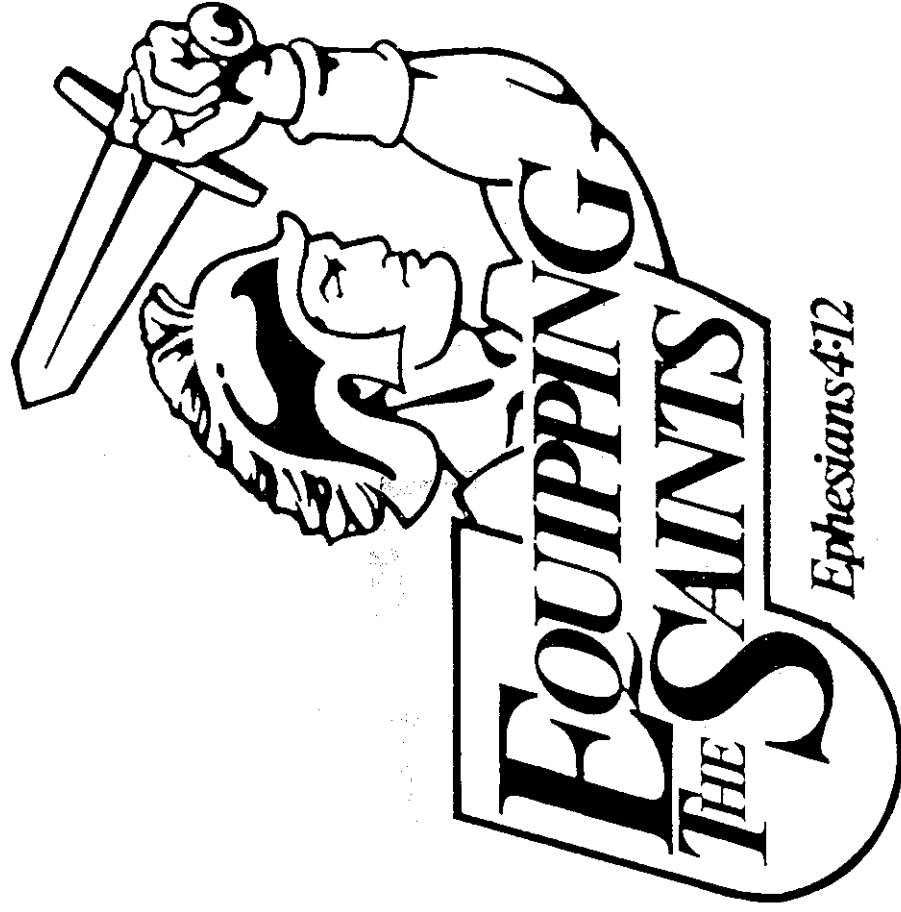




*“for the work of service, to the
building up of the body of Christ”*

BOOK 2

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ETS 2/1

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____

Topic _____ PSMA _____

Lesson Principles of Time Management _____ Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Principles of Time Management"		
Bible Study		
Do "God Cares For You"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Read TMS Introduction		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for 1 person to disciple.		
Complete Follow-Up form and return to instructor.		
Scripture Memory		
II Corinthians 5:17		
Galatians 2:20		
Review previous verses.		



PRINCIPLES OF TIME MANAGEMENT

Introduction

OATS is NOT something you feed a horse!

OATS is a simple time management plan. If you master the use of OATS, you will become proficient in managing any area of your life.

OATS stands for **O bjectives**

A ctivities
T imetable
S cheduling .



Objectives

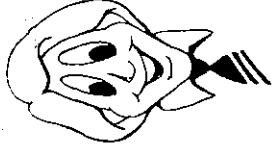
Any action which is not based upon your objectives tends to be activity without productivity. We must learn to think, plan, and make every decision on the basis of our OBJECTIVES.

Always start your planning by asking this question:

What is my objective?

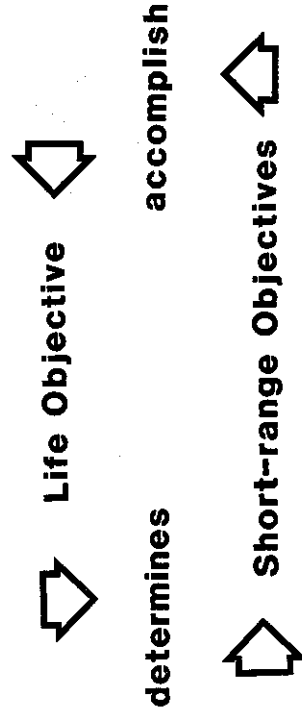
If you do not know what your objectives are, you have no basis for making decisions. Your objectives pinpoint exactly what your goals are, and once those goals are identified you can make decisions which will help you reach those goals. Often we have a general idea of where we are going but no specific objectives. Poor understanding and ambiguity concerning our objectives are the causes of much ineffectiveness in our lives.

If a person wants to be proficient in the personal and spiritual management of his life, he must make time to define clear and measurable objectives both for short-range goals and long-range goals. Once he has done this, his objectives will give specific direction for planning and decision making. The objectives will also give him a basis for evaluating his activities after he has done them. Without clear objectives, there is no basis for objective evaluation of what he does. His evaluation will tend to be subjective and emotional and unrealistic.



What is your life objective?

The first objective you need to determine is your long-range "life objective." This in turn will guide you in planning shorter-range objectives which will propel you toward accomplishment of your life objective.



If you are a born-again Christian who wants to invest your life for the eternal things of God rather than the temporal things of the earth, you might want to write a life objective something like this:

To walk in daily fellowship with God and to order my life and family (if married)

in accordance with the Word of God so that we are daily exchanging our lives for the fulfilling of Christ's Great Commission.

Since this is such a crucial objective for each Christian, you will probably want to take a few hours alone with God to discuss the matter with Him. Ask Him to guide you from His Word to write a personal life objective.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

Activities

Activities are the events and actions you engage in to accomplish your objectives.

After deciding on an objective, you must ask yourself:

WHAT ACTIVITIES MUST I ENGAGE IN TO
ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES?

???

At this point you really need to do some thinking. It is good to get paper and pencil and actually list what things you must do to get you to the goal.

Life is meant to be filled with activities based upon objectives.

Illustrations

- In a certain university a student needs 128 hours of credit to graduate: 44 hours in the major subject, 24 in the minor subject, and the remainder in certain required courses. The student must divide the four years and take the courses in their required order to graduate.
- If I want to take a trip, I find out where I am on the map and where I want to go. Then I begin to look at the various roads available to get me there. When I have made my decision, I mark the roads I want to take or

write them down on a piece of paper. I also make note of the major cities I must go through on my way. They will be landmarks to guide me on my way.

- A woman cooking a meal must first decide upon the menu. That is the long-range objective. Then she must assemble the various recipes for the different dishes in the menu. Each of these is a short-range objective. She then sets about following the recipe step-by-step for each specific dish. These are the activities which lead to the accomplishment of the short-range goals which, in turn, lead to the completion of the long-range objective.

When you are working on activities for your life objective, you may want to sit down with a pastor or an older Christian who can help you determine some short-range goals and the best activities to accomplish them. The Bible tells us:

Without counsel purposes are disappointed:
but in the multitude of counsellors they
are established.

Proverbs 15:22

Timetable

This is simply a time-measuring tool that blocks out time according to minutes, hours, days, weeks or months depending on the specific objective. It helps us to visualize the hours and days we have and assists us in fitting in the required activities necessary to accomplish the goal. By using a timetable, we begin to see our time in specifics rather than generalities, and we eliminate a lot of wasted effort. If we are going to be effective in keeping track of our time, we need to select some kind of yearly diary system and begin to use it. During this course you will be supplied with a program to use in an effort to get you started programming both your spiritual and secular activities.

Scheduling

Scheduling is actively making use of the timetable by writing down various events according

to priority. Scheduling is very important and can mean the difference between success and failure in fulfilling the objective. Many activities never become airborne because they were never actually scheduled (written down) on the timetable chart; or perhaps they were scheduled too late so that adequate preparation time was not allowed.

A great deal of care must go into the actual scheduling of our activities. We need to make sure that our activities are given adequate time and that all the resources necessary are available and ready.

Everyone of us could tell stories about the discouraging feeling of unfulfilled goals simply due to hurried or inadequate scheduling which caused us to overlook an important detail.

Note:

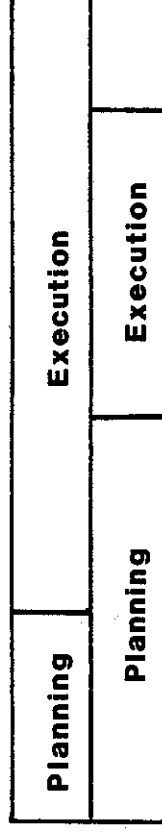
A timetable is a tool.

Scheduling is the activity which uses the timetable as a tool to plan in specific detail.

Few projects fail because of a lack of timetables. Most fail because the activity of scheduling never took place on the timetable.

The secret of good time management is planning.

By using OATS we will discover the benefits of good planning. We will save time as well as improve performance. We will also be able to work at a relaxed pace rather than in a frantic rush.



A well-planned activity requires less time to execute.

In the Personal and Spiritual Management Aid you learn to plan your day with the basics of the Christian life included. In the next section you will learn to write some specific objectives for each of the areas of your walk with Christ and plan activities over a period of time that will lead to real advancement in your spiritual growth.

NOTES

TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM

**Used by permission
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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and dates. The names are listed in a column, and the dates are listed in a column next to them. The names are: John Doe, Jane Doe, and John Doe. The dates are: 1/1/19, 2/1/19, and 3/1/19.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and dates. The names are listed in a column, and the dates are listed in a column next to them. The names are: John Doe, Jane Doe, and John Doe. The dates are: 1/1/19, 2/1/19, and 3/1/19.

BEGIN A LIFETIME OF SCRIPTURE MEMORY AND MEDITATION

You can memorize Scripture. The process may seem slow at first as you follow the Topical Memory System and begin building consistent Scripture memory and meditation into your life. In the long run, however, the system saves you time. Do your best to form good memory habits now as you follow the weekly plans in this book.

Attitude makes the difference. Be confident as you begin memorizing, and you will develop skill.

You can count on God's help as you memorize. Remember his counsel - "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6); and, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

What Scripture memory will do for you

Memorizing and meditating on God's Word will help you overcome worry. You can experience God's perfect peace by knowing his promises and having them written on your heart.

Another benefit is victory over sin. The psalmist wrote, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). God's word hidden in your heart is the sword of the Spirit, available for battle at any time against sin and Satan.

Scripture memory will also help you gain confidence in witnessing.

One of the five series of verses in the Topical Memory System (Series

B: Proclaim Christ) will give you a workable plan for sharing the gospel with others.

Scripture memory will help you keep spiritually fit. You will experience immediate benefits and become better equipped to meet future needs and opportunities.

A look at the Topical Memory System

The Topical Memory System is designed to help you learn four things:

- How to memorize and meditate on Scripture most effectively.
- How to apply in your life the verses you memorize.
- How to review the verses so you can always recall them easily.
- How to continue memorizing Scripture after you finish this course.

The sixty verses of the Topical Memory System are arranged in five series:

- Series A: Live the New Life
- Series B: Proclaim Christ
- Series C: Rely on God's Resources
- Series D: Be Christ's Disciple
- Series E: Grow In Christlikeness

Each series has twelve verses. These verses are arranged according to topic. There are two verses for each topic.

The recommended pace for learning new verses is three per week. Since there are three verses per week, you will actually cover three topics every two weeks.

Why the topics?

Two important reasons for knowing the topics of the verses you memorize are:

- The topics help you understand the meaning of the verses.
- The topics give you mental "hooks" with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They help you recall the right verse when studying the Bible, witnessing, or counseling. The topics serve as pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

Memorize the references

Knowing the reference for each verse you memorize makes it possible to find the verses in the Bible immediately when you need them for personal use or in helping others. So make the reference a part of each verse you memorize.

The surest way to remember the reference is to say it both before and after the verse each time you review it. This will connect the reference and the verse in your mind.

When learning or reviewing a verse, make it a habit to say the topic first, then the reference, then the verse, and the reference again at the end. This may seem tedious at first, but it is important--and it works!

When is the best time to memorize?

Memorizing the verses is easiest when you can concentrate without distraction. Two of the best times are just before you go to bed at night and just before or after your morning devotional time. A few minutes at lunchtime or just before supper may also work well for you.

Use spare moments during the day--such as while you wait, walk, or drive--to review your verses. Develop the habit of carrying your verse pack with you.

Why learn word-perfectly?

Have as your aim to always quote a verse word-perfectly. It is easier to learn verses correctly at first. This also makes it easier to review them later. Knowing them word-perfectly will also give you greater confidence in using your verses.

Once you have chosen a particular Bible translation for the verses you memorize, it is best to learn all your verses in that translation, rather than mixing in others.

Principles for Memorizing Scripture

You'll want to refer to these principles often in the coming weeks:

As you start to memorize a verse—

- We suggest that you write your verses on cards as illustrated on the next page.
- Read in your Bible the context of each verse you memorize.
- Try to gain a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. (You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or paraphrases to get a better grasp of the meaning.)
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and then the reference again.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek his help for success in Scripture memory.

While you are memorizing the verse—

- Work on saying the verse aloud as much as possible.
- Learn the topic and reference first.
- After learning the topic and reference, learn the first phrase of the verse. Once you have learned the topic, reference, and first phrase and have repeated them several times, continue adding more phrases after you can quote correctly what you have already learned.
- Think about how the verse applies to you and your daily circumstance.
- Always include the topic and reference as part of the verse as you learn and review it.

After you can quote correctly the topic, reference, verse, and reference again--

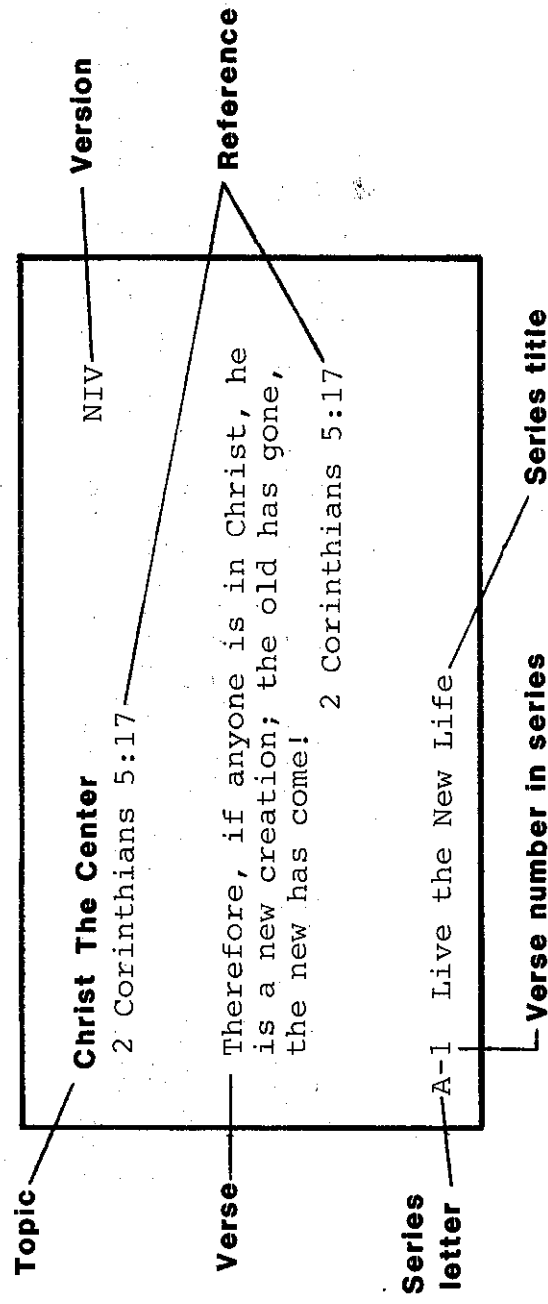
- It is helpful to write the verse out. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Review the verse immediately after learning it, and repeat it frequently in the next few days. This is crucial for getting the verse firmly fixed in mind because of how quickly we forget something recently learned.
- Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your mind.

How to Review Memory Verses with Someone Else

- Follow this procedure: One person holds the other person's verse cards, and calls out the topic and reference of the first card. The other person then repeats the topic and reference, and goes on to quote the entire verse and the reference again at the end. Then go on to other cards in the same way.
- First review the memory verses you know best.
- Speak your verses clearly and not too rapidly so you can be easily understood.
- While the other person is quoting his verses, be helpful and encouraging. Do all you can to ensure his success.
- When the other person makes a mistake, signal this to him by shaking your head or saying no. Give him verbal help only if he asks you.
- Once the other person has realized his mistake, have him repeat the entire verse word-perfectly before going on.
- Make it your absolute goal to repeat each verse word-perfectly.

Memorizing and reviewing Scripture with one or more friends will provide mutual encouragement, as well as opportunities to discuss difficulties in memorization. You will also be helped by having someone with whom to share how God is using the verses in your life.

The Verse Cards



Two Essentials in Scripture Memory

Two rules form the foundation for a successful Scripture memory program:

- Consistently memorize new verses each week.
- Follow a regular, daily program of reviewing the verses you have already memorized.

If at the end of a particular week you cannot quote word-perfectly the verses you intended to memorize that week, you may be tempted to think, I won't memorize any new verses next week, but instead will concentrate on learning these before resuming work on new verses.

But skipping one week makes it easier to skip another, and then another. Instead, you should memorize new verses as usual, and put extra effort into learning any verses you have missed. Ask for God's help.

If Your Scripture Memory Work Becomes Too Routine

Don't get discouraged if your Scripture memory work begins to seem too routine. The process of recording Scripture on your mind and heart does have a mechanical aspect. It requires certain methods and a great deal of perseverance. But as long as the process of imprinting God's word on your heart is moving forward, these Scriptures will be continually available for life-giving work.

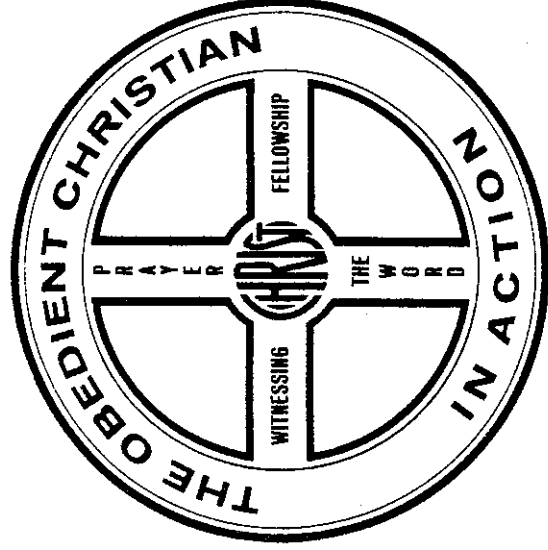
There are helpful things you can do, however, if your Scripture memory program begins to seem lifeless. Try spending more time going over your verses in prayer and meditation. Also begin using the verses in your conversation or in letters. New freshness can come through sharing the Scriptures with others.

Keep in mind that memorizing and meditating on the Scriptures is a practical way of making them available to the Holy Spirit to use in your life.

SERIES - A LIVE THE NEW LIFE

Every person has physical life. But when we receive Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord, we then possess a new, spiritual life--the life of Christ within us.

This new life may be illustrated by a wheel, as you see below. A wheel gets its driving force from the hub. In the Christian life, Christ is the hub--the source of power and motivation for living a Christian life. He lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ (John 16:13-14).



The rim of the wheel represents you, the Christian, responding to Christ's Lordship through your wholehearted obedience to him. This obedience involves your faithfulness in basic principles of Christian living.

The spokes of the wheel represent these basic principles--the means whereby Christ's power reaches our lives. The vertical spokes concern our relationship to God through the Scripture and prayer. The horizontal spokes represent our relationships to other people, both believers and unbelievers, through fellowship and witnessing.

The wheel functions smoothly only when all the spokes are present and in proper balance.

The next twelve scriptures you will memorize pertain to the truths the wheel illustrates. Christ's Lordship, our obedience to him, prayer, witnessing, fellowship, and the Word itself are the topics covered this first semester.

- Christ the Center--II Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20
- Obedience to Christ--Romans 12:1 and John 14:21
- The Word--Joshua 1:8 and II Timothy 3:16
- Prayer--John 15:7 and Philipppians 4:6-7
- Fellowship--Matthew 18:20 and Hebrews 10:24-25
- Witnessing--Matthew 4:19 and Romans 1:16

Checklist: The Topical Memory System

Each week place a check next to the reference of the verses you have successfully memorized that week:

Series A: Live the New Life

Christ the Center ☐ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ☐ Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ ☐ Romans 12:1 ☐ John 14:21
God's Word ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16 ☐ Joshua 1:8
Prayer ☐ John 15:7 ☐ Philippians 4:6-7
Fellowship ☐ Matthew 18:20 ☐ Hebrews 10:24-25
Witnessing ☐ Matthew 4:19 ☐ Romans 1:16

Series B: Proclaim Christ

All Have Sinned ☐ Romans 3:23 ☐ Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty ☐ Romans 6:23 ☐ Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty ☐ Romans 5:8 ☐ 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works ☐ Ephesians 2:8-9 ☐ Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ ☐ John 1:12 ☐ Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation ☐ 1 John 5:13 ☐ John 5:24

Series C: Rely on God's Resources

His Spirit ☐ 1 Corinthians 3:16 ☐ 1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength ☐ Isaiah 41:10 ☐ Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness ☐ Lam. 3:22-23 ☐ Numbers 23:19
His Peace ☐ Isaiah 26:3 ☐ 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision ☐ Romans 8:32 ☐ Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation ☐ Hebrews 2:18 ☐ Psalm 119:9,11

Series D: Be Christ's Disciple

Put Christ First ☐ Matthew 6:33 ☐ Luke 9:23
Separate from the World ☐ 1 John 2:15-16 ☐ Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:58 ☐ Hebrews 12:3
Serve Others ☐ Mark 10:45 ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:5
Give Generously ☐ Proverbs 3:9-10 ☐ 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
Develop World Vision ☐ Acts 1:8 ☐ Matthew 28:19-20

Series E: Grow in Christlikeness

Love ☐ John 13:34-35 ☐ 1 John 3:18
Humility ☐ Philippians 2:3-4 ☐ 1 Peter 5:5-6
Purity ☐ Ephesians 5:3 ☐ 1 Peter 2:11
Honesty ☐ Leviticus 19:11 ☐ Acts 24:16
Faith ☐ Hebrews 11:6 ☐ Romans 4:20-21
Good Works ☐ Galatians 6:9-10 ☐ Matthew 5:16

* Some verses in The Topical Memory System were assigned earlier in the Equipping The Saints Course. To avoid duplication of these verses, other verses have now been substituted on the assignment sheet.

FOLLOW-UP CHECKLIST

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

NAME _____

As part of your Equipping The Saints training, you are to ask God for two persons to evangelize:

NAME _____

NAME _____

	DATE	CHECKED	DATE	CHECKED
Prayed For				
Testimony Shared				
Bridge Presented				
Accepted Christ				

Furthermore, ask God to give you one person to disciple:

NAME _____

	DATE COMPLETED	CHECKED
Date of Decision		
Assurance of Salvation		
Complete BWC		
Consistent Quiet Time		
Complete TMS		
Complete Bible Study Book SCL/DFD		
Put Christ First		
Attending Church Regularly		
Baptized		



GOD CARES FOR YOU

You are a special person.

You are special because of God. God says you are valuable to him. He genuinely cares about you and what happens to you.

In this chapter, you will investigate four statements of God's concern for you:

- God created you.
- God knows you.
- God loves you.
- God made you part of his family.

GOD CREATED YOU

1. Genesis is the book of beginnings. Chapter 1 tells us that God created the universe. Read Genesis 1:1-5. List at least three facts concerning the creation.

2. How did God create the world? Read Hebrews 11:3

3. Why did God create all things? Revelation 4:11

4. Why did God create you? Isaiah 43:7

5. The dignity God gave man is shown by man's uniqueness, his authority, and his purpose. List some facts from Genesis 1:36-28 that indicate:

a. The uniqueness of man _____

b. The position or authority of man _____

c. The purpose of man _____

GOD KNOWS YOU

6. In Psalm 139:1-6 David mentions several areas of his life which God has "searched and known." List at least four of them. Then place a check mark by the areas God knows about your life.

7. How did David respond as he realized how completely God knew him?
Psalms 139:23-24

8. What does Jesus reveal about God's detailed interest in you?
Matthew 10:29-31

GOD LOVES YOU

9. What was God's greatest demonstration of his love? 1 John 4:9-10

(Manifest means to show or make apparent; propitiation or expiation means a payment that restores favor.)

**GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD...
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM**

SHALL NOT PERISH

BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE

DEATH → LIFE

HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON

10. Study John 3:16 in relationship to the illustration above.
- a. What did God's love cause him to do?

b. What does it mean that God "gave" his Son?

c. How can a person receive eternal life?

11. In John 10:9-16, Jesus compares his love and concern to the love and concern of a shepherd. According to this passage, what are some of the things he wants to give you?

12. Which items that you listed in question 11 are most important to you?

Take a moment to pray. Thank God for all the things you listed in question 11. Specifically remember those which mean the most to you. Praise him that these things are given to you because of Jesus, and that you do not earn them by your actions.

GOD MADE YOU PART OF HIS FAMILY

13. How did Jesus teach his disciples to address God? Matthew 6:9

14. Is it true that God is everyone's Father? Why or why not?
John 8:42-44

15. How is one born into God's family? John 1:12-13

"The importance of the assurance of faith lies in the fact that, childlike, I cannot possibly love or serve God if I do not know whether he loves and acknowledges me as his child."

ANDREW MURRAY*

16. List some of the advantages of being a true child of God from Romans 8:15-17.

(Abba is a personal name for father.)

17. State briefly how you know God is your Father.

It is important for you as a Christian to be assured that God is your Father and that you have eternal life. Since feelings change, this assurance must ultimately depend on the word of God. "I write these things to you who believe...that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Below are three verses that have helped many Christians gain this assurance. You may want to memorize the verse which helps you most in this area.

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

JOHN 5:24

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 JOHN 5:11-12

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me.

REVELATION 3:20

* From "The Assurance of Faith" in The New Life (1891)

Remember These Points:

- God created you for his own purpose and his glory. He gave you dignity by shaping you after his own likeness.
- God considers you to be of great value. He takes personal interest in knowing you completely.

- He loves you so intensely that he sent his Son to die for you on the cross. This demonstration of his love shows he wants to give you an eternal and abundant life.
- When God gave you this life in Jesus Christ, you were spiritually born into God's family. He is your Father. You are his child.

ETS 2/2

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Topic PSMA

Lesson How to Write Good Objectives Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "How to Write Good Objectives"		
Write the four Objectives as indicated in the lesson.		
Bible Study		
Do "The Person of Jesus Christ"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Scripture Memory		
Romans 12:1		
John 14:21		
Review previous verses		



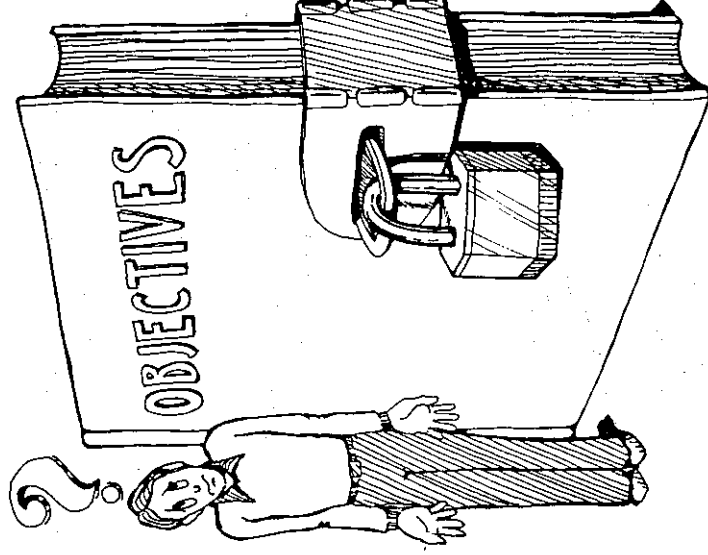
HOW TO WRITE GOOD OBJECTIVES

Objectives

Over the past several weeks we have been talking about the importance of objectives. We have learned that they are the basis for all our activities.

- Direction
- Planning
- Decision making
- Evaluation

What is an Objective



**It is a Clear, Concise, Measurable statement
expressing my intent or goal.**

Example: Paul's objective

We warn every man we meet and we teach every one we can all that we know about Him--so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time with all the strength that God gives me.

Colossians 1:28-29 (JBP)

Why is a CLEAR, CONCISE, MEASURABLE objective important?

- It states my intent, goal or direction.
- It tells me what I am to do to accomplish my goal.
- It is the basis for all decision making.
- It is the basis for all evaluation of my progress.

These four basic components must be understood in order to write a clear and good objective.

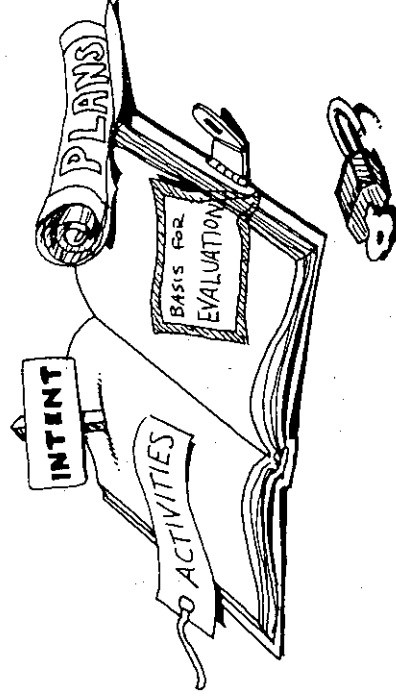
Four Components of an Objective

Intent what I intend to do--my goal or objective

Activity . . . visible activity stating what I will be doing to accomplish the goal

Plan how I plan to fit the above activity into my daily or weekly time schedule

Basis for Evaluation . . . how I will know when I have accomplished my goal successfully



NOTES

In writing an objective using these four components, we must be very careful about the words we use. We must select words which will successfully communicate exactly what we mean. Unfortunately, there are many ambiguous words which can easily be misinterpreted or misunderstood.

Ambiguous	Distinct	
To know	To write	
To understand	To memorize	A
To appreciate	To list	measurable,
To learn	To contrast	observable,
To teach	To draw	activity

A good objective should be measurable and easily evaluated, but you will notice that many of these ambiguous words defy evaluation. They are vague, general terms and can be stretched to mean many things. It is difficult to determine when or if we reach the objective when we use these words. However, if we choose words which state measurable, observable activities, we then are able to evaluate accurately our progress toward the goal.

The Formula

In helping people learn to write objectives, I have developed a formula which almost forces a person to write a good, clear objective. In this formula the first two components (intent and observable behavior) are merged together. As you learn to write objectives, it is good to use this formula as a guide. Once you have mastered the art of writing objectives, you may disregard it or use it to help someone else.

My objective is to _____

(State goal in terms of observable activity)

I will do this by _____

(State plan for accomplishing goal)

I will know I have completed the objective when

NOTES

(State basis for acceptable performance)



Using this formula I am now going to write an objective for Scripture memory.

- My objective is to memorize 27 verses in the next 10 weeks. I will do this by memorizing 3 verses a week for 9 out of the next 10 weeks.

Now let's check the objective to see if we have utilized the four components.

- What is my goal? To memorize 27 verses
- What is the observable activity? To memorize
- What is my plan? To memorize 3 verses per week
- What is the basis for acceptable performance? To memorize 27 verses in 10 weeks

Bible Reading

Let's try writing an objective on Bible reading using the formula again.

- My objective is to read through the entire Bible in one year. My plan is to read 24 chapters each week or 3 1/2 chapters each day. I will do this in 50 out of the next 52 weeks.

Let's check it for its four major components.

- What is my goal? _____
- What is the observable activity? _____
- What is my plan? _____
- What is the basis for acceptable performance? _____

Quiet Time

Now try writing your own objective for Quiet Time using the formula.

- What is my goal? _____
- What is the observable activity? _____

NOTES

● What is my plan? _____

● What is the basis for acceptable performance? _____

Witnessing

Now follow through and write an objective for witnessing. Check it for the four components of a good objective.

● What is my goal? _____

● What is the observable activity? _____

● What is my plan? _____

● What is the basis for acceptable performance? _____

Prayer

Now write an objective for prayer using the formula.

NOTES

- What is my goal? _____
- What is the observable activity? _____
- What is my plan? _____
- What is the basis for acceptable performance? _____

Summary

Remember, every good objective has four major components.



- An objective is a CLEAR, CONCISE, MEASURABLE statement describing my intent or goal.
- An objective identifies the specific observable activity I will utilize to accomplish the goal.

- An objective explains the plan I intend to follow to incorporate the activity into my daily or weekly schedule.
- An objective states the criterion from which I may measure my progress toward the goal.

Lifetime and Long-range Objectives

Lifetime and long-range objectives require careful and prayerful thought, but they can be written in a similar manner. If your long-range goals are not clear, concise and measurable, they will be of little value to you.

Lifetime or long-range objectives must also be broken down into several simpler and shorter-range objectives which can be isolated and evaluated from time to time.

Example:

My lifetime objective is

- To walk in daily fellowship with God, and
- To order my life and family in accordance with the Word of God so that we are
- Daily exchanging our lives for the Great Commission.

This objective would need to be broken down into at least three parts and specific objectives written for each.

Part I

To walk in daily fellowship with God
(The Quiet Time)

- Prayer objectives
- Daily Bible reading objectives

Part II

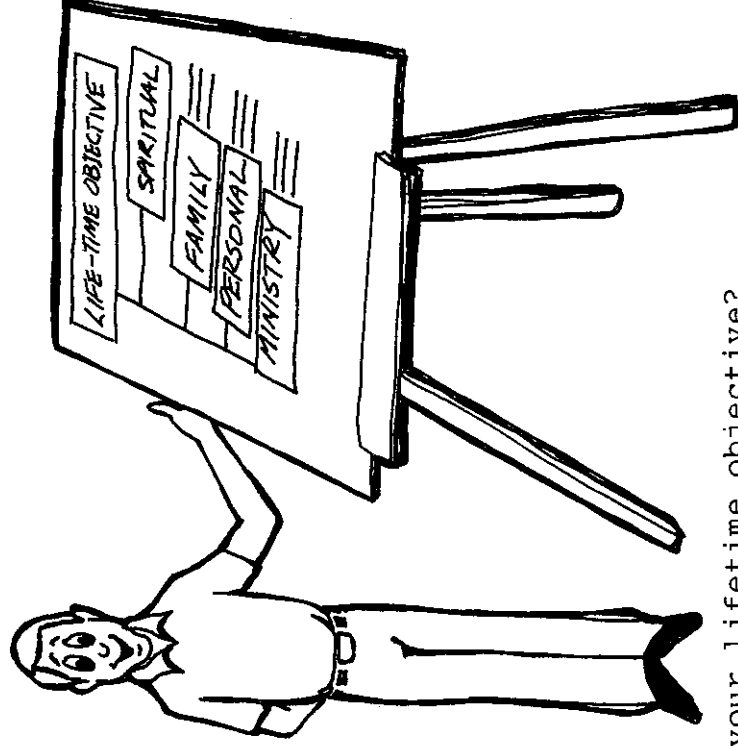
To order my life and family in accordance with the Word of God
(Obedience to the Word)

- Scripture memory objectives
- Bible study program
- Objectives for family relationships to God and to each other

Part III

Daily exchange my life for the Great Commission (Ministry)

- Witnessing objectives
- Follow-up objectives
- Objectives for ministry within the Church



What is your lifetime objective?

My objective is _____



THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

Man is incapable of fully understanding God. God is holy and man is sinful. To bridge the gap between God and man, God took the form of a man in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is "the image of the invisible God....For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him" (Colossians 1:15, 19).

To be the complete expression of God, Christ had to be God. To be seen and understood by man, he had to be human. Jesus Christ has a dual nature--he is the God-man.

In order to begin understanding Jesus Christ, it is necessary to explore his deity and his humanity.

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Some speak of Jesus Christ as a great man. To some he was the founder of a new religion. Others consider him a prophet. But Jesus himself claimed that he was God. If this claim were not true, he could not be called even a good man, but would be an imposter and a liar.

The writer of Hebrews discusses Christ's deity in chapter 1. Read this chapter before answering question 1-4.

1. Jesus' superiority to the angels is shown by:

Verses 4-5 _____

Verses 6 _____

Verses 13-14 _____

2. Look again at Hebrews 1:8-12. In the blank next to each statement below, write the number of the verse that brings out the truth stated.

Jesus is the Creator _____

Jesus is unchangeable _____

Jesus is eternal _____

Jesus is righteous _____

3. What is one fact about Jesus mentioned in Hebrews 1:3 that enables him to reveal God? (There is more than one fact given in this verse.)

4. How does God address Jesus in Hebrews 1:8?

In Hebrews 1:10? _____

5. What did Jesus claim for himself? John 10:28-30

6. While on earth, Jesus performed many miracles which clearly demonstrated his divine power. From the following verses in Matthew 8, list the ways Jesus showed supernatural power.

Verse 3 _____

Verse 6, 13 _____

Verse 16-17 _____

Verse 23-27 _____

7. What did Jesus do in John 11:39-44 that revealed his unique power?

8. After observing Jesus' life, power, and preaching, what did Peter conclude about him? Matthew 16:13-16

9. The chart on page 11 illustrates how Jesus fulfilled prophecy. How do the verses in this chart influence your concept of who Jesus is?

10. Review questions 1-9. Give three reasons why you believe Jesus Christ is God.

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

11. How is Jesus' humanity seen in the following situations?

John 4:6

John 4:7

John 11:35

12. Matthew 4:1-11 is the account of a series of temptations Jesus faced.

a. In each of his three answers to Satan, Jesus used the same phrase. What is it?

What does it mean?

b. Draw a line to connect the verses in Matthew 4 with the corresponding verses in Deuteronomy.

Matthew 4:4
Matthew 4:7
Matthew 4:10

Deuteronomy 6:13
Deuteronomy 6:16
Deuteronomy 8:3

c. What is one temptation you often face?

d. How can you follow Jesus' example and arm yourself against this temptation?

Take time right now to pray:

- Thank God that he understands what it is to be tempted.
- Ask him for help to overcome this temptation.
- When you fail, be sure to claim his promise:
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- Thank him for his mercy.

13. What has Jesus experienced that is common to man? Hebrews 2:10

14. How does Jesus address believers? Why isn't he ashamed to address them this way? Hebrews 2:11

15. What are some results of Jesus becoming a man? Hebrews 2:14-15

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Fulfilled prophecy helps verify the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Looking at prophecies which preceded Jesus by hundreds of years and seeing how Jesus fulfilled them in

every detail reveals the authenticity of his claims. The chart below is a brief list of some of the prophecies made concerning the Christ and how Jesus fulfilled them.

TOPIC	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
Place of birth	"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2), 700 B.C.	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea" (Matthew 2:1).
Born of a virgin	"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14), 700 B.C.	"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).
His triumphal entry	"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9), 500 B.C.	"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it" (John 12:13-14).
Betrayed by a friend	"Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9), 1000 B.C.	"Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them" (Mark 14:10).
His rejection	"He was despised and rejected by men . . . Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3), 700 B.C.	"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11).
Crucified with sinners	"He . . . was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), 700 B.C.	"Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left" (Matthew 27:38).
Hands and feet pierced	"They have pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16), 1000 B.C.	"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27).
His resurrection	"You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (Psalm 16:10), 1000 B.C.	"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead" (Acts 3:15).
His ascension	"You ascended on high" (Psalm 68:18), 1000 B.C.	"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Remember These Points:

- Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God. As God, he has authority over the earth.
- Jesus was human, too. Many of his experiences were similar to those you have today. He suffered and was tempted. Though he never yielded, this allows him to understand when you are tempted. When you fail, he forgives as you confess your sins to him.

ETS 2/3

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

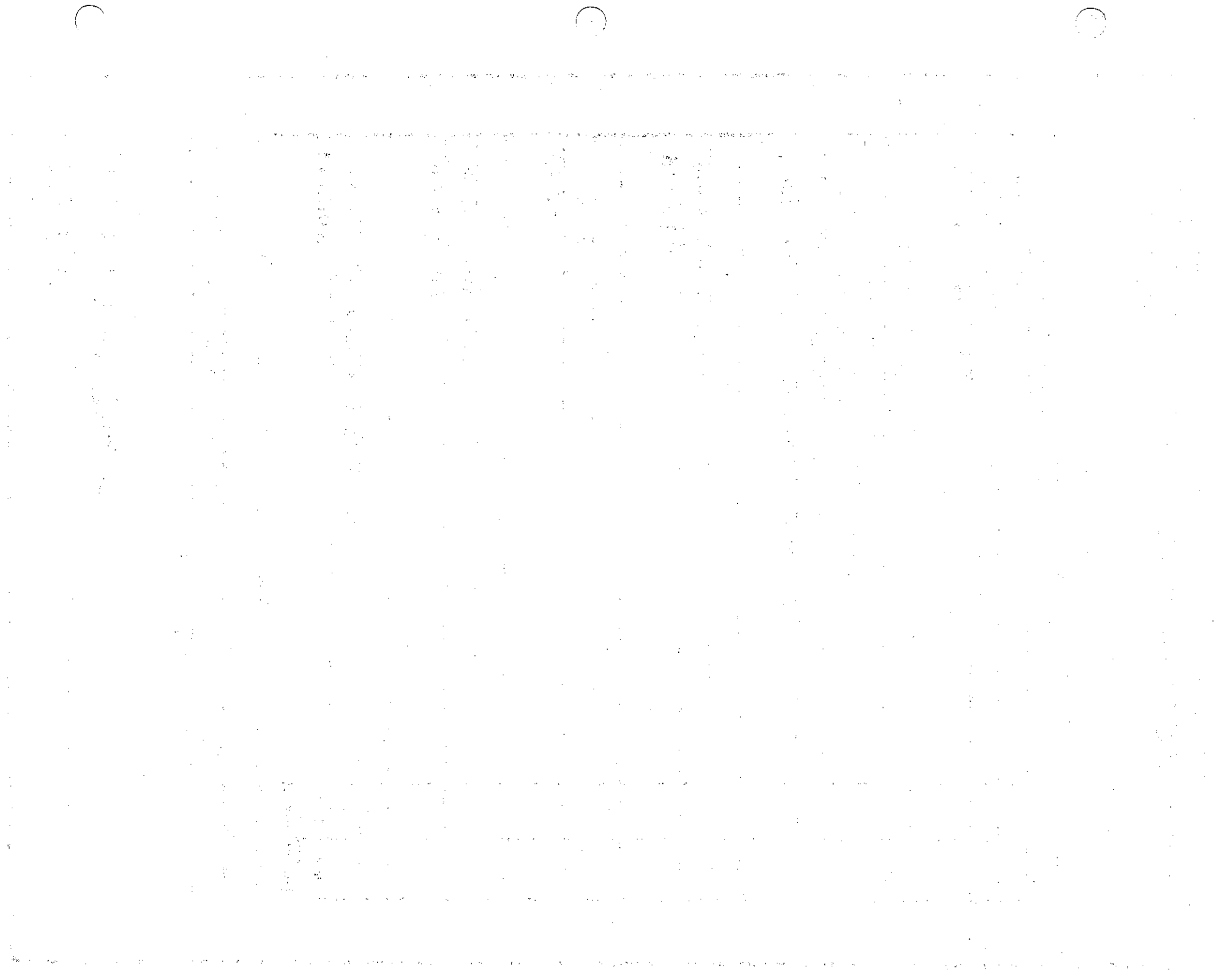
Name _____

Topic Evangelism

Lesson Open Nerves of Evangelism

Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Open Nerves of Evangelism"		
Bible Study		
Do "The Work of Christ"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
Bible Reading Chart		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Share "Bridge" with non-Christian.		
Scripture Memory		
II Timothy 3:16		
Joshua 1:8		
Review previous verses.		



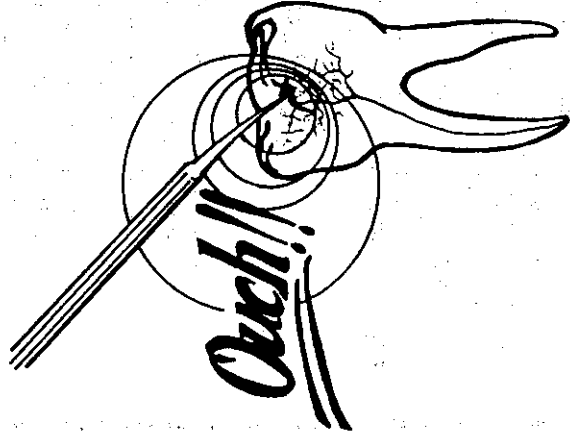
OPEN NERVES OF EVANGELISM

Introduction

What Are "Open Nerves"?

A few years ago LeRoy Eims, one of the Navigators' most skilled leaders in evangelism, coined the phrase, "open nerves of evangelism." This phrase has become accepted and well-used among people who are engaged in evangelism and are teaching others to do it. By "open nerves" LeRoy was describing the areas of specific need in an individual's life.

Example:



If I have a toothache in one particular tooth, the dentist can probe all the teeth with no response from me. But if his instrument touches the exposed or open nerve of the decayed tooth, you can be sure that there will be a response.

Everyone Has "Open Nerves"

NOTES

In the life of every person there are sensitive areas or needs. Most of the time people do not like to reveal these needs and try to keep them hidden. Perhaps they hide their needs so well that even friends and relatives cannot see them. But they are there: you can be sure of that! The Bible states clearly that those people who do not know God (the wicked) cannot be completely at peace inside.

But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

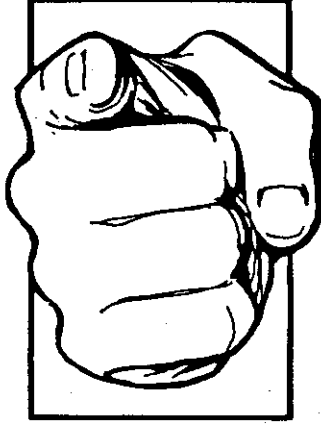
Isaiah 57:20-21

If, in our evangelism, we become skilled in recognizing and touching these open nerves, we will become much more effective.

One man's personal testimony records this:

...Before my conversion I had a very serious problem with life because I had no purpose or goal. I was like a ship on a stormy sea without a rudder. Several people had tried to witness to me about Christ without my interest being raised at all. However, I was converted the day I heard a man share his testimony of how God could give purpose and direction in life. This man had touched my "open nerve" and I was all ears. If there was an answer to my problem, I certainly wanted to find it.

How to Discover "Open Nerves"



Think for a moment about the problems you faced before you came to Christ. When Christ entered your life, He met that particular need, and the problem doesn't plague you anymore.

OR

Think about problems you are still having in your struggle with sin, but which are being increasingly conquered through your walk with Christ.

List three areas where Christ has met or is meeting a real need in your life.

NOTES

Examples of Common "Open Nerves"

- Lack of purpose and meaning in life
- No joy or happiness
- Loneliness and emptiness
- Lack of peace and contentment
- Fear of death
- Dissatisfaction with life
- Boredom
- Inability to live up to one's own moral standards
- Marriage problems
- Gripped by sinful habits
- Bitterness and resentment toward God or toward others
- Worry and fears
- Problems with drug abuse or alcohol
- Guilty conscience
- Failure complex and low self-image
- Moral problems

How to Use "Open Nerves"

When you share your testimony with others, learn to build it around your "open nerves." As you do this, you will identify with your audience and they will identify with you. The problems you faced and are facing are the same problems that everyone faces.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

I Corinthians 10:13

As people hear you honestly admit your own problems, you will seem real and approachable to them and will encourage them to share their "open nerves" with you.

It has become an accepted fact that people who have overcome some problem are best qualified to help others who are still in the midst of it. Just seeing someone who has found victory creates hope. This is what has made "Alcoholics Anonymous," "Weight Watchers," and other such organizations so effective.

Before you share your testimony with another, try to discern what his "open nerves" are. Then try to relate that part of your testimony in an effort to identify with them and to share how Christ has helped with that problem. You may not be able to completely identify with the person's specific problem, but you can aim in the general direction.

Example:

Perhaps the person you are sharing with has recently gone through a divorce and is feeling guilty, depressed and lonely. You may never have been divorced, but you can identify with the feelings that are being experienced. You may say something like this:

Well, John, I have never gone through exactly what you are going through in this situation, but I do remember a time in my life when I faced a life full of problems, loneliness, guilt and depression and had no answers at all...

From there you can go on to share your testimony.

Jesus was very skilled at identifying the "open nerves" in others:

- THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (John 4) became responsive when Jesus put His finger on her moral life.

- THE RICH YOUNG RULER (Luke 18) had a real "open nerve" when it came to materialism and possessions.

- NICODEMUS (John 3) responded when Jesus touched upon his "open nerve" of religiosity and pointed out that this was not enough: "You must be born again."

If we ask God's help in making us sensitive and discerning, He will help us to discover people's needs. Then as we skillfully and prayerfully reach out, God can and will use us in the lives of others.

NOTES



THE WORK OF CHRIST

Many have heard about the last events of Jesus' sinless life on earth. He was condemned as a common criminal, hung from a cross until dead, and three days later he rose from the dead. But few people understand the meaning of these events.

In this chapter, you will explore Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection.

THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born in the obscure town of Bethlehem. While Jesus was an infant, Joseph and Mary took him into Egypt to escape the wrath of an irate king, Herod the Great. Then, while he was still a young child, they moved to Nazareth of Galilee.

1. When the angel announced his birth, what purpose did he give for Jesus coming into the world?
Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31-33
-
-
-

2. In what ways did Jesus develop as a youth?
Luke 2:52
-
-
-

3. What are some activities of Jesus' public ministry?
Matthew 4:23
-
-
-

4. What was his purpose in selecting the twelve apostles?
Mark 3:14

5. What characterized Jesus' leadership? Luke 22:25-27

How can you follow Jesus' example?

This study booklet merely touches on the events of Jesus' life. At the end of the Gospel of John we read, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25). Some of the more familiar events of Jesus' life are presented in the illustration on page 18.

THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

6. What did Jesus predict would happen to him?
Matthew 16:21

7. What kind of death did Jesus suffer? Matthew 27:35

With what kind of men did he die? Matthew 27:38

8. Did Jesus go to the cross voluntarily? Explain your answer.
John 10:17-18

9. What is man's condition apart from Christ?
John 3:18

10. Look up 1 Peter 3:18. What did Jesus do to bring condemned men to God?

11. Can anything be added to Christ's death to make you more acceptable to God? Why or why not? Hebrews 10:12-14

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

12. After Jesus died and was buried, what was done to secure his tomb? Matthew 27:62-66

13. Read Matthew 28:1-7. What was discovered at the tomb on the first day of the week?

What did the angel say about Jesus?

14. What were the soldiers bribed to say?
Matthew 28:11-15

"As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidences for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling....I accept (the Gospel evidence for the resurrection) unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate."

EDWARD CLARKE*

15. After his resurrection, Christ appeared to his disciples.

a. What was their first impression? Luke 24:36-37

b. What things did he do to show them he had a body?
Luke 24:39-43

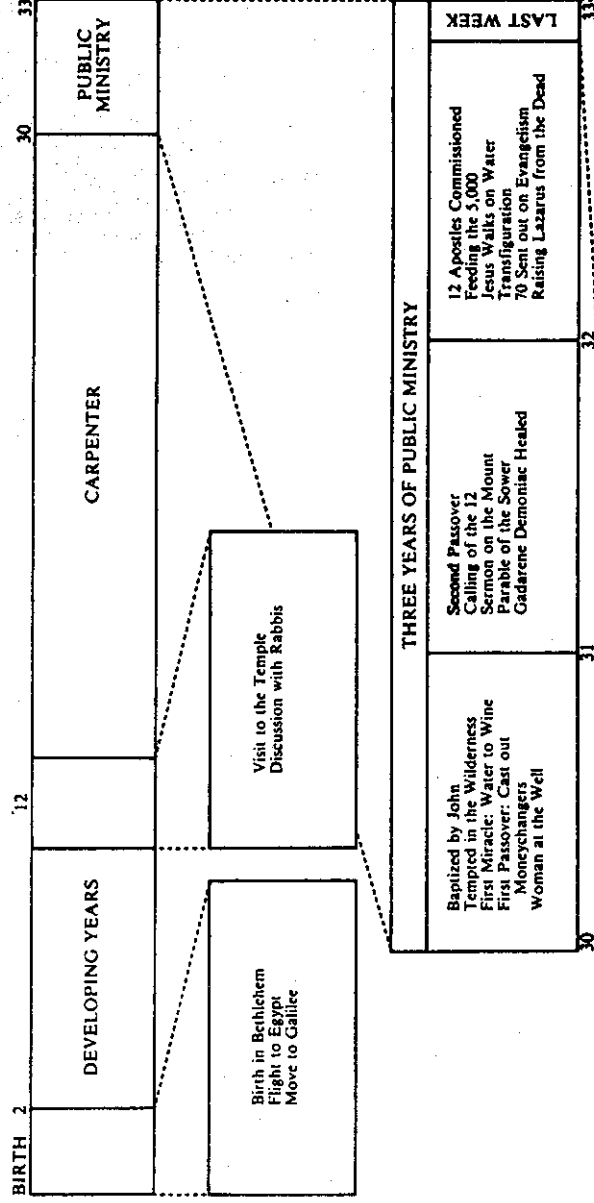
16. What is the essence of the gospel message?
1 Corinthians 15:1-5

* As quoted by John R. W. Stott in Basic Christianity (London: Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 1958), page 46.

Remember These Points:

- Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, raised in Galilee, and became a carpenter. He spent three years ministering to thousands and proving that he was the Christ.
- Then he was condemned to die on a cross to bear the penalty for our sin.
- After three days, Jesus rose bodily from the dead. His resurrection is a historical reality.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST



THE LAST WEEK			
Arrival at Jerusalem	Final Days of Ministry		Risen
Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Casting Moneychangers out of Temple	Great Commandment: Love, Signs of Coming Events, Plot of Jews and Judas	Passover Meal, Wash Disciples' Feet, Lord's Supper, True Vine, Intercessory Prayer, Betrayal	Resurrection, Appear to Disciples, Appear to 500, Ascension



ETS 2/4

Assignment Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Topic Evangelism

Lesson Sharing Your Testimony Effectively Class _____

Lecture	Completed	
	Yes	No
Review "Sharing Your Testimony Effectively"		
Bible Study		
Do "The Spirit within You"		
PSMA		
Do 5 PSMA		
Reading		
"How to share your testimony..." Write first draft.		
Bible Reading Chart		
Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for 2 people to win to Christ.		
Pray for your disciple.		
Meet with your disciple.		
Write first draft of your personal testimony.		
Scripture Memory		
John 15:7		
Philippians 4:6-7		
Review previous verses.		



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SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY EFFECTIVELY

Introduction

The Importance of Your Testimony

Your testimony is the story of your own personal pilgrimage to God. It is the story of how God drew you to Himself and to a saving faith in Jesus.

Your testimony is one of the most effective tools that God has given you to share your faith in Jesus Christ. It is effective for several reasons:

Commanded by Scripture

Let the redeemed of the Lord SAY SO, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Psalms 107:2

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

I Peter 3:15

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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Relates the Facts

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

I John 1:3

Overcomes Satan

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

Glorifies Christ

And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 5:18-19

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that I ever did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

John 4:39-42

The Value of Your Testimony

Personal Experience (human interest)

People love to listen to other people's experiences because of the human interest element.

In the Reader's Digest, the first person story of human drama is one of the most popular articles in the Digest. If people are going to listen to our story, we need to relate it in such a way that it is interesting, well-developed and polished. We also need to make sure that we stay in the first person and do not begin preaching to others.

Cannot Be Refuted

Someone else cannot prove it did not happen since it is a personal experience which deals with an intangible aspect of my life (the spiritual) and is not subject to empirical testing or scientific investigation.

Easy to Share

It is natural for people to enjoy telling and retelling their personal experiences such as operations, accidents, and other momentous events in their lives. In fact, sometimes it is very difficult to get away from some people without their telling you "that favorite experience" again--even if you have heard it a dozen times before. These same people, however, may find it very difficult (if not impossible) to preach or to do any sort of public speaking on a particular topic. But, because their testimony is their own personal story, they can tell it to one, a few or a great many people without feeling inadequate.

Helps Share Your Life

If you are transparent and willing to share your life with others, they will be more willing to share their personal lives with you. If however, you are reluctant to share your personal story, others feel the same reluctance in opening up to you. A Christian witness needs to take the initiative to set the kind of example he wants the relationship to be built upon.

Takes Us Off the Pedestal

Often as Christians we find that other people elevate us to a position which is unrealistic. They look up to us as "saints" and expect us

to live in perfection. They think that we cannot possibly be affected by the same kinds of daily problems they face.

Tempted as we might be to let people put us on a pedestal, we dare not. We must be identified with sinful man; we are simply sinners saved by grace. Our good works must not call attention to ourselves, but should cause others to focus on God and glorify Him (Matthew 5:16).

How to Share Your Testimony

Paul's Example

In the Book of Acts, Paul twice shares his personal testimony and gives us some good examples to learn from in developing our own testimonies.

The first occasion in Acts 22 was before a mob of people who were trying to kill Paul. The second occasion was in Acts 26 before King Agrippa and Festus, the Roman governor. In each instance Paul divided his story into three parts:

- What life was like before he came to Christ
- How he came to Christ
- How Christ changed his life.

It would be good to study each of these accounts carefully, but we will outline here only the Acts 22 record.

Life Before Christ - Acts 22:1-5

In this first part Paul tries to identify with the people and exposes their "open nerve."

Identifies with His Listeners

Paul does this by speaking to them in their Hebrew tongue which immediately causes them to listen. Then he goes on to assure them of his own childhood, how he was taught by the respected Jewish teacher Gamaliel, and was zealous in the Jewish religion. He even shares about how he persecuted the Christians unto death and prison.

Exposes an "Open Nerve"

NOTES

The "open nerve" of this group was nationalism. The Jews listened to Paul until he got to the part of his story where God had sent him to the Gentiles. At this point they reacted violently and were ready to stone him had not the Roman guard intervened.

How Paul Came to Christ - Acts 22:6-16

Here Paul relates WHY he became a follower of Christ and HOW Christ changed him from a persecutor to a disciple.

Why He Became a Disciple

Paul here tells the story that he was on his way to Damascus when a great light from heaven blinded him and that Christ commanded him to go to Damascus and await further instructions.

How He was Changed

Paul relates that while he waited in Damascus, Ananias, under Christ's direction, came to Paul concerning God's mission for him:

For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

Acts 22:15

Life with Christ - Acts 22:17-22

Here Paul explains how God healed his "open nerve" of Jewish nationalism by sending him to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Jews had rejected his message of Christ, and one day the Lord appeared to him in the temple and commanded him to depart, "for I will send thee hence to the Gentiles."

In sharing this aspect of his life after conversion, Paul ties the first part of his testimony and the "open nerve" to the healing of that particular problem in Christ.

Practical Considerations

Not Your Whole Life's Story

Resist the urge to tell your whole life story. Only tell what is relevant to describe your life before you came to Christ. Try to touch on some "open nerves." Then share clearly and factually how you came to Christ and how He healed the "open nerves."

A good, concise testimony should have between 600-800 words.

Divide into Three Sections

Follow Paul's example in dividing your testimony. This will help you and your listener to make the transitions clearly.

Amplify "Open Nerves"

Remember that you are trying to get people to identify with you. Review the lesson on "open nerves." When you have decided on several of those that apply to your life, include them in your story.

Present Gospel Clearly

The only purpose for sharing your testimony with non-Christians is to tell them how Jesus can change lives. Be sure that the Gospel is clear. Use several Bible verses to build this point of your testimony.

Explain Healing of "Open Nerves"

In this part make sure that you follow through and close up the open nerves. Show how God has helped you with these areas of your life. It may be that you still are struggling from time to time with one of your "open nerves." Be honest and say so, but share that God is helping you daily overcome in this.

Share with Discretion

It may be that you have something in your background that you do not feel free to share with just anyone. Leave it out and build your testimony around that which you are comfortable with. One day you may meet someone who is really struggling with the same problem you faced. In such a situation you may feel led of God to go ahead and share your background to encourage them and let them know that there is hope for victory in Christ.

Stay in the First Person - Don't Preach

Remember to stay in the first person when you share. You may ruin the whole effect of your testimony if you start to preach. People are usually willing to listen to what God has done for you, but they may be offended if you suggest that they need to let God go to work on them. Let the Holy Spirit prepare the opportunity and open the door to go further in presenting the Gospel.

Appreciate Your Own Testimony

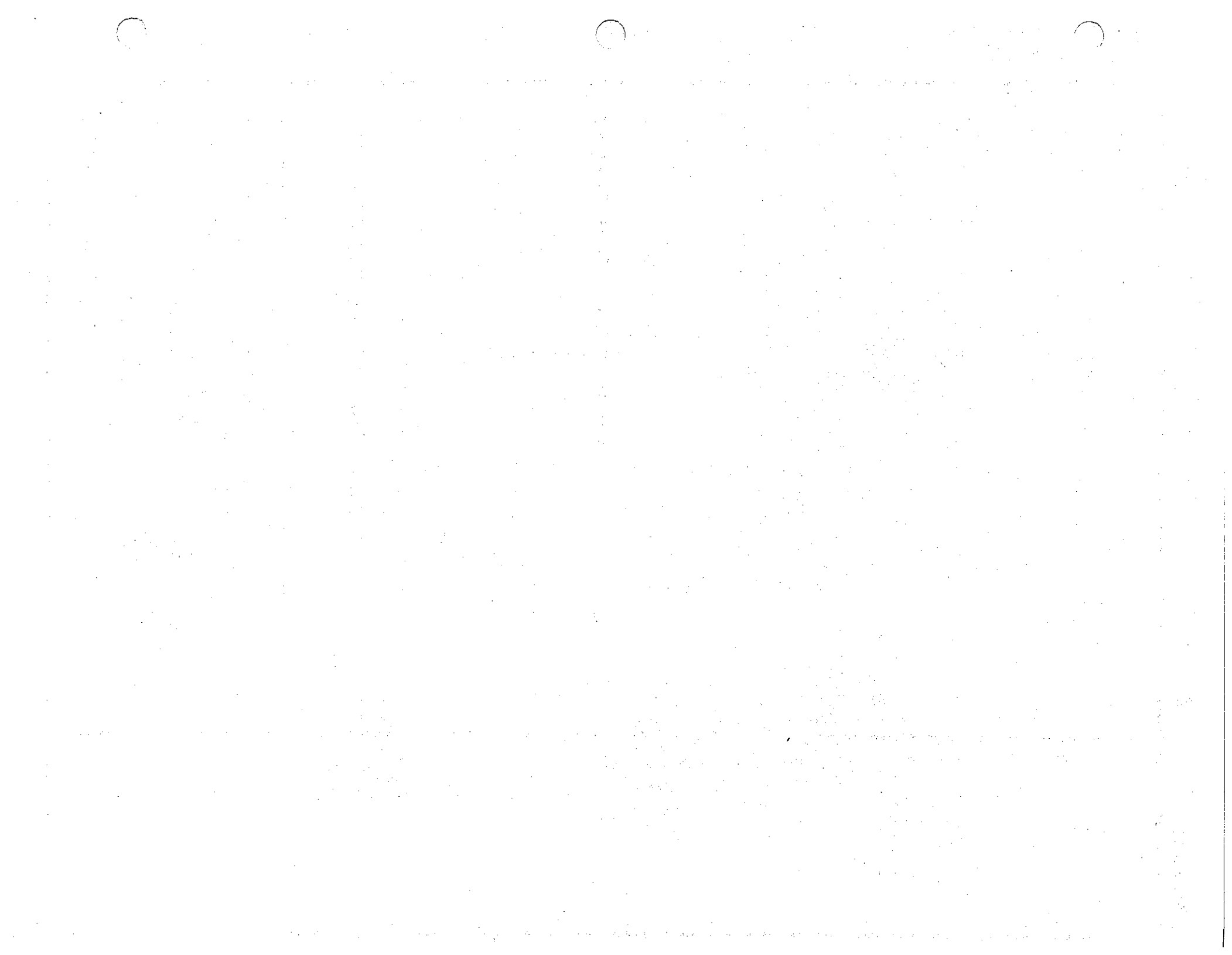
If God would have wanted you to have another testimony, He could have arranged it. Your testimony can reach a whole range of people that another's testimony could not. Besides, all of us have the same basic needs and feelings. No matter what the specific circumstances and problems we may have faced, we can identify with the basic needs of guilt, loneliness, lack of purpose and emptiness in others' lives, even though their situation may be entirely different.

Be Factual

Often it is easy to stretch a point. Don't! If the Spirit is going to use us, we must be honest as well as factual.

Pray

Seek God's help and guidance as you develop this fantastic tool. God will give you countless opportunities to share it.



THE SPIRIT WITHIN YOU

Christ arose--and now he lives! When he ascended into heaven, he did not leave his followers alone. He sent them the Holy Spirit so that all Christians might live under his control.

JESUS CHRIST'S ASCENSION

1. Read carefully the account of Jesus' ascension in Acts 1:9-11.
 - a. In your own words, briefly describe the events recorded in verses 9-10, and what they mean to you.

- b. Where is Jesus now? Verse 11 _____
 - c. What did the two men clothed in white predict? Verse 11 _____

2. What is one reason Jesus has gone to heaven? John 14:1-3 _____

- ---

3. Read Ephesians 1:20-23. To what place of authority has Christ ascended?

Verse 20

From this position over what does he reign? Verses 21-23

JESUS CHRIST'S WORK OF INTERCESSION

4. What is Christ doing now? Romans 8:34

(Intercession means to plead on behalf of another.)

5. In Jesus' great prayer recorded in John 17, what were some of the things he asked for his followers?

Verse 13

Verse 15

Verse 17

Verse 21

Verse 24

6. Do you think Jesus is praying the same things for you today? Explain your answer. Hebrews 7:24-25

THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT

7. What did Jesus promise his disciples that his Father would do?
John 14:16,26

8. What can be said of a person who genuinely acknowledges that Jesus is his Lord? 1 Corinthians 12:3

9. What is true of every believer?

Romans 8:9

1 Corinthians 2:12

1 Corinthians 3:16

Titus 3:5-6

10. Why does God send his Spirit to indwell the believer? Circle the letter of the correct answer. Galatians 4:6

- a. Because the believer has been baptized.
- b. Because the believer is his child.
- c. Because the believer has dedicated his life to him.
- d. Because the believer has had a special experience.

11. What are some results of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the believer? 2 Timothy 1:7

12. Review questions 7-11. How do you personally know the Holy Spirit lives in you?

LIVING UNDER THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONTROL

13. What are two conflicting natures in your life?
Galatians 5:16-17

Who should control your life?

Here is one illustration of the power which results from the union of the Holy Spirit with the believer:

I have in my hand a piece of lead. I hold it over a pool of water, and relax my grip. The lead is drawn irresistibly earthwards and sinks to the bottom of the pool. It has been mastered by the law of gravitation. I take the same piece of lead, attach it to a piece of wood and drop it into the pool. Now it floats. No change has taken place in the nature or tendency of the lead, nor has the law of gravitation ceased to function, but through its union with the wood, it has been mastered by a stronger law, the law governing floating bodies, and has been emancipated from the downward pull of gravitation.

J. OSWALD SANDERS*

* From The Holy Spirit and His Gifts (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1940), page 57.

14. Whom does the Holy Spirit glorify? John 16:13-14

15. What is the "sword" of the Spirit? Ephesians 6:17

16. What effect does the word of God have in the believer?
Hebrews 4:12

17. What is one activity in which the Holy Spirit helps you? How?
Romans 8:26

18. What were some of the disciples' activities after being filled
with the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:42

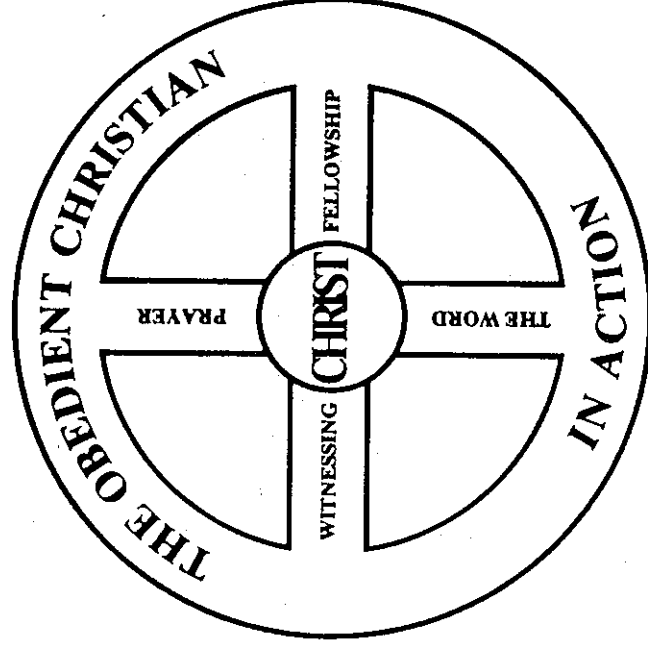
19. In Acts 1:8, Jesus used the expression "you will" twice. He
made both of these statements in conjunction with the Holy Spirit
coming on the disciples. What two statements did he make?

How does the Holy Spirit help you in witnessing?

The Spirit-filled life is:

- A life of obedience to the Holy Spirit
(question 13)

- A life centered on the person of Jesus Christ (question 14)
- A life founded on God's word (question 16)
- A life of prayer (question 17)
- A life of fellowship (question 18)
- A life that witnesses (question 19)



The Wheel Illustration is a helpful way to remember these basic truths about the Spirit-filled life. It is a Christ-centered life. The Holy Spirit focuses your attention on Christ and empowers you to live a life of obedience to him. God's word and prayer build you up in a relationship with Christ so he can live through you and reach others through fellowship and witnessing. Without drawing attention to himself, the Holy Spirit shapes each activity into an avenue of spiritual blessing.

20. Read Acts 4:31-33. List examples of the principles from the Wheel which are demonstrated by the disciples in this passage.

Remember These Points:

- Jesus Christ promised that after he left he would prepare a place for believers.
- The apostles watched as Jesus ascended out of their sight into heaven.
- Sitting on the right hand of God, Christ reigns over all creation and in particular The Church for which he is constantly praying.
- Jesus Christ also promised to send the Holy Spirit after he left. Today he comes to live in every believer.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to lead an obedient Christ-centered life.



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HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY EFFECTIVELY

by David L. Dawson

Introduction

God Can Use Your Testimony

On Sunday morning, April 7, 1956, I sat in a small military chapel listening to something that was to change my entire life! I had been in that chapel several times before and had heard several preachers expound the Scriptures, but on this particular Sunday morning, I suddenly became aware of how Jesus Christ could actually enter a person's life.

The minister was relating how he had personally met and been changed by the living Saviour. It was a simple, but marvelous story! Realizing that these were also my needs, I found myself identifying with him as he described his own search for purpose and meaning in life. As he continued on and related how Christ had satisfied his deepest longings, I could sense a deep desire in my own heart to allow Him to do the same thing for me. As a result of this man's personal testimony, I received Jesus Christ into my heart that day.

A witness is one who simply declares what he has seen, heard, and experienced (I John 1:1-3). He is not called upon to argue or judge, but simply to relate the facts of his own experience with Christ. This minister was a ready witness and was used by the Holy Spirit to draw me to Christ.

Are you prepared to declare to others what Christ has done for you? Are the facts of your conversion clear in your mind and ready on your tongue? If not, you have yet to develop one of the most strategic instruments God has given you for witnessing to others.

This book is designed to help you prepare your own personal testimony in a short but effective way that will better enable you to witness for Christ as you have opportunity. It is not to be read only, but to be written in and marked. In order to obtain the maximum benefit from the book, you will also need a Bible and a pen or pencil to aid you in discovering and recording Scriptural truths. As you depend upon the Holy Spirit, He will use your unique, personal experience with Christ to draw others to the Saviour.

Chapter One

Learning from Paul

Paul's Testimony

In this chapter we will examine the personal testimony given by the Apostle Paul on two occasions.

Acts 22--Paul had just returned from his third missionary journey. He had been beaten and brought before the Roman Officer by the Jews who were opposed to his preaching. Paul defended himself with his personal testimony.

Acts 26--Due to mounting opposition from the Jews, Paul was imprisoned and brought before King Agrippa for a hearing. Paul again defended himself with his personal testimony.

Instructions

Read Acts 22 and 26 carefully. Then answer the questions below. (The study will be more interesting and profitable if chapters 21, 23, 24, and 25 are also read for background.)

Questions

1. How did Paul capture the interest and attention of his hearers so that they were willing to listen to him?

a. Acts 22:1

Acts 22:2

Acts 22:3

b. Acts 26:2-3

2. Which personal pronoun is used most frequently in his testimony?

3. Was Paul preaching a sermon or relating facts?

4. Notice that Paul's testimony could be divided into three parts:

- a. What his life was like before he met Christ
- b. How he met Christ (his conversion experience),
- c. What his life was like after he became a Christian.

Which verses in Acts 22:1-22 and Acts 26:1-29 relate Paul's story?

- a. Before he met Christ _____ Acts 22 _____ Acts 26
- b. How he met Christ _____
- c. After he met Christ _____

5. Now focus on the verses in Acts 22 and 26, relating to Paul before conversion. Below are some facts we can discover about Paul from these passages. Add any others you find with references.

Fact

Reference

Jew from Tarsus _____ Acts 22:3

Educated under Gamaliel _____ Acts 22:3

Strict follower of Jewry _____ Acts 22:3

6. From your discoveries listed above, write a summary of approximately 50 words describing Paul's life before conversion. As you write, use the first person--as though you were Paul. The first sentences are given to help you get started.

"Friends, I am a Jew from Tarsus, but taught here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. Through his instruction I became a strict follower of Jewish laws and customs ...

7. Next, examine the verses in Acts 22 and 26 describing Paul's conversion. As you did in question 5, list any facts you discover relating how Paul met Christ.

Fact

Reference

9. Following the pattern in questions 5-8, list all the facts you can find relating how Paul's life was changed after his conversion.

Fact

[illegible]

Reference

[illegible]

10. Compare Paul's life before Christ with his life after Christ. Note how God changed him. Again summarize your findings in about 50 words using the first person as you did before.

As we continue to develop our own testimonies, we will follow the same form the Apostle Paul used--relating our conversion in three main sections:

- Before Christ
- The Conversion
- After Christ

Chapter Two

Your Testimony--Before Christ

In this section you will write the first part of your personal testimony--what your life was like before you met Christ.

The objective of this portion of your testimony is to arouse interest in your non-Christian listeners by causing them to identify with you. Because all people have been made by God and for God, true fulfillment of our needs and desires can only come through Him. Apart from Christ, we all have the same basic emptiness and lack of fulfillment. As we recall our own lives apart from Christ, non-Christians will be able to identify with our feelings and thoughts because they also are seeking answers to the same questions.

An effective way to share these areas of need is to aim for an "open nerve" that is common to most of us. Just as an exposed nerve in a bad tooth will cause me to react when it is touched, so all of us have certain basic emotional or psychological "open nerves" that are sensitive to the touch. Below are listed some common "open nerve" areas typical to most non-Christians:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| ● no peace | ● loneliness | ● inability to live up to God's moral standards |
| ● no purpose | ● boredom | |
| ● no happiness | ● emptiness | |
| ● no meaning in life | ● dissatisfaction | ● anger |
| ● fear of death | ● with life | ● worry |
| ● fear of God's judgment | ● guilt | |
| ● gripped by sinful habits | ● depression | |

One or several of these needs may have characterized your life as a non-Christian. You will be able to better identify with your listeners if you build the first section of your testimony around one or more of these "open nerves."

If you became a Christian as a child, this part of your testimony may be shorter, but do not consider it unimportant or ineffective. Start out positively--i.e. "I was quite fortunate to have been born in a Christian home, but that did not make me a real Christian . . ." or, "I made the most important decision of my life when I was only ten years old . . ." Even as a child you may have been troubled by an "open nerve" area which you can incorporate into this section.

Remember--The Holy Spirit is using your testimony! You needn't have the world's most dramatic conversion experience in order to be used by Him!

As you write this section, the following suggestions should be observed:

Be Factual

It is often tempting to stretch the truth for dramatic effect. Try to make the first section stimulating by being specific or by using tasteful humor.

Be Specific

"Each time I returned from a party, I would go home dreading the loneliness that I knew was waiting for me. Those were the worst moments of my life," is better than, "I was a lonely person." Specific incidents can illustrate a more general "open nerve."

Be Personal

Use the pronouns "I," "my," and "me," rather than generalize to "we," "everyone," "the world," etc.

Be Brief

Don't relate your entire life history. Remember, your objective is not to recite your autobiography, but to identify with your hearers. If you aim to finish giving your entire testimony in 5 minutes, this section should proportionately take 1 1/2 to 2 minutes of the time.

Instructions

Now you are ready to write the first part of your testimony. Before you begin, pray and ask God to give you wisdom as you write this section. Also review the suggestions given for the first section.

Plan

1. List 3 "open nerves" that affected your life before you came to Christ.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

2. What specific incidents or examples can you think of from your life that illustrate these three "open nerve" areas?

a) _____

b) _____

Now pick one or two of these "nerves" and incidents. Build the first part of your testimony around them. Remember you are trying to get your hearers to identify with you and not to tell your whole life story.

If you came to Christ at a very early age: say so! It is exciting to hear the stories of people who didn't have to walk the path of sin and wasted years to find God.

Share how you went on to grow in Christ and how He has helped through some specific testings and trials. If you didn't go on to maturity after your initial decision and some of the years were wasted, you could share what your life was like during that time. Use your re-dedication as a transition point to tell how you made Christ the Lord of your life and began to really walk with Him. Just because you came to Christ early in life doesn't mean that you don't have a testimony!

3. Testimony (Develop from your plan above. Limit yourself to 150 to 200 words.)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Chapter Three

Your Testimony--The Conversion Experience

In this chapter you will learn how to write the second section of your testimony: How you met Christ.

This is the pivotal point of your story and tells specifically how you received Christ. If you cannot remember the exact time and way you received Christ, you can still relate the basic essentials necessary for a person to become a Christian. The point is this: If you really know Christ you will be able to tell others how you received Him.

Remember these points as you write this section:

1. The Gospel should be brought out clearly enough in your narration that the hearer would know how to receive Christ himself.
2. It is effective to use one or two verses of Scripture that were influential in your conversion or that clearly give the Gospel. God's Word is alive and powerful and is used by the Holy Spirit to convict men of their need for Christ. God promises in Isaiah 55:11:

So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Follow these guidelines when using Scripture verses:

- Don't use too many--prayerfully choose one or two that are most significant to your particular story. If too many verses are used, you begin to sound like you are preaching.
 - Memorize the verses you use--if the verses were influential to your conversion, they should be meaningful enough to warrant memorization. Quoting the exact passage and reference ensures that we are really giving God's Word--not our recollection of it.
 - Explain any words in that verse that your listeners may not understand.
3. Be careful to avoid religious language that will confuse or be meaningless to a non-Christian--i.e. "saved," "grace," "washed in the Blood," etc.
 4. Review suggestions given in Chapter II.

Instructions

Write the second section of your testimony in the space provided. In normal conversational speed, this section should be one to one and a half minutes in length. (150 to 200 words)

Plan

Write in note form:

1. DATE AND PLACE OF YOUR CONVERSION

2. WHAT CONVINCED YOU TO RECEIVE CHRIST?

3. HOW DID YOU COME TO CHRIST?

4. WHAT VERSES STOOD OUT TO YOU AT THAT TIME?

Testimony

(Develop from your plan above. Make sure the Gospel is presented clearly enough that your hearer will know how he may receive Christ himself.) 150 - 200 words

Chapter Four

Your Testimony--After Christ

This section of your testimony should tell something of what has changed in your life since coming to know Christ: the blessing of sins forgiven, assurance of salvation, new meaning and purpose in life, or other ways your outlook has changed.

As you prepare to write this section, consider the following suggestions:

1. Review the "open nerve" areas you shared in section 1. Think about how Christ has healed those sensitive and unpleasant needs. Then in this last section, be sure you clearly relate how Christ has helped you with the specific "open nerves" shared earlier.
2. Don't present an unrealistic or idealistic picture of the Christian life. Christ's presence in our lives does not ensure that we will never have another problem. It does mean, however, that He is sovereignly in control of our lives and with us in each situation we face. You might say something like this:

"Receiving Jesus Christ into my heart was not an end to all of life's problems. It did, however, give me the confidence that Christ would be with me in each circumstance and work it out for my good."

3. Don't start preaching! Often at this point in the testimony, a witness may begin to urge the person to a similar experience. Keep the testimony personal--not preachy! Remember--you are telling what Christ has done for you. Continue using personal pronouns: "I," "Me,"--not "you."
4. Review suggestions given in the last two chapters (pp. 7, 8, 12).

Instructions

Write the third section of your testimony in the space provided. In normal conversation speed, this should be 1 to 1 1/2 minutes long (150 to 200 words).

Plan

A. Write in note form:

1. WHAT HAPPENED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU RECEIVED CHRIST? (If nothing spectacular happened immediately, say so! Many people have the mistaken idea that a conversion must be accompanied by sensational "feelings" or happenings. God has quietly converted many people, and their experience is just as real to Him as a more dramatic one. For many people the change is very gradual.)

2. HOW DID CHRIST HEAL YOUR "OPEN NERVES?"

3. WHAT ARE SOME ACTUAL INCIDENTS YOU CAN USE TO ILLUSTRATE YOUR POINT?

4. WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC SCRIPTURE VERSES, SUGGESTIONS, OR HELPS THAT CAUSED IMMEDIATE GROWTH IN YOUR NEW CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Examples:

"The evangelist had me promise to read the Book of John 5 times."

or

"The next day the man who led me to Christ came to my house to pray and read the Bible with me. That was the first time I realized I could freely talk with God."

B. Testimony (Develop from your plan above.)

Lined area for writing testimony.

You have now written all three parts of your testimony separately. The final step in drafting it is to combine the three parts into one flowing story. Before you write the final composition, review the three parts you have already written and the suggestions given under each section.

Chapter Five

Final Draft

Make any corrections necessary. Now write your entire testimony in the space provided below.

(Study the Appendix before proceeding with this section. The example of a poorly-written testimony and a well-written one, which can be found in the Appendix, should help you write your final copy.)

BEFORE CHRIST--What your life was like before you met Christ.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE--How did you meet Christ?

AFTER CHRIST--What has changed in your life since coming to know Christ?

Lined area for writing.

Conclusion

You have now completed your testimony. I think you will discover that it will become one of the most invaluable resources you possess in witnessing to others. Because it is so personal, and because it is uniquely yours, no one can argue with it or deny that it happened to you. As you learn to relate your story with confidence, others will be amazed at the assurance you have of Christ's reality today.

Now that you have written your testimony, you must learn to use it verbally. Here are some suggestions which may help you:

1. Read the testimony several times aloud until all three sections flow together, and you are very familiar with what you have written.
 2. Practice saying your testimony aloud to yourself. Do not memorize what you have written word for word. This makes your narration sound artificial and spontaneous. You may want to memorize certain key phrases to help you remember the flow of your story, but you should not give your testimony exactly the same way twice.
 3. After you have said your testimony several times alone, try giving it to another Christian--perhaps your pastor, Christian leader, or a mature Christian friend. Ask the other person to critique your presentation and make suggestions for a clearer delivery.
 4. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to use your testimony with a non-Christian friend or acquaintance. Pray also for boldness to take the opportunity when it arises. Don't procrastinate.
 5. Launch out in faith, even though you may not feel your story is perfected. Remember God the Holy Spirit is at work both in the heart of your hearer and in your presentation. Without God, the most eloquent delivery will be fruitless. With Him, the most stumbling speaker can be used to draw others to the Saviour.
- And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? NOW THEREFORE, GO AND I WILL BE WITH THY MOUTH, AND TEACH THEE WHAT THOU SHALT SAY.

Exodus 3:10-12

Appendix

Examples of Two Testimonies

Example of a Poorly Written Testimony

Before Christ:

When I was young, my parents taught me to go to church, but I wasn't very interested in it, and when I was in my early teens, I dropped out. I wasn't a very good student in school and was bored with life. I had a hard time figuring out what life was all about. Then I started to drink and run around with bad company. My drinking caused lots of problems. After high school I worked for about 6 months and then joined the military. While in the military my drinking problem got me into trouble, and I began to cry out to God to help me.

Analysis:

Too general--no specific incidents to illustrate problems

Not touching any "open nerves"

Conversion Experience:

One Sunday morning I went to the base chapel. There, for the first time in my life I heard the Gospel and was born again. I remember that the preacher said God could help a person with his problems, and anyone with as many problems as I had really needed God's help. In fact, if Christ had not washed me in His blood, I might have committed suicide. Anyhow, I thank God that He saved me and gave me eternal life.

Analysis:

Gospel unclear--the hearer would not know how to receive Christ from this account

No Scripture verses used

Too much religious jargon was used--i.e., "born again", "washed in the Blood", "saved" etc.

After Christ:

When Christ came into my life, He sure made a difference. He solved all my problems and I never have had a bad day since. I sure would recommend Christ to you. He can save you just like He did me. Remember God loves you! Praise the Lord!

Analysis:

Too general--no specific solutions mentioned

Too idealistic--even Christians sometimes have a bad day

Too preachy--need to confine story to your own experience and not push the need for salvation

Example of a Well-Written Testimony

Before Christ:

My earliest childhood memories are of church and Sunday School each Sunday morning. But as the years went by, I realized that the life I was living during the week fell far short of what the church had taught me and what I knew was right. By the age of 14, I had stopped going to church altogether and had begun to run around with some teenagers who, like I, had no time for God. I began to drink and developed a serious problem with alcohol that progressed from bad to worse as I grew older. By 17, alcohol had put me in jail for the first time. At 18, a group of friends wanted to commit me to an institution for alcoholics. At 19 I was back in jail for the second time as the result of alcohol. Although I had graduated from high school and joined the Air Force, the military discipline had not helped my problems at all. In fact, they seemed to have become worse. I drank because I desperately wanted to anesthetize myself from the loneliness and lack of purpose that filled my heart. Each time I returned home from a party, I would go home dreading the loneliness I knew was waiting for me. Those were the worst moments of my life. I could see no meaning at all to existence and felt that if I could find no answer, perhaps the best thing would be to end my own life.

Analysis:

Specific

Covers all major periods of his life before Christ

Strikes "open nerves" such as loneliness, lack of purpose, searching for direction

Conversion Experience:

In this state I began to pray--asking God to help me find Him if He really existed. Then one day I picked up the base newspaper and

read an interesting advertisement. It told of a minister who was coming to speak at our military chapel. Somehow I felt that this might be the answer to my prayer. The next Sunday morning I was sitting in the front row listening to him tell an amazing story.

He told how as a young man he had searched for the same meaning and direction in life that I was so desperately searching for now. He opened the Bible and explained that because of sin, man was separated from God and could never have purpose and happiness in life apart from Him. He said, however, that God still loved man and had sent His own Son, Jesus, to die and pay the penalty of man's sin so that man could again be reunited with God. He shared one verse in John 1:12 which said that, "To as many as received Him (Jesus) He gave the power to become sons of God." He explained that this verse meant that all one needed to do was to ask Christ into his life--to receive Him--and Christ would come in and give direction and power and purpose. That day as the pastor closed in prayer, I silently prayed something like this:

Oh God, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me and come into my heart. Make me the kind of man you want me to be. Thank you. Amen.

Analysis:

Specific narrative--tells exactly what happened

Relates the Gospel clearly, using the pastor's message as the "third person" method of telling the story

No religious jargon used

Uses Scripture and references--scripture explained as to meaning

Gives sample prayer so hearer will know how to pray and what to pray if he desires to do it himself

After Christ:

When I prayed that prayer, nothing spectacular seemed to happen. There were no flashes of lightnings nor angels rocketing off the walls. I had no strange feelings or sensations. Within the next few weeks, however, I realized that something was indeed different. For the first time in my life I had a sense of peace and purpose and meaning. As I began to read the Bible, I discovered that God had a wonderful, unique plan for each person's life and that Christ was alive and real and leading me into that plan--day by day. My loneliness and emptiness were replaced by quiet joy. I still had problems and bad days, but now I knew God was with me in each situation helping me through. My drinking problem was solved because now

there was no need to escape from reality as I had tried to do before through alcohol. I guess II Corinthians 5:17 best sums up what happened to me when it says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new." I can honestly say that I would not trade one hour of my new life with Christ for all the years I spent without Him. He has truly met the deepest needs of my heart.

Analysis:

"Open nerves" now closed--specific solutions for the problems mentioned in Section 1

Realistic--salvation not an end to all problems

Good use of Scripture and references

Sticks with personal pronouns--not preachy