

## ***Evangelism***

### ***You are an Ambassador of the King***

*“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”*

Daniel 12:3

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”*

Prov. 11:30



***Our Goal*** is to begin sharing the gospel!

- Review the gospel message
- Learn how to share our Testimony

***We are all called to Share the Gospel!***

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:14-15*

According to this verse, why is it necessary to preach the gospel?

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***Jesus has commissioned you to preach --- and promises to be by your side as you do!***

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:18-20

What is our “Great Commission as Christians?

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***We should be “Shameless” about preaching***

*“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16*

Paul insists that he isn’t ashamed of the gospel. What are some reasons why we might be shy about sharing our faith?

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***The Need is Great!***

*“He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*  
Luke 10:2

What does it mean that “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few?”

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**Review from Lesson #1: The Message of Salvation**

***Our Message Jesus was Crucified to Save us!***



*“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*  
1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Why is it so important to preach Jesus Christ crucified? What was it necessary for Jesus to die for us?

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### ***1. We are all Sinners***

The word “salvation” implies that we need to be saved! The Bible says that we all have sinned. (Romans 3:23).

Some say, “*I’m basically a good person. I don’t kill anyone. I’m nice to others. Why does the Bible say I’m a sinner who needs to be saved?*” How do we answer?

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### ***2. The Result of Sin is Death***

“*For the wages of sin is death.*”  
Romanos 6:23



### ***3. We cannot save ourselves.***

What are some of the ways people usually think they can “be good enough” to save themselves? (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it impossible to earn our own salvation?

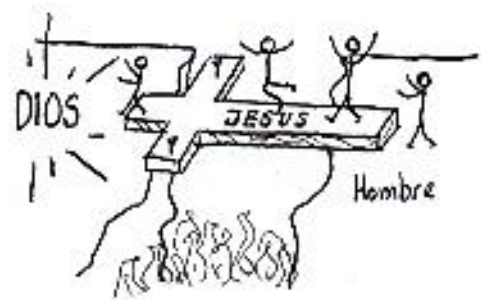
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### ***4. Jesus Died for us and Paid the Price for our Sins***



Jesus said, “*I am the way,  
the truth,  
And the Life,  
no one comes to the father  
except through me.*” (John 14:6)



## ***Our Part in the Salvation Process***

- ***Repent***
- ***Receive***
- ***Rejoice!***

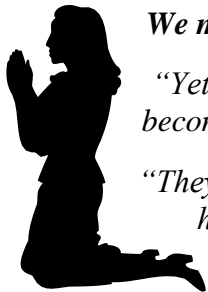
### ***We need to “repent” of our sins***

*"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mk 1:15*

What does it mean to “repent?”

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### ***We must receive Christ by faith***

*“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—” John 1:12*

*“They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:31*

There are many who say, “I believe in God,” but it is obvious that their lives do not match their words. How can we explain the difference between simply saying we believe in God, and actually having the faith that is necessary for salvation?

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### ***We have to profess our faith in Jesus publically***

*“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Ro.10:9-10*

***Let’s Pray*** – Write a prayer to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

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## **Your Testimony: A key to Evangelism**

### ***You have a powerful story to tell!!***

Whether you think so or not, you have a testimony!! A “testimony” conveys your story of how you came to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Some people have dramatic stories of being rescued from deep darkness, while others came to faith more gradually, or perhaps even as a little child. Thank God, however, we each came to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior and can present the gospel through sharing our own experience. Below we share some simple guidelines about how to prepare your personal testimony.

### **The “Message” – *Jesus changed my life, and he can change your life as well!!***

#### ***Basic Structure***

- ***“Before”*** – Briefly describe your life before coming to know Jesus, preferably focusing on a specific area of need or struggle.
  - *I often felt lonely and misunderstood.*
  - *I could not bring myself to stop drinking.*
  - *I was religious and “nice” but did not understand a personal relationship with Christ.... Etc.*
- ***“What happened”*** – How did you come to decision to receive Jesus as your Lord? Describe the specific situation. This part should include a presentation of the gospel such that the listener could imitate your example to receive Christ him or herself.
  - *I came forward at an altar call and confessed my sins and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior.*
  - *I prayed with my best friend to receive Christ as my Lord.*
  - *Alone in my room, I yielded my heart to the Lord and really put my trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior..... etc.*
- ***“After”*** – Mention some specific ways in which your life changed after receiving Christ. Careful not to exaggerate and make it seem as if life was perfect after that moment. Try to focus on the specific issues you mentioned earlier in your story.
  - *From that time on I felt a new personal connection to Christ which I had not experienced in my years of merely “going to church.”*
  - *Over time God gave me the courage to find help for my drinking problem. I have been sober for ten years.*
  - *While I still have my ups and downs, Jesus helps me not to feel alone and insecure. I am aware of his love and feel optimistic about the future ....etc.*

## ***One person's Testimony can "Rock" a Nation!!***

### ***Lazarus***

Lazarus was raised from the dead. What a story!! Check out the results....

*"Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him."* John 12:9-11

Why did the Pharisees want to kill Lazarus? What was the effect of his testimony.

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### ***The Samaritan Woman***

Jesus prophesized to a woman of "ill repute" that he met by the well one hot day. Deeply impacted by his words, she went into town and told everyone who would listen that she had met a true prophet. Could he be the Messiah?

Again, check out the results....

*"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."* John 4:39-42

What was the effect of the woman's testimony?

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Do you know someone like that – who changed drastically after encountering Jesus in their lives? What was the effect of this person's changed life on you and others who knew him or her?

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## Some examples of Testimonies

### ***Example #1: The Apostle Paul***

*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.” 1 Timothy 1:12-16*

What was Paul like before meeting Jesus?

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How was his life changed?

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What message did Paul hope others would receive through his own personal testimony of salvation?

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**Example #2: Camacho el Macho Chamaco**  
**Tough guy Tom**



*As a young man I lived a pretty crazy life. I bounced from woman to woman, thinking that this behavior made me more of a “man.” I also drank too much – again, to earn the respect and admiration of my friends and be more of a “tough guy.”*

*But when I was 18 years old I started working for a boss that I respected tremendously. He was a strong man, and extremely fun to be around, but he didn’t drink and stayed faithful to his wife. I was impressed by his example and his genuine personal relationship with Christ. I went to his church and there heard about Jesus as a person I could know in a personal way. I felt that they were “on” to something real, and after one service I prayed to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.*

*He changed my life completely. I know that being a true man is not living a wild life, but serving God and being there for my wife and kids. I’m a leader in my church and feel the blessing of God on my career and home.*

What is the “before” for Camacho?

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How did he meet Jesus?

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Describe the “after” for Camacho?

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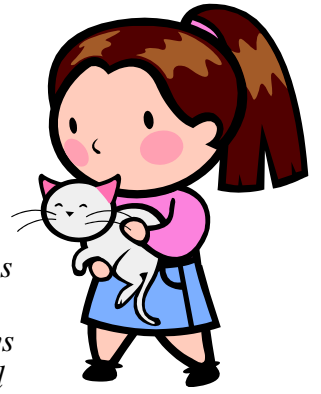
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**Example # 3 – Barbarita la Buena**  
**Nice Nelly**



*I grew up in church. My mother and father always brought me to services and activities for children and youth. I never got involved in drugs or harmful relationships with boys, the way many of my friends did. I always saw myself as a “nice girl” and thought that I pretty much deserved good things in life.*

*But when I was 14 years old I heard a sermon about “pride” and realized that I had that type of superior attitude in my heart. I realized that in spite of being so religious and so “good,” that I still needed Jesus to forgive my sins and fill my heart. The pastor made an altar call and I went forward to receive Christ as my Lord and Savior. When I prayed, I felt a new type of joy and peace that I had never felt before. I felt that the Holy Spirit had entered my life and I had been born again.*

*Now I continue to go to church and while my life may not have changed in dramatic external ways, I feel completely different inside. I’m not “religious” anymore and I have a personal relationship with Christ.*

What was the “before” like for Nelly?

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How did she come to know Christ as Lord and Savior?

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Describe the “after” for Nelly.

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**Example #3 – Ana la Sanada**  
**Helen finds Healing.**

*I grew up in an extremely abusive household. As a child I experienced various types of abuse from my mother's boyfriends which caused deep wounds in my life. I saw myself as a worthless human being and repetitively entered into destructive relationships with men, feeling always more depressed and lonely. Sometimes I came to the point of wanting to end my own life.*

*But when I was 25 years old I met a co-worker who invited me to her church. I wanted to visit but at the same time felt afraid of being rejected. I had always imagined "church" people to be the types who wouldn't want to be around someone like me. But my friend was completely different from this preconception I had, extremely warm and accepting, so I decided to give her church a chance. At first I sat in the last row and carefully observed the people singing and raising their hands in worship. I thought it was all rather strange, but felt drawn to the joy that they demonstrated. After visiting a few times, one day during a song I felt something special move in my heart and the tears started to flow. My friend asked if I wanted to accept Jesus, and I said yes. We prayed together right there, during the songs, and I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. That day I felt like a great weight had been lifted from my shoulders... as if I could fly!*



*I would be lying if I said my life changed overnight. It was a long process of healing, but little by little, I felt a new power within me to change my life style and way of thinking. I broke up with the man who was mistreating me and began to feel better about myself. Now I'm taking a discipleship class at church, and I feel a new hope about my future. Jesus is changing my life!!*

Describe the "before" for Helen? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did she meet Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did Helen's life change? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Now Write your own Testimony!! --- Some Guidelines!!**

### ***Be brief!!!***

- Try to summarize and focus on your salvation experience
- It should be presentable in 2-3 minutes

### ***Concise***

- Try not to get lost in too many details.
- Do not try to tell the entire story of your life
- Focus on that which is most relevant to your experience of salvation in Christ
  - Don't tell about all your pets as a child
  - Don't describe every drug you took
  - Don't tell the whole "soap opera"

### ***Appropriate and Discrete***

- Don't air out all the dirty laundry
- Avoid graphic or sexual details
- Be aware of your audience. For example, do not tell a young child: "*I stabbed two men in cold blood!*"
- Be careful not to betray the privacy of others in your story
- Do not glorify sin and Satan. Remember that God is the hero of the story!

### ***Avoid Exaggeration***

- Resist the temptation to paint the story in overly simplistic terms: "*I was a devil and now I'm an angel.*"
- Resist the temptation to exaggerate the intensity of your sinful past
- Resist the temptation to exaggerate the intensity of your conversion
- Be honest and balanced

### ***Don't Preach***

- The testimony is meant to be your story, leave preaching for other contexts
- The idea is to *share* and not lecture the listener at this time

### ***Include the Gospel***

- The process of salvation should be clear.
  - "*I prayed to receive Christ as my Lord and Savior.*"
- The Listener should be able to understand the basics of the gospel through your story.
- It should be possible for the listener to himself or herself be saved, based on following the example of your testimony.

## Review Questions

List the important points in our presentation of the góspel message.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

How should we respond to the góspel to be saved. What is our part in the salvation process?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Review – The 10,000 dollar question!***

If you were to die today and the Lord were to ask you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” What would you say?

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What are some guidelines in preparing a good testimony presentation?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

***Assignment: Write your Testimony!***

***The Before:*** - What was your life like before coming to know Christ. Mention one or two specific areas of struggle you faced.

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***The New Birth – What happened?*** - Describe your experience of receiving Christ as your Lord and Savior. Be sure to include the basics of the gospel.

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***The “After”*** - How has your life changed after coming to know Christ? Try to focus on some specific areas in which this change has been evident.

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***Hit List*** – Jot down the names of five people you know who are not yet active believers and with whom you could share your personal testimony.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_.