

PREPARING TO GO!

We are not here because we simply want to learn *about* evangelism. We are taking this course so that we can *do* evangelism. We want to persuade lost people to put saving faith in the Savior Jesus Christ. This means we must commit to *go* when the time comes. And we must be willing to *speak* when the opportunity is presented. And while our aim is to persuade, we understand that God has called us to be obedient, not successful.

FOR NON-EVANGELISTS

Not everyone has the supernatural gift of faith, giving, mercy, service, or hospitality. But God expects us to learn from and even imitate those who do. Many of us may not have the supernatural gift of evangelism, but we are all here to be inspired and equipped for the task together. In fact, while we likely have many different spiritual gifts, it is what we have in common that brings us together. We have a common testimony of salvation and we have the same Holy Spirit empowering our witness. And so, each of us is compelled to the same work.

A HOLY AMBITION

Everyone desires to do great things. Daniel 12:3 says that those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars! Jesus, when His disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in the kingdom, did not rebuke them for their ambition. Instead, he directed it (Luke 22:24-30). We are taking this class because we desire to do great things *for God!* And nothing is greater than sharing with others the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

MORE READY THAN WE KNOW

The joyful work of evangelism is not beyond us. Our desire to share Christ's Gospel comes from God. The same God who placed in our hearts the desire to share His good news will prepare hearts to receive that good news. God prepares us to share the Gospel with those He prepares to hear it. *Both are more ready than we know!*

INTERCEDE – INVITE – INSTRUCT

The work before us will follow three key movements. In the first movement, through lessons 1-3, we will explore our role as *intercessors*. In the second movement, through lessons 3-6, we will add to this role an understanding of dialogue evangelism that results in an *invitation* to receive the gift of Jesus Christ. In the final movement, through lessons 7-9, we will add to these a commitment to go and make disciples (rather than simply converts) by *instructing* them in the ways and commands of Jesus.

FIRST THINGS: THE GOSPEL

All people were created in God's image, to reflect His glory and enjoy Him in intimate relationship. All people have sinned and fall short of God's glory, are thus separated from God, and have earned physical, spiritual and eternal death as a just punishment. Man is unable to save himself, meaning there is nothing he can do to avoid the penalty of death or to earn salvation by any amount of good works or religion. Instead, Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on a cross in our place, satisfying the penalty of death that we could not avoid, and rose from the dead three days later winning for us the life we could never earn. Man is saved from sin's penalty, given Christ's righteousness and eternal life, and reconciled to God as a gift of God's grace alone, accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection, to be received by personal repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message of who Jesus is and what He has done, is The Gospel, and it is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

STEP 1 – WE ARE INTERCESSORS

If people who don't know Jesus as their Savior think of you as their *evangelist* (if they think you are going to preach at them) they will often avoid you. If they think of you as their *intercessor* (if they think you are going to pray for them) they will often seek you out. We will explore this identity in Step 1.

Learning Objectives

We'll learn the importance of being recognized by others as an intercessor. We will learn the biblical basis for our role as intercessors. We'll learn what an intercessor is and what an intercessor does. And we'll consider who should be the focus of our intercession.

STEP 2 – PRAY WITH BURDENS FOR PEOPLE AND PASSIONS FOR GOD

If we are to approach evangelism correctly we must do so as intercessors. This is our reason for relationships with unbelievers and why we are called to personal evangelism. We are to see ourselves as their intercessors. Our evangelism needs to begin with prayer. This is not just any kind of prayer, but deep, intentional prayer produced in us by the Holy Spirit. It is this high place that we must commit ourselves to journeying to.

Learning Objectives

We will learn that we cannot reach the high place of intercession without taking time and effort. We will understand what motivates our intercession. Taken from Jeremiah 14, we will learn what burdens and prayers a life of intercession will produce. We will learn that intercession is the place where our passion for people intersects with our passion for God.

STEP 3 – LISTEN TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO LOST PEOPLE

Having committed to a specific time of intercession for members of your unbelieving *oikos*, it is important for you to know that the Holy Spirit is already at work in their lives. He is conducting a conversation with them into which we should learn to listen. What are the things we should expect that the Holy Spirit will be saying to them? What points of conversation should we be listening for?

Learning Objectives

From John 16:8-11, we will learn that the Holy Spirit convicts all people (1) of their own sin, (2) of their need to be righteous and their lack of righteousness, and (3) of the prospect of oncoming judgment. We will learn how we can join the conversation the Holy Spirit is *already having* with the unbeliever. We will learn to listen for evidence of God's **convicting grace** in the lives of the lost. In this way, we will gain confidence to speak to that conviction, in a gracious and powerful manner, about God's **saving grace** through Jesus Christ.

STEP 4 – KNOW YOUR STORY OF SALVATION

If you have indeed been rescued by God's grace through Jesus Christ, then you possess a testimony that is powerfully equipped to draw lost people into a realization of their own sin and need for a Savior. There may be nothing more natural to a conversation with lost people than to share your own discovery of the Savior and to invite them to "Come and see." John 1:46

Learning Objectives

We will learn to express our own story of salvation. Using Paul's testimony in Acts 26, we will learn a helpful outline for telling our stories of salvation. We will learn what kind of impression a genuine story of salvation should leave on others. We will also learn six important experiences that should be part of every true Christian's salvation story.

STEP 5 – DISCOVER WHAT PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT GOD AND ABOUT THEIR SIN

After a period of dedicated intercession for the lost people in our *oikos*, there is a need to move intentionally into gracious dialogue with each person. This will be a conversation where we listen for the evidence of God's preparing grace and we share the message of God's saving grace. Now that we are armed with the gospel and the story of our own salvation, we are compelled by Christ to actively pursue opportunities to speak of these things with lost people.

Learning Objectives

We will learn how to start a dialogue using questions that will help people share what God is revealing to them about Himself. We will learn to trust the Holy Spirit to make those with whom we dialogue more aware of their sins and help them see their need before God.

STEP 6 – BRING PEOPLE BEFORE THE CROSS AND TO THE DOOR OF THEIR HEARTS

We are anticipating a conversation with those who have been the subject of our ongoing intercession. By the leading of the Holy Spirit the first part of our conversation will put them before God and their own sins. Now let us consider how to lead them to the cross where Christ died for them and before a door where Christ is knocking.

Learning Objectives

We will once again emphasize listening and asking dialogue questions that explore the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. We will consider four more points to make in our dialogue that will bring people to the cross of Christ and then set Christ before the door of their hearts. We will see how, through our dialogue, we can clarify the Gospel and apply it to the places where the Spirit of God is laying His conviction upon all people. We will learn the importance of bringing unbelievers to understand that they must decide to repent and believe in Christ and to turn their lives over to Him.

STEP 7 – DISCIPLE THE NEW CHRISTIAN

God calls us to make disciples, not lead people to make decisions. Our work is not done when people pray to receive Jesus as their savior. Now we must intentionally join our evangelism with the ongoing work of personal discipleship. The conversation that the Holy Spirit is having with each person continues after they believe in Christ as their Savior and surrender to Him as Lord. So, our role and our opportunity to join that conversation continues as well.

Learning Objectives

We will learn the importance of immediately discipling those who profess saving faith in Christ. We will address our common fears of discipleship. We will learn three essential rules for discipleship. We will learn the three movements we must engage in while making a disciple. And we will see that discipling individuals requires placing them in communities of faith.

STEP 8 – BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The truth is that much of what we have learned could be practiced by a Christian as an exercise of their own effort. That Christian's evangelism may look and feel like real and genuine evangelism, but it is wholly inadequate so long as it is not compelled and propelled by the Spirit of God in them. The Holy Spirit is ready to fill us and we should not take another step in the way of evangelism without the filling of the Holy Spirit who goes with us and goes before us.

Learning Objectives

We will remind ourselves of how the work of the Holy Spirit affects our evangelism. We will consider the promised gift of the Holy Spirit that Jesus gave to the apostles and to us. Most importantly, we will discover the moment when the Holy Spirit fills a person and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

STEP 9 – GO DIALOGUE WITH THEM THE GOOD NEWS

Today we begin a two-week period of intense personal evangelism and discipleship. Our time of intercession for those in our *oikos* and our training together has brought us to this time of action. Our intercession is about to reach its climax as we present to our lost friends and family members the *ultimate intercessor*, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Learning Objectives

We will discuss a clear plan of action for faithfully implementing all that we have learned up to this point. We will end our time of training today by setting our first appointment with someone in our unsaved *oikos* for whom we have been praying.