

## **Evangelism Core Seminar**

### **Session 13: Evangelism: Summary, Discipling, and Prayer**

#### **Teacher's Guide**

**November 27, 2005**

- **Welcome the class to the Evangelism Core Seminar**
- **Pass out the student handout**
- **Handout the Core Seminar Outline**
- **Announce Carols on the Hill service December 11, 2005, at 6 pm. Encourage the class to use this as an evangelistic opportunity.**
- **Pray**
- **Read Matthew 28—The Great Commission**

#### **I. Review & Introduction**

Thirteen weeks ago, we set out to study evangelism. Our course goal, if you recall, was to equip, motivate, and prepare us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The purpose of today's class: to stop and look back and see where we've come from and where we still have to go. Hopefully, today's class will be an encouragement to your own discipleship and a motivation to answer the call of evangelism. We began the first class by discussing some of our personal struggles with evangelism, and what we hoped to achieve from this class.

#### **[Question]**

Who was there for that first class?

Congratulations! Thanks persevering! We hope that this Core Seminar has been encouraging to you!

#### **II. Expectations and Fears**

On your handout you should see some of our struggles with evangelism listed. Now, honestly, we may not have knocked these out of the park, but its my prayer that in the least we have made some progress in these areas. A core seminar doesn't fix these issues and struggles, and teaching a core seminar doesn't fix theses issues and struggles, but it is my prayer that the Lord has used this core seminar to help you wrestle with some of these struggles.

So what were some of the struggles?

*The following bullets are the class' response from this first class:*

*Fall 2004 Core Seminar*

- Meeting non-Christians
- Directing conversations toward the Gospel naturally
- Having perseverance in evangelism after rejection
- Facing time pressure
- Maintaining relationships with those who reject the Gospel

---

*Note: the following lists are from previous classes. They are simply here as an archive. Do not use these for the current class.*

*Fall 2003 Core Seminar*

- Unconcern/lack of motivation
- Heart for lost
- Manufactured presentation
- Lack of faith – not seeing results
- Missed opportunities/unprepared
- Boldness
- Lack of joy in gospel itself
- Lack of confidence in words
- Relying too much on our ability
- Pride
- Lack of non-Christian friends
- Unprepared
- Lack of courage/confidence

*Fall 2002 Core Seminar*

- Boldness
- Scriptural foundations to questions

- Dealing with condescending comments and rejection
- Selfishness
- Encouragement (this was an expectation for the class)
- Turning conversations
- Discernment – silence vs. discussion
- Friendship versus contact evangelism
- Evangelism in love and without compromise among hostility
- Tenacity

*Fall 2001 Core Seminar*

- Boldness versus love
  - Not wanting to initiate
  - Being challenged and unprepared/inaccurate
  - Fear: the desire to be more free to witness
  - Understanding God's sovereignty
  - Missed opportunities
  - Talking about Christ
  - Busy-ness
  - Consistency
  - Fear of man
  - Being deliberate with time – spiritually industrious
  - Indifference
- 

It was clear then and it is likely clear now that everyone can identify with the questions and struggles of actually living out our faith in our evangelism. Our hope for this core seminar was to address these questions and struggles.

**[Handout the Evangelism Core Seminar Outline]**

**[Referring to the course outline, tell the class the following]**

Here was our attempt to faithfully meet and address these expectations, struggles, and fears.

### **III. Key Ideas & Lessons Learned**

#### **[Question]**

So, the big question is, how did we do? This is where we were, when we began (referring to list of expectations on the board and on the handout). This is where we had aimed to go (referring to course outline). Any comments on the journey?

#### **[If you have time do this at the end]**

For the next ten minutes or so, I simply want to hear from you: What were the most helpful lessons from the past 13 weeks? Any thoughts, comments, or encouragements in this area, on lessons learned? Do you feel more equipped, motivated, available in your evangelism? If so, why?

**Allow the class to discuss key lessons learned for ten minutes. Encourage and affirm them in their responses. Seek to make this a motivational and encouraging discussion.**

I hope that this discussion was encouraging and motivating. To conclude our time together, let me give you some final thoughts on this subject. Specifically, here are ten key ideas and lessons. I'd like to simply go over these lessons now for your meditating pleasure. May the Lord use this core seminar, this class, and these lessons to cause us to be faithful in our part of the Great Commission.

### **IV. Ten Key lessons**

#### **1) Evangelism is expected, empowered, and it is a discipline**

**Evangelism is expected** – the Lord Jesus Christ Himself commanded it. **Evangelism is also empowered** – the Holy Spirit empowers us as we live out and proclaim our faith sincerely. Also, **evangelism is a discipline** – evangelism is a natural overflow of the Christian life. Therefore, we must obey. We must believe that God can use us in the salvation of others, and, finally, since it's a discipline, we must plan for it. For this reason,

we need to be able to understand and evaluate methods of evangelism and seek to employ a method or model which is Christ-centered and God glorifying.

2) **Evangelism is simply preaching the gospel.**

It is a work of communication in which Christians make themselves mouthpieces for God's message of mercy to sinners. Our task is to present the gospel message faithfully with our lives and our conversations (airplane illustration – the two wings of evangelism: lives and lips). In order to do that, therefore, our job in real-life evangelism is to be equipped, motivated, and available. Friends, hear these two verses of Scripture: Romans 10:14-16: "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!'" And then, these words from I Peter 2:12: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

3) **God's sovereignty is the foundation of our evangelism**

God's sovereignty is the very foundation of our evangelism because God alone can change hearts and convert lost souls. We have no other hope of success in our evangelistic task. And our prayers to God are proof that we have no power within us to bring people to Him.

4) **The Gospel has a complete message.**

The Gospel is not a truncated, method-centered message catering to the appetites of men. As J.I. Packer writes, "A half-truth masquerading as a whole truth is an untruth." We want to share the whole truth, and in its completeness it is a completely glorious truth. Only presenting part of the gospel can lead to two bad ends. Despair or Manipulation.

5) **The Gospel message is simple and clear.**

It is a message about:

- God – the Holy and Loving Creator
- Man – His Sin and Rebellion
- Christ – the Merciful Redeemer (Teacher, Sin-bearer, and King)
- Our Necessary Response – repent and believe, to turn away from our rebellion and live God's way

6) **The Apostle Paul has taught us much about evangelism**

We should study his example and find encouragement and lessons for our own lives. We need to remember that every conversation is but an inch away from the gospel, we need to develop a servant-heart, cross barriers effectively, expect God to change hearts, and answer questions with confidence. We should also take a big-picture view of evangelism. We should view evangelism with an eternal perspective. We should live our lives with a Christ-centered and gospel-saturated worldview.

7) **Answering questions Non-Christians ask**

As Christians we should answer questions Non-Christians ask in a way that is biblical, loving, edifying, and glorifying to God. We can do that by listening carefully, being slow to answer, and being willing and ready to admit what we do not know. Remember, a helpful pattern is to:

1. **Understand** where the question comes from. This may involve some study on your part.
2. **Affirm** a good question. Credibility goes up when you can show some understanding of why a person might ask a certain question.
3. As you give a real answer, work to **reveal Jesus**. Don't get sidetracked from what's important.

8) **The Local Church and Evangelism**

The local church is foundational for motivating and equipping us as individual members in our personal evangelism. The local church is not to be a stationary evangelistic rally. The

local church is to be a place where believers are spiritually equipped for engaging with God and with the world for the purpose of glorifying God.

9) **Responding to responses**

Our friends and family will respond to the gospel in one way or another. We need to be prepared to respond to the different outcomes and situations that could arise after we share the gospel with someone. This is important because each outcome requires a different direction in which to head afterwards. Primarily, this involves a labor of love that involves prayer, time, patience, sensitivity, and follow-up.

That brings us to today, the last class, and lesson ten.

10) **Evangelism and Discipleship**

Evangelism is simply a subset of discipleship. Our goal is not decisions, but disciples, and a faithful witness that glorifies Jesus Christ. For non-Christians, this is pointing them to God's saving grace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For Christians, new, young, and old, we want to strengthen the discipleship of those whom God puts in our lives.

How do we do that? Invest time and disciple them. Let me clarify here: Discipleship is one's individual walk with Jesus Christ – this is tied intimately with the meaning of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Discipling is simply Christ-centered mentoring for the purpose of strengthening the discipleship of another.

This is a vital aspect of Christianity: building relationships horizontally to build others up in Christ because of the joy, peace, and love we have in our own vertical relationship with God. That is, our discipleship (vertical) should drive our discipling (horizontal). And our evangelism is simply a part of that: a passion for others to see Christ magnified in their own lives. Think of the person(s) who led you to Christ and hopefully you have a good illustration of what this looks like.

To this end, let me encourage you all to continue in this track of Christian growth to study Discipling further. It's the next class in this track, starting next week, and I believe Andy Johnson and Bill Behrens are the teachers for that class.

**Introduce Andy Johnson to the class. Ask Andy if he has any words he would like to say about the class.**

### **Where to go from here?**

Let's wrap up with this question: Where to go from here? Once you leave the motivation and safety of this training course, will your enthusiasm for evangelism fade out and die? How can we keep up the momentum, and keep growing and improving in our knowledge of the gospel and our sharing of the gospel? How can we help each other to continue sharing the gospel?

Remember these three points, the three Ps of evangelism: Pray, Prepare, Persevere.

**Pray** - Prayer for others is a supreme God-ordained foundation for evangelism. Prayer is pleading our helplessness before God.

**[Read J.I. Packer quote on page 117 of *Tell the Truth*. It's from *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. It addresses the point of why we pray.]**

J.I. Packer once wrote, "God will make us pray before he blesses our labors in order that we may learn afresh that we depend upon God for everything."

Pray not just for boldness and opportunities, but for love with the end of conversion in mind. Unless we truly care for and love the person we are speaking to about Jesus we are not putting forth real character. Our lack of character undermines our words, because we are doing nothing more than merely marketing Jesus, like we would try selling someone a car, a house, or any other product we may think people need. As you pray, pray that you love them because of a deepening conviction of the truth of the gospel. Watch yourself, making sure that you tell the Good News of Jesus Christ in love rather than marketing the Good News as a

sales pitch. There is a big difference. Our pride and inherent selfishness can make it dangerously easy to cross the line between the two.

**Prepare** – We can prepare by studying the Bible, reading useful books, pray, practice, and even discipling relationships prepare us for this joy as we tell the gospel even to Christians in order to encourage them.

**Persevere** – Trust God for results. Faithfulness is the key. Preach always and keep praying. Where appropriate, teach people your skills. Make use of the fellowship of other evangelistically-minded Christians.

I'd like to close out the core seminar with a quote from Metzger's *Tell the Truth*: "God-centered evangelism is a way of life. It does not advocate a method but encourages a knowledge of people and how to apply the gospel to the conscience. An evangelistic witness should be natural, educational, and bold. It is something we are, not just something we do. 'Personal witnessing' is the phrase that best describes the evangelistic life to which all of us are called. Will you tell the truth?"

**Refer to the Handout with Plans to Obey (page 154 of *Tell the Truth*) and A Code for Christian Witness (from *Speaking of Jesus*).**

**Hand out the evaluations. Have the class fill them out at their leisure and return to you personally or put in your church mailbox. Tell them that their feedback will be helpful in fine-tuning and improving the curriculum of the Evangelism Core Seminar.**

**Thank the class for all their work. Encourage them to continue in the spiritual discipline of evangelism with joy!**

**[Introduce Andy if he's there]**

**Pray**

- 
- *Reference the handout with Table 5 on page 150 and Worksheet 7 on page 167 in Tell the Truth. What is the next step in this process after sharing the gospel with someone?*
  - If they become converted, or they continue to seek and ask questions with spiritual hunger – they are not converted but show interest, we need to follow up with the person. That is, we need to disciple them. Paul offers us a great model here. Paul's ministry was rooted in the meaning of the gospel. So for Paul, evangelism and discipling had a closer link than for many today – they were two parts of the same process. His desire was to see people won to Christ (Rom 5:18) and then to see them become one with Christ (Gal 3:26-28) by becoming a part of the family of God (Gal 6:10). Paul would often use the image of a parent when he was talking about his relationships with a new church. Paul meant it when he said, "We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children." (1 Thes 2:7). Baby Christians are like real babies: they're messy and they need lots of tenderness. *Read 1 Thes 2:8* – "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."
  - Mack Stiles, looking at Paul's life as his model, offers a top ten list of practical ways you can share your lives with others and follow up.
    1. Ask a person to pray for you – it makes them feel like they are a part of the body of Christ.
    2. Call or write, or meet on a regular basis. Like Paul did in his letters, we need to let people know of the important decision they made and that they matter (in Romans 16, Paul took the time to greet twenty seven people by name).
    3. Imitate Paul, and offer yourself as a model by reviving the art of Christ-centered mentoring: disciple others. Paul writes to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 14:15 "I urge you to imitate me." Tell about your successes and failures in the faith. Some of Paul's first interactions with new Christians were to tell them about the implications of their faith.
    4. Help the new Christian to understand the Bible with their heart (devotional) and with their mind (study). For example, work together through Mark's gospel using Christianity Explained. Have free discussions of how things are going. This is one of the most wonderful joys/rewards of being a Christian: to help a new person in the faith discover the hopes, joy, and peace that come from knowing God better. So, look for young or nominal Christians at work, share the Gospel with them, and begin discipling them once a week or

once a month during your lunch hour. Or, take the membership directory and find a new member who might be young in the faith and reach out to them. This will take time, patience, energy but it is worth it.

5. Don't just give them an address of a church. Take them to a church or fellowship or both. Paul dragged people around with him all the time. It was a great discipling tool. He was constantly involving people in the work of the church. Side note: It's estimated, by adding all the names of people associated with Paul in the New Testament, that there were some one hundred people who ministered alongside him. Imitate Paul and take people along.
6. Help them think through the meaning of the lordship of Christ in their life; that is, help them think about their discipleship. A good way to do this is to study Scripture about issues that are going to face them – work, marriage, finances or whatever. As part of being disciples, they will need to understand baptism.
7. Help them talk to some of their non-Christian friends. New believers can make for some delightful opportunities for sharing the gospel because they have lots of non-Christian friends. Help them with some basic theology and speaking of Jesus. This helps avoid some of the unwise strategies of evangelism too, such as the ones I used to fire hose my friends when I became a Christian.
8. Have caution for any relationship across gender lines. The best rule of thumb is to let men disciple men and women disciple women.
9. Get them reading. There's some great old stuff (Bunyan, Augustine) and new (J.I. Packer, CS Lewis, etc.)
10. If you have reason to believe that there might be some serious trauma in that person's life – past or present – that person might need Christian counseling.

These ten things will help new believers establish their citizenship in the kingdom. And who knows, by making ourselves equipped, motivated, and available, you might find yourself in the process of bringing someone to Christ.

Does anyone have any comments or questions on this? How have your experiences been in discipling and being disciplined? Any additional steps?

**2. Evangelism is simply preaching the gospel**

**6. The apostle Paul has taught us much about evangelism**

**3. God's sovereignty is the foundation of our evangelism**

**7. Answering questions**

**4. The Gospel has a complete message**

**8. The local church and evangelism**

**5. The Gospel message is simple and clear**

**9. Responding to responses**

---

**Session 13: Evangelism Core Seminar Summary and Next Steps: Discipling**

**I. Review and Introduction**

1. **Pray** - Prayer for others is a supreme God-ordained foundation for evangelism. Prayer is pleading our helplessness before God.

2. **Prepare** - We can prepare through studying the Bible, reading useful books, prayer, and practice.

3. **Persevere** - Trust God for results. Faithfulness is the key.

"God-centered evangelism is a way of life. It does not advocate a method but encourages a knowledge of people and how to apply the gospel to the conscience. An evangelistic witness should be natural, educational, and bold. It is something we are, not just something we do. 'Personal witnessing' is the phrase that best describes the evangelistic life to which all of us are called. Will you tell the truth?"

-Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*

**II. Expectations, Fears, Struggles**

- Meeting non-Christians
- Directing conversations toward the Gospel naturally
- Having perseverance in our evangelism after rejection
- Facing time pressure
- Maintaining relationships with those who reject the Gospel

**III. Ten Key Lessons**

**1. Evangelism is expected and empowered, and it's a discipline**