

# Let's Share Our Faith

By Rev. Marti Lundi

## Leaders' Guide

### *Statement of Purpose:*

1. This is intended to be a series of brief, systematic lessons in motivation and instruction toward leading a congregation to learn that they can share their faith in an easy, relational and meaningful way, based on the admonitions of 1 Peter 3:15 and Ephesians 4:29.
2. It is intended to be led by the Pastor or a layperson each Sunday in a 5-minute segment of worship time.
3. Each lesson is tied to the previous week's lesson; therefore, homework and an announcement of the next lesson may stir interest.
4. Each week's lesson is to be duplicated as a bulletin insert, giving the congregation something to follow along with the leader and something to take home.
5. It is NOT meant to produce door-to-door evangelists, but rather to motivate fearful or shy people to witness to their faith (or to their church) at home, work, school or in any situation in which they may have at one time or another experienced the inability to give witness and said in disappointment, "If only I would have said..."

### **Lesson 1: INTRODUCTION**

This lesson is self-explanatory. It concerns itself with a definition of evangelism (Christian outreach), including the responsibility and task of every Christian. The five essentials may be imperfect, but it will give the opportunity to expand on any one of them or on the Scripture verses that are cited.

Make the assignment for homework, and then briefly say that the next week we will discuss WITNESS PRE-REQUISITES.

### **Lesson 2: WITNESS PRE-REQUISITES**

This lesson is intended as a motivator and one that we might say requires each worshipping Christian to examine his/her own faith. Again, you may choose to expand on any or all of the points. It is suggested that people learn to know the "Four Pre-Requisites" as a homework assignment. Next we will consider OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF WITNESSING.

### **Lesson 3: OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF WITNESSING**

This lesson, again, is self-explanatory and leaves itself open for personal and individual comments. There are several things to stress in this lesson:

- Ephesians 2:8-9, making clear the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Paragraph B is simply a group of passages that contain the power of the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts to alleviate their fears, knowing that God promises certain things. You may wish to select one or more with which to spend a little more time. It is suggested that this be done with #4 and #5, concluding with #6.
- The homework section is simply an invitation to prayer.
- The next lesson addresses the question, "What can I possibly say?" The stress will be on the "I" as though the question was asked by a concerned or not-so-confident person.

#### **Lesson 4: OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY**

The intent of this lesson is to show people that they are indeed a living letter. It brings to mind again 1 Peter 3:15. You are asked to review it with them, stressing the uniqueness of each person's personal witness. Then assign as homework a prayer to ponder what Christ really does mean to each individual. Next week we will speak about HOW CAN I SAY IT?

#### **Lesson 5: HOW CAN I SAY IT?**

Quite self-explanatory. Stress "things they must know for certain."

- Do they have the assurance and realize the benefits in their own life of knowing for certain, that they have eternal life?
- Paragraph B and the homework assignment asks them to actually list the benefits of their faith and trust Jesus Christ; e.g. joy; peace; presence of Christ; assurance; forgiveness; inner strength; etc.
- The next lesson will be a continuation of HOW CAN I SAY IT? (Part 2)

#### **Lesson 6: HOW CAN I SAY IT? (Part 2)**

This lesson actually now gives the guidelines for people to be able to write down their personal testimony. Some points to make:

- Stress listening – a dialog, to surface a problem/need/concern, and then asking permission to share.
- Stress that when these steps are followed we are creating an open door and a receptive person who will never refuse your offer of help.
- Assign their homework to be a personal witness practice exercise, using a benefit from their "arsenal," by having them think of a recent situation when they could have shed their faith, but do not know what to say. We all have had those situations that pass us by, only to say to ourselves, "If only I would have said...!" Ask them to relive that situation and write what they would say now that they have learned a new approach through using a listening skill.
- Next week we will consider HELPFUL HINTS.

#### **Lesson 7: HELPFUL HINTS**

This lesson gives witnessing hints and is quite self-explanatory. Expand on any points you wish.

- Under paragraph B teach people to be good listeners. You might suggest a transitional statement that would follow a dialog that would be something like this:  
"I can sure understand why you feel that way. I remember when something similar happened to me. I had the same feeling you did, and I can hear what you are saying. Could I share with you what really helped me through that time?"
- After the transitional statement they can now apply their witness from their "arsenal" of how their trust in Jesus helped them and how he can help others.
- Homework: Refine the listening skill of dialog.
- Next week we will consider how CREATING DIALOG RELATES TO LIFE SITUATIONS.

#### **Lesson 8: CREATING DIALOG THAT RELATES TO LIFE SITUATIONS**

These are simply very real situations where a person may want to attempt to utilize the verbalization of their faith.

- Note that #3, Prayer, is the one that is perhaps only done sporadically, however it is the engine that moves and undergirds our attempts at sharing our faith.
- **Suggestion from the Northwest District-LCMS:** Have each person write down the names of those they already know who are not Christian or do not attend church. Encourage them to pray for them daily; for their hearts to be open to the Holy Spirit. Ask each person to pray

that they, themselves, would be sensitive to the opportunities that God gives them to share and that they would trust in his Spirit to guide their words to his glory.

I hope that these brief exercises will be beneficial to your congregation (or group). I should tell you that they have been successful for me since God laid them on my heart more than 20 years ago. They are most effective when followed immediately with a “Witness Workshop” in which every concept of the brief lessons is covered in full detail. **The Northwest District- LCMS suggests** “Sharing Jesus Without Fear” as a good workshop.

Following the workshop, the congregation can participate in a “Friendship Sunday” which is found to be quite successful following this process. God bless you in your endeavor.  
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**For more Bible Studies and resources visit the Northwest District-LCMS web site:**

[www.nowlcms.org](http://www.nowlcms.org)

or

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