

SECTION 1 JESUS FILM TRAINING MANUAL

Topic 1: Witness for Christ

Purpose:

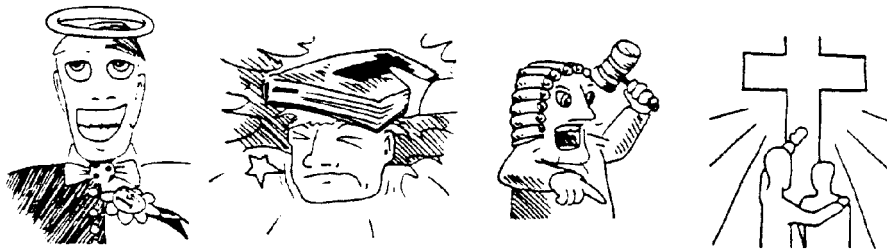
The purpose of this lesson is to motivate and help us to prepare and use our testimony in sharing our faith with others.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain the Biblical basis, including some scriptural examples, for the use of a personal testimony.
2. Explain the content of our message.
3. Explain the benefits of preparing and using a personal testimony.
4. Compose and deliver your personal testimony using the given outline.

Discussion: What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?

1. "What is Witnessing?"



2. **To Witness is:** *to give a testimony which verifies that Jesus is real and alive today and which tells what it means to believe in Him.*

3. **Our Motto:** *"Our task is to take the initiative to tell others about Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit entrusting the results to God."*

A. BIBLICAL BASIS FOR WITNESSING

1. Christ's command (Mark 16:15)

In the Great Commission, Christ assigned us to bring the news about Him to everyone.

2. We have been authorized (II Cor. 5:14-20)

Christ gives us authority, as His ambassadors, to proclaim atonement. His love gets us moving.

3. Christ gives us power (Acts 1:8)

Christ promised us the Holy Spirit to give us power. He makes us witnesses of Christ.

4. People have a need (Matt. 9:36-38)

People have a need for a relationship with Christ. Christ calls us to help them.

5. Our task is to proclaim (Rom. 10:9-17)

In order to be saved, people have to hear about Jesus. We have been sent to preach to them the Gospel.



6. Conclusion: Be Ready! (1 Peter 3:15)

God wants us to be prepared to give a reason for our faith, if asked. Being ready means that we have:

- a. *A relationship with God that is worth talking about*
- b. *Knowledge of what to say and how to say it*
- c. *Right attitude, a willingness to tell others about Jesus.*

Discussion:

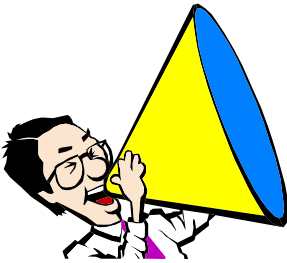
- 1. What does one need to know in order to have a relationship with Christ?
- 2. I.e. what is our message?

B. THE MESSAGE

- 1. **GOD** - **loves** all people * John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10
- 2. **MAN** - the image of God * Genesis 1:27
- **sinful** * Romans 3:23
- man was created to live in fellowship with God, but he chose his own way, and the fellowship was broken.
- This separation from God is called **sin**.
- 3. **JESUS** - God's son who **died** for us on the Cross.
- He was the only solution to man's sin and the **only way** to unity with God * John 14:6
- 4. **MAN'S ANSWER** - faith * John 1:12
- faith is acknowledging Jesus
- Jesus is **received** through faith * Rev 3:20

C. PREPARING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

(My own experience of Jesus)



To think about:

What is the greatest thing that ever happened to you?
What is the greatest thing you wish you could do for others?

1. Some reasons for testimony

- The objective is to give a testimony of how Jesus has influenced and is influencing our lives.
- Matt.5:14-16 — True faith is seen, heard and noticed. It is not only for our own salvation, but "shines to everyone in the room". We are being challenged to witness, so that people do not praise us, but our heavenly Father.
- 1 Peter 3:15-16 — We have to be prepared to give a reason for the hope we have.
The best way is to tell what Christ means to us personally.
- A well-prepared testimony is an impressive tool.
- People may sometimes contradict us when we talk about Jesus, His resurrection, or other messages of the Bible. However, nobody can deny what Jesus has done in someone's life.
- People are interested in what Almighty God is doing in our lives. They want to know what God can do here and now!
- Acts 9:1-22; 22:3-21; 26:2-23 — Paul gave his personal testimony twice in Acts.
In addition to that, he had told Luke about becoming a Christian so that he could write it down.

2. To think about:

Answering the following questions helps you to recognize what your own personal experience of Jesus is:

- How have I felt God calling, guiding, and helping me?
- Why did I want Jesus to come into my life?
- How did my fellowship with Jesus start?
- What things in my spiritual life are the most important to me?

3. Important points for preparing a testimony

- a. Ask God for wisdom and guidance for preparing and learning your testimony.
- b. Make your story easy to understand, short and real.
- c. Talk about your life and your faith in a way that people can identify with you.
- d. Talk boldly about Jesus: He is the main character of your testimony. Emphasize your personal relationship with Him.
- e. Prepare your testimony in a way that someone could come to know the Saviour as a result.
- f. Be realistic in your story. Jesus does not take away all problems at once. Often He shows His love by sharing them with us.
- g. Do not criticize other people or denominations.
- h. Try to avoid using Christian words not easily understood by unbelievers, for example: "repentance", "redemption", "righteous", "God told me to ...", etc.

- i. Prepare your testimony in a way that you can tell it to a group just as well as to one person.

4. A suggested outline

a) before:

- what kinds of needs, problems and difficulties you had
- what kind of things were important to you
- what kind of things gave you security, peace and happiness

b) how?

- where did you hear the Gospel for the first time?
- how did it affect you?
- when and how did your attitudes start to change?
- how did you receive Christ?

c) now:

- what does Jesus mean to you now?



**5. Writing my own testimony:
*An interesting beginning***

a. *My life before I learned to know Jesus (my background, difficulties, growing in my faith)*

b. How did my faith become personal?

c. What does my faith in Jesus mean to me now?



Assignment:

1. Prepare your personal testimony according to the guidelines above.
2. Go through it with a friend first (to get some feed-back and to become familiar with it). Here are some evaluation questions for you:
 - a) Is my testimony short enough?
 - b) Is it written in a common and understandable language?
 - c) Is my testimony honest?
 - d) Do I speak about Jesus?
 - e) After hearing your testimony, does everyone know:
 - that you **are** a child of God?
 - **how** you became a child of God?
 - **what** Jesus means to you now?
 - **how** to receive Christ?
3. Seek opportunities to share your personal testimony.
4. Suggestion: Put your testimony audio-tape and play it back to time it and for learning by repetition.
5. Memorize the motto of witnessing.

