


SECTION 3: JESUS FILM MANUAL

Topic 2: Conducting Effective JESUS-film Showings

(The film by Paul Eshleman)

A PHASE ONE: PREPARATION AND ORGANISATION

Step 1: Prayer And Planning

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- a Ask God for a vision. List strategic locations that need to be evangelised. Expand your heart beyond your borders. Look for places where no one has gone yet.
 - b Determine the church or ministry group with which you want to cooperate.
 - c Decide whether you are seeking to plant a daughter church or start Home Bible Fellowships in and around the sponsoring church. Use a map to outline areas to reach. Involve key leaders in the planning process. Establish date(s) for the showings and the training of workers.
 - d Form a core group of prayer partners. Pray continually that the Holy Spirit will cause many to become involved as counsellors and Home Bible Fellowship leaders.
 - e Be sure you know your purpose. The purpose of the JESUS-film is to win people to Christ and get them involved in a local church. Your preparation must involve answering these questions:
 - * How will the invitation be given?
 - * How will names be collected of those who are interested?
 - * When will the counsellors be trained?
 - * What will the counsellors be taught to do?
 - * Who will recruit them?
 - * What literature will be distributed?
 - * When will the first follow-up meeting be held?
 - * Who will lead the continuing groups that are formed?

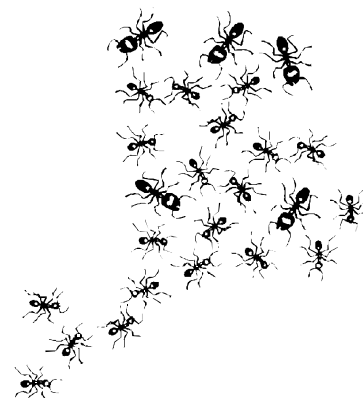
Step 2: Choosing The Showing Site

- a Go where the people are whom you want to reach.
- b Take the film to where non-believers are. Some other religions may even give you permission to meet in their temples or meeting places.
- c Choose a situation where non-believers feel comfortable. Some suggestions would include: squares, sports fields, vacant lots, traffic circles, theatres, homes, community centres, near main highways, etc. Least recommended would be indoors in a church.

- d Remember, your objective is to funnel new believers into a local church, so, if there is a sponsoring church, show the film nearby. Then follow-up can take place easily at the church the next day. Or you might show the JESUS-film in a new area, where a sponsoring church would begin a new “Home Bible Fellowship” group.

Step 3: Recruiting Your Team

- a Choose four to six responsible persons. Include volunteers on team to assist and train.
- b Team members should be willing to serve together, helping each other complete their tasks.
- c Team responsibilities include:
- ✱ Proper film equipment setup
 - ✱ Film equipment operation
 - ✱ Film equipment maintenance
 - ✱ Training local church members to counsel and care for new believers. One member of the team will be responsible for hosting the film and giving the invitation to receive Christ. Since the effectiveness of the follow-up depends on a good, clear invitation, the best man should be assigned to this responsibility.
 - ✱ Facing obstacles with faith and prayer, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- d Financing the team members. Investigate the possibility of local churches financing the salaries of one or two people for a period of five to six months. With the church’s support, these teams will be able to give their full time for a portion of the year. If you are unable to obtain full-time people, you may train volunteers who would commit themselves to several nights a week over a period of several months. Every time you show the film, take people with you who can be trained to help with future showings.



Step 4: Training The Counsellors

- a Involving trained counsellors in each showing is the crucial difference between film entertainment and film ministry. Potential counsellors should be recruited from the local church that is sponsoring the showing.
- b These potential counsellors should be people who are willing to share Christ with others.
- c They should be taught how to use “4SL” booklet to clarify the gospel for those coming forward after the film to receive Christ.
- d Training these leaders will take one to two days and can be conducted immediately before the film showing is scheduled.
- e All trainees should be given an opportunity to practise their witnessing as a part of the training session. They could share the booklet with their neighbours or in

the marketplace during a two-hour “field-session.”

- f If counsellors cannot read: Picture book versions of the “4SL” booklets are available for use. Even better, teach them to memorize and use the main points of the booklet.
- g One part of the training should emphasise that we can only be effective witnesses for Christ as we are filled and controlled with the Holy Spirit. It is also essential that the counsellors realise that successful witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

Step 5: Selecting Proper Equipment

- a Though equipment is expensive, a good set of equipment will double or triple results of your showings.
- b Outdoor film-showing equipment set includes:
 - ✱ One 16mm Projector: If you are showing to more than 500 people, we recommend a “manual load”, “slot load” or “auto load” projector. These projectors provide a big, clear picture and are easy to use.
 - ✱ Spot Lights: Assuming you have electricity, the second most important piece of equipment after the projector is the spot lights. This extension cords fitted with external light bulbs. This will provide light to focus attention on the speaker for testimonies during reel changes. More important, it gives counsellors light to see, as they counsel those who are ready to receive Christ. It also makes it possible to write down names and addresses of those who respond.
 - ✱ One Generator: A 2400-watt generator is critical if you are in an area without power. Try to obtain at least 50 metres of extension cord so that the generator can be hidden behind a building and the noise factor reduced.
 - ✱ One Microphone: A microphone allows you to communicate to a crowd in between reels of the film and to give an effective invitation at the close.
 - ✱ One Amplifier: A 100-watt amplifier with two 40-watt speakers will help you to communicate to a much larger crowd. By adding additional speakers to the equipment, your crowd size will grow. If the sound is only coming out of the side of the projector, it is very difficult for the crowd to hear clearly, and many listening on the fringes will eventually leave.
 - ✱ One Screen and Poles: Films can be shown on bed sheets or simply on the side of a white building. However, some of the most effective screens are now being made of good reflective screen material, such as rip stop nylon, in sizes of at least 1.95m x 2,40m. The picture can be seen on both sides allowing for crowds to be seated on either side of the screen, increasing the potential crowd size through greater visual access.



In addition, your:

✱ Film equipment box: should be equipped with the remaining items:

- ✓ Ropes for setting up the screen
- ✓ Steel Stakes
- ✓ Portable Stand.
These lightweight aluminium stands can help raise the projector above the crowd to keep the viewers from getting their heads in the picture and to keep the children from standing in front of the projector.
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Extra Bulbs and exciter lamps - for projector
- ✓ Hammer
- ✓ Plug Adaptors - to make sure your equipment can fit local sockets
- ✓ Extra cord - for tying speakers to screen frame or nearby trees
- ✓ Follow-up Literature - cards and pencils for counsellors to record names and addresses of interested people.



Step 6: Securing Permission

- a The film showing should be approved or endorsed by the local officials, whose permission will provide greater visibility and freedom.
- b At least one week in advance, meet with the necessary government official, city mayor, or village chief to arrange the showing location and inform them of the schedule you have planned.
- c Ensure that your chosen location has power availability, if necessary, or traffic control, and most important, that the street lights be turned off at the film showing hours. You may need to secure permission to turn the lights off.
- d If only one or two homes in the area have electricity, perhaps these people could be challenged to be sponsors of the showing, and electricity could be obtained from their homes or shops.

Step 7: Promoting The Showing

- a Publicity and promotion have one goal - to inform as many people as possible of the film showing.

- b Study the area to determine what type of promotion would suit best in the culture and terrain. Pray for necessary personnel and transportation to accomplish the method you choose.
- c Printed fliers (handbills) and posters are good visual aids to invite an audience. Plan ahead to fill in address or place of the film showing. These can be passed out door-to-door with personal invitations, or they can be put up at all shops and gathering places in the area.
- d Vehicles equipped with megaphones or speakers are also effective in announcing a showing.
- e Be creative as to how to cover the entire area before the film showing. Consider new ways to gain people's interest and attention.

B. PHASE TWO: CONDUCTING THE FILM SHOWING

1 Schedule And Checklist For Outdoor Showings



Schedule checklist:

- Set up equipment at least one and a half hours before the film showing, or as daylight permits.
- Secure electrical hookup, or set up and test generator.
- Test your showing equipment - projector, speakers, microphone and light cord with light bulbs. Be sure the sound can be heard clearly.
- Check the film to be sure that the picture properly fits onto the screen. Allow enough time so your equipment is set up and tested before dark.
- Protect the projector area by roping it off. Again, if your projector and screen are not at least six feet off the ground, you may want to rope off an aisle between the projector and screen in order to keep viewers from getting their heads in the picture and disrupting the showing.
- Coordinate the promotional efforts and make sure everyone possible has been invited or informed.
- Gather the counsellors for briefing instructions and for prayer. Show them where they will be standing to explain the gospel at the completion of the showing. Normally, the children should be asked to come closest to the screen, the women in the middle area, the men farthest away from the screen. That is normally how the crowd arranges itself, and it saves time at the end.

- ❑ You may want to show the first five minutes of the film just as the sun is setting. In some areas, the adults will not start coming to the showing until they hear the sound from the speakers. (Use cassette music, short film, music group, etc.)
- ❑ Give a brief introduction of the film. In areas of the world where they have never heard the name of Jesus, you might say something like this: *“All of us are thankful to the creator God for the beautiful things of nature we see around us. This film is the story of His Son, named Jesus, and His life here on this earth.”*
- ❑ Begin the film showing. Let the picture fill the entire screen.
- ❑ Between reel changes, have someone prepared to share a brief testimony or sing a song. In either case, keep it short and let the audience know that more reels are coming. (Suitable hymn, chorus)
- ❑ Change reels as quickly as possible. Wait to rewind film until after the showing.
- ❑ Never leave the film equipment unattended.
- ❑ Have counsellors pray continually during the showing for these specific areas: See lecture: (S6, T1, Page 127)
 - † The eternal destiny of the audience
 - † Functioning of the equipment
 - † Team members and their tasks
 - † Binding Satan and his efforts to disrupt the showing
 - † Holding back the rain and wind so the showing of the film might be completed

2. Solutions For Showing Problems

Not every showing goes perfectly. Sometimes there are problems. Here are some suggestions for the most common areas of breakdown.

- a **Bad weather:** If bad weather keeps you from an outdoor showing, quickly look for an indoor location such as a school auditorium or large room nearby. Set up the projector and show the film. Carry umbrellas during the rainy season. If rain is not too heavy, you can simply cover the projector, and the audience will stay to watch.



- b **Broken Equipment:** If the film equipment is beyond immediate repair, share some stories from the film and give an invitation in closing. Have counsellors give their testimonies and announce the next date for a film show.

- c **Permission cancelled:** If you are forced to leave the area, consider setting up your equipment in the closest nearby village.

- d **Bright lights nearby:** If the street lights are too bright, and you must wait to have them turned off, have counsellors sing some special songs using the microphone. Or cover the street lights with blankets, etc.
- e **Tie all electrical cords** so equipment is not pulled/damaged.
- f **Have spare bulbs,** fuses, tools at hand near the equipment.
- g **Keep cloth handy** to clean and wipe equipment.

3. ***Schedule And Checklist For Indoor Showings***

a Theatre Checklist

- Ensure arrival of 35mm print at theatre
- Check theatre cleanliness and temperature
- Briefly introduce film
- Response cards or programmes should be pre-arranged on seats or handed out as audience walks in
- Collect response cards as audience exits
- Distribute cards of interested people to local sponsoring churches for follow-up



b Video Cassette Showing Checklist

- Send out invitations
- Arrange a comfortable seating arrangement
- Give a brief introduction to the film
- Play video recorder/begin film
- Conclude with response cards and prayer



C. PHASE THREE: FOLLOWING UP NEW BELIEVERS

See lecture: (S3, T3, Page 60) (S4, T1, Page 92)

Good follow-up begins with the giving of a good invitation at the end of the film show.

The final minutes of the film showing are the most critical for the audience, and therefore, the most critical for the film team. Your counsellors should be ready to meet at their places during the film's invitation. The projectionist should turn off the projector as soon as the evangelistic summary is concluded.

A team member must be ready immediately with the microphone to say something like the following:

"If you have decided tonight that you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, and you want to receive Him as your personal Saviour, I want to ask you to come to the front. We would like to talk with you for just a few minutes and help you make sure that Jesus Christ has come into your life, has forgiven your sins, and is your own personal Saviour. I am going to ask the men to gather over by that particular place, the women to gather in the middle here, and the children 12 years and under to come here near the screen. The rest of you are then free to go. I am just asking those who want to ask Jesus Christ to be their personal Saviour tonight to come forward. For those of you who are already Christians, I want to announce that we will be meeting here again tomorrow night to talk about how we can grow further in our relationship with Jesus Christ."



As audience members move closer to their positions, the counsellors must warmly and confidently invite people closer. As soon as the counsellor has the attention of a few people, he should begin going through the "4SL" booklet, as he was trained, answering pertinent questions but not being sidetracked. After he completes the presentation of the "4SL" booklet, he will then help them to confirm their decision by leading them through an audible prayer. After the prayer, he will give a few words of assurance of salvation to them and then write down their names and addresses so that further follow-up can be done.

In summary, follow-up of the film show consists of these components:

- * A good, clear invitation.
- * Counsellors in position and ready.
- * Warm reception to persons during presentation of invitation.
- * Efficient use of the "4SL" booklet, or gospel presentation.
- * Collection of names and addresses for continuation of follow-up.
- * Prayer with new believers for assurance.
- * Announce first follow-up meetings for new believers, leave film site.
- * Spend the morning following the showing, visiting in homes throughout the area to confirm the decisions made the night before. This is especially important if you are showing the film in areas where an invitation to come forward cannot be given openly because of cultural, religious or political restrictions.

