

HOW TO WITNESS IN THE SPIRIT

Purpose: To communicate how to witness in the Spirit as a way of life.

Objective: This session will help you to:

1. Understand and apply the steps related to personal preparation to witness in the Spirit.
2. Understand and apply the steps related to taking the initiative to witness in the Spirit.

BE PREPARED!

1. This session must be filled with prepared **brief appropriate** examples from life and ministry, if possible, your own. This is a 1 ½ hour session.
2. Keep a file of examples for facilitating this session, the more current the better.
3. Be sure to prepare your visual aid.
4. If given with enthusiasm and humility and lots of real life examples this session can be highly **motivational** for people to want to witness. This is where the “landing of the plane” takes place.
5. It is recommended that you prayerfully reread the Transferable Concept “How to Witness in the Spirit” in preparation to facilitate this session.
6. Saturate this session in prayer.
7. Be sure to give this session in the power of the Holy Spirit. 1M04



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International Training Office
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HOW TO WITNESS IN THE SPIRIT

I. Introduction

TASK

ARRANGE A SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY WHICH WILL ALLOW GROUPS OF THREE TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTION.

"WHO DID GOD USE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST?"

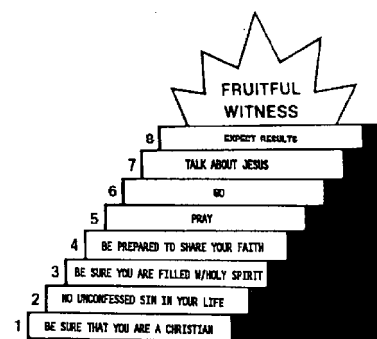
☒ "THE ADVENTURE OF WITNESSING IS THE MOST EXCITING AND SPIRITUALLY REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN LIFE. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW CHRISTIANS WHO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL. WE ARE TOLD THAT FOR EVERY 1,000 LAYMEN AND SIX PASTORS ONE PERSON IS LED TO CHRIST EACH YEAR."

"THERE ARE TWO BASIC REASONS WHY THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS HAVE NEVER INTRODUCED ANYONE TO CHRIST.

1. THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN IS NOT LIVING A VICTORIOUS, VITAL, SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE.
2. "THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE HIS FAITH IN CHRIST TO OTHERS."

"TRULY JOYFUL CHRISTIANS ARE THOSE WHO COMMUNICATE THEIR FAITH. EVEN THOUGH BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER ARE VERY ESSENTIAL, THEY ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WITNESSING."

"PRESENTING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO A BIBLICAL PLAN WILL ENABLE YOU TO BE CONSISTENTLY FRUITFUL. THERE ARE EIGHT STEPS IN THIS BIBLICAL PLAN. IF THESE ARE FOLLOWED CAREFULLY AND PRAYERFULLY, THEY WILL TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AND WITNESS FOR CHRIST. YOU WILL BECOME A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. THE STEPS ARE IN TWO AREAS:



☒ **[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR:** MAKE A VISUAL AID DEPICTING THE DIAGRAM OF THE STEPS TO BECOMING A FRUITFUL WITNESS. YOU MAY FILL IN EACH STEP AS YOU COVER IT OR HAVE READY MADE SIGNS THAT YOU POST IN ORDER OR ANYTHING THAT YOU CREATE. YOU MAY WANT TO USE TWO DIFFERENT COLOURS TO DISTINGUISH "PERSONAL PREPARATION" FROM "TAKING THE INITIATIVE."]

1. Personal preparation.
 - a. Be sure that you are a Christian.
 - b. Be sure that there is no unconfessed sin in your life.
 - c. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Be prepared to communicate your faith in Christ.

2. Taking the initiative.
 - a. Pray.
 - b. Go to people.
 - c. Talk about Jesus Christ.
 - d. Expect God to use you.

"FIRST, WE WILL LOOK AT THE STEPS FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION."

II. Be Sure That You Are a Christian

A. It is not enough to be good, moral, religious, or even to be a church member.

"MANY DEDICATED CHURCH MEMBERS, WHO HAVE COME TO SEMINARS TO LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL HAVE INDICATED THAT DURING THE TRAINING THEY EITHER PRAYED TO RECEIVE CHRIST OR GAINED THE ASSURANCE OF THEIR SALVATION."



[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: IF THIS WAS TRUE OF YOUR LIFE, SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY. IF NOT, TELL, DO NOT READ, (USE ACTIVITY NUMBER 45 TO PREPARE) THE FOLLOWING STORY OF JOHN WESLEY'S CONVERSION.]

"JOHN WESLEY, THE FOUNDER OF METHODISM AND THE SON OF A MINISTER, ACTUALLY SERVED AS A MISSIONARY BEFORE HE BECAME A CHRISTIAN. JOHN WESLEY WAS NOT SURE OF HIS SALVATION AS A YOUNG MAN, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THE SON OF A MINISTER, THE LEADER OF THE HOLY CLUB AT OXFORD AND A MISSIONARY TO THE INDIANS OF AMERICA. UPON HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND HE MET JESUS CHRIST AT AN ALDERSGATE MEETING WHERE HE HEARD THE READING OF MARTIN LUTHER'S TREATISE ON FAITH AS A PREFACE TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS."

"HE EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 'I FELT MY HEART STRANGELY WARMED. I FELT I DID TRUST CHRIST, CHRIST ALONE, FOR MY SALVATION; AND AN ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN ME THAT HE HAD TAKEN AWAY MY SINS, EVEN MINE, AND SAVED ME FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.'"

"BEFORE THE EXPERIENCE AT ALDERSGATE, WESLEY HAD ENGAGED IN EVERY EFFORT TO TRY TO EARN GOD'S SALVATION BY HIS GOOD WORKS. THEN HE RECEIVED THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S SALVATION BY FAITH."

B. We receive Christ through faith. (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

"NO DOUBT MILLIONS OF GOOD, RELIGIOUS CHURCH MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WRESTLE WITH THE SAME PROBLEM WHICH JOHN WESLEY EXPERIENCED. THEY TRY TO EARN THEIR SALVATION BY DOING GOOD WORKS. YET, UNLIKE JOHN WESLEY, THEY HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD GOD'S PROMISE THAT WE RECEIVE CHRIST THROUGH FAITH."

"PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION. THERE IS NO REALITY OF CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE. YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN THE WONDER, JOY AND ASSURANCE THAT CHRIST LIVES IN YOU, THAT YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD. YOU MAY HAVE BELIEVED IN CHRIST INTELLECTUALLY FOR YEARS. YOU MAY BE ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH; YOU MAY BE VERY MORAL, RELIGIOUS AND GODLY IN THE EYES OF YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND YET YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH. YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN CHANGED BY A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST BY INVITING HIM INTO YOUR LIFE AS SAVIOR AND LORD."

C. Commitment to Christ involves the whole person--the intellect, the emotions, and the will.

"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE BAPTIZED, TO BE ACTIVE IN CHURCH AND TO READ OUR BIBLES AND PRAY DAILY. WE DO NOT BECOME A CHRISTIAN UNTIL, BY FAITH AS AN ACT OF THE WILL, WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE, HIS LOVE AND FORGIVENESS, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. WHEN WE RECEIVE HIM WE RECEIVE A NEW NATURE--WE ARE BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY AND WE BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE ETERNAL LIFE."

D. Even now you can pray and invite Christ to come into your life if you have not already done so (Revelation 3:20).

☒ "PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN. YOU CAN BE SURE BY RECEIVING HIM INTO YOUR LIFE THROUGH A PRAYER OF FAITH RIGHT NOW. I WOULD LIKE FOR EVERYONE TO BOW THEIR HEADS. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE, I INVITE YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER SILENTLY AFTER ME, INVITING CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE. LET'S PRAY."

☒ [PAUSE AFTER EACH SENTENCE TO GIVE TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER.]

"LORD JESUS, I NEED YOU. THANK YOU FOR DYING ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS. I OPEN THE DOOR OF MY LIFE AND RECEIVE YOU AS MY SAVIOR AND LORD. THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING MY SINS AND GIVING ME ETERNAL LIFE. TAKE CONTROL OF THE THRONE OF MY LIFE. MAKE ME THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WANT ME TO BE. AMEN."

- E. After you have received Him, do not insult Him by asking Him into your life again. He promised never to leave you nor forsake you. Thank Him daily that He is in your life (Hebrews 13:5).

III. Be Sure That There Is No Unconfessed Sin in Your Life.

There are no joyful, fruitful, disobedient Christians. Sin will prevent us from being fruitful witnesses for Christ and is displeasing to God. Therefore, we must confess our sins to God.

☒ **[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS A REVIEW OF CONFESSION. ACTIVITY 42 IS GOOD TO USE AT THIS POINT.]**

“WHAT IS CONFESSION?” (CONFESSION SIMPLY MEANS TO AGREE WITH GOD.)”

“WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE? (AGREEING WITH GOD THAT WE ARE WRONG, AGREEING WITH GOD THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN, REPENTING OR CHANGING OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THAT SIN AND TRUSTING GOD FOR HIS CLEANSING.)”

“WHAT IS THE KEY VERSE REGARDING CONFESSION? (1 JOHN 1:9.)”

“WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE NO UNCONFESSSED SIN IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU WITNESS? (SIN BLOCKS THE FLOW OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH OUR LIFE AND WITNESS.)”

IV. Be Filled With the Holy Spirit.

- A. We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith. Claim God's command and promise (Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 5:14, 15)."
- B. The fullness (control) of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to be a powerful witness (Acts 1:8).
- C. Only service performed for Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit is pleasing to God (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

☒ **[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO HELP PARTICIPANTS MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITNESSING. ACTIVITY 42 IS GOOD TO USE AT THIS POINT.]**

“WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS WE WITNESS? [IT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HE

PREPARES THE HEART. HE DOES THE WITNESSING. WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE WITH A REAL ENEMY AND IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO FIGHTS THE BATTLE.]

V. Be Prepared to Communicate Your Faith in Christ

TASK

ARRANGE A SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY WHICH WILL ALLOW THE GROUP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. USE ONE ACTIVITY (NUMBER 7 FOLLOWED BY 42 OR ANYTHING THAT YOU CREATE). REFER TO THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE.

1 Peter 3:15, 16

"WHAT ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS VERSE?" (BE PREPARED TO GIVE A REASON FOR OUR FAITH.)

"WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE PREPARED?" (PARTICIPANT'S ANSWERS.)

A. Heart preparation.

"KEEPING CHRIST THE LORD OF YOUR HEART IS THE BEST PREPARATION FOR COMMUNICATING YOUR FAITH."

B. Training.



[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: BE PREPARED TO SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TRAINING HAS HELPED YOU TO BECOME A MORE FRUITFUL WITNESS.]

"LIKE ANY OTHER SKILL THE SKILL OF WITNESSING CAN BE DONE BETTER AFTER INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICE."

"YOU CAN LEARN, THROUGH A FEW HOURS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING, HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE TO OTHERS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST THROUGH THE SIMPLE PRESENTATION OF THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS AND OTHER MATERIALS."

C. Jesus is with us as we share.

"IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FOLLOW CHRIST. IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE US FISHERS OF MEN."



[NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: BE PREPARED TO SHARE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF A FRUITFUL WITNESSING EXPERIENCE.]

"WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE STEPS NECESSARY FOR PERSONAL PREPARATION AND WILL NOW DISCUSS THE STEPS RELATING TO TAKING THE INITIATIVE."

VI. Pray.

TASK

ARRANGE A SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY WHICH WILL ALLOW THE GROUP TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION. USE ONE ACTIVITY (NUMBER 10, 14 OR ANYTHING THAT YOU CREATE). THEY MAY REFER TO THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES, BUT THEY ARE NOT LIMITED TO THEM. HAVE THEM REPORT BACK IN ___ MINUTES.

John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 5:14, 15; Philippians 2:13; John 6:44

“WHAT ROLE DOES PRAYER PLAY IN WITNESSING?” (PARTICIPANT’S ANSWERS)

- A. Make a list of people God lays on your heart to pray for. As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to draw those people to Christ and believe that He will, according to His promises.

☒ [NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: BE PREPARED TO SHARE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF A FRUITFUL WITNESSING EXPERIENCE THAT YOU KNEW WAS A RESULT OF PRAYER.]

- B. Not only pray for the salvation of men, but also for Christians and their spiritual growth and service. Use our Lord’s example in John 17.

☒ [NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: BE PREPARED TO SHARE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF A CHANGE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN FRIEND THAT WAS THE RESULT OF PRAYER.]

VII. Go to People.

☒ [NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: IF YOU HAVE PERSONAL EXAMPLES FROM YOUR LIFE ADD THEM AS ILLUSTRATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS, I.E., SOMEONE TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO COME TO YOU, YOU TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO GO TO SOMEONE, SETTING ASIDE TIME IN YOUR DAY TO TALK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT CHRIST AND THE RESULTS, SOMEONE SHARING CHRIST WITH YOU AND YOU REFUSING BUT HAVING THE CONVERSATION BEGIN YOUR OWN SEARCH TO KNOW CHRIST, SOMEONE WHO REFUSED TO RECEIVE CHRIST WITH YOU AND COMING LATER TO TELL OF THEIR DECISION, “A DIVINE APPOINTMENT” ARRANGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.]

- A. Do not wait for people to come to you. As you follow Jesus He will lead you to people whom He has prepared.
- B. Jesus Christ has already commanded us to tell the "Good News" to all.
- C. Arrange your priorities so that you can take time every day to witness.
- D. Do not be discouraged if some refuse to receive Christ. Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.
- E. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



VIII. Talk About Jesus Christ.

As you talk about the Savior, you will find that there are many who are ready to receive Him.



- A. Do not be sidetracked with peripheral matters such as talking about the church, or defending the Bible.

☒ [NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: ADD A PERSONAL EXAMPLE FROM YOUR LIFE OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHERE THE WITNESSING EXPERIENCE DEVIATED TO SIDE ISSUES WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.]

- B. Avoid arguments and present the Gospel in love.

☒ [NOTE TO THE FACILITATOR: ADD A PERSONAL EXAMPLE FROM YOUR LIFE OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.]

IX. Expect God to Use You.

- A. One of the greatest lies of the century is that people do not want to know God.
- B. People are hungry for God.

"THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CREATED THIS HUNGER IN THE HEARTS OF MULTITUDES. THERE ARE MANY CHRISTIANS WHO APPROACH OTHERS WITH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, I.E., 'YOU DO NOT WANT TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN, DO YOU?' THIS ATTITUDE UNINTENTIONALLY INHIBITS OTHERS FROM EXPRESSING THEIR NEED FOR CHRIST. GO WITH THE EXPECTANCY THAT GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO ARE EAGER TO RECEIVE CHRIST AND YOU WILL FIND THAT HE REALLY HAS."

X. Success in Witnessing.

- ☒ "HAVING STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPECTANCY IN SEEKING TO INTRODUCE OTHERS TO CHRIST, I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF A CORE BELIEF WE BEGAN WITH."
- ☒ WHO CAN TELL ME, "WHAT IS SUCCESS IN WITNESSING?"

(SUCCESS IN WITNESSING IS SIMPLY TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO SHARE CHRIST IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND LEAVING THE RESULTS TO GOD.)

"IF YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE FRUITFUL FOR OUR SAVIOR:

1. BE SURE THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN.
2. BE SURE THAT THERE IS NO UNCONFESED SIN IN YOUR LIFE.
3. BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.
4. BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST.
5. PRAY.
6. GO TO PEOPLE.
7. TALK ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
8. EXPECT GOD TO USE YOU."

"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IF YOU FOLLOW THIS BIBLICAL PLAN YOU WILL CONSISTENTLY HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF INTRODUCING OTHERS TO CHRIST THROUGH YOUR WITNESS? I ASSURE YOU THAT FOLLOWING THIS PLAN WILL ENABLE ALL CHRISTIANS TO BE FRUITFUL FOR GOD AS A WAY OF LIFE. THERE IS NO OTHER ADVENTURE IN LIFE TO COMPARE WITH COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL, INTRODUCING OTHERS TO CHRIST AND BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THEM IN MULTIPLYING DISCIPLESHIP."

[CLOSE IN PRAYER.]