



SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH – PART 2 OF 3

Series Title: Passion For The Reach

Lesson Title: Reaching People For Christ

Key Scriptures: Acts 13:47, Matthew 4:19

Homework Instructions: This series will cover three weeks of lessons for the month of March (March 3rd, 10th and 17th) and includes some homework. We will also have a special Palm Sunday lesson on March 24th and a High School vs. Adults Sunday School Competition on March 31st (Easter Sunday)!

You should complete the homework assignment for each week before class. However, you are welcome to go ahead and complete all homework assignments in advance if you would like to.

Lesson Overview

“Now that you have overcome, help somebody come over.”

-Bishop Lyle Dukes

As Christians, we should always be looking for opportunities to invite people to church and to be a bold witness for Christ! As we approach the Easter season, we want to invite as many people as we can, because it's such a tremendous opportunity to reach the lost and Christians who aren't part of a local church. Even without a connection to a local church, many people will come to Easter service out of tradition...all they need is an invitation! Let's get on a mission to win souls for Christ!

This week we will cover:

- 1. Reaching People For Jesus Christ**
- 2. How to Reach Someone For Christ**
- 3. Follow Up With Them**

REACHING PEOPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST

1. Reaching People For Christ Ought To Be The Main Business Of Every Christian!

One of the greatest joys that we can have as Christians is the joy of leading someone to Jesus Christ. Think of it! You and I can be God's instruments in the salvation of others.

And this is not the work of just a few select people. **Every Christian is called to witness for Christ, and every Christian can reach people.**

There are many scriptures where God reminds us of our command to reach people. In Acts 13:47 (NIV) the Bible says, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." God is trusting us to bring salvation to the ends of the earth! In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

If we are not fishing, we are not following Him. Please don't leave it to someone else to lead them to Christ – you may be their only hope.

2. What Does It Mean To "Reach" People For Christ?

Reaching people (soul-winning) is, essentially, the process of evangelizing or witnessing, which is simply communicating the message of salvation to unbelievers and leading them to Christ. Jesus Christ told His followers they would be His witnesses to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) and to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

We can't take this responsibility lightly, because our actions may have eternal consequences for those we are called to reach. One of the major reasons that it is important to reach people for Christ is that without salvation in Christ, the individual will perish in hell (John 3:16).

However, it's not the will of God that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9).

Every person you meet has a soul that will live forever—either in the **blessings of Heaven** or in the **miseries of Hell** .

The Bible says, "He who believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

If someone you knew was dying and you had the cure for his disease, wouldn't you share that knowledge with him? The reality is that all people have a terminal, spiritual disease (sin), and, as Christians, we know the cure for that disease (Jesus). This truth should motivate us to reach people for Jesus Christ.

3. Live A Consistent Christian Life Before People

You cannot separate your life from your reach ministry! Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16).

We must live our lives with integrity. We must love when others hate, and forgive when others harbor grudges. We must trust God when others panic, and be honest when all around us aren't. Not that we're going to be perfect – only Christ was sinless. But we must have a growing, maturing Christian life that others recognize and respect.

HOW TO REACH SOMEONE FOR CHRIST

Let's get to work. Let me give you a few steps you can take when reaching people for Christ.

1. Create a Reach Prayer List

Place the names of those you want to reach (or if you have someone in mind but don't know their name, put a description, e.g. "Cashier at Walmart" – God knows!), then commit to pray over those names every day. And, pray for an opportunity to reach these souls for Christ.

2. Start a Conversation / Invite Them to Church:

Start a conversation with a family member, friend, co-worker, etc. with the purpose of leading them to Christ and inviting them to church. That's what Jesus did with the Samaritan woman...He met her where she was and started a conversation with her. The Bible says that "...he that winneth a soul is wise"!

Your leading question to the person can be, "What church do you go to?"

Their Possible Responses:

- I don't go to church
- My home church is
- I'm not into that....

If you've gathered by the conversation the person is saved then you've connected and met another believer.

If you have gathered from the question they need to be saved / need a church home, then invite them to Harvest Life Church! You don't have to know the Bible from cover to cover, you don't need a degree in theology – all you need is your passion for reaching people and to remember, you may be the one God has called to reach this person. If not you, then who?

Note: When they come to the church, if possible, introduce the guest to an Associate Pastor (before or after service) so the Pastor can greet them as well.

3. Witness / Share Your Testimony:

As you are talking with people, reaching them for Christ, you may have an opportunity to share what God has done in your life and how your life

changed for the better since you've been saved. Your testimony is one of the greatest resources you have to reach and influence people for Christ.

After meeting Jesus at the well, the Samaritan woman shared her testimony and many people believed in Jesus Christ and changed their lives.

4. If It Fits - Pray the Prayer of Salvation With Them

Romans 10:13 says, "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Here's a prayer you can pray with someone to receive Christ:

Prayer of Salvation

Lord Jesus, I repent and turn from my sins and I ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You for dying on the cross for my salvation.

I invite You to come into my heart and life. Wash me clean and fill me with Your Holy Spirit and I will trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, I am born again! I am forgiven! I am saved and I am on my way to heaven!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FOLLOW UP WITH THEM

After you invite someone to church it's important to follow up with them every now and then to encourage them to come to church at Harvest Life and get connected to this great Life System. Once they come to church, you can connect with them and reinforce the positives – we have a warm and welcoming church, awesome Word, powerful programs for adults and youth, life group activities, a place to use their gifts and talents to advance the Kingdom, amazing food at The Marketplace, etc. Once they take a step, you guide and encourage them to take the next step! This is called discipleship, and it's an important part of God's plan for our spiritual growth! Once they join the church, they will have many avenues of discipleship - during services and events, in their life groups and in their ministries...but because you invited them, they may still come to you with questions or look to you for guidance.

CONCLUSION

When it comes to reaching souls for Christ, the bottom line is “Just Do It!” No matter what you think about your abilities, God has called you to reach souls! No one becomes an effective witness just by reading about it. It is time to get off the bench and get in the game! We all get nervous, but as we obey the Lord He has promised to help us. Now, let’s get out there and win souls for Christ!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH – PART 2 OF 3

PASSION FOR THE REACH: REACHING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST

1. Write the Answer - According to the lesson, what ought to be the main business of every Christian?

2. List the two scriptures from this lesson where God reminds us of our command to reach people.

1. Acts 13: _____

2. Matthew 4: _____

3. According to the lesson, what does it mean to reach people for Christ?

4. According to the lesson, why can't we take the responsibility of soul-winning lightly?

5. Fill in the blanks. Every person you meet has a soul that will live forever - either in the _____ of _____ or in the

_____ of _____.

6. According to the lesson, what are the four steps to Reaching People for Christ?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____