**Study Series: Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life**

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**Lesson Title: “Evangelism…for the Purpose of Godliness” (pp. 118 - 127)**

February 7, 2021 Session 10

**The main point of this lesson is:** Godliness requires that we discipline ourselves in the practice of evangelism.

Focus on this goal: To help adults determine how to practice evangelism in methods compatible with their personality and spiritual giftedness.

Key Bible Passage: Colossians 4:5-6

To the Leader:

1. **Keep** the spiritual disciplines poster you created for Session 6, Step 1 (p. 78) **displayed** throughout this entire study.

2. If your group has been working on memorizing 1 Timothy 4:7-8, **allow time** for adults to practice quoting that passage to one another during Step 1.

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

Since you are halfway through this study of Spiritual Disciplines, **begin the session** with a brief time of **review**.

**Request participants recall** the direction of spiritual discipline according to Romans 8:29 (conformity to the image of Christ) and the theme verse of this study (“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness,” 1 Tim. 4:7, NASB).

**Invite volunteers to share** what they have most enjoyed in studying the spiritual disciplines of Bible intake, prayer, and worship.

**Draw attention** to the spiritual discipline poster and **note** the spiritual discipline examined in this session.

**Ask:**

1. Why might many Christians rather skip studying the spiritual discipline of evangelism?
2. Why must we not skip this study?

**Read** the main point of this lesson statement (p. 128).

**Step 2. Day One – Evangelism Is Expected**

**Determine** reasons evangelism is one of the most neglected spiritual disciplines.

**Relate** from Day One (p. 118) what the author says is the main reason many believers don’t witness as they should.

**Ask** adults to define evangelism.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 1 (p. 118).

**Invite volunteers to read** the bulleted verses from Day One (p. 119).

**Ask:**

1. What is clearly evident from these verses?
2. How can we know these commands are for us and not just the apostles?

**Read** 1 Peter 2:9 and **discuss** the question from Day One, activity 2 (p. 119).

**Step 3. Day Two – Evangelism Is Empowered**

**Ask:** Should the seriousness of evangelism frighten us? **Explain** your reasoning.

**Read** the second Day Two paragraph (p. 120), **pausing** to allow adults to respond to the questions.

**Use** the bolded statements (Day Two, pp. 120-121) **to explore** how Christians can have the courage and ability to take on the serious responsibility of evangelism.

**Request adults identify** the question Paul asked in 2 Corinthians 2:16.

**Ask** if they can relate to that question and why.

Then **ask volunteers to read** 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 from several Bible translations.

**Ask:** How might your role as an evangelist be different if you began every day thinking, “God has made me competent for this task”?

**Step 4. Day Three – Evangelism Is a Discipline, Part 1**

**Read** the Day Three margin/pull quote (p. 123).

**Determine** **excuses** believers use for not sharing the gospel. (I don’t know how; I don’t know enough Scriptures. I’m not around non-Christians. My job won’t allow me. I don’t have time.)

**Explore** remedies for each excuse offered. (Get trained; Keep evangelistic tracts on hand or witnessing app on phone; Rely on own salvation experience; Discipline self to make the time/opportunities to develop relationships with non-believers.)

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 123).

**Invite volunteers to describe** a time they had the opportunity to give the reason for the hope that is in them.

**Ask:** Was that opportunity totally unplanned or had you been laying groundwork for it?

**Step 5. Day Four – Evangelism Is a Discipline, Part 2**

**Invite a volunteer to read** Colossians 4:5-6.

**Explain** “make the most” comes from a verb meaning to buy up.

**Remind adults** of people snatching up toilet paper during spring of 2020.

**State** that somewhat illustrates how we are to make and snatch up opportunities to share the gospel with others.

**Analyze** how Colossians 4:5-6 implies the disciplined thought and planning that should go into evangelism.

**Explore** specific ways adults can discipline themselves to be with unbelievers.

**Evaluate** the difference between intentional and conditional relationships with unbelievers.

**Declare:** People don’t want to be our projects; they want to be our friends! We must discipline ourselves to listen to and love them regardless of whether they respond to the gospel.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 124).

**Explain** that Peter divided all spiritual gifts into speaking and serving.

**Explore** how both are utilized in evangelism.

**Ask:** What must we do if we’re more gifted in one than the other?

**Invite a volunteer to read** the last Day Four paragraph (p. 125).

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 125).

**Step 6. Day Five – More Application**

**Declare** Day Five offers challenges and encouragements.

**Read** the bolded questions from Day Five (pp. 126-127).

**Invite volunteers to share** responses to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 127).

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Encourage adults to record** in the margin of Day Five the name of an unbeliever with whom they would like to share the gospel.

**Ask:** What are specific ways we can pray so we can make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with the people we’ve identified? (For self: Compassion and burden for the lost. Willingness, courage, and words to share the gospel. For the lost: Seeking and receptive hearts. Conviction. God would grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth and the ability to see the light of the gospel—2 Tim. 2:25 and 2 Cor 4:4-6.)

**Urge adults** to voice those prayers daily, and intentionally look for and act on God’s answers to those prayers.

**Close in prayer.**