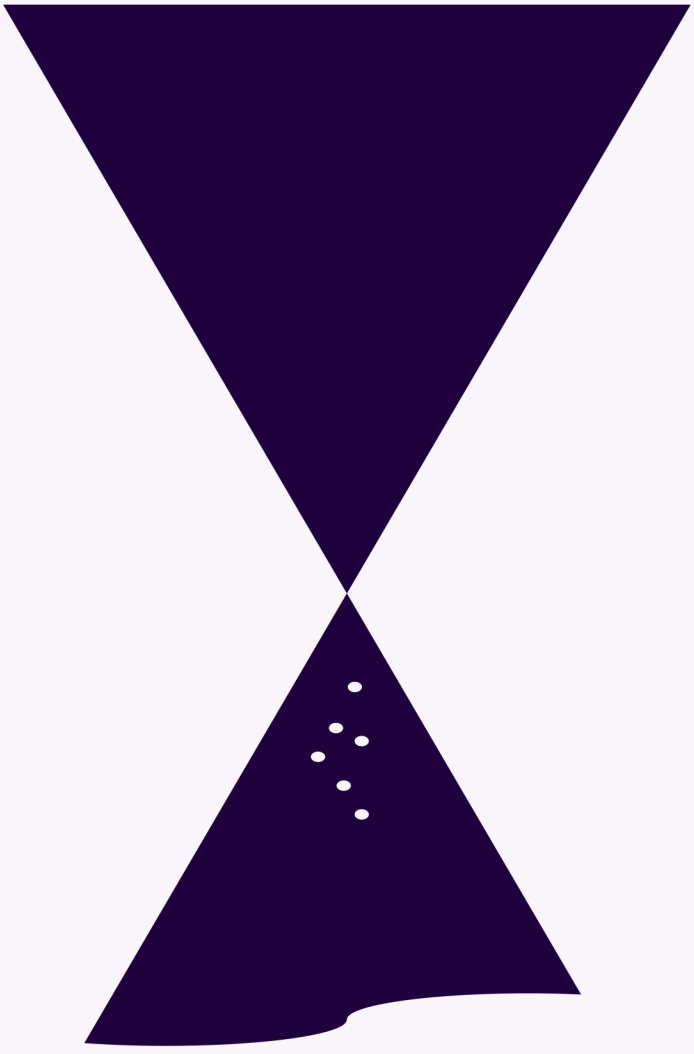
GIVING OUR LIVES



Olsen Park 2024

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REACHING JOURNAL

“PRAYING… THAT GOD WILL OPEN UP TO US A DOOR”

Name:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Beliefs and possible challenges:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:
Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:

REACHING JOURNAL

“PRAYING… THAT GOD WILL OPEN UP TO US A DOOR”

Name:

Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
What I did/said: What I prayed for: :	What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:
Week 10	**Week 11**	**Week 12…**
What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:	What I did/said: What I prayed for:

A CLASS ABOUT EVANGELISM: IDEAS FOR BRINGING CHRIST INTO OTHERS LIVES

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT, “WHERE DO I BEGIN?”

The prospect of “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature…” (Mark 16:15) can be a daunting task, and even with all the best of intentions we are sometimes intimidated away from our goal of saving souls.

Our purpose, in this class, is not to teach anyone a specific method, but rather <u>the thought process</u> that one must go through in order to effectively win souls. By the time you filter that information through your own mind and abilities, it may look different than your brother or sister in class next to you, and that is okay! These are the basics, and for anyone who has a Bible, a heart for lost people, and a mind to work, that will be enough.

NOTES:

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The Parable Of The Lighthouse

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHURCH STOPS DOING WHAT GOD DESIGNED IT TO DO?

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

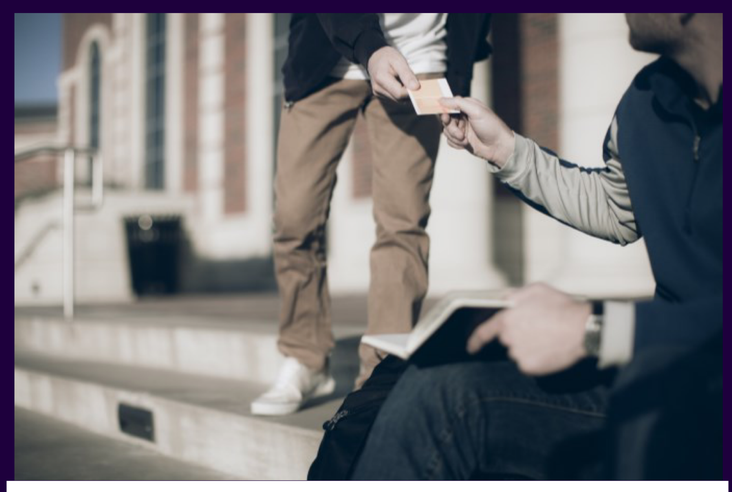
Less of the members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work. The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and some of them had black skin, and spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal pattern of the club. But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded.

If you visit the seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, but now most of the people drown!



our purpose

The slightly outrageous fictional account to the left illustrates perfectly what we want to accomplish with this class, as well as the common pitfalls of such a class.

The real danger is that the church will stop functioning in its primary role, the one God assigned: Seek and Save the Lost.

We must be two things:

1. VIGILANT - Our eyes need to be wide open, and our awareness of the eternal destiny of the people around us ought to motivate us. Why? Because we are loving people. The only way we can say that is true is if we are also…

2. DILIGENT - Our actions need to match our words. If we are truly God's people, if we truly love others, if we truly want to see heaven ourselves , we must act on the things we learn (or are reminded of) in this class.

UNDERSTANDING MY PURPOSE

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17, 4:7-12

NOTES:

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WHY ARE WE HERE?

SEEING WHAT CHRIST SEES

LUKE 15:1-32, TITUS 3:1-5

NOTES:

Selfishness will derail our efforts to serve the Lord in any capacity, but in the area of winning souls selfishness is especially destructive. We must learn to get out of ourselves and think more about others (Phil2:3-5).

Getting Out of Myself And Into OTHERS

What kinds of questions should I ask in order to get to know someone, to understand them and their background? (what kind of information is useful to know, helpful in this process?)

Besides getting to know them, what will my questions demonstrate to them?

DANGER!

There are things we might say or do that would derail the process of winning a soul at this early stage, that could prevent the eventual “new birth”. What might some of those things be? (things that we might avoid/prevent – some things we cannot help. The gospel will, by its nature, be offensive to some)

PRINCIPLES IN EVANGELISM

ECCLESIASTES 11:1-6, COLOSSIANS 4:2-6, EPHESIANS 4:11-16

NOTES:

BUT…WHAT IF I CAN'T TEACH?

JAMES 3:1, HEBREWS 5:12-14, 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

10 WAYS TO STRIVE TOGETHER:

Turning the conversation

John 4

Current Events

List 3-5 news stories from the past week or two

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What is the spiritual, moral or God-related content of these stories? How do I find the means to “turn” this story into something with spiritual or Biblical importance?

Did Jesus ever do this sort of thing? When/how?

Make them Thirsty

The young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, "I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty." So it is with evangelism. Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel.



WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY ARISES

There are a few essential questions to ask that help determine “where they are” and will provide you with some frame of reference as to how to begin. If these questions cannot be answered in the affirmative or definitively, you might have to back up and deal with some evidences or questions about how we got the Bible (which is not something we will do in this class, but an abundance of material is available on the subjects, and help is available for the asking)

1. Does it make sense that there is a God?

2. Does it make sense that He would reveal Himself to us (His creation)?

3. Of all the things that claim to be the revelation of God, which makes the most sense?

why are these the questions, and why are they phrased this way?

Hints/suggestions

When you get an opportunity to sit down and study with someone, here are some tips to remember:

- Keep the time to 45 minutes to an hour (maximum). You might occasionally see that you could talk longer, but most folks reach a “saturation” point by this time, even if they are enjoying the study
- Try to reduce distractions where you are studying. If possible, try to study in an area without a TV on, away from other activities or noise.
- It is sometimes helpful to be able to sit at a table or a surface where writing can take place. This might be useful for anyone taking notes, but may also be useful for the one doing the teaching (you will see some examples in the lesson that follows)

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: TIMELINE

BE ABLE TO SHOW THEM HOW THE BIBLE FITS TOGETHER TO BRING JESUS

- 3-minute Bible Study; Draw a timeline out for them
- Key passages to know:

NOTES:

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Possibly the most important concept at the outset of any conversion process is the establishment of the fundamental, total and absolute role of the Bible as the singular and objective source of God's authority. This is a classic illustration that has served well through the years to help get this point across. It is only one of many ways, but regardless of what method you choose, the point is always the same: the Bible must be accepted as God's complete and authoritative word.

HOW LONG IS THIS LINE?

1. Everybody needs to guess – take all estimates (try to emphasize – okay to be different, encourage different estimates)

- ◊ Can we all be right?
- ◊ Could we all be wrong?
- ◊ Can we use popularity to determine factual length?
- ◊ Can we use longest held belief to determine it?
- ◊ Can we use mom/dad/preacher/etc. as authoritative source on length of the line?

2. What do we need? A ruler, an objective standard to determine truth/fact.

3. After measuring, if I still insist that my guess was right (although differs from what the measurement was), what would you say?

4. This agreement is paramount: The Bible will be the standard of rule – I won't ask you to believe anything not in it, or practice anything you can't read for yourself. From this point onward, we will let the Bible have the FINAL say on every subject.

5. Next, we have to see what the Bible says about itself...

What Does The Bible Claim?

Is the word of God what it claims to be? (Reinforced and deeper examination of God's revelation)

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

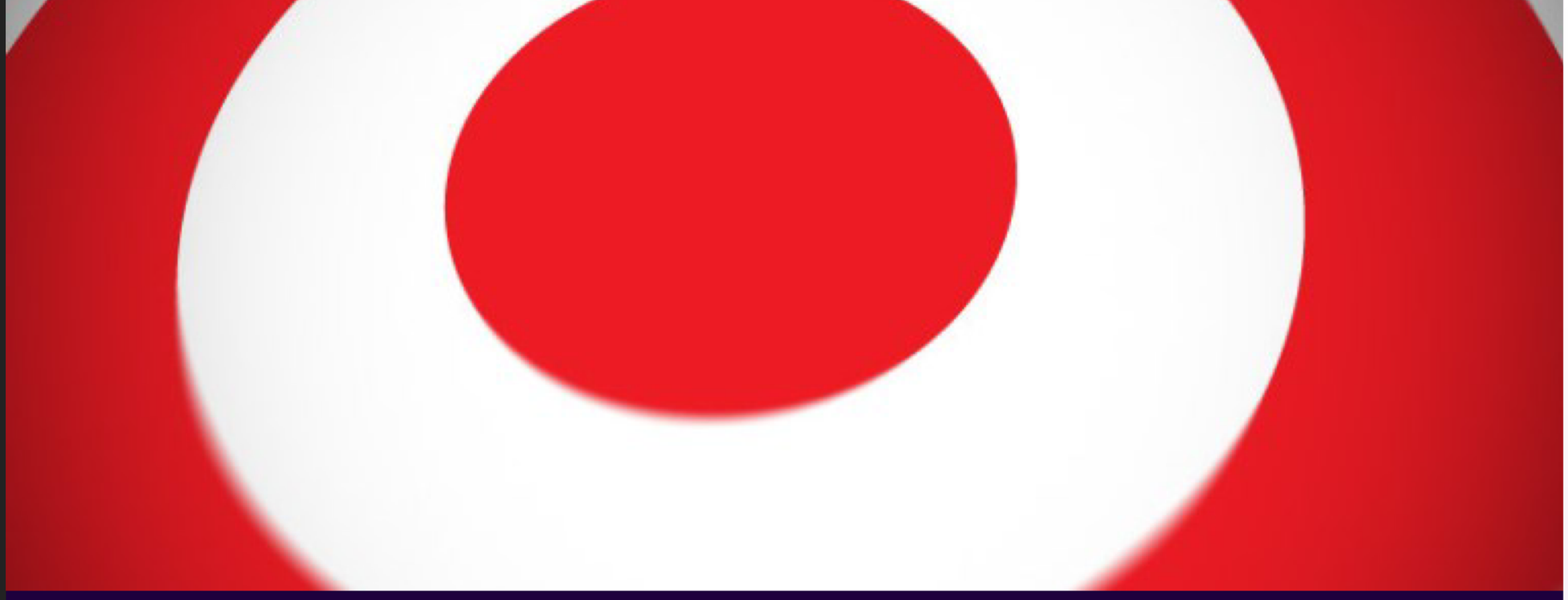
2. 2 Pet. 1:19-21

3. Establish, certainly, that someone believes the claims of the Bible before proceeding to study the Bible with them. The living and powerful nature of the Word (Heb. 4:12) will not have the same effect on a closed mind/heart, and we have no right to expect that it would.

4. This will be a point that you will need to revisit and confirm from time to time: I may be wrong, you may be wrong, but we've agreed that the word of God is our standard, it determines fact/reality for us and it will answer whatever questions or disputes that we have.

5. This will become especially important later (questions about previous salvation experiences, comparisons to previous religious practices, long-held beliefs/traditions, etc.)

6. This will also prevent some of the "that's your interpretation" issues because we've read it together and everyone has an opportunity to see for themselves. As a side note, if at all possible, it is always better for people to read passages for themselves (out loud, if feasible) from their own Bible. The benefit of this is hard to estimate, but it has a lot to do with the way people think.



A UNIVERSAL PROBLEM

Sin is best defined simply as “missing the mark”. What are the TWO basic ways in which it is possible to sin?

1.

2.

Alienated from God = lost

What does this really mean?

What might be the challenges of getting across the concept that “ALL have sinned” ?

our sins

- Rom. 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- Isa. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.
- Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You might have to discuss the nature of God and “holiness” as a concept in order to help someone adequately understand why sin alienates one from God

IMPLICATIONS OF SIN

Justice is required where sin is involved (Romans 3:21-26) Can you explain why?

Especially, can you explain the “Just” and “Justifier” concepts?

The solution for sin: Jesus

Jesus has always been God’s plan for sin - Eph. 3:1-12

Can you explain why Jesus’ DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION make up the “good news” (gospel - 1 Cor.15:1-5)?

The Blood of Jesus pays for sin. Since God loves the whole world and gave Jesus to die for everybody (John 3:16), will everybody be saved?

Using the concept of Jesus’ blood as explained by the Bible, can you explain ***why*** not everyone will be saved and who ***will*** be saved (and why)?



COUNTING THE COST

It is so important that someone weigh the seriousness of becoming a Christian before they make the commitment. It is a life-long arrangement, and the Lord takes it very seriously.

1. What are some of the unforeseen issues/challenges that unexperienced Christians will face that will test their resolve to remain faithful?

2. Before you teach someone how to be saved, it is imperative that you clarify this issue: I am beginning a relationship with God, not having a "guilt clearinghouse" to simply feel better. I am agreeing to a covenant through which I mean to be transformed (Rom12, Eph. 4/5, Col. 3, etc.)

2 Peter 2:20-22

Why, do you suppose, God uses such graphic imagery here?

Does it seem there is a distinction between those who have obeyed and fallen away from the gospel and those who never obeyed?

Jesus on Following Jesus

Read Luke 14:15-33

- What are some modern excuses that mirror the ones offered by those invited to the supper in v.15-24?
- Can you explain "hate" as used in v.26?
- What did it mean for someone to "bear his own cross" in the time of the New Testament?
- Can you explain the examples of building a tower or going to war without "counting the cost"?
- What would be some modern examples of "counting the cost"?



GETTING "IN CHRIST"

Lots of comments in the Bible can be taken out of context to "prove" that one thing or another "saves" a person. The key to understanding salvation is comprehending what God meant to accomplish by sending Jesus to Earth. He meant to re-establish fellowship (sharing, relationship, friendship, etc.) between Himself and mankind. Sin was the problem, Jesus was the answer. How does one have the solution (Jesus) applied to his specific problem (sin)?

1. Establish the location of all the spiritual blessings available to humans (Eph.1:3) IN CHRIST

2. Emphasize the points of redemption and forgiveness of sins (defining the terms if necessary)

3. The only question, then, is: "How do I get IN CHRIST?"

IN christ

- Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- Eph. 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

ROMANS 6:1-7

The key to God's plan (the gospel - 1 Cor. 15:1-5) was the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do you know why?

God describes a relationship here - either with sin or with Himself. Contrast the value of these two relationships - which is better? Which will be more rewarding, ultimately? How does "sin" treat you versus how God treats you?

Just as Jesus died, was buried and resurrected, we are also expected to die (to sin), be buried (in baptism - this is a good time to explain what "baptism" actually means) and to be raised again (our of the "grave" of baptism) to walk as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)

Galatians 3:26-27

Similar to Romans 6, Galatians describes the importance of baptism in the process of “putting on Christ”. If I “put Jesus on” in Baptism, am I not “in Christ”?

In this case, Paul is describing how we became the children of God, part of His family - through adoption (read the context of Galatians 3). Consider this: How does God make a distinction between all the people of the earth - between the saved and the unsaved? Who do those who have “put on Christ” look like to God?



A COMMON QUESTION

WHAT ABOUT THE PERSON I LOVE WHO HAS ALREADY PASSED AWAY?

- 1. Your relationship with God is His business and your business. He wants you to be saved, and when the two of you discuss your salvation, your status will be His concern - not other family members or friends.
- 2. God knows everything perfectly- what is/was/will be.
- 3. God will always do right and He is incapable of making the wrong decision.
- 4. If they truly grasp the reality of eternity, heaven and hell, all the people who have ever loved you would want you to go to heaven, regardless of their own destiny.
- 5. God is the judge and He uses the Law of Christ.

CONVERSION IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT

MATTHEW 28:19, ACTS 8:18-24, 34-39

NOTES:

FISHING: THEORY VS. PRACTICE

Jesus to you and me: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).



Now it came to pass that a group existed that called themselves fishermen and there were many fish in the waters about them. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes and the fish were hungry. Week after week and month after month and year after year the group that called themselves 'fishermen' met in meetings and talked about those called to fish, the abundance of fish, and how we might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing meant, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing be the primary talk of fishermen. These fishermen built large beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters and their plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and that everyone should fish. However, the one thing they did not do, they did not fish!

In addition to meeting regularly these men determined to send out fishermen to places where there were many fish. This sending committee was headed by those who had great vision and had courage to speak about fishing and to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes held meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the one thing the staff and the committee members did not do, they did not fish!

Large, elaborate training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of the fish, the nature of the fish, how to find fish, and the psychological effects of fishing. Those who taught had doctorates in 'Fisheology'! But the teachers did not fish! They only taught about fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce material solely devoted to fishing methods. A speakers' bureau was also organized to schedule special speakers on fishing. After one stirring meeting entitled 'The Necessity Of Fishing,' two young men left the meeting and actually went fishing and one of them actually caught two fish! He was honored for his great catch and was scheduled to appear at all the big meetings to tell how he did it. So he quit fishing in order to have time to tell his experiences to the other fishermen!

Now it is true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and had to put up with the smell of dead fish. Some had to endure the ridicule of some who made fun of these fishermen's clubs because they claimed to be fishermen but they did not fish.

And they wondered about those who thought it was of little use to attend meetings and talk about fishing. I mean, after all, were they not following the Master who said, "Come and I will make you fishers of men"? Imagine their chagrin when someone actually suggested that they were not really 'fishermen.' Yet it did make sense. Can we rightfully call a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish?



Conversion In Action

Acts

- Chapter 2
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9/22
- Chapter 10
- Chapter 16

Take the examples from the book of Acts and review the process of conversion as historically described by God. Take note:

1. How similar is each account (specifically in reference to what each person/group did or was told to do)?
2. How similar is each account to what we have already studied?
3. What are the common factors seen in these accounts?

Conversion Cases In Acts

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	**Baptized**
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	37,38	Implied	38, 41
Samaria – 8:5-13	12	Implied	Implied	12, 13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	36,37	Implied	37	38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	9:18
Cornelius - 10:34-48	43	Implied	Implied	48
Lydia – 16:13-15	14	Implied	Implied	15
Jailor – 16:30-34	31	Implied	Implied	33
Corinthians - 18:8	8	Implied	Implied	8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	5


Bible Timeline
3minutebiblestudy.com
OT
Adam & Eve
SIN
ABRAM
1. Land
2. Nation
3. Blessing to all nations
ABRAHAM
ISAAC
JACOB
aka: Israel
JOSEPH
12 sons
MOSES
Exodus
40 yrs
Joshua
Judges
SAMUEL
Saul
DAVID
Solomon
2Sam. 7: 12-14
ISRAEL
JUDAH
Assyria
Babylon
captivity
prophets . . .
Zerub. & Ezra
Messiah
Jn.1:29
JESUS
Teaching
SIGNS
the 12
Disciples
PENTECOST; Ac.2
H.S.
Peter
3,000
CHURCH
Paul
nations
Paul, James, Peter, John, etc.

FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR CLASS

- To be an evangelist literally means to be a “good news-er”. In that broad sense, we all have good news to share.

- This is a class on evangelism. Evangelism is a “bad word” that needs redeeming. Our goal is to view it positively.

- Evangelism is not something I do. It’s something God does with me.

- Evangelism is not:
  - baptism
  - sales or marketing
  - service
  - parenting

- Evangelism is _____