

Catch the Fire

Journey into Personal Evangelism



*Sharing the Good News
of Jesus Christ*

*I'll shout it from the mountain tops
I want the world to know
The Lord of Life has come to me
I want to pass it on*

Kurt Kaiser

FOREWORD

The purpose of this publication is to equip Christians to answer Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations. This guide helps you to make an initial contact with a non-believer, share the Good News and convince that person that she or he should not miss out on an eternal treasure. Ultimately, evangelism means that we pass on the baton and instil in others the desire and excitement to go out and share the life-saving message of the gospel with others. To make that happen we need God's help, and we need the tools to be effective in our outreach.

'Catch the Fire' aims to assist Christians to become more effective in sharing the gospel, regardless of their age, experience and circumstances. It is meant for those who are already familiar with the gospel and who seek to examine and re-focus their Christian commitment. It is also meant for those who have more recently found their way to Christ. This guide offers encouragement and motivation, while it gives practical examples and instructions for effective witnessing.

This publication is a refreshing and valuable addition to a largely theoretical and theological discussion on the subject of evangelism. It differs from other publications in that it is void of excessive theory and biblical debate. It does not claim to be a theological masterpiece. Rather, it sets out a practical and proven technique for successful witnessing. Real-life anecdotes serve as pointers to answering some of the more difficult questions that Christians face when interacting with atheists, agnostics and people of other faiths.

A number of publications have served as inspiration for this publication, in particular The Way of the Master Series (Living Waters), The Purpose Driven Life (Rick Warren) and Experiencing God (Blackaby). Due recognition is given to these sources, and they are warmly recommended to the reader.

May God bless you as you work your way through the units and discover his divine purpose for your life!

Bastiaan Rimmelzwaal
Cape Town

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Scripture references from
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UNIT I. FISHERS OF MEN

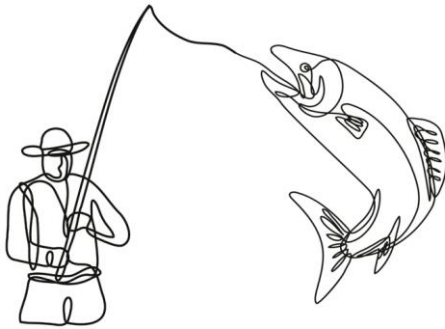
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Mark 1:17

Summary

Jesus tells his followers to become 'fishers of men'. What exactly did he mean by that? Did Jesus' command only apply to the first apostles, or is it also meant for you and for me? Does it mean that we must we pack our bags and travel, or should we stay at home?

Jesus' followers, Peter, Andrew, Philip, James and John, were all fishermen. It will therefore come as no surprise that Jesus tells them to follow him and fish for people. Do we, as 21st century Christians, also have to become 'fishers of men'?



Jesus tells us
to become fishers of men

The life of many Christians seems devoid of reaching out and sharing the gospel with non-believers. It appears that Christians are preoccupied with looking after their own interests, just like everyone else. Is this really all that God expects of us?

Is it not enough for us to simply believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and that he died on the cross for our sins? Is it not enough for us to believe in God and his promises? No, that is not enough, that is not the whole story. If we claim to be followers of Jesus, then the command he gave to his disciples applies to you and me also.

We need to be clear on what exactly Jesus meant by us becoming 'fishers of men'. Jesus tells us to go out 'to seek and save the lost' by preaching the Good News to the whole world; to all the corners of the earth:

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

The gospel is meant for everybody, for every citizen in the world. Does this really mean that we have to get involved personally? Does our church not support a few missionaries in faraway countries on behalf of the whole congregation? Is that not enough? Listen to what Jesus says to his followers:

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." Luke 10:2-3

The labourers are few, and you and I are both needed in God's service to spread the gospel. Not only that, but Jesus also tells us that it will be a risky business.

Jesus' concern was to seek and save the lost and that is the task he passed on to his followers. If we carefully consider what Jesus is telling us, we will find that the Christian faith was never meant to be a private affair, something to discover, treasure and keep to ourselves. Jesus meant his message to be shared and passed on; for it to reach the far corners of the earth. Some of us will be called to share the Good News at home, while other may travel. How will we find out? We will explore that later on.

As Christians, we have an obligation to reach out to non-believers. The Bible is very clear on that. That being the case, we are presented with an awesome responsibility. It is up to us, followers of Jesus, to be obedient and make non-Christians aware of their awful destiny. Until now, you may have believed that your faith should be kept to yourself. Let me tell you that, as followers of Jesus, we don't have that option.

Food for thought

Jesus tells us to be Fishers of Men

Memory verse

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Luke 10:2

Unit I – Discussion

1. Is preaching and spreading the gospel primarily the responsibility of our pastors and leaders, or do you as an individual also have a role to play?

2. Are you in the habit of sharing the gospel with non-believers?

Unit I - Journal

UNIT 2. THE GOOD NEWS

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

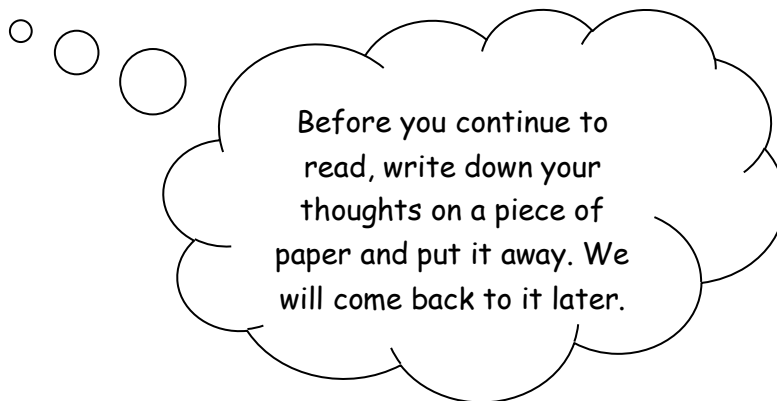
Ephesians 2:8

Summary

This unit explores and clarifies the Good News of the gospel, which is about the undeserved gift we receive from God. We explore what it is that sets Christianity apart from other world religions. Given a choice, why would a non-believer opt for becoming a Christian, rather than a Hindu, a Buddhist or a Baha'i? As Christians we need a clear answer to that question.

What is the Good News that Christians have to share? What sets Christianity apart from other world religions?

Imagine, for a moment, an island in the middle of the ocean, where no outsider has ever been and where the inhabitants do not know about any of the world religions. Imagine yourself to be a Christian missionary visiting that island. Together with you on the same boat arrive a Hindu, a Muslim and a Buddhist. No, this is not leading up to a joke - read on! Imagine that all of you are given the opportunity to tell the islanders about your religion. What would you tell them about Christianity, what would be your message? What would make the islanders interested in your religion? How, in your view, is Christianity different from other world religions?



Christianity differs from other world religions. Most of the world religions have a set of rules to live by. If you obey those rules, then you will ultimately find favour with the deity, god or gods that you believed in. Life, according to most world religions, is an opportunity to be a good person and do good deeds. Your reward will be that you go to heaven, or you will be rewarded in some other way. Some world religions are very complicated!

Christianity is not like that. There is a key difference between Christianity and other world religions. Christianity is based on accepting the fact that we can never live up to God’s high standards and that it is only God’s love and undeserved mercy that can set us free.

*“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”
Ephesians 2:4-5*

Sure enough, Christians also have a set of rules to live by; the Ten Commandments. But for Christians trying to live by these rules is merely a logical consequence of their faith. The Ten Commandments are not the ultimate guidebook to inheriting eternal life. That is where Christianity differs from other religions. It is important that you are aware of other religions and that you know the basics, so let’s have a look at them.

Religion	% of world population ¹	Sacred texts	Afterlife	
			Positive promise	Requirement
Christianity	31%	The Bible	Heaven - God’s dwelling place	Accept God’s unmerited gift of salvation through Jesus Christ
Islam	24%	Qur'an & Hadith	Paradise - seven levels, depending on achievements	Observing the Five Pillars of Islam: Believe in one God and his Messenger Mohammad, Hajj, Fasting, Prayer & Charity
Hinduism	15%	Bhagavad-Gita, Upanishads & Rig Veda	Moksha - self realisation, the soul becoming one with God	Meditation, knowledge, good works and devotion
Buddhism	5%	The Tripitaka & Sutras	Nirvana, liberated from the cycle of life and death	Spiritual practice, improving ones’ karma through moral conduct, meditation, good deeds, wisdom
Chinese traditions	5%	None	Various	Various
Ethnic and Tribal	4%	Oral traditions	Various	Various
Atheist	7%	None	None	None
Other ²	9%	None	Various	Various

¹ Information and statistics from various sources.

² Including Judaism, Sikhism, Spiritism, agnostics, freethinkers, humanists and secularists.

This overview of world religions clearly shows that Christianity is at odds with other world religions. Most other religions put the emphasis on the accomplishments of their followers, including prayer, fasting, moral conduct and good works. Christianity is based on the promise that believing in Jesus Christ and acceptance of God's undeserved grace are the only requirements for inheriting eternal life. That is Good News! That is worth sharing!

Now retrieve that piece of paper that you put aside and consider what you have learned so far.

Food for thought

It's all about God's grace, not about our good deeds

Memory verse

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

Unit 2 - Discussion

1. How does Christianity differ from other world religions?

2. In God's eyes, are good deeds and self-improvement important?

Unit 2 - Journal

UNIT 3. THE KEY MESSAGE

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”

John 12:26

Summary

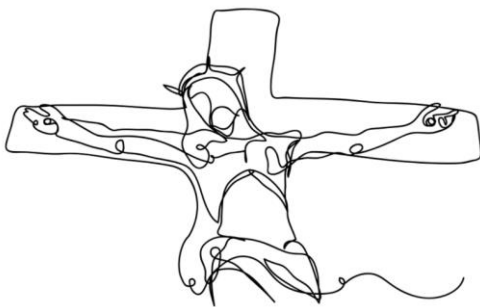
Many people, even Christians, are confused and uncertain about their salvation. It is up to us to share the truth of the gospel and bring clarity and focus to people’s minds. What is the key message that we want to share? What is the central message of the gospel and how do we share it with clarity and simplicity, especially with non-Christians?

Once we decide to venture out and tell others about the Good News, we need to make sure that we are well-acquainted with the central message of the Bible. There is no room for confusion. The first requirement for effective outreach is to have a clear understanding of what the Good News actually is. It sometimes seems that the message of Jesus has been lost and that we busy ourselves by talking about secondary issues. It is important that we take a step back and reflect.

The core message of the gospel is that all of us are sinful creatures, and that Christ has shed his blood for our sins. Here is what it says in the best-known verse in the Bible:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Heaven is for those who put their faith in God’s Son Jesus Christ and who accept God’s free gift of undeserved forgiveness and grace. That is the key message.



Jesus has paid the price for us and he has paid it in full

Whereas other religions put the betterment of oneself as a top priority, Christianity proclaims that we must become less in order for God to become greater. Christianity, in the interpretation of both the Old and New Testament, is based on our acceptance of the fact that we will always fall short of being perfect in God’s eyes. Jesus Christ has taken our sins upon him and paid the price, and he has paid it in full. That is very good news!

Does this mean that Christians are at liberty to sin as much as they like and simply pray for forgiveness over and over again? No, it does not! Does it mean that as

Christians we can live as we please, as long as we repent before we die? No, of course not. Once we realise and believe that God loves us with an incredible love, so much that he gave up his Son to die for us on the cross, once that happens, there arises within us a desire to please God and to walk in his ways. That personal realisation is the true test of our faith.

For Christians good works are an effect, not a cause. Once God's love has taken hold of us, there simply is no other way than to love him back, be it with an imperfect human kind of love. A love that manifests itself in worship, in prayer and in caring for our fellow human beings. Pleasing God becomes compulsive and natural, much like a child wanting to please the parents or caregivers who love him.

Our mandate as Christians is to share the key message of salvation with our fellow men. Are we absolutely clear on the message? Are we ready to share it with whoever we meet? Do we have a fire burning within us? Do we know the joy of the gospel in such a way that we cannot keep it to ourselves? This guide aims to strengthen your faith and your effectiveness in sharing the Good News.

God's love for mankind is a profound mystery. Why he has not given up on us is a question that may puzzle us for the rest of our lives. Surrendering and sacrificing his only Son signifies a love that probably none of us will ever fully understand.

Food for thought

Our mandate as Christians is to share with others
the message of salvation

Memory verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one
and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall
not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Unit 3 - Discussion

1. What is the key message of the Christian faith?

2. Do you find it easy or difficult to share your Christian faith with others?

Unit 3 - Journal

UNIT 4. GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Deuteronomy 31:8

Summary

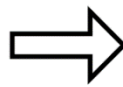
What is God's purpose for our lives? How do we go about discovering God's plan for us and what our next steps will be? It all begins with God. He makes his will known to us in various ways, within the intimacy of a personal relationship with him, through a process of prayer and revelation.

We now have a clear picture of what the Good News is that we are to share with people 'in the marketplace'. But where do we go from here? As Christians, we have a Godly assignment to pass on the message of salvation to those who need to hear it. Yet not all of us are naturally born speakers or pastors. Some of us are, but most of us are not. God, however, has given every single person certain skills and abilities that can be used to share Jesus' message with others.

We all have different gifts and we all have at least one area in our lives in which we excel. God does not want all of us to be preachers, nor does he want all of us to be leaders or administrators. You may be asking what your individual gift is and how God can use you in his service. How do we find this out? In order to get answers to these questions we need to look at things from God's perspective, not from our own. We need to start by turning to him in prayer. The key to finding God's will for your life is to be quiet before him and let him speak. Prayer is the key.



GOD'S PLAN FOR ME ?



PRAYER

The only way to find out what God's will is for our lives is to submit ourselves to him. Not part of us, but all of us. We must be prepared to lay down our own plans, our ambitions, our worldly hopes and dreams. Once we surrender all, God can begin to get our attention. He can begin to speak to us and begin to make known to us what his good and perfect will is for our lives. It all begins with God.

In the words of the theologian Oswald Chambers, we need the surgical operation of external events and an internal purification. It must be God first, God second and God third. To get to the point of

surrender is a matter of will, not of discussion or reasoning. The decision, to lay down our own self at the foot of the cross and to live in the light of God's grace, is ours; it is the freedom that God has given us. The decision to put God at the top of our list of priorities is ultimately our own.

God can be found in the stillness of our private communion with him. We need not come before him with many words. This is the time for us to be quiet and let God speak.

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19:12

The key to finding out what God's plan is for our lives, is to seek him in the silence of our inner room, in the quiet of the night and in the peace on the mountain top. It is in that precious moment of solitude and silence, and precious it is, that God may choose to speak to us. It is then that God might reveal his will for our lives in a flash, a thunderstorm or, more likely, in a gentle breeze.

Food for thought

God can be found in the stillness of our private communion with him

Memory verse

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Unit 4 - Discussion

1. In the busyness of life, how can you find time to reflect and pray?

2. Many of us do not have our own room or quiet place at home. How then can we spend quality time with God?

Unit 4 - Journal

UNIT 5. LISTENING TO GOD

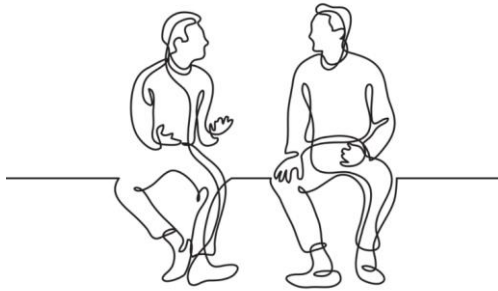
“Be still and know that I am God...”

Psalm 46:10

Summary

We want to hear from God, but do we really take time to listen to him? Do we give God the opportunity to speak to us? The key to finding God’s will for your life is to have a personal relationship with him, to be quiet before him and let him reveal his will to you.

Most of us have a tendency to rather listen to a preacher than to hear directly from God. We are no different than the people of Israel who preferred to listen to Moses, rather than to what God had to say to them. They were afraid of God and afraid of what he had to tell them. We go to church, and we hear the pastor speak. We attend a Christian conference to hear a gifted evangelist speak. We find it easier to be spoon-fed along with the crowd than to retreat to our inner sanctuary and take instructions directly from the source.



To get to know someone, we need to spend time with them

Do you have a special friend? Are you married perhaps? To get to know someone, we need to spend time with them, to cultivate and deepen our relationship. We cannot fully understand what people are about by just reading about them, or by listening to what other people say about them. The one sure way to learn about a person is to spend time with them, talk with them, listen to them, work with them, relax with them. So it is with God. Unless we spend time with him and with him alone, we may not hear him and not understand him. If we don’t spend time with him, we may never get to know his will and purpose for our lives.

God demands our silence. He demands us to be quiet and listen. Moses went up the mountain to receive instructions from God, about what to tell the people of Israel. Whenever Jesus wanted to connect with his Father, he withdrew to a quiet place. Before starting his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. Before walking on the lake, Jesus spent time alone with his Father on a mountainside.

Prayer is first and foremost a private matter. Our relationship with God does not start in public, not even in church, not in a choir, nor at a Christian conference. Recharging our battery with godly inspiration and vision is to be found in solitude, in the privacy of our inner room, with the door firmly shut.

This habitual connection with God leads to revelation and action. We always need to return to the harbour, to the quiet intimacy of ‘God and me’. That is our starting point; our watering well; our source of energy and inspiration. That is what makes us tick as Christians. That is what makes us bear fruit.

Jesus says:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” John 15:1,4

Pleasing God does not start with service; it does not start with worship and not even with preaching the gospel in public. All of these are outward expressions, merely symptoms and evidence of our personal living relationship with him.

In the busyness of life, it can be difficult to find a quiet moment. We rush and run from when we get out of bed until we put our heads down to sleep. Have you ever tried to sit down, close your eyes for three minutes and think of nothing at all? Sounds easy? Just try it and find out that it is not easy at all. Before long, your mind will wander to the kids at school, the pie in the oven and the car that needs fixing.

Restoration of our soul through fellowship with God the Father cannot be found in the hustle and bustle of life. The key to a closer walk with God is to be found in spending time with him and with him alone. We may have to learn or re-learn the skill of being still with God and receiving from God. Unless we master this, our efforts of reaching out to others will prove to have less meaning and less blessing, if any at all.

Food for thought

We need a personal relationship with God, in order to be effective witnesses

Memory verse

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Unit 5 - Discussion

1. Prayer is first and foremost a private matter. Do you agree?

2. What is the best time of the day to pray?

Unit 5 - Journal

UNIT 6. HEARING FROM GOD

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28

Summary

We need to be careful when we start listening to God. There is the danger that our wishful thinking and self-centredness gets in the way. Remember that it is all about God’s plan for us. God takes the initiative, and we are to tune in to him. We need to be critical and discerning when we pray, as we expect to hear from God.

How can we be sure that when God speaks to us, that the message we perceive is indeed from God and not a product of our imagination? How do we discern whether it really was God who was speaking to us? Here are a few pointers to test the validity of whether the call you receive is from God:

- The purpose of the call is ultimately to extend God’s Kingdom
- If there is any doubt in your mind, then God probably did not speak to you
- You will require great faith to undertake the assignment
- The task seems larger than you can handle
- Only God can do the task, you are merely an instrument in his hands
- The task will build on what God has already done in your life
- You may face a crisis of belief
- There may be a cost to your relationships with friends and family
- You will need to make changes in your life
- You will be totally dependent on God

You may be wondering what can possibly be the cost of being obedient to God, and following Jesus in his footsteps? You can be sure that, one way or another, there will be a cost. The cost will differ from task to task and from person to person. There could be a cost to do with relationships with your near and dear ones. At the first sign of you bringing up the gospel in conversations, your family and friends may wonder what has happened to you. At the slightest evidence of you being obedient to God’s calling, you may be labelled as being overenthusiastic or even fanatical. That is a cost. Remember that people generally don’t want change in their lives. Human nature is such that there will always be a resistance to change.

Stepping out in faith may have financial implications. It is one thing when you are a single person, but what about if you are married and have children? God may call you to leave your job and start a new venture ‘in faith’.

Do you remember the story of Zebedee in the Bible? James and John were busy helping their father when Jesus walked past.

“Going on from there, he [Jesus] saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”

Matthew 4:21-22

Do you think Zebedee was happy when that happened? Most probably not. He depended on his two sons for the livelihood of his family! What would his wife have said when he came home without the daily catch of fish and when he told her what had happened? There is a price to pay for following Jesus.



Will God call you to travel, or will he tell you to stay at home?

When you don't hear from God immediately, don't despair. When God is silent, he has his reasons. Do not become depressed when God takes his time, but rather anticipate great things about to happen in your life. Learn to be patient, expectant and God-centred. Learn to be sensitive to God's calling and remember that God's timing is always perfect. If you are faithful and patient, he will be faithful and speak to you when the time is right. Through your personal experience you will come to know God better.

Will God call you to travel, or will he tell you to stay at home? With God you never know. He may prompt you

to pack your bags and say your farewells, as he did with Abraham:

“By faith Abraham, when called to go... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country.” Hebrews 11:8-9

We may have to sacrifice the security of our home and loved ones and become strangers in a foreign country. But it can also be that God reveals to you that you should bloom where you are planted and that your mission is right here at home, among your family, friends and colleagues. God has a place for you. The task that God has reserved for you will always centre around a central theme, which is to share the gospel and bring people to faith.

Food for thought

We are pieces of the jigsaw puzzle of God's plan

Memory verse

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

Unit 6 - Discussion

1. When seeking God's will, how can you tell whether it is God speaking to you, or whether it is your own wishful thinking?

2. Do all of us have to pack our bags and travel to distant countries to preach the gospel?

Unit 6 - Journal

UNIT 7. REVELATION

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:13

Summary

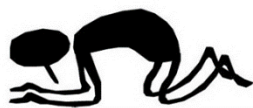
God reveals his will to us and we are invited to be obedient and surrender to it. Within the intimacy of God and us as individuals, God requires our undivided attention. This is where he may speak to us through his Word, through his Holy Spirit, or through a person.

How exactly does God speak to us? And how do we discern what God is telling us? How can we tell the difference between our own wishful thinking and what is truly from God? God can speak to us in many different ways. First of all, God speaks to us through his Word, the Bible:

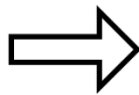
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible gives us guidance on many issues, including how to pray, how to deal with people, how to manage our finances, how to keep away from sin and much more. By reading and studying the Bible we learn who God is, who Jesus is, and who the Holy Spirit is. We learn how to walk in God’s ways and how to lead godly lives.

Many people see the Bible as a history book with stories of times when God spoke to people either directly or through prophets. But God still speaks to us even now, through his Word. When we study the Bible, we learn about God. When we pray diligently, we will hear from him. He will reveal himself to us, his purposes and his will. And as we do so, we will learn to trust him.



PRAYER



REVELATION

God still speaks to us today through pastors, teachers at school, our parents, our friends and sometimes through a stranger who we meet quite unexpectedly. God can choose to speak to us through music, songs, poetry and drama. He can speak to us through a nasty experience, through difficult circumstances, through a joyful event or through a person that we don’t get on with. God may speak to us through dreams and visions, as he did to Abraham and to Joseph. Our God is a God full of surprises. He will find you if you let him find you. As you pray, speak to God from your

heart. God already knows what is on your mind, so you can be honest with him. Your prayer can be simple and to the point.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Matthew 6:7

So how exactly do I find out what God has in store for me and what are the tasks he has set aside for me to do? If you sincerely seek God's will for your life, he will speak to you in a way that is uniquely meant for you. He will call you when you are ready to be called and when you are ready to hear his voice. God may reveal his will to you when you ask for it, but more likely at a time of his choosing, sometimes when you least expect it. He may invite you to join him in his work and give you a specific task. The task set before you will usually be related to a particular gifting that you already have. We will talk more about gifts later on.

Food for thought

God will speak to you in a way that is uniquely meant for you

Memory verse

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29:12

Unit 7 - Discussion

1. In the Old Testament, how did God speak to his people?

2. What are the ways in which God may choose to speak to you?

Unit 7 - Journal

UNIT 8. CRISIS POINT

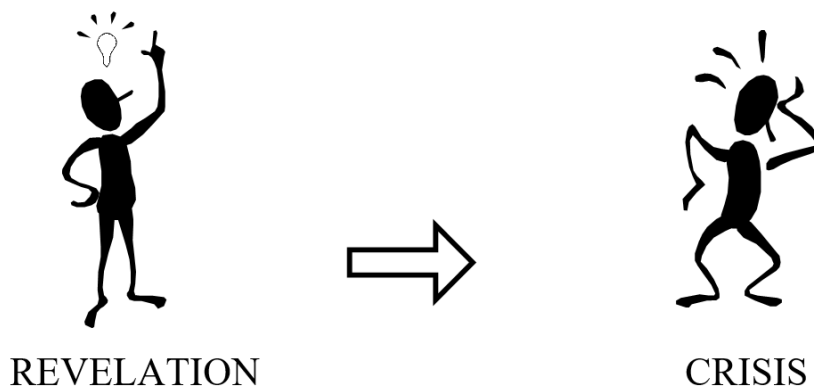
“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

Summary

A personal relationship with God and our desire to become more active in sharing the Good News, may lead us to a point of decision. That decision may affect our lifestyle or perhaps change our future. That can be quite scary. We may go through a crisis period in our life as we consider that what God has put on our heart. We may have to make choices and we may have to take a step in faith.

When it becomes clear to us how we can please God, and how we can join him in his work, it is then that we may face a crisis situation in our personal life. And a crisis it is! It is one thing to hear from God. It is quite another to take the plunge and actually do what God is asking us to do.



When God reveals his will to us, we may panic. Moses panicked when God gave him an assignment. Granted, it was no small task that God put before Moses (Exodus 4:10-13). He was told to go to Pharaoh in Egypt and tell him to release the people of Israel, who were being used as slaves.

When God had made it clear to Moses what was expected of him, Moses replied: “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” God was patient and spoke words of encouragement, but Moses tried to wriggle his way out with: “What if they do not believe me or listen to me...” and “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” When God insisted, Moses said: “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

Moses was very reluctant to do what God told him to do. There are examples in the New Testament also. The rich man was in a crisis when Jesus spoke to him:

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy." Luke 18:22-23

Oswald Chambers in *'My Utmost for his Highest'* says that the degree of panic is the degree of lack of spiritual experience. We panic because when God reveals his will for our lives, he doesn't bother with manageable bite-sized assignments. We prayed for clarity and purpose and now that we have it, we suddenly realise the consequences. That can be scary.



God may give you a task to do and that can be quite scary

God may tell us to give up our job and apply for another one. He may ask us to publicly confess our faith or become a member of a church and join a home prayer group. He may call us to go and work as a volunteer in another country. He may tell us to stay right where we are and get involved in the running of an orphanage. Our God is a god full of surprises. Be careful when you pray; you may get what you ask for!

Food for thought

Being obedient to what God tells us to do can be quite scary

Memory verse

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Unit 8 - Discussion

1. Why can it be a crisis for us when God sets us a task to do?

2. The bible tells us that there is a cost involved in following Jesus. What does that mean? What could that possibly mean for your life?

Unit 8 - Journal

UNIT 9. DECISION TIME

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding; in all your ways submit
to him, and he will make your paths
straight.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6

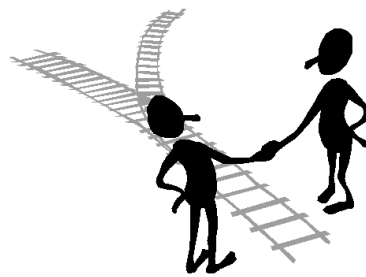
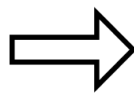
Summary

We have prayed, we have listened, and we have heard from God. We have come to a point when we realise that God has spoken to us in some way and that he has given us a task to do. We realise that this is not as easy as it sounds. We face a crisis, and we need to take a decision and be obedient.

The crisis that results from seeking God’s will, constitutes a turning point in our lives. It requires a decisive leap of faith to turn good intentions into concrete action.



CRISIS



DECISION

It is at this point that we decide to be obedient or not or, as the Bible puts it, whether we decide to be hot or cold. Remember the words in the last book of the Bible, words spoken to the Church in Laodicea:

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!” Revelations 3:15

These words apply to all Christians. In God’s Kingdom there is no room for lukewarm people. We are either fore it or against it; there is no grey area, no in-between.

The crisis in our minds in part originates from the fact that we fear losing the security of our present situation. We fear losing the comforts and routine that we got used to in our lives. Often, rather than being obedient, we decide to worry instead.

We need to remember that our Father in heaven knows what our needs are:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?” Matthew 6:25

Learn to trust God and he will not fail you. Let Jesus guide you in your decisions. This does not mean that everything will be easy from this moment onwards. God allows us to go through trials, but for one reason only; we learn to depend on him more.

One of Mother Teresa’s famous quotes is that God does not require us to succeed, but that he only requires us to try. Now may be the time for us to venture out and do things that we have never done before, in faith, in prayer.

Food for thought

We must stop using our rear mirror, but rather look ahead; too much we look back

Memory verse

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33

Unit 9 - Discussion

1. Share with the group, or with a friend: Do you take time to listen to God and hear what he has to say to you?

2. Would you welcome a word from God for your life, or would you prefer that everything stays the same as it is?

Unit 9 - Journal

UNIT 10. FAITH IN ACTION

“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.”

Psalm 25:4

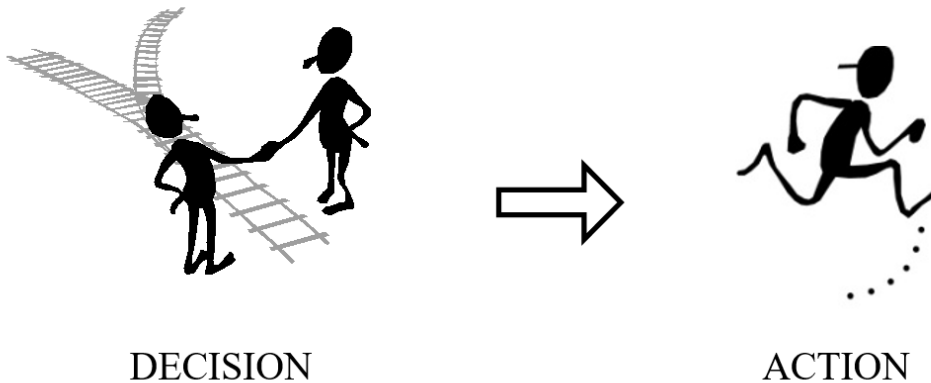
Summary

To hear from God and be obedient to his will for our lives, requires faith. Our faith develops by way of a personal relationship with God. Without that relationship there is no faith. Without faith there is no power. Without power, there can be no action.

Taking the step from revelation to decision and from decision to action requires faith. Lots of it. Faith is an attitude; a behaviour based on a personal relationship with God. The Bible defines faith like this:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

Remember that every decision we make is with God’s Kingdom in mind. Our decisions and actions are not primarily meant for our own benefit. Everything we do in obedience to God is about extending his Kingdom. Make no mistake; it is a huge step to take a decision that will change your life. And it is an even bigger step to stick with the decision that you have made, face up to it and see it through.



As Christians, can we have faith, yet not translating it into action? Can we enjoy God’s presence and joy in our lives and keep it all to ourselves? Will we ever reach non-believers by refraining from venturing out into the world? The Bible answers these questions:

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?” James 2:14

Stronger even:

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17

There are no two ways about it; faith is to be accompanied by action! Accepting what God has put on our heart and put it into action may require that we make some changes to our life. The adjustments that we have to make will depend on the nature of the task that God gives us.

Oswald Chambers has much to say about seeking God’s calling and subsequent obedience without hesitation: *“...If you debate for a second when God has spoken, it is all up... Be reckless immediately... Whenever the realization of God comes in the faintest way imaginable, recklessly abandon...”*

Responding to God’s call will require that we surrender to him and subsequently make adjustments to our circumstances, our commitments and our relationships with those around us.

Being obedient to God is costly; it is not for the feeble-minded. Are you ready for that challenge? Are you willing to be obedient and respond to God’s call for your life?

Food for thought

The Bible tells us that faith in God must be accompanied by action, otherwise it is of little value

Memory verse

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Unit 10 - Discussion

1. Perhaps we should just keep our Christian faith to ourselves. Would Jesus agree with that?

2. Being obedient to God could mean making changes to our job, our life or our lifestyle. Does that sound scary to you?

Unit 10 - Journal

UNIT II. REFLECTION

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Proverbs 19:21

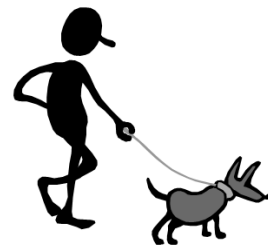
Summary

Once we have obeyed God and taken action, we need to take a moment to stand still and reflect. How did we do? Were we nervous about it? Was the task difficult or easy? Pray that God will reveal to you the next step to take.

Having been obedient to God’s call, now take a moment to reflect and look back. Prompted by what God has revealed to you in your moments of solitude, you have taken action in a way that is unique to your personality and to your individual gifts and abilities. Your plan of action has been made clear to you. You have come to realise how you can fit into God’s plans. You realise the need for you to be obedient. You know that God’s way is best.



ACTION



REFLECTION

You have gained experience, no matter how much or how little and you have learned from it. The meaning of the word ‘reflection’ in the dictionary is ‘to think carefully and quietly’. As Christians we are told not to look back, but rather to press on. But here is an exception to the rule. Think back how God spoke to you in the first place and hold on to that, because he will do it again.

Consider how God has revealed his will to you and how you faced a crisis situation of having to make a choice whether to be obedient or not. Consider how your faith has guided you when you took the decision to take action and how you had to make adjustments in your life. Ponder how the experience has grown you as a Christian and how you can be more effective next time around.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

God’s instructions to you are very personal. They are different from what he tells other Christians to do. That is because you are unique. Perhaps God lays on your heart an intermediate task for you, one that has to do with honing your skills and abilities in some specific area. Do you need to develop

certain gifts that will enable you to reach out more effectively? This is the time to reflect and seek God's guidance. Take time to talk with God and to listen to him.



Take time to reflect, talk with God
and listen to him

So, what's next? Let me assure you that God has even bigger things in mind for you. He always does. He will use you in ways that you did not think possible. What comes next is more of God's plan, more of you joining him. But the challenge may get bigger. God will entrust you with more and he will keep surprising you with his plans for you. Are you ready for that?

Food for thought

Even if you already have a plan for your life, God's plan for you may be quite different

Memory verse

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15

Unit 11 - Discussion

1. At this point, do you feel you have grown closer to God by putting into practice some of what you have learned so far?

2. Looking back, which topic, or which unit, was especially important to you?

Unit 11 - Journal

UNIT 12. LIFESTYLE CHRISTIANITY

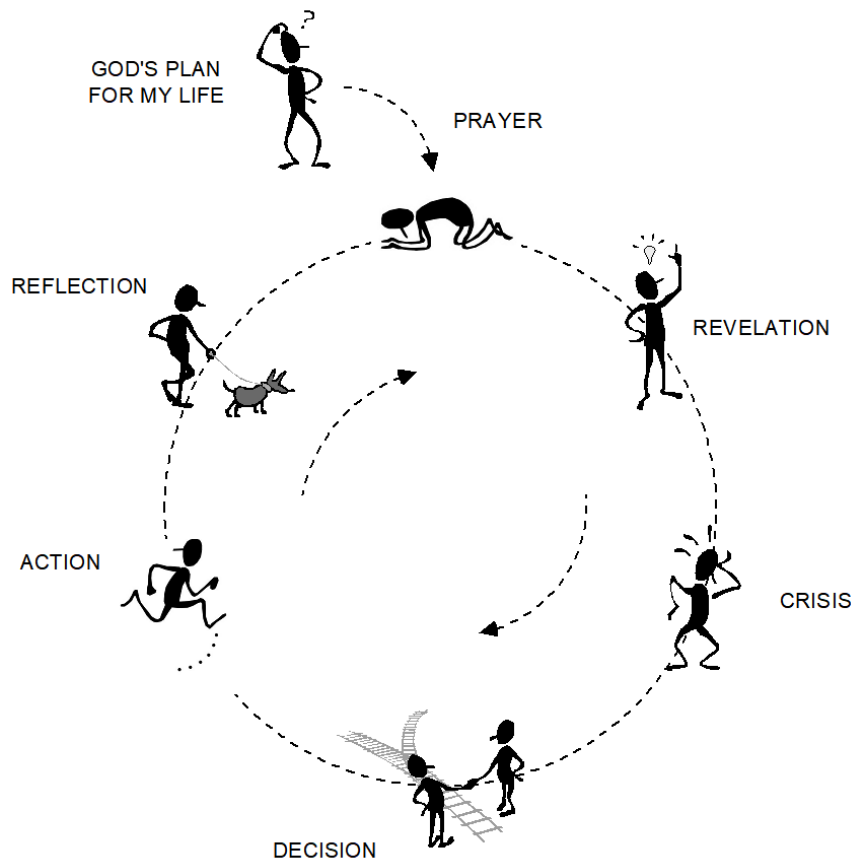
“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Matthew 5:14

Summary

Hearing from God and trusting him is a process of learning by doing. Actions speak louder than words. Lifestyle Christianity refers to an attitude that we as Christians develop, as we freely and spontaneously share our faith with others as opportunities arise.

Being obedient to God’s calling is not a one-off event, not a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We cannot lie back and relish a wonderful experience that we once had. Rather, having tasted the satisfaction and joy of being obedient to God, makes us want to do it again and again.



For Christians, sharing our faith ought to be nothing less than a lifestyle, something we do naturally like breathing and eating. Telling people about Jesus is a duty that we will always carry with us, regardless of our age, our circumstances and situation that we are in. Being obedient to God and act on his revelations is a recurring process.

As with many challenges and achievements in life, success leads to success and small steps lead to bigger steps. Once we have taken that awesome step of talking with a friend or stranger about Jesus, we will want to do it again and we will be looking for ways in which we can be more effective in

doing so. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and the only way to learn to do it is by actually doing it.

Being a Christian is a lifestyle. Sharing our faith is an ever-present personal attitude. It shows in our reactions to people and situations. It becomes evident in the way we interact with our surroundings.

The key to successful Christian ministry is to let God speak into our lives at every occasion and at every crossroad. With the apostle Paul we bring a message of hope and salvation to the lost:

“...We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.” Acts 14:15

Learn to be God-centred, rather than self-centred. Be sensitive to God-inspired opportunities. Remember that with God things are different. He does not conform to the ways of this world. Be patient and allow God to work through you; allow God to use you as a piece of clay and an instrument in his hands. Be sensitive to his calling, because sooner or later he will call you and then he will call you again. God does not need us. Rather, we need him. Jesus says:

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last...” John 15:16



Freely and spontaneously share your faith with others as opportunities arise

So, it is not about you, and it is not about me. God has a plan for us, a plan that fits into his greater eternal plan. We are given the opportunity to be God's instruments, the tools in his hands. God has the master plan, and we are his hands and feet. God has equipped us as such.

Like the apostle John, always remember that you yourself are not the light of the world. You are merely a witness who testifies to the light. Our ambition must always be to point people to Jesus.

Food for thought

For your life to have purpose, you need God

Memory verse

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23

Unit 12 - Discussion

1. Do you find it easy to be consistent and always maintain a 'Christian lifestyle'?
2. What can help you leading a 'Christian lifestyle'?

Unit 12 - Journal

UNIT 13. SHARING OUR FAITH

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

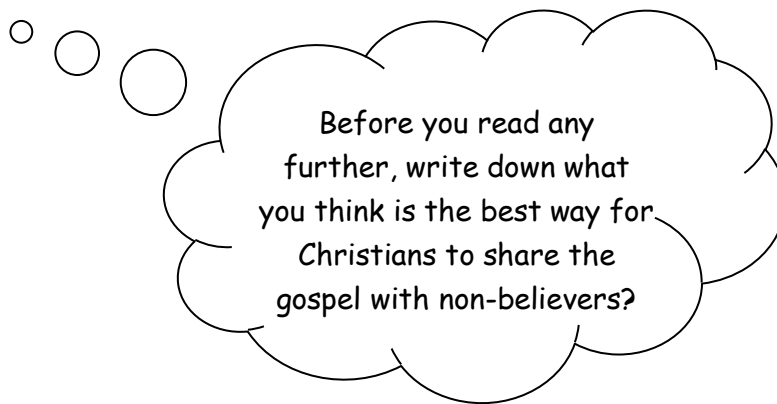
James 2:17

Summary

How do we go about sharing our faith with others? Some Christians travel wide and far to do God’s will, while most of us stay at home and bloom where we are planted. Let’s have a look at how Jesus went about sharing the Good News and find out why he was so successful.

The key message that we want to communicate is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the Good News of Jesus paying the price for our sins by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. The essence of the gospel lies in the forgiveness of our sins and God’s free gift of undeserved grace.

Once we have decided in our heart that this message of hope and salvation is worth sharing with others, the question arises as to how we should go about doing this. Can we communicate this message in such a way that non-believers will understand it and be drawn closer to God? Is there some effective way of making non-believers stop in their tracks and consider their eternal destiny?



Let’s have a look at how Jesus shared the Good News. What method did he use to get peoples’ attention? To find out, let’s turn to the New Testament and select a few instances of where Jesus interacts with individuals and how he addresses a crowd.

“So he [Jesus] came to a town in Samaria... Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well... When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’” John 4:4-26

The woman at the well did not expect Jesus to talk to her, as it was not the custom of that time and of that place to do so. But Jesus makes an exception and soon they are talking about him being the living water. Jesus also prophesies. He exposes the woman’s past by recalling her marital history.

Did you notice what Jesus did? A casual conversation about drawing water from a well turns into a conversation about eternal life. Jesus somehow turns the conversation from something practical to matters of faith. Let's look at another example:

“One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.” Luke 5:17

The story goes on to say that the people brought their sick to Jesus, including a paralytic. Jesus healed them and forgave their sins. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law then questioned Jesus and a discussion followed.

What can we learn from these examples? The first thing we notice is that Jesus had many gifts. With the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well he used his gifts of teaching and prophecy. In the second example, Jesus uses his power to heal the sick. The healing ministry of Jesus caused crowds of people to come to him. Some came with their sick and others simply came because they were curious. Once Jesus had the attention of the people, he would speak to them and teach them. In other words, Jesus actively created opportunities to witness by using his gifts.



Use your gifts to connect with people and create opportunities to share the gospel

Jesus used his gifts to connect with people and we can do the same. By faithfully exercising our individual gifts, skills and abilities, we can convey Christ' message of love to the people that we come into contact with. We will talk more about gifts in the next unit.

Our obligation as believers is to be ambassadors for Christ and spread the word, while living out the Christian faith by example. By putting our faith into action, we create opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, that is the life-saving message of salvation. We must do what Jesus demonstrated and instructed us to do.

Retrieve that piece of paper that you used earlier in this unit and consider what you have learned.

Food for thought

By putting our faith into action, we create opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ

Memory verse

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

Unit 13 - Discussion

1. Why was Jesus so successful in sharing the gospel? How did he do it?

2. Do you have 'gifts' that can be used to reach out and share the gospel with others?

Unit 13 - Journal

UNIT 14. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

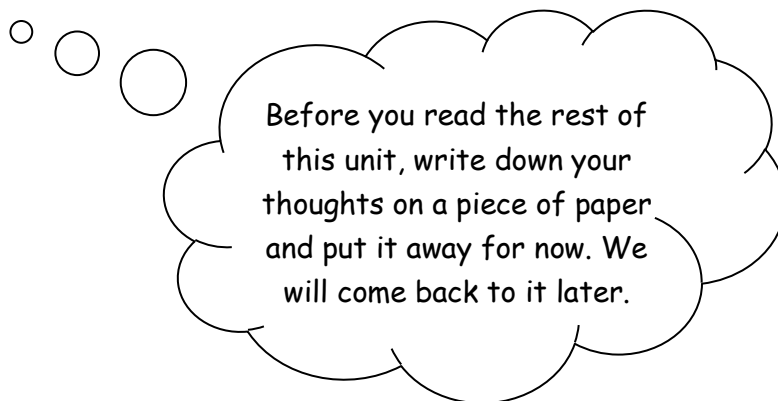
“And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.”

Corinthians 12:28

Summary

The Bible mentions many different spiritual gifts. All Christians have been blessed with at least one gift. This unit gives an overview of these gifts. Both in the Old and New Testament we find many instances of individuals blessed with spiritual gifts. Gifts can be used as a means to connect with people and provide an entry point to sharing the gospel.

Gifts can be used as a means to reach out to people. In the previous unit we saw how Jesus connected with people by using his gifts. Jesus had many gifts. He healed people, he taught them, he served them, and he encouraged them. Do you have a gift?



First, let us consider what scripture says about the different kinds of gifts. The Bible speaks of spiritual gifts and tells us that there are many other gifts besides healing and teaching.

The apostle Peter reminds us that we must use the gifts that we have been given:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

The list below gives an overview of the many spiritual gifts referred to in the Bible. The list is by no means complete.

Spiritual gifts

Prophecy	Healing	Evangelism
Service	Miracles	Pastoring
Teaching	Discernment	Exhortation
Giving	Compassion	Celibacy
Leadership	Tongues	Hospitality
Mercy	Interpretation	Craftsmanship
Wisdom	Apostleship	Music
Knowledge	Helping	Physical
Faith	Administration	strength

Bible references

Romans 12:3-8	1 Peter 4:9-10
1 Corinthians 12:7-11	1 Corinthians 7:7
1 Corinthians 12:27-30	1 Chronicles 16:41-42
Ephesians 4:11-12	Exodus 35:30-36:2

You may be wondering what your gift is and how God can use you in his service. Perhaps you think that you don't have a gift. But you would be wrong in thinking so. The Bible tells us that every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift:

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7,11

God will use you with your individual gift or gifts in mind. The Bible also tells us that spiritual gifts are given for the purpose of equipping believers to share the Good News.

Do bear in mind that spiritual gifts are not necessarily the same as natural talents, skills and abilities. Music, sportsmanship and artistic talents, for example, although gifts from God, may have been given to us purely to be enjoyed on a natural or social level. The test of true spiritual gifts is whether they nurture and benefit our personal relationship with God.

Retrieve that piece of paper that you used earlier in this unit and consider what you have learned.

Food for thought

The Bible tells us that each one of us has at least one gift and we are told that we must use it

Memory verse

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12:6

Unit 14 - Discussion

1. Can you give one or two examples of spiritual gifts that you can see in some of the people that you know?

2. What is your gift? Do you perhaps have more than one gift?

Unit 14 - Journal

UNIT 15. DISCOVERING MY GIFTS

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Corinthians 12:11

Summary

Our individual gifts and abilities are a means to connect with people and create opportunities for sharing the gospel with them. This unit explains the different ways in which we can find out what our individual gifts are.

How do we discern what the gifts are that God wants us to develop and use? How do we find out what God’s will is for our lives, and how we fit into his plans?

God is already at work all around us. We need to ask ourselves what our spiritual gift is with which we can join him, with which we can be used by him. The ultimate goal of all we do is to build the body of Christ and we are to help each other find our calling in Christ.

How do we find out what our spiritual gifts are and how can we come to a decision on how to use them? God uses different ways to reveal his calling for your life and he will speak to each one of us in a unique way, through:

a. Prayer

God wants us to know what our gifts are. Ask him to reveal his will for your life.

b. Reading Scripture

Read the Bible. Ask God to open your eyes and ears. Read about Jesus’ ministry and his instructions to his disciples. Read about Spiritual Gifts.

c. Reflection

Consider how God has used you before. Is there something, perhaps a social activity in your life at which you excel? Do you have certain qualities that have enabled you to communicate with others and opened up the way for sharing your faith? Think three B’s. Think *broad*, think *bright* and think *back*.

d. Consultation

Other people will often see more clearly what your gifts are; they tend to be more objective about you and your gifts. So, ask them. Speak to your friends, your pastor, your parents. Don’t hesitate to ask for advice from those whom you can trust.

e. Venturing out

You suspect you have a gift in a certain area, but you are not sure about it? Take a chance and put yourself in a situation so that you are obliged to use that gift.

The apostle Paul was a tentmaker and Jesus was a carpenter. Was making tents and furniture the vocation and purpose for their lives? No. Are you a nurse, a car mechanic, a shopkeeper, or a teacher? Are you a nurse who happens to be a Christian? No, you are not. You are a Christian who happens to be a nurse.

Mother Theresa said that while our vocation is to share the love of Jesus, many people mistake their work for their vocation. Therefore, you are no longer simply a teacher. You are a Christian whom God has given the ability to teach. You are a Christian who has been entrusted by God to minister and instruct others. We are to align our gifts and abilities with our calling from God. As followers

of Jesus, we are given the opportunity to live out fearless lives of influence in every sector of society. That includes you, whether you are a plumber, a pastor or a financial expert.



God has a unique plan for you

What does this mean for you and for me? Open your eyes and look around you. You will see that the need for non-believers to hear the gospel is everywhere. Open your front door, open the door of your heart, venture out of your comfort zone and God will reveal to you by his Spirit as to where and how you can join Him. God has a unique plan for you.

By now you probably know what your personal gift is. You have thought about it, prayed about it, and thought about it. There is at least one specific gift that God has given you, that you feel excited about right now. The time has come for you to use your gift and develop it.

Remember that the church is made up of different people with different abilities. We all play our part according to our strengths and gifts.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

You don't know where you fit in? You don't know yet what your gift is? Return to the desert, to the silence of you and God, to the solitude in which God can speak to you. Because he *will* speak to you, at his own good time.

Food for thought

God chose us, we did not choose him

Memory verse

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:17

UNIT 16. CHURCH COMMUNITY

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

Summary

Church is a group of likeminded people who meet to worship God and have fellowship together. Church communities and home groups within the church have an important role to play towards individuals. They provide fellowship, teaching, support, friendships and prayer. As Christians we cannot be little islands and function in isolation. This unit reflects on the importance of a supportive church community.

This guide is about Christian lifestyle and friendship evangelism. It is about how God wants to use us, as individuals, in our service for him. Does this mean that as Christians we can work in isolation? Can we reach out to non-believers as lonely crusaders without the backup and support of a church community? To answer these questions, let's consider what church is all about, and what the Bible says about this.

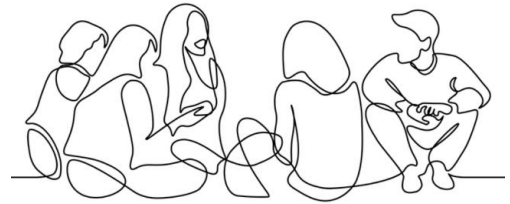
In the book of Acts in the Bible we find a description of the early church, which is the *Fellowship of Believers*. After Jesus was taken up to heaven, his followers got into the habit of coming together and devote themselves to teaching, and to the breaking of bread and prayer.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common.
Acts 2:42,44

The word church is derived from the Greek word 'ecclesia' which, when translated, means 'the called out'. The church therefore can be described as a *called-out* body of people. Put in a different way, the church is made up of followers or disciples of Christ. The church community provides individual Christians with both a home and a support system. The church is where Christians meet, pray and worship. The Bible makes it clear that for Christians to be a member of a church community is a necessity and a requirement, rather than a choice or a matter of personal preference.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

For the Christian individual, to be part of a church community is essential, because without that he or she cannot grow and become fruitful for God. The New Testament has much to say about the



As Christians we cannot work
in isolation

church and its purpose. The church plays an essential and integral role in the lives of Christian individuals.

Every believer needs to be part of a church. Your place is among individuals who together make up the body of Christ. You are an essential part of that body, and your individual gifts and skills are unique and essential. An intentional Christian understands the role of the local church and accepts it as the rightful platform from which to carry out God's plan for his life.

The church encourages and prays for their individual members who set out on a journey of faith. In return, individuals are accountable to the church body as they share their outreach experiences with them. The church provides believers with a springboard of opportunities to exercise individual gifts, whatever they may be.

Food for thought

Every believer needs to be part of a church
community

Memory verse

For where two or three gather in my name, there
am I with them.
Matthew 18:20

Unit 16 - Discussion

1. Do Christians have to go to church regularly?

2. What is the importance of church home cell groups?

Unit 16 - Journal

UNIT 17. C-A-T-C-H THE FIRE

“It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.”

Deuteronomy 13:4

Summary

Let’s get practical! Inspired by Jesus’ instruction to become fishers of men, we will adopt the acronym C-A-T-C-H to spell out an approach to reaching out to non-believers. Mind you, this method is only a guideline that may help you. Once you have used this technique a few times, you will find it easier to share the Good News with friends, family and strangers.

The C-A-T-C-H method is a technique for spontaneously approaching any person, whether they already believe in God or not. We start a meaningful conversation, which ultimately leads to the person reflecting on where he stands with God and on his eternal destination. When approaching a person, we start with any topic of conversation that seems relevant or interesting at that moment, in any situation that you find yourself in.



Approach a person and start a meaningful conversation

At some point the conversation turns to ‘things of God’ with the person being encouraged to consider his viewpoints and share with you where he stands with God and with the Bible.

This unit presents a step-by-step guide of how this works out in practice. Always remember that your motivation is based on your personal relationship with Jesus Christ and your decision to share the Good News with others. In doing so, you put your faith into action, much like Jesus did all the time. Keeping this perspective, equipped with God’s presence in everything you do, will guide you better than any method.

The Table below gives an overview of the C-A-T-C-H method:

	Step	Purpose	Ideas
C	Conversation	Start a dialogue, then somehow turn the conversation to God.	Walk up to a person and ask any question that seems relevant in a given situation; then ask a follow-up question that somehow connects to ‘things of God’.
A	Assessment	Find out where the person stands with God; does he see himself as deserving of heaven?	Let the other person talk about himself, ask questions that appeal to his conscience.

T	Ten Commandments	Make the person aware of God's high standards and that, by default, we all are destined for hell.	Ask the person to name a few of the Ten Commandments; then make him realise that we all have sinned in God's eyes.
C	Compassion	Make the person aware of the seriousness of the situation and make it clear that you care.	Appeal to a persons' common sense; ask him whether hell does not concern him, ask him what he is planning to do to avoid it.
H	Hope	Present the person with a way out – share with him the gospel of Jesus Christ.	Ask the person if he knows what God did for him, so he does not have to go to hell. If the person is ready for it, lead him through the sinners' prayer. Be a friend to him.

Again, this is only a guideline, and you don't have to follow it exactly. You can deviate from the suggested steps if needed. Every person that you will meet is different. Every conversation will be different. We can choose any time of day and any topic of conversation. Bear in mind though that, in order to keep focussed, it will prove helpful for you to have a step-by-step guide handy, at least to get you started. The C-A-T-C-H method will help you guide your conversation and to keep it on track.

Do you feel nervous, especially when you do it for the first time? You are not alone. The apostle Paul was not confident either, but God's Spirit was with him.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

In the long run, once you have shared your faith a few times, the way you approach people and talk with them about faith will become second-nature to you. It will become easier. You will no longer need a method or a guideline. The conversation and the logic in your reasoning will become automatic to you as you approach and interact with people.

Food for thought

You and me, we have a role to play; we are pieces of the jigsaw puzzle of God's plan

Memory verse

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

John 12:26

Unit 17 - Discussion

1. Do we really need a ‘technique’ or ‘method’ to reach out to people? Can’t we just be spontaneous in our conversations with non-believers?

2. Will God be pleased if you believe and trust in him with all your heart, but never share the gospel with non-Christians?

Unit 17 - Journal

UNIT 18. 'C' FOR CONVERSATION

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23

Summary

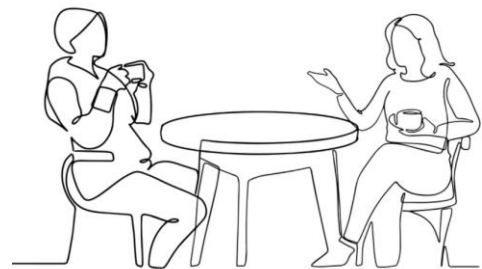
Walk up to a person and ask any question that seems relevant in a given situation; then ask a follow-up question that somehow connects to ‘things of God’. Sharing the gospel means that you have to take action, and that can feel quite awkward and intimidating. Prayer will help you and show you the way.

The first letter C in C-A-T-C-H stands for *Conversation*. We have to start a conversation with somebody. Many of us will find that difficult. We may think that walking up to someone and start chatting with them, for no apparent reason, will be seen as an intrusion on their privacy. However, you will be surprised that, in most cases, people respond kindly to being approached and being asked a few questions.

Are you nervous about starting a conversation with someone? There is no need for that. Remember, you have prayed about this, and you have been prayed for by fellow Christians.

So here we go, we walk up to someone and start a conversation! It will depend on the situation and circumstances what topic you choose to talk about. The key issue is that you need to make a connection with the person by means of a greeting, a question or a casual comment. So anything goes. The possibilities are endless, and your only limitation is your imagination.

Some people are better at starting a conversation than others, but somehow you need to break the ice. This is not as difficult as it seems. If you are at a bus stop, ask about a bus. If you are watching soccer, talk about soccer. Are you walking your dog on the beach, or are you a tourist in a foreign place, well that’s easy too. You get the idea. Your chosen topic of conversation will usually be relevant to the situation that you are in. Your first step here is simply to make a connection and start talking with someone.



Some people are better at starting a conversation than others

Now that we have established a verbal exchange, the next thing is *to turn the conversation to God or to a topic related to God*. How do we do that? How do we change the conversation from a casual chat about dogs or about the weather, to a conversation about God? Again, this sounds more difficult than it is. Much will depend on the situation that you are in.

For example, if you are in a town where you have never been before, you could ask: “I am new to this town and I am looking for a church, do you know of any?” Or “Can I help you with that?” Or

“Look at those beautiful flowers, isn’t God great to create them like that?” The possibilities are endless, and you simply have to find your own way and use your imagination.



Remember to always be truthful
and sincere

Some of us will already be involved in Christian outreach or missionary work of some sort, either close to where you live, or elsewhere. In that case it will be easier to start a meaningful conversation with somebody about your faith. If, for example, someone asks you why you are so upbeat and smiling today, tell them that God has blessed you. That will start a conversation.

Are you perhaps a teacher at a Christian school, or a volunteer in a mission project? In that case, you can simply tell the person about your motivation for doing the kind of work that you do.

Remember to always be truthful and sincere. Always be sensible and sensitive in the way you deal with people. If it doesn’t come from the heart, then don’t do it and don’t say it.

“Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:5-6

If you are exercising your specific gift in God’s service – we spoke about that earlier – then you will probably be able to make a meaningful connection with someone, with little effort. You will already have a reason for doing what you are doing, and this will give you an inroad to starting a discussion and leading the conversation to God.

Food for thought

Before you share your faith with others, pray that the Holy Spirit will be with you

Memory verse

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:35

Unit 18 - Discussion

1. Do you find it easy or difficult to start a conversation with someone about your faith?

2. When was the last time you shared your faith with somebody?

Unit 18 - Journal

UNIT 19. 'A' FOR ASSESSMENT

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

Summary

We have made a connection and started a conversation with someone. The next thing we need to do is to find out where that person stands with God. Is he a Christian or not? What does he believe? Does he see himself as being good or bad? Does he really understand what the gospel is all about? Ask questions that appeal to a persons' conscience.

The A in C-A-T-C-H stands for *Assessment*. We need to find out how the other person sees himself in relation to God. Your role is to encourage the person to talk about him- or herself. What we are trying to establish is whether the person believes in God, whether he sees himself as a Christian and whether he expects to go to heaven and why he thinks this may or may not be the case. The reason for this assessment is to lay the foundation for us to share the gospel. It may be so that the person already is a Christian, in which case we rejoice with him.

Many people regard themselves as 'good' and deserving of heaven. You will be surprised to hear that most people think quite highly of themselves. When asked, a person will often tell you that he tries to be kind to their fellow men and do some good deeds for the poor, and so on. Some people will boast about their good deeds and about all the things that they have done in their life.

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” Romans 12:3

Some people will tell you that they are environmental activists, or animal lovers or campaigners for good causes, and so on. You will often find that people love to talk about themselves. It is simply a matter of getting them started.

Many people believe that if they live good lives and do enough good deeds, that they will earn God's favour and earn a place in heaven. But this is not what the gospel tells us. As New Testament Christians, we know that this interpretation is a gross misconception and distortion of the basic truth of the gospel. It is our job to make this clear to the person who we are talking with.

You will also find that there are some people who will tell you that they do not expect to go to heaven. They see God as a ruthless judge, and they firmly believe that they are heading for eternal damnation. You will find that there are many viewpoints.



Don't think too highly of yourself

Still others have rather original and unique interpretations of what the Bible says. When you ask people about it, you will find that there are many different views of heaven and hell and as many interpretations and opinions of who will go one way and who the other. Much of this is un-biblical.

The subject of afterlife appears to be open for personal interpretation and we find much confusion and misconceptions both among Christians and non-Christians. It is up to us to convey the plain truth of the New Testament, put across the clear message of salvation and so bring clarity and focus to peoples' minds.

Food for thought

Listening is not always easy;
Lord, help me to be a better listener

Memory verse

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry.

James 1:19

Unit 19 - Discussion

1. Do you find it easy or difficult to listen patiently to another person?
2. If someone does not want to talk with you about his or her faith, then we simply have to accept that. Do you agree?

Unit 19 - Journal

UNIT 20. 'T' FOR TEN COMMANDMENTS

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

John 14:21

Summary

At this point, we are having a conversation with a person, and we have an idea of where this person stands with God. The next step is to ask the person to name a few of the Ten Commandments. Then we make him realise that we all fall short of God’s high standards. In God’s eyes, we have all sinned.

The T in C-A-T-C-H stands for *Ten Commandments*. Now that we have determined by means of a self-assessment where the person stands with God, it is time to move on and put the mirror of God’s Ten Commandments in front of him. We do this regardless of whether the person confesses to be a Christian or not. The purpose of this is to make people aware of the fact that we all fall short of God’s high standards, no matter how well we may think of ourselves.

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” Romans 3:9-12



We all have sinned and fall short of God’s high standards

The Bible tells us that nobody is perfect, not even one. We have all sinned and we are all in need of mercy and forgiveness. Some of us may, for a moment, think that we have managed to keep all the 10 Commandments, but think again. The Bible, in James 2:10, says “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking it all.” If you think that you have kept the Ten Commandments all your life, then waste no time and apply for sainthood!

The Christian who wants to share the Good News must first of all preach the bad news! We need to make the other person fully aware of the situation and steer the

conversation so that he himself draws the conclusion that by God’s standards he has broken the law and is guilty of sin. How do we do that?

We first ask the person if he has heard of the Ten Commandments and then we ask him to name a few. Most people are able to do this, even non-Christians. Following on from this, we ask him some questions related to some of these commandments. You have a choice, you can ask for example:

- Did you ever in your life disrespect your parents?
- Did you ever take something that was not yours?

- Did you ever misuse God's name?
- Did you ever tell a lie?

And so on. Remind the person that if he answered 'yes' to any one of these questions then he has broken God's law. Breaking God's law and not keeping his commandments is a serious offence in God's eyes.

Ask the person: "If God were to judge you today by the Ten Commandments, do you think you would be innocent or guilty?" If the response is "guilty", which it always will be, then ask if he would be deserving of heaven or hell? You will find that one of the most common responses to that question is: "Hell, I guess".

Food for thought

No matter how good a person you are, you always
fall short of God's high standards

Memory verse

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God, and all are justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24

Unit 20 - Discussion

1. How many of the Ten Commandments can you name?
2. Living a good life and doing as many good deeds as you can is all that you need to do to please God and deserve to go to heaven. Right or wrong?

Unit 20 - Journal

UNIT 21. 'C' FOR COMPASSION

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Colossians 3:12

Summary

We all fall short of God’s high standards. Make the other person aware of the seriousness of the situation and make it clear that you care. Appeal to a persons’ common sense. Ask him whether missing out on eternity life does not concern him. Ask him what he is planning to do to avoid that.

The second C in C-A-T-C-H stands for *Compassion*. The one thing that everybody recognises and values, is sincere concern and compassion. Christians need to have a genuine concern for the needy and the lost.

The apostle Paul had "great and unceasing sorrow" in his heart over the lost. We don't have to fake that feeling of compassion. Because someone missing out on eternity with God should stir in us a concern and emotion that motivates us and compels us to approach the person and give it our best shot.

The Bible does not recommend, but commands us that we should love one another.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

The overriding tone of our voice should be one of concern, with a sincere interest in the other persons’ eternal destiny. If the person is not yet saved or has the wrong idea of what the gospel is all about, tell him that you are worried about him. Say that you care, and you don't want him to perish and lose out on eternal life.

As we engage in discussion, we make the person aware of the seriousness of his situation. Appeal to the persons’ conscience and ask him whether or not it worries him that he will miss out on an eternity in heaven. If the answer is affirmative, ask the person what he plans to do about it.

At all times be sincere and show compassion. Speak from your heart, not just from your mind. The way to a persons’ soul and conscience is not by bashing him around the head or telling him how brainless he is. Rather show empathy and make it clear that you really care. Be kind and honest at all times.



At all times be sincere
and show compassion

If the person tells you that he is not sure whether there is a God or not, make him realise that he is taking a very big risk. Make the person aware that he may be missing out on a priceless gift, which is no less than spending eternity with God in heaven.

When you deal with non-Christians your task is to raise questions and to sow seeds of doubt. For the believer who is trying to earn heaven by way of good deeds, your task is make him aware of the dangers of that approach and the great risk of failure.

Food for thought

The Bible tells us to be sympathetic, to love one another, to be compassionate and humble

Memory verse

Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders;
make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

Unit 21 - Discussion

1. Do you find it easy to always be sympathetic and kind towards others?

2. How did Jesus show compassion? Can you give an example?

Unit 21 - Journal

UNIT 22. 'H' FOR HOPE

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

Summary

Now that we have made the person aware of the fact that we all fall short of God’s high standards and of the seriousness of the situation, we present a way out. Ask the person if he knows what God did for him, so he won’t miss out on eternal life. Share with him the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The H in C-A-T-C-H stands for Hope. Once the person has understood the consequences of failing to embrace God’s love and Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins, it is time to present him with a way out. There is hope for all of us, even in seemingly disastrous situations.

The apostle Paul rejoices in the hope of the glory of God as he recalls being justified by faith and so having peace with God.

‘Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.’ Romans 5:1-2

Once the person realises that there is very little hope for him, in terms of being deserving of eternal life, we ask him “Do you know what God did for you, so you don’t have to go to hell?”. Perhaps the person knows the answer to this question, which is probably the best-known verse in the Bible.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



It is up to us to explain the gospel in simple terms

But chances are also that the person does not fully grasp the meaning and enormity of God’s sacrifice of Jesus’ death on the cross. So, it is up to you to explain this and try to put it in simple terms, so that there is no misunderstanding in the persons’ mind.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross in our place, taking on him the punishment that we deserve. We must believe and accept with our whole heart that Jesus died for us and that he rose from the dead.

The reaction that you will get from a person to this message of hope will always be different. No two persons react in exactly the same way.

Sometimes the person will acknowledge that he will take the matter more serious. On other occasions the persons will simply walk away from the confrontation, and you will not know whether anything has been taken on board. It is also possible that the person leaves you with a simple “thank you”.

Whatever the case, there will always be an effect on the person that you meet, be it immediately visible or not, be it now or later. As it says in the book of Isaiah:

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

At the very least, you will have planted a seed of doubt and that’s what you set out to do in the first place. Don’t worry about an immediate result. Just be obedient and the God, through his Holy Spirit, will do the rest.

Food for thought

Jesus tells us that there is hope for everybody,
even for those who have made many mistakes

Memory verse

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will
be saved.
Acts 2:21

UNIT 23. THE 'SINNER'S PRAYER'

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Acts 3:19

Summary

At times, it may happen that the person you meet will accept the message of salvation and is ready there and then to take things a step further. He may be ready to pray with you, acknowledge his sins and accept God's gift of grace.

God's word promises us that every person who turns to God in genuine repentance and faith will be saved. Repentance means the forgiveness and forsaking of sin. You may have the opportunity to lead the person through the so-called sinners' prayer. There is no set format for the sinners' prayer, but the key elements are always:

- Understand that we are all sinners
- Accept that we need God's mercy and forgiveness
- Believe that God loves us
- Believe that Jesus died in our place and rose from the dead

If the person is ready for it, you can pray with him there and then. Let him repeat these words after you:

"Lord, I admit that I am a sinner. I know that I deserve the penalty for my sin. But now I have decided to trust your son Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I believe that Jesus died for me and so took my punishment upon him. From now on, I will trust in Jesus alone as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me and for saving me! Amen!"

The sinner's prayer should only be prayed when the person is truly ready for it. It is a prayer a person prays when he fully realises that he is a sinner and is in need of forgiveness. The sinner's prayer is only of value if it is truly meant; if it comes from a contrite heart.

Tell the person that God loves him very much and that there is great rejoicing in heaven over what he has decided just now.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

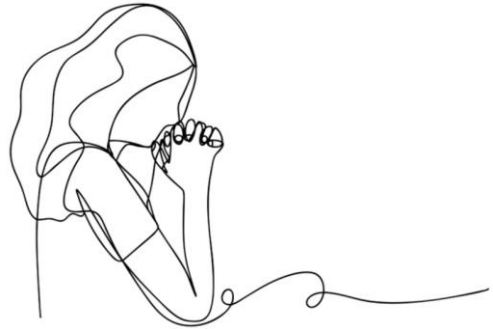
What is our next step? The new believer will see you as his mentor. It is your task to be there for him and make every effort to strengthen his faith. Let your lifestyle be an expression of your faith. To the best of your ability, share your knowledge of God and of the Bible with him. At the very least offer to pray for the new believer. If you feel comfortable with it, you can give him your contact details for when he wants to talk again or when he has more questions.

It is important that you persuade the new believer to find a church and attach himself to it for support and encouragement. It is essential to introduce new believers to other Christians as soon as possible, so they meet with others who love God and who are growing in their faith. Offer to take him to church, as well as to church-related activities and meetings. Joining a small group, also called home group or cell group, is an excellent way to grow our faith.

Also remember that many new believers do not follow through when they are left to their own resources. Make sure that you contact him again within 48 hours.

It is always a good idea to provide the new believer with some printed information, something suitable for those who have recently come to faith. Another idea, if you can afford it, is to buy a Bible for the person and give it to him as a present. The main thing is that you commit yourself to him as a friend, as someone who he can call on when necessary. Keep him in your prayers.

Be aware of the 'Alpha Course' that many churches offer. Alpha is an 11-week series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha runs all around the world and also online. Alpha creates a space where people can bring their friends to have conversations about faith, life and God. Ask your local church about it. Alpha can be the next step for a new believer, and for anyone who has questions about the Christian faith.



Keep the new believer in your prayers

Food for thought

Let your lifestyle be an expression of your faith

Memory verse

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in your heart that God raised him from
the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

UNIT 24. DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32

Summary

God wants to use us as messengers, to share the gospel of salvation with those who need to hear it. As God’s messengers we are put in a certain place at a certain time. But how to start? Prayer will show us the way and reveal opportunities.

Where and how do we start sharing the Good News? The key issue is that we need to be willing and ready to see and embrace opportunities. Pray at the beginning of each day that God will open your heart and mind and that you will see opportunities for sharing the gospel with someone.

Remember that God is already at work all around you. Pray daily that he will show you how you can fit into his plans, and where you can make a contribution. He will answer your prayer, he will open your eyes and you will know when and where you are needed.

Before you begin your mission of sharing the gospel, ask God for ‘divine appointments’. Ask him to point out to you who you should approach today and what you should say. Let God’s Spirit show you where there is a need and who has a need.

There are people out there who are waiting for you to talk with them, who are in need of compassion and understanding. God used prophets in the Bible, and he wants to use you also. The prophet Isaiah put it this way:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

We will not always see immediate results. We will not always be able to convince people of our message. It rarely happens that way. However, it is not about how many people we personally ‘lead to Christ’. Rather, it is our task to pass Jesus’ message of salvation on to those who need to hear it. The Bible says that we are to preach the gospel to all nations and that is exactly what our mission is all about. We plant seeds; no more and no less.

Many Old Testament prophets looked like failures. Their message often fell on deaf ears. Few prophets had an immediate impact on the people of Israel. It also happened that a prophet would hear from God and not even understand the message himself (e.g., Daniel 12:8-9). Prophets acted in obedience and became God’s spokespersons. God did not instruct them to go out and get immediate results. Rather, he



We plant seeds and God will do the rest

told them to be his mouthpiece and pass on a message. That is exactly what we are expected to do. No more and no less.

We are instruments in God's hands; we are his hands and his feet. We pass on a message and God will do the rest, as it is written:

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

We are called to make disciples, not just converts. Therefore, we share the full message of the gospel and not just part of it. We also encourage people to join a church congregation, so they continue learning about God's love and about the Good News. In doing so, we inform and equip those who we come into contact with. Evangelism is not complete until the evangelised become the evangelists.

People will react differently to our message. Jesus told a parable about seeds; there were some that sprang up quickly but withered, because the soil was shallow and they had no root, so the sun scorched them. But other seed fell in good soil where it produced a crop, a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Matthew 13:4-8). It is our task to explain to people the message of salvation and God will do the rest.

Food for thought

Evangelism is not complete until the evangelised become the evangelists

Memory verse

There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:7

UNIT 25. THE ENEMY

“Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6:11

Summary

There are many obstacles that keep Christians from becoming true disciples, the way Jesus intended them to be. We are faced with real enemies, such as our busyness, laziness and lack of confidence. Let’s have a look at some of these obstacles and see what the Bible has to say about them. In the next unit we will find out how Christians can overcome these obstacles.

Traditionally, Christians have referred to three enemies to every believer:

1. The World – temptations and pressures of the environment in which we live,
2. The Flesh – personal habits in the physical, mental, and emotional domain, and
3. The Devil – spiritual struggle, obstacles put in the way by Satan.

These are three powerful enemies that keep us from soaring like eagles, the way God intended us to. Every weakness that a person has can be grouped under one of these three enemies. Let’s look at some examples.



We battle with our physical, mental and emotional limitations

We sometimes joke about it and we quote the Bible, by saying that the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. In reality, we often battle with our physical, mental and emotional limitations. There is nothing new under the sun. The Bible is littered with people who struggled with their limitations.

Then there is laziness. Let’s face it, laziness may well be our greatest modern-day enemy. How often do we just prefer to sit on the couch, switch on the TV set and let the world pass by? Recent research in South Africa shows that TV watching is one of the most important ways of spending leisure time, the average daily watching time being 4 hours and 12 minutes! The Bible warns us against being idle and lazy:

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man. Proverbs 24:33-34

If not idleness and laziness, we sometimes blame our lack of talent for our lack of action. We say that God did not give us any special gifts. Think again and recall the parable of the talents in the Bible:

To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Matthew 25:15

Jesus teaches us that it is not about how big your talent is, but rather what you do with whatever talents you have.

Some of us are very busy and we don't have time to share the gospel. We try to manage our lives with family, job, studies, moving house, etc. Our list of excuses is endless. More often than not, life is just so busy and so full of troubles, pleasures and obligations, that there seems to be no time for God. Jesus has something to say about our dilemma and he gives an example in a parable:

He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Luke 9:59-61

Jesus' words imply that the person who is more concerned about his own welfare than about the Kingdom of God, is not worthy of ministry. For that reason, we cannot put God on hold. The time to make a commitment is now. Not tomorrow, not next week, not next year. The time to act is when God speaks to you.

A final example of obstacles standing in our way is the issue of eloquence, meaning fluency of speech, or rather the lack of it. Fact is that we cannot depend on our own communication skills and persuasiveness to win people over. Take heart, we are not the first Christians having to cope with that problem. The apostle Paul is one example of being a poor speaker (1 Corinthians 2:1). Another example is Moses who also had problems with eloquence and confidence.

Food for thought

We are faced with powerful enemies that keep us
from soaring like eagles

Memory verse

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show
that this all-surpassing power is from God and not
from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Unit 25 - Discussion

1. What are some of the obstacles that you may face once you decide to share the gospel with non-believers?

2. How can you improve your confidence in approaching non-believers and starting a conversation?

Unit 25 - Journal

UNIT 26. THE HOLY SPIRIT

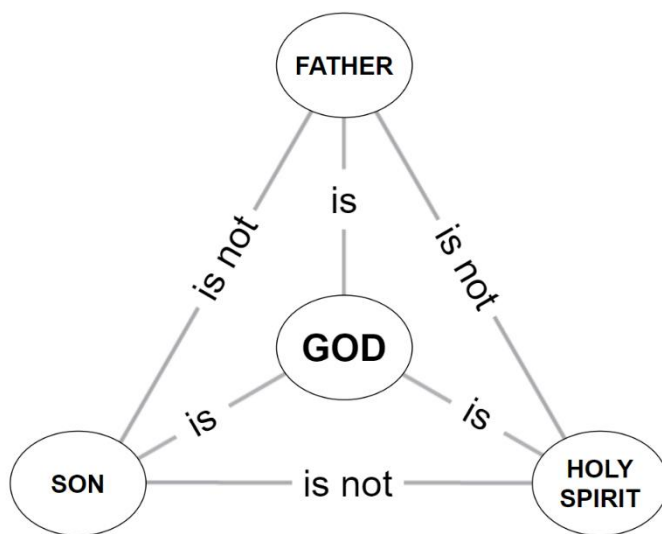
*“Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire.”*

Graham Kendrick

Summary

Christians can overcome the obstacles discussed in the previous unit. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare. God's Spirit working through us enables us to stand firm against the enemy. We are given the choice to either go out in our own strength or ask God to equip us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Without the presence of God's Spirit in your life, your attempts to share the gospel will come to nothing. No matter how clever, how articulate and how intellectual your arguments, without God's power, your efforts will prove to be in vain. There will be no fruit. Apart from Jesus we can do nothing. Without the Spirit of God, we are powerless.



So, who or what exactly is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is in fact God, just as the Father and Jesus are God. All the divine attributes that apply to the Father and to the Son are equally associated with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person equal in every way with God the Father and God the Son.

It is only with the help of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to understand the things that come from God.

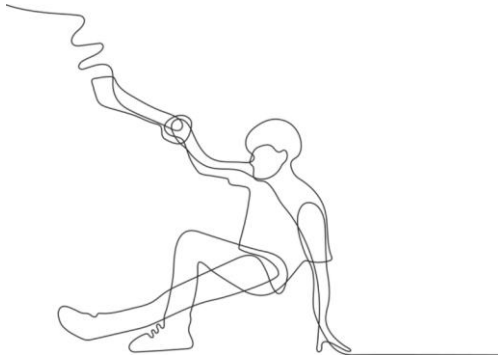
The Holy Spirit is a real person, given to us by the Father, after Jesus rose from the grave and ascended to heaven. Jesus promised his disciples that he would ask his Father to give them a Counsellor to be with them for ever - the Spirit of truth:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:16-18

The Bible tells us that when a person confesses his sins and believes in the resurrecting power of Jesus Christ, God Himself will reside in that person by way of his Holy Spirit.

God's Holy Spirit is not a feature unique to the New Testament. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was announced long before Jesus came to earth. In the book of Joel, it says:

I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29



We need all the help we can get

Do we really need the Holy Spirit? Do we need to be equipped for service in this way? Is it not enough for us to know about the message of salvation, to memorise a few key Bible verses and be prepared to answer some tricky questions? No, that is not enough.

Make no mistake, there is a battle going on around us and we need all the help we can get! The devil, the prince of darkness, does not want you to succeed in your mission. He does not want you to share your faith with others and he does not want the gospel to reach all the corners of the earth.

Listen to what Paul has to say to the believers in Ephesus:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

The devil will do everything in his power to put up barriers and obstacles to make your life difficult, as you set out on your mission in obedience to Christ. The good news is that we know the ending. Satan has been defeated. Defeated by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross!

The presence of the Holy Spirit will empower and guide you as you connect with people, share your faith with them and explain to them the message of salvation.

Food for thought

We need the Holy Spirit to be effective and to stand up against the schemes of the devil

Memory verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

UNIT 27. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”

2 Timothy 4:2

Summary

In this unit we look at some real-life examples of conversations with friends and strangers. We will discover how the C-A-T-C-H method can help us start a conversation and stay on track. You will notice that every conversation is unique, and that the outcome is always different. But in all the examples a seed has been planted and God will do the rest.

Example #1 The next-door neighbour

John makes contact with Stephen, his next-door neighbour. Although John had lived next-door to Stephen for several months, he had never spoken with him. One day, John picks up the courage and decides to break the silence. He walks up to Stephen, who is busy tending to his flower garden.

Dialogue		C-A-T-C-H
John:	Hello, can I introduce myself, my name is John. I am your next-door neighbour.	<p>C = Conversation</p> <p>Start a conversation, and somehow turn the conversation to God</p> <hr/> <p>A = Assessment</p>
Stephen:	Sure, you can. I am Stephen.	
John:	Nice to meet you. I can see you are busy doing some gardening.	
Stephen:	Yes, there are weeds everywhere! But I enjoy gardening.	
John:	These flowers are beautiful, look at those colours!	
Stephen:	They are indeed, I am very proud of my garden.	
John:	Stephen, speaking of flowers, can I ask you a question?	
Stephen:	Sure, go ahead.	
John:	I was talking with a friend the other day and his theory was that nature and everything we see around us originates from a big cosmic explosion, zillions of years ago. Personally, I find that hard to believe, what do you think about that?	
Stephen:	Well, I am not sure. I somehow believe in the theory of evolution, but then again, I can't be sure.	
John:	For me the easiest way to explain it all is to believe in God the Creator. The way I see it, is that a creation needs a creator. Don't you agree? Much like your house and your car – they did not come about by chance, did they?	
Stephen:	That's an interesting way of looking at it, John. But I am not really sure about God's existence, so I don't really know.	
John:	Well, I do believe in God. Stephen, can I ask you a different question. If you had to judge yourself, would you regard yourself as a good or as a bad person?	
Stephen:	Good, I think. Well, most of the time, I think. I try to be good and be kind to my friends and family. My wife and I support a local orphanage, so we do something good for our community.	

John:	Stephen, you say that you are not sure whether God exists. Assume for a moment that he does exist. In that case, do you think that you would be deserving of heaven?	Ask a question, listen and evaluate
Stephen:	Tricky question that, but yes, I think so. I haven't committed a serious crime or anything like that.	
John:	The problem is, Stephen, that God's standards are very high. For example, did you ever in your life steal anything? An apple from a tree perhaps, or some stationery from the office? Did you ever misuse God's name?	T = Ten Commandments
Stephen:	Well yes, but surely, we are all guilty of things like that...	God's high standards, we all fall short
John:	Precisely. That is why, by default, we are all destined for hell. Sounds radical, but the Bible is quite clear on that.	
Stephen:	Put that way, it sounds quite serious.	
John:	And indeed it is. The Bible says that nobody is deserving of heaven, because we all fall short of God's high standards. Stephen, I am telling you all this because I don't want you to miss out on eternal life and perish.	C = Compassion
Stephen:	Don't worry about me... (smiling).	Express concern
John:	Did you know, Stephen, that God has given us a way out, a way of staying out of hell and avoid eternal suffering?	H = Hope
Stephen:	Which is...?	Explain what Jesus did for us
John:	God sent his son Jesus into the world to pay the price. He died in our place. Whoever believes in Jesus and asks for forgiveness of his sins will be saved. All it takes, Stephen, is for you to admit that you are a sinner and that you are in need of God's mercy and grace.	Follow-up, pray
Stephen:	Woah, that's a lot to take in, John. I came here to do some gardening and now you are telling me that I am heading for hell. Let me think about it, ok? Thanks for stopping by.	
John:	Bye Stephen, nice to meet you. I will pray for you. Just knock on my door if you want us to talk a bit more. I've got a cup of coffee waiting for you.	

John met Stephen again a few days later, at a pizza take-away not far from where they lived. It became obvious to John that Stephen had been doing some thinking. Their conversation had given Stephen food for thought. At the pizza place, John mentioned to Stephen that he is welcome to come along to church one Sunday. John explained where the church was. John moved house a few weeks later and he has not heard from Stephen since.

Does this mean that John has failed in his effort to share the gospel with Stephen? No, it does not. Was it John's goal to make Stephen take a decision there and then and accept Jesus as his saviour? Well, that would have been nice, but that did not happen. But a seed was planted, and God will do the rest. Someone else may speak to Stephen about faith. Stephen might one Sunday decide to try his local church. We don't know. John continues to pray for Stephen, that one day he will meet with the living God and that he finds true joy. Joy that goes far beyond his flower garden.

Example #2 Wheelchair Charlie

In a busy shopping street, John sees a young man named Charlie, in a wheelchair. Charlie sits there day after day, shaking a tin can and asking people for some coins. John decides to have a chat with Charlie.

John:	Hello there, what's your name and what are you doing in a wheelchair?	C
Charlie:	Hi, I am Charlie. I had polio since I was a child, so that's why. A few pennies please?	
John:	Charlie, can I ask you a question? Do you believe in heaven?	
Charlie:	Sort of, I don't really think about it that much.	
John:	If you could trade your wheelchair for a place in heaven, would you do it?	
Charlie:	Sure, but I am not sure if I would be allowed there, I haven't been much of a Christian with my polio and wheelchair and all that. I don't go to church and I doubt it very much whether God loves me.	A
John:	None of us deserves to go to heaven Charlie. But what I do know is that God loves you and that he wants to take a place in your heart.	T
Charlie:	Are you a preacher or something?	
John:	No, I am not. You know, there was a time in my life when I wasn't so sure either. I didn't really understand God. But then one day someone spoke to me about Jesus and how he had taken my sin upon him on the cross and that all we have to do is to believe that and accept God's forgiveness. That goes for you too Charlie.	CH
Charlie:	Is it really that simple? Even if I decided to believe what you are saying and accept that, what could I possibly do for God here sitting in this wheelchair the whole flippin' day?	
John:	You don't have to do anything for God, Charlie. Nevertheless, God will show you what you can do for him. All you have to do is ask him. I imagine, there is lots that you can do from your wheelchair. People often stop to give you some money, right? There is a lot of opportunity for you right here on the pavement to tell people about Jesus, and so you can make God smile!	
Charlie:	Well, thanks for stopping by John. You have certainly given me something to think about.	
John:	One more thing Charlie. God really wants you to be with him for eternity. Do you know what to do to deserve heaven?	
Charlie:	Well, I guess not to sin anymore and tell a couple of people about Jesus?	
John:	Not quite. We will always sin, such is our nature. You must try not to, but sooner or later you will trip up. What you have to do first is to confess that you are a sinner. Then decide that you will put your trust in Jesus and believe that he took care of all your sins, by dying on the cross. God is waiting for you Charlie, and he is ready to forgive you.	
Charlie:	Do you really think God can use me?	
John:	No doubt about that, for that very purpose God may have put you here in your wheelchair. Think about what I told you Charlie. Take it seriously and it will change your outlook on life and that's a promise!	
Charlie:	Will I see you again sometime?	
John:	Sure. Do you have a Bible? Can I perhaps buy you one?	

And that was more or less where their conversation ended. When John walked away, Charlie followed him with his eyes. We cannot be sure what went through Charlie's head and whether the

conversation had made an impression on him. But John feels quite sure that God had not finished with Charlie yet.

As for following the C-A-T-C-H method, you will have noticed that John was rather flexible with following that. That is perfectly fine. C-A-T-C-H is only a guideline; it is there to help us. In the case of Charlie, John somehow went straight to the point, seeing him sitting in that wheelchair. John felt a compassion for Charlie, and he wasted no time in sharing the Good News.

Example #3 Ruben, the night watchman

John had read about a comet in the night sky. For several weeks the comet would appear for a couple of hours in the early evening. Together with some neighbours, John stood outside his house and he got talking to his night watchman, named Ruben.

John:	Wow, do you see all those stars Ruben?	C
Ruben:	Yes, there must be millions of them.	
John:	Can I ask you Ruben, do you believe that God created the stars and the rest of the universe?	A
Ruben:	Yes, of course I do. He created everything we see around us. He created the earth, the sky and the universe.	
John:	I agree with you Ruben. Do you also believe that God has a plan for all of us, including you? Do you believe that you will spend eternity with him?	
Ruben:	Well, I am not so sure about that. That is up to God to decide when I die and get to the crossroad of heaven and hell.	
John:	Indeed Ruben, we all fall short of God's standards. But did you know that there is a way that you can be sure that you will go to heaven?	T
Ruben:	We can never be sure.	
John:	The Bible tells us that Jesus died for our sins. If we firmly believe that and accept God's grace, we will go to heaven. That is what the Bible says.	C H
Ruben:	Look over there, the comet!	
John:	Wow, I can see it clearly.	

John realised that this time he did not get very far with Ruben. He needed to speak with him again. But that would not be difficult, because Ruben was always there at night, guarding his house.

Example #4 John's Baha'i friend, Sirpa

Walking his dog in the forest one day, John unexpectedly ran into his friend Sirpa. It was a beautiful day, with the sun streaming through the tall trees. Sirpa commented on what a perfect place the forest was for meditation and how she enjoyed walking her dog. Her comment presented John with an opportunity to talk with her about matters of faith.

John:	Meditation... hum... interesting. Tell me a bit more about that, Sirpa.	C
Sirpa:	Well, I have recently joined the Baha'i faith. I used to be Muslim before that. Walking here in the forest gives me a chance to connect with my religion and contemplate spiritual matters.	
John:	Tell me, what does the Baha'i faith teach?	A

- Sirpa: The Baha'i faith teaches that there is one God, that all humanity is one family and that there is a fundamental unity underlying all religions. Our prophet Baha'u'llah affirms that this is the age in which world peace will be established.
- John: What does Baha'i teach about heaven and hell?
- Sirpa: Heaven and hell are spiritual realities, symbols for nearness and remoteness from God. When we die, the condition of our souls determines our fate in the afterlife. We have a book of laws written by Baha'u'llah. It comprises 100 volumes of laws and principles for personal conduct.
- John: If I understand you well, Sirpa, as a follower of the Baha'i faith, you must try to live by these laws and principles, since your destination for afterlife depends on it?
- Sirpa: More or less, yes.
- John: Sirpa, can I tell you a bit about my Christian faith and how my expectation of heaven and hell has a big difference with your faith?
- Sirpa: Go ahead, tell me about it.

T C H

What followed was a few minutes of monologue with John telling Sirpa about the foundations of the Christian faith and the freedom that can be found in Christ. He told her about Jesus being the only way to the Father. He told her about the forgiveness of sins and God's amazing grace. He told her about heaven and hell and his concern for her. Sirpa listened patiently and when they parted, they agreed to continue their discussion some other time. It is difficult to say whether Sirpa had been touched in any way by her conversation with John.

Food for thought

By putting our faith into action, we create opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ

Memory verse

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

UNIT 28. LESSONS LEARNED

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

Acts 20:24

Summary

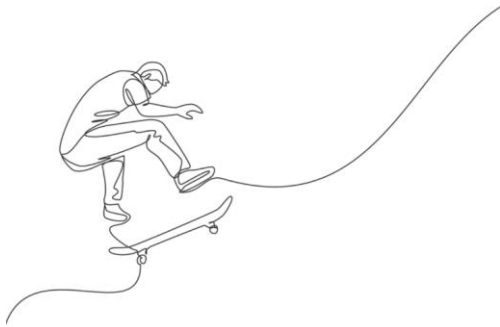
In the previous unit we have seen four examples of discussions between a Christian and people from different walks of life. Most people believe in a god, but they are not so sure about it, or they have a very different point of view. In this unit we will look at what we can learn from these encounters.

We have seen four different encounters, four different experiences. Our friend John is learning by doing and he is doing quite well. We noticed that each conversation starts in a different way, depending on the circumstances. Each encounter had a different outcome. That’s very exciting. Evangelism is never dull. Not only did John manage to approach these individuals and talk about faith; he also made new friendships and strengthened existing ones.

Now it’s time to evaluate. Let’s have a critical and honest look at the way John’s encounters went. Can we learn from it? Looking back at the conversations that John had with these people, we notice that:

- How to start a conversation, and the topic of conversation depends very much on the circumstances of the moment;
- Sometimes there is no need to start a conversation with the intention of changing the topic to faith. With Sirpa, the opportunity just came about without any deliberation on John’s part. John never planned to approach Sirpa and talk about faith, it just happened;
- John finds it easy to make people talk about themselves and learn about their point of view regarding matters of faith. It is good practice to give the other person the opportunity to talk, which will give you an idea of where the person stands with God;
- Once John had overcome his initial inhibitions, he found the dialogue and discussions quite relaxed and enjoyable. It was easier than he had expected;
- Once the conversations got going, John was quite confident. He knew what to say and he was sensitive to the needs and circumstances of the other person;
- For John it was important to keep the conversation on track. John had a clear idea of in which direction he wanted the conversation to go;
- The C-A-T-C-H methodology helped John to start, stay on track and remain focused. It helped him to avoid an endless discussion about details. The questions that he asked were meant to steer the conversation into a certain direction;

- The conversations did not turn into a battle of wills. Rather, sincere compassion and concern on John's part stimulated the conversations.



As with all skills in life, practice makes perfect

We also notice that none of the four people in these examples made a complete U-turn and committed their lives to Christ there and then. Should that worry us? Does it mean that John has failed in his effort to share the gospel with them? Not at all. Is there room for improvement and could John have done things better? Possibly, yes. Did John plant seeds of doubt in people's minds and make them reconsider their options? Most probably. Has John been obedient to Jesus' command to preach the gospel? Yes, he has. Will John have made God smile as he tried to share his faith? Yes.

As with all skills in life, practice makes perfect. So it is with sharing the gospel. If you are a member of a church home group, it may be a good idea to do some role-play. How does that work? One person in the group volunteers to take on the role of the person who starts a conversation about faith, while somebody else pretends to be the other person. The rest of the group observes and then take their turn to act. It certainly helps to practise and all the better to practise together with fellow Christians. The best part of it is when the group shares real-life encounters with each other.

Food for thought

Talking about and sharing your faith is a skill that you can learn

Memory verse

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
John 15:8

UNIT 29. LEARNING BY DOING

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less travelled by,
and that has made all the difference.”*

Robert Frost

Summary

Action speaks louder than words. This unit challenges us to make a choice to either hold back or to move forward and be more on fire for God. Examples are given of people in the Bible who had to make choices and take decisions whether to be obedient to God’s calling, or not. Today, billions of people still need to hear the message of salvation. Jesus calls us to action.

The saying goes that ‘the proof of the pudding is in the eating’. That means that the best way to find out and learn something is to test it out for yourself. It is the same with sharing your faith. The more you do it, the more it becomes second nature. The time has come for you, dear reader, to take a decision and put what you have learned into action. Remember that you are not alone. Moses told Joshua:

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8

There are many stories in the Bible of people who were called to be obedient to God’s calling. Some of them must have found that difficult at times. Think of Noah who decided to be obedient to God and build a boat on dry land. Think of Abram whom God called to pack up and leave his country. Then there is Jacob, Moses, Joshua and so on. Men of God, who were obedient to what God told them to do.

Further on in the Bible, the prophet Nehemiah was faced with an enormous challenge when he saw the walls of Jerusalem in total disrepair (Nehemiah 2:13-15). He could easily have walked away from the task. But notice how Nehemiah tackled the problem. First, he studied the situation and found out what the problem was. Then he fasted and prayed. As he prayed, he confessed the sins of the people and then asked God for help.

Nehemiah gives us a good example of how to go about a task set before us. We need to realise that no decision is wise if it’s made independently of God. Reading the Old Testament, we discover that the people of Israel made some terrible decisions, simply because they left God out of it.

Learning is a blessing from the Lord. Are you growing in your knowledge of God and his Word? Pay attention when your parents, teachers and pastors share their knowledge and experience. The capacity to learn is a gift, but the willingness to learn is a choice. Listen to older people. Most people



Taking a decision that may change your life
can be difficult

who have made mistakes don't want you to make the same mistakes, so they are most willing to share their wisdom.

In the New Testament we read about Jesus preaching the gospel of repentance and salvation. Jesus is the greatest teacher of all times.

Jesus never forced anyone to join in his work. Rather, he invited people by saying: "Come, follow Me." As a result of the preaching of the disciples and of those who came after, many more people chose to become followers of Jesus.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:29-30

Always be ready to learn. As you walk in obedience to God, you too will become effective in sharing the Good News with individuals that God puts on your path.

Food for thought

The capacity to learn is a gift; the willingness to learn is a choice

Memory verse

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice.

Philippians 4:9

UNIT 30. PERSEVERANCE

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

Summary

As Christians we are called to obey Jesus’ command to follow him. We are called to persevere as we share the message of salvation with our fellow human beings. This requires that we make a life-changing commitment to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. We are the salt of the earth and light in the darkness. We are the messengers of hope and bearers of good tidings.



Congratulations, you have arrived at the finishing line

Congratulations, you have arrived at the last unit. You have persevered and completed this guide!

You may have discovered that the purpose of this publication is not only to reach out to non-believers. There is a second reason, which is the desire of the authors that your life also will be touched, that your life will change and that you as an individual are given a new direction and a new sense of purpose for your life. You are called to run the race and persevere until you reach the finishing line.

We truly hope that you are ready to commit or re-commit your life to Christ. You may be standing at a crossroads, not knowing which way to turn. You may have to take a very important decision, one that will change your life and the direction it will take from this point forward.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

You are needed in God’s ministry, and you are called to persevere in being obedient to Jesus’ command. The apostle Paul knew all about perseverance:

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Acts 20:24

The apostle Paul had a clear goal in his life. He had the gospel to preach. He had a race to run. We also are called to run the race.

Sadly, most Christians do not actively share their faith with non-believers. Yet, there are so many people worldwide who still need to hear the message of salvation. The statistics tell us that just 31%

of the world population are Christian. In other words, 69% are not! With a world population of around 8 billion people, this means that 5.5 billion people do not know Jesus Christ as their personal saviour!

Not everybody will be ready to accept our message. But at least we will have been obedient in having shared the message of salvation to our fellow human beings. We will have shown compassion and concern.

Jesus calls us to follow him. If we, Christians, don't go out and proclaim the Good News, then who will? Jesus calls his followers to be the salt of the earth:

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Matthew 5:13

Jesus also tells us to let our light shine:

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

May the good Lord bless and keep you. May you persevere as you run your race and climb your mountain. May you discover God's purpose for your life and realise your boldest dreams.

Food for thought

God has given us the freedom to choose

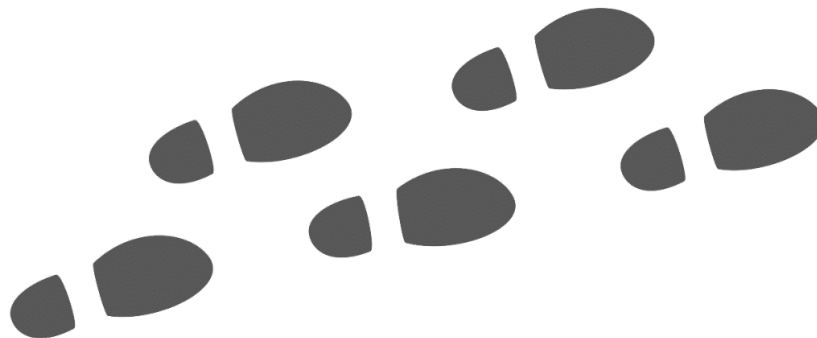
Memory verse

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Hebrews 12:1

FIVE STEPS

5 STEPS TO...

SHARING THE GOSPEL



BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

We suggest that you learn some of these Bible verses by heart. They will prove very useful to you during conversations and discussions.

Unit	Bible Reference	Memory Verse
1	Luke 10:2	The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
2	Ephesians 2:8	For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
3	John 3:16	For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
4	John 8:12	Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
5	Matthew 11:28	Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.
6	James 1:22	Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
7	Jeremiah 29:12	Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
8	Philippians 4:6-7	Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
9	Matthew 6:33	But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
10	Hebrews 11:1	Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
11	Mark 16:15	He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
12	Proverbs 4:23	Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
13	Matthew 25:40	Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.
14	Romans 12:6	We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.
15	James 2:17	In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.
16	Matthew 18:20	For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
17	John 12:26	Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.
18	Mark 8:35	For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.
19	James 1:19	My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.
20	Romans 3:23-24	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
21	Colossians 4:5	Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.
22	Acts 2:21	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
23	Romans 10:9	If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
24	Luke 15:7	There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

