

DISCIPLE MAKING SEMINAR



Facilitator
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Topic:
**“Making Christian Disciples:
A Mandate from Christ”**

LESSONS

- Lesson #1: **Evangelizing the World with a Christ-Centered Gospel**
- Lesson #2: **Initiating Converts into a Christ-Centered Church**
- Lesson #3: **Teaching Believers to Obey Christ’s Commands & Training Disciples to Make Disciples**

LESSON #1: Evangelizing the World with a Christ-Centered Gospel

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I. The Meaning of Evangelism

A. The Proclamation of the Gospel

1. *Eu angel ion* - translated *gospel*, occurs 77 times (Mk. 1:14, 15)
2. *Eu angel izo* - translated *preach*, occurs 55 times (Rev. 14:6)
3. *Eu angel istes* - translated *evangelist*, occurs 3 times (2 Tim. 4:5)

B. "Evangelism is *being, doing, and telling* the **gospel** of the kingdom of God, in order that by the power of the Holy Spirit persons and structures may be converted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

Delos Miles

C. "Evangelism is spreading the **good news** by *words, deeds, and signs* through the power of the Holy Spirit, and then waiting and watching in respectful humility, and working in expectant hope."

H. Eddie Fox and George E. Morris

II. The Principles of Personal Evangelism

A. PURPOSE: Our Mission to Share the Gospel [the priesthood of all believers] (1 Pet. 2:9,10)

1. We have the authority to pray: to go to God on behalf of people.
2. We have the responsibility to evangelize: to go to people on behalf of God.
3. We have the privilege to testify: to share with people how we became God's people and how we became recipients of God's grace.

B. PASSION: Our Burden to Share the Gospel (Romans 1:14)

1. We have an obligation to share the gospel.
2. We owe the gospel to all people.

C. PREPARATION: Our Readiness to Share the Gospel (Romans 1:15)

1. We must have our own personal experience of salvation.
2. We must have our own personal assurance of salvation.
3. We must have an unmistakable conception of salvation by faith.
4. We must master a clear and accurate presentation of the gospel.
5. We must be willing to go and carry the gospel to others.

D. POWER: Our Effectiveness in Sharing the Gospel (Romans 1:16, 17; Acts 1:8)

1. We must rely on the gospel as the power of God for salvation.
 - a. It will save everyone who believes it.
 - b. It reveals that God justifies people through their saving faith.
2. We must rely on the indwelling Holy Spirit for the power to witness effectively.

E. PROCESS: Our Stages in Sharing the Gospel (Luke 8:4-15)

1. We must prepare the soil [hearts must be prepared for the gospel] (5-8, 12-15)
 - a. The wayside: The hardened heart needs treatment
 - b. Stony ground: The shallow heart needs treatment
 - c. Among thorns: The preoccupied heart needs treatment
 - d. Good ground: The honest and good heart has already received treatment.
2. We must sow the seed [the gospel of salvation must be shared] (5, 11)
3. We must water the seed [faith must be nurtured by our lives, ministry, & witness](6)
4. We must reap the harvest [persons must be led to receive Christ as Lord & Savior] (8, 15)

III. An Outline of the Gospel Presentation

A. The Introduction

1. Their secular life
2. Their church background
3. Our church
4. Testimony: personal or church
5. Two diagnostic questions:
 - a. *"Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?" (1 Jn. 5:13)*
 - b. *"Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and He was to say to you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' What would you say?"*

B. The Gospel

1. Grace
 - a. *Heaven is a free gift. (Rm. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9)*
 - b. *It is not earned or deserved. (Rm. 3:20; Gal. 2:16)*
2. Man
 - a. *He is a sinner. (Rm. 3:10,23; Ja. 2:10)*
 - b. *He cannot save himself. (Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5)*
3. God
 - a. *He is merciful and does not want to punish us. (Ex. 34:6)*
 - b. *He is just and must punish sin. (Is. 13:11)*
4. Christ
 - a. *Who He is - He is the Infinite God-Man (Jn. 1:1,14)*
 - b. *What He did -*
 - 1) *He paid for our sins. (Is. 53:4-6; 1 Cor. 15:3)*
 - 2) *He purchased a place in heaven for us. (Jn. 14:2)*
 - 3) *He offers it as a free gift. (Rev. 22:17)*
5. Faith
 - a. *What it is not*
 - 1) *It is not mere blind faith. (Mt. 15:14)*
 - 2) *It is not head faith or intellectual assent. (Ja. 2:19)*
 - 3) *It is not temporal faith. (Jn. 2:23-25)*
 - 4) *It is not dead faith. (Ja. 2:17)*
 - b. *What it is*
 - 1) *It is belief plus commitment (Jn. 8:30-32; Ja. 2:18)*
 - 2) *It is receiving Christ (Jn. 1:12; Rev. 3:20)*
 - 3) *It is trusting Christ alone for salvation (Acts 4:12)*

C. The Commitment

1. The qualifying question: *"Does this make sense to you?"*
2. The commitment question: *"Would you like to receive this gift of eternal life?"*
3. The clarification of commitment
4. The prayer of commitment
5. The assurance of salvation (Rm. 10:13; 1 Jn. 5:11-13)

D. The Immediate Follow-up

1. Stressing the Assurance of Salvation
 - a. Revisiting the Diagnostic Questions
 - b. Revisiting the Assurance Verses
2. Stressing the Aids to Spiritual Growth
 - a. Bible Intake: reading, study, meditation, and memorization
 - b. Prayer: daily communication with God
 - c. Worship: public and private
 - d. Fellowship: spending quality time with Christian friends
 - e. Witness: learning to share one's faith with others

Lesson #2: Initiating Converts into a Christ-Centered Church

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I. The Importance of Immediate Follow-up

A. Encourage them to read the sections in the *So Great A Salvation*¹ tract that explain salvation.

1. “The Plan of Salvation Summarized from the Scriptures”
2. “The Gospel of Salvation Explained in Detail”
3. “The Essence of Salvation Simplified by Comparison and Contrast”

B. Have them record their decision in the appropriate place in the tract.

1. There is a place for them to sign their name.
2. There is a place for them to record the date of their conversion.

C. Using the tract, explain to them what has just happened to them.

1. Christ came into your heart & life. (Rev. 3:20)
2. Your sins were forgiven. (Col. 1:14)
3. Your name was written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)
4. You became a child of God. (John 1:12)
5. You received a new birth. (John 1:13, 3:1-7)
6. You received eternal life. (John 5:24)
7. You received the Holy Spirit. (1 John 3:24; 4:13)

D. Using the tract, enlighten them about the assurance of salvation.

Your assurance of salvation aids your spiritual growth and enhances your Christian witness. Assurance must not be based on feelings, but on faith in God’s word. *“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things have I written to you who believe in the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...”* 1 Jn. 5:11-13

E. Using the tract, share with them the aids to spiritual growth.

Now that you have become a Christian, it imperative that you grow spiritually. We are commanded to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18) Growth is a process, but the following practices will help to foster your spiritual growth:

- G Go to God in prayer daily. It is your way of communicating with Him. (John 15:7)
- R Read God’s Word daily. It is your spiritual food. (Acts 17:11)
- O Obey God moment by moment. It is the secret of your joy. (John 15:9-11)
- W Worship God as a part of His church. It is your spiritual family. (Heb. 10:25)
- T Trust God for every detail of life. It is the secret of your peace. (Phil. 4:6; 1 Pe. 5:7)
- H Holy Spirit—allow Him to control your life and empower your witness. He is your Helper. (Ga. 5:15,16; Acts 1:8)

F. Using the tract, stress the importance of baptism and church membership.

Salvation is not an end in itself, but it is a means to an end. The Lord saved you so that you can be made into one of His faithful disciples. You have taken the first step in the disciple-making process by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ into you life. But salvation is only the beginning. Now you must be baptized (initiated) into a loving Christian Church. The mature Christians in that church will help you grow spiritually, help you discover, develop, and exercise your spiritual gifts, and teach how to obey the commands of Christ. You must remember that you began a relationship not only with Christ, but also with His people, the Church. The Church is where disciples are made. Once you become a radiant, responsible, and reproducing disciple of Christ, you must continue in the church in order to help make others into faithful Christian disciples.

¹ The *So Great A Salvation* Tract is a at the Bureau of Evangelism, P. O. Box 217258, Charlotte, NC 28221-7258

II. The Significance of Baptism

A. New converts should be informed about the meaning and purpose of water baptism.

1. Water baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Church of Christ
2. Water baptism is the token of the New Covenant as circumcision was the token of the Old Covenant.
3. Water baptism is a means of celebrating our initiation into the body of Christ.
4. Water baptism is an opportunity to give witness to the world of our allegiance to Jesus Christ.

B. New Converts should be informed about the modes of water baptism and their symbolism.

1. Sprinkling is the mode of baptism that symbolizes the cleansing of our hearts from sin and the transformations that result from the new birth. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)
2. Pouring is the mode of baptism that symbolizes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives. (Acts 2:17-19)
3. Immersion is the mode of baptism that symbolizes our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:1-5)

C. New converts should be informed about the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1. Water baptism is symbolic, but the baptism of the Holy Spirit is substantive.
2. Water baptism dramatizes what the Holy Spirit does for new converts.
 - a. The Holy Spirit indwells new converts. ((Romans 8:9,16)
 - b. The Holy Spirit baptizes new converts into the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13)
 - c. The Holy Spirit equips new converts with spiritual gifts so they can serve effectively. (1 Cor. 12:11)
 - d. The Holy Spirit empowers the new convert to be an effective witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8)
 - e. The Holy Spirit enables the new convert to live in accordance with Christ's commands. (Ga. 5:22,23)

D. New converts should be baptized in obedience to the command of Christ.

1. Many may have been baptized as infants before their conversion.²
 - a. They need not be baptized again, unless it becomes a matter of conscience.
 - b. They were probationary members, now they are candidates for full membership.
 - c. Their saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ qualifies them to become members of the body of Christ.
2. Many must be baptized after their conversion.
 - a. Christ's commanded us to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
 - b. Peter instructed his listeners to "repent and be baptized ...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins... (Acts 2:38)

E. New converts must experience a baptism of love in order to be initiated into the local church.

1. New converts must be welcomed graciously into the body of Christ by the people of God.
2. New converts must find love and acceptance from the ministers, leaders, and members of the church.
3. New converts must be immersed in the care and concern of a loving congregation.
4. New converts must find Christians who are concerned about their spiritual and temporal wellbeing.

² Infant baptism is a covenant agreement in which the parents or guardians of a child promise to nurture the child in a Christian home and expose the child to the teaching and ministries of a Christian church. The child becomes a probationary member and the church promises to provide meaningful children's ministries and Christian nurture for the child. When the child grows up to exercise saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, he or she becomes a candidate for full membership. Robert E. Tuttle, Jr. in *Sanctity Without Starch* says, "Infant baptism is the sacrament in which the infant children of Christian parents are baptized (one hopes within a community of believers) so that the effects of prevenient grace are accelerated and the devastation of original sin diminished." He explained earlier that, "Prevenient grace is the Holy Spirit at work in everyone between conception and conversion. The Holy Spirit woos or prevents us from moving so far toward disobedience, that when we finally understand the claims of the gospel upon our lives, we are guaranteed the freedom to say yes."

III. The Value of New Members' Orientation

A. Orientation classes should include sessions about the key elements of the Christian life.

1. The Universality of Salvation
2. The Importance of Repentance
3. Justification by Faith
4. Regeneration or the New Birth
5. Assurance of Salvation through the Witness of the Spirit
6. Sanctification or Holiness

C. Orientation classes should include sessions about the unique features of the Christian church.

[This section may be altered to fit to the specifics of each church or denomination.]

1. Its Mission
2. Its History
3. Its Beliefs
 - a. The Twelve Major Beliefs of Methodists
 - b. The Articles of Religion
4. Its Polity (form of government) [A.M.E. Zion Church]
 - a. The Episcopacy
 - b. The Itinerancy
 - c. The Conferences
 - 1) The Class Meeting
 - 2) The Members' Meeting
 - 3) The Leaders' Meeting
 - 4) The Quarterly Conference
 - 5) The District Conference
 - 6) The Annual Conference
 - 7) The Connectional Council Meeting
 - 8) The Board of Bishops Meeting
 - 9) The General Conference
5. Its Worship Traditions and Rituals
 - a. The Worship Traditions
 - b. The Rituals
 - 1) Baptism
 - 2) Holy Communion

C. Orientation classes should include sessions about opportunities for Christian service.

1. The ministerial and lay offices in the church
2. The organizations and ministries of the church
3. The taking of a spiritual gifts inventory
 - a. Understanding spiritual gifts
 - b. Understanding ministries
 - c. Understanding operations

D. Orientation classes should include sessions about the importance of Christian stewardship.

1. The stewardship of our treasures
 - a. The giving of tithes and offerings
 - b. The giving of sacrificial offering
 - c. The wise and faithful use of the other 90%
2. The stewardship of our talents
3. The stewardship of our time.

E. Orientation classes should include sessions about the significance of our Christian witness.

1. Personal evangelism: a way of life for every Christian
2. The styles of evangelism
 - a. The confrontational style
 - b. The intellectual style
 - c. The testimonial style
 - d. The interpersonal style
 - e. The invitational style
 - f. The service style

Lesson #3: Teaching Believers to Obey Christ's Commands & Training Disciples to Make Disciples

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Proposition: The Small Group Leader (Class Leader) plays the most vital role in making Christian disciples and in teaching believers to obey the commands of Christ.

I. A time-honored role that has served God's people for thousands of years

- A. A role that dates back to the days of Moses
 - 1. His father-in-law convinced him of the importance of delegation to qualified leaders. (Ex. 19:13-27)
 - 2. He recognized his inability to bear the burden of leadership all by himself. (Num. 11:10-17)
- B. A role that was recognized by the Apostles of the early church (Acts 6:1-7)
- C. A role that was implemented by John Wesley in founding the Methodist Movement (Discipline, pp. 22)

II. A very venerable role that enables the initiation and assimilation of Christian converts.

- A. Baptism as the Sacrament of Initiation & Assimilation (Matt. 28:19)
 - 1. The baptism of water by an ordained minister (Matt. 3:11)
 - 2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit by Jesus (Matt. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:13)
 - 3. The baptism of love by the congregation (1 Jn. 4:7-12)
- B. The Small Group Leader's (Class Leader's) Role in the Initiation of New Converts
 - 1. Doing the immediate follow-up—Give the new converts the "So Great a Salvation" Tract. Using it, do the following:
 - a. Have them record their decision in the appropriate place.
 - b. Explain to them what has just happened.
 - c. Enlighten them about the assurance of salvation.
 - d. Guide them in understanding the aids to spiritual growth.
 - e. Stress to them importance of baptism and church membership.
 - 2. Welcoming the convert into the class—On the day that the converts are assigned do the following:
 - a. Meet with them for a few moments after the service.
 - b. Greet them warmly and introduce yourself as their class leader.
 - c. Hand them a card with your vital information. (name, phone, address, etc)
 - d. Obtain their vital information. (name, phone, address, etc)
 - e. If possible, introduce them to one member of the class as their prayer partner.
 - f. Explain to them that their class is their small family within the larger church family.
 - g. Tell them that you are here to help them grow spiritually.
 - h. Tell them that you are also here to help them through the tough times.
 - i. Tell them the day, time, & place of your weekly class meeting. (write it on the card)
 - j. Offer to pick them up and bring them to the first meeting.
- C. The Small Group Leader's (Class Leader's) Role in the Assimilation of New Converts
 - 1. Ministering to the babes in Christ
 - a. Spoon-feeding the babes in Christ until they are able to feed themselves
 - b. Changing diapers for the babes in Christ until they are potty-trained
 - c. Protecting the babes in Christ until they are able to protect themselves
 - d. Nurturing the babes in Christ who have been received into probationary membership

2. Ministering to the spiritual adolescents
 - a. Teaching the converts to become a faithful students of God's Word
 - b. Teaching the converts to develop a consistent and meaningful prayer life
 - c. Teaching the converts the importance of accountability
 - d. Teaching the converts to faithfully attend the appointed means of grace
 - e. Teaching the converts to discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts
 - f. Preparing the converts for full connectional membership

III. A highly esteemed role that makes possible the nurture and teaching of Christian believers.

- A. Nurturing believers to spiritual growth in Christ.
 1. Helping them to become mature Christians
 2. Helping them to become responsible Christians
 3. Helping them to become reproducing Christians
- B. Teaching believers to obey the commands of Christ
 1. Teaching them to obey the Biblical truths that they hear preached in the worship services
 2. Teaching them to obey the Biblical truths that they are taught in public and private study sessions
 3. Teaching them to obey the Christian principles that are taught from the Bible
 - a. Teaching them how to live in accordance with God's word
 - b. Teaching them how to develop Christian character
 - c. Teaching them how to bear the fruit of the Spirit
 - d. Teaching them how to love people in a Christ-like manner
 4. Teaching them to obey the rules and doctrines of the church that are taught from the Discipline.
 - a. Teaching them how to do no harm and how to avoid evil of every kind
 - b. Teaching them how to do good of every possible sort and how to be merciful
 - c. Teaching them to reverently attend the appointed means of grace

IV. A very valuable role that provides the means for the training and deployment of Christian disciples

- A. Training Christian Disciples
 1. Training Christian disciples to share the faith
 2. Training Christian disciples to serve faithfully in the church
 3. Training Christian disciples to do outreach in the community
- B. Deploying Christian Disciples—Recommending qualified disciples for leadership, service, ministry
 1. Recommending those who show evidence of graces
 2. Recommending those who show evidence of gifts
 3. Recommending those who show evidence of usefulness
 4. Recommending those who show evidence of commitment to disciple making

V. A truly practical role that makes use of the Class Meeting as the place where disciples are made

- A. A small group ministry
- B. A weekly meeting
- C. A behavioral mode of ministry
- D. A family within the family
- E. A point of entry & exclusion
- F. A circle of care and concern
- G. A disciple making entity