

ANSWERS: Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 9 Sharing Christ

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day One) A Witness

1. What are some regular things you are doing that sets you apart as a Christian?

Personal Answer, but may mention some things like helping others, praying for them, obeying God's Word. There are also activities that one may refrain from doing, like swearing, engaging in sex outside of marriage, watching crude and sinful movies etc. that can set one apart from the world.

Read Philippians 2:21 and answer questions 2-3:

For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:21

2. From your knowledge of the Bible, list some things that Jesus is interested in?

Here are some things Jesus is interested in, but other answers may be acceptable:

Glorifying God (John 17:4)

Making God known (John 17:26)

Advancement of God's kingdom (Matthew 11:12)

Loving God and neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40)

Loving our enemies (Luke 6:27-31)

Pure hearts (Luke 6:45)

Strong faith (Luke 7:9)

Needs of hungry (Matthew 14:18-21), children (Mark 10:14) and widows (Luke 21:2)

God's word (John 17:17)

Good works (John 15:1-8)

3. On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), how would you rate your attention to the interests of Christ:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipeler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments on their answer.

4. Prayerfully choose one of the items from your answer to #2 that could use improvement in your own life. With the Holy Spirit's help, take a keen interest in that item this week so that you are looking out for Jesus' interests. Write the item and explain the result:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments on their answer.

Read Acts 1:8 and answer questions 5-9:

"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

5. What is Jesus telling His disciples they will receive when the Holy Spirit comes on them (8a)?

Power

6. Define the word power in your own words:

Personal Answer.

Definition: The word power in this context means: 1. the ability to do something or act in a particular way. 2. the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events. 3. physical strength and force exerted by something or someone.

The Greek word, *dunamis*, (δύναμις) that we translate power is: power, strength; act of power, miracle, supernatural power(s), ability, capacity and means.

7. How does knowing the fact that the Holy Spirit brings Jesus' disciples power encourage you?

Personal Answer.

8. What are we to do with this power (v. 8b)?

We are to be Jesus' witnesses.

9. Define the word witness in your own words:

Personal Answer.

Definition: The Greek word *martus* (μάρτυς) that we translate witness in English does mean witness, and martyr. The English word witness means: 1. a person who sees something happen 2. testimony (statement) of a fact or event 3. one who has personal knowledge of something 4. public affirmation by word or example, usually of one's religious faith or conviction.

From Lesson 9 notes:

When are witnesses for the Lord Jesus, we are telling others the truthful facts and events of His life. We share how we have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and how they can also. We publicly affirm by words, deeds and actions that we are His and He is ours.

The word martyr became a church term used for saints who suffered and died in their witness to Christ. The New Testament has examples of disciples who had such a high commitment to Christ and their witness that they were persecuted and martyred for their faith. Since that time men, women and children all over the world have followed in their footsteps to the glory of their Lord and Savior.

10. What do you think would keep you from witnessing for the Lord Jesus?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments on their answer.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Two) Mandate

Read Matthew 28:17 answer questions 11-13:

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Matthew 28:17
(This verse is immediately prior to the Great Commission.)

11. What were the disciples doing right before Jesus commanded them to make disciples?

Worshipping Jesus

12. How do you know there were more than the eleven disciples with Jesus?

Because some doubted and we know that at this time, the eleven disciples (apostles) did not doubt Jesus. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.

13. What connection do you see with worshipping Jesus and making disciples?

Personal Answer but... as we worship Jesus, He will call and equip us to make disciples. The first step in making disciples is to honor Jesus and follow Him. Service begins in praise to Jesus for who He is and what He has done.

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and answer questions 14-17:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ 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,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

14. Within this Great Commission, how does Jesus verbalize the importance of the triune God for the disciples (v. 19)?

He says to make disciples: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

15. What do you think Jesus means when He says to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" ?

The following is written in Lesson 9, but your disciple can answer in a short summary:

Water baptism is a symbol of the reality of our union with the triune God. It is called *believers' baptism* because in the New Testament those believing and committing their lives to Christ presented themselves for baptism. Thus, believers were immersed or dipped in water before God and other believers to acknowledge their faith and commitment.

In ancient times a person's name indicated his or her character, nature and essence (spirit). Being baptized or immersed into someone's name would indicate that you take on that person's character, nature and essence. It is another way of expressing our union with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

16. How are *you* living out the reality of baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipled: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

17. Have you been baptized with water since believing in the name of Jesus Christ? Yes No

Personal Answer but encourage as necessary. Following this question in Lesson 9:

"Perhaps you are living in circumstances that hinder you from being immersed in water and sharing your testimony to a body of believers. In some countries being a Christian is against the law. These believers have to get creative. They might use a nearby lake early in the morning or late at night so they won't be noticed by others. Some may use a bathtub in their home with only one or two other Christians present.

God knows your heart and He will give you a way to be baptized, if this is your desire. Remember it is a symbol of your inward devotion to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God will help you get creative if you are not part of a church that makes baptism possible. As long as you have access to water and one other believer, you are in business! Your "Father's" business, of course.

Please do not get legalistic about baptism or anything else. Legalism is a strict, literal (exact), or excessive conformity to the law. Religious legalism, as Jesus preached about, restricts love. For example, if sprinkling water on you, or another believer, is all that is possible, that is sufficient."

18. How are you helping believers to authentically (truly) live in the character, nature and spirit of Christ?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

Ask God to speak to you as you read and meditate on Romans 6:1-7. Answer question 19:

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:1-7

19. Please share what God said or impressed upon you:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Three) Your Testimony

20. Write a short personal testimony of how you placed your faith in Jesus. It should include what your life was like before meeting Jesus and how it changed after accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. The goal of this witness (statement, evidence) is to honor God and not yourself. Focus on who He is and what He has done for you.

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please review your Learner's personal testimony and make any constructive comments for improvement.

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 and answer question 21-:

21. Now it is your turn. Write three questions from the parable of the Good Samaritan that connect worship and witness with each other. Then, answer the questions that you have written.

1. Question: *Personal Questions and answers from your Disciple should follow:*

Answer:

2. Question:

Answer:

3. Question:

Answer:

Definition: A gospel tract is a concise (brief) piece of writing that presents the good news of Jesus Christ and gives the reader an opportunity to repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The majority of gospel tracts are small booklets emphasizing the gospel with Scripture.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Four) *Steps to Sharing Your Faith*

"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

As preciously stated the Greek word for witness or martyr is *martus* (μάρτυς). It means "The testimony of a person, or something which bears testimony to a person or an event."¹ In the early church to be a witness or give testimony to Christ Jesus could mean death (martyr). Those who die for their faith are still called martyrs.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." Acts 2:17-18

Definition: The Greek word *propheteuo* (προφητεύω) that is translated into English prophesy means to proclaim God's message, preach; prophesy, predict; speak God's message intelligibly. Prophesy in the Bible does not always mean predicting the future, although it can. It means speaking God's message. Thus the Holy Spirit enables you to witness and share the wisdom of God's word from the Bible as you pray and rely on Him.

22. What is the first step in sharing the gospel?

Rely on the Holy Spirit through prayer.

23. How will the Holy Spirit help you in sharing the gospel?

The Holy Spirit will direct our steps, give us divine appointments and open hearts in sharing our faith.

24. When was the last time you shared your faith in Jesus Christ and how did it happen?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

¹ Holman Bible Dictionary

Definition: Evolution is "the process of change seen to take place within species of animals and plants; however, it more often refers to the theory that attempts to explain the origin of human life via forces operating according to natural law. As such, evolution most often leads to atheism. By positing that all life forms evolved from simpler forms there is not need for a personal Creator."² The laws themselves were identified in 1859 by Charles Darwin in his book, *Origin of the Species*.

Definition: A theory is an idea that is suggested or presented as possibly true but that is not known or proven to be true.

Definitions: An apologist is one who makes a reasoned defense of the Christian faith before unbelievers. Apologetics is the branch of theology concerned with the defense or proof of Christianity. Theology is the study of God and His relation to the world.

25. How would you rate your desire to defend the Christian faith? Little Desire Medium Desire Great Desire (Circle One)

Personal Answer. CLI Discipuler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

26. *If* you think God is asking you to be an apologist, what will you do to practice and perfect your calling?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipuler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

Lesson 9: Sharing Christ (Day Five) *Witnessing in love and pain*

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

27. After reading Sabina's story, what are your thoughts?

Personal Answer.

Definition: Evangelist is the English word that we translate from the Greek word, *euaggelistes* (εὐαγγελιστής), which means one who preaches the good news or the gospel.

Definition: Preach is the English word that we translate from the Greek word, *euaggelizo* (εὐαγγελίζω), which means to bring the good news or gospel.

² Hernando, James D., *Dictionary of Hermeneutics*, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2005. p. 158.

Definition: Gospel is the English word that we translate from the Greek word *euaggelion*, (εὐαγγέλιον), which means good news. Today it is defined as the good news of Jesus Christ.

When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages. Acts 8:25

“Gospel is the English word used to translate the Greek word for “good news.” Christians use the word to designate the message and story of God’s saving activity through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of God’s unique Son Jesus.”³ The good news makes God known through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Preaching is bringing the good news or proclaiming Christ to others. We are all meant to be preachers!

28. Which of the above motives for evangelism encourages you in sharing the gospel and why?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

29. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and then share your faith with a nonbeliever. Explain what happened:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Please make appropriate and encouraging comments to their answer.

30. How may your CLI Discipler pray for you to evangelize (share the gospel)?

CLI Discipler: Please pray for your Disciple's requests for a month. As always, if a request is not biblical or you feel uneasy about a prayer request, discuss it with the Lord and how He would want you to pray. You may also tell you disciple that you are praying for the Lord's will in any situation that you are uncomfortable or uneasy about.

31. How will you pray for those you are discipling to evangelize (share the gospel)?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler: Encourage your disciple to pray.

NOTE: If you would like more information on sharing the gospel with non-Christian religious groups, please ask your CLI Discipler to send you the Witnessing Addendums (A & B) for Lesson 9.

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Next: Lesson 10: Godly Relationships

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Advancing Christ's Light in Prisons

³ Holman Bible Dictionary, p. 567.