

Heritage Christian Church

Participating Membership

Great Commission



Proclaiming the Love of Christ

(Lesson 8 of 8)

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Day 1

Motivation to Reach the World

In Acts 1:6-8, Jesus makes it clear that God plans to use His followers to spread the message of salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 says that the reason we were brought into God's family is so that we could help bring others. Read these two passages. How do you feel knowing that God's plan to reach the world involves you being His messenger?

Not only does God guarantee us eternal life in heaven when we die, we also have many benefits and blessings in this life. What are some of the blessings you have received and riches that you have inherited since becoming a Christian?

John 10:10

John 14:27

Ephesians 1:3-14

1 John 5:11

Does this stockpile of blessings motivate you to share your faith? If so, how? If not, why do you think it has no motivational power on you?

Another motivating force for becoming an effective ambassador for Christ is the reality of hell. Even though you may hate to think about it, hell is a real place and real people go there. There are many people in your life who will face a Christ-less eternity if they don't find forgiveness in Christ. As you read the following passages about hell from the Bible, what things do you learn about hell and what feelings do you experience?

Matthew 13:41-42

Revelation 20:15

(See also Luke 16:24, Luke 13:28, Revelation 14:10-11, Revelation 20:10, and Revelation 21:8)

Does the reality of hell motivate you to share your faith? If so, how? If not, why do you think it has no motivational power on you?

A third, more positive motivating force for becoming an effective ambassador for Christ is the joyous celebration that occurs when someone comes to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Once you have led a spiritual seeker into a right relationship with God through Christ, you will never be the same. The passion to reach out grows each time you experience the joy of seeing a seeker become a devoted follower of Christ. Absolutely nothing compares!

Day 2

Reaching the World One Person at a Time

Step 1: Pray for People

Examine two passages that deal with God's will concerning people that do not know Him in a personal way. What do we learn about God's will for lost people from these passages?

1 Timothy 2:1-4

2 Peter 3:8, 9

What does God say about praying according to His will in 1 John 5:14?

According to the following passages from Paul's letters in the Bible, one of the most effective evangelists of all time repeatedly asked people to pray for him as he attempted to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Read the following passages. What things did Paul ask his friends to pray for?

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Thessalonians 3:1

What could you ask your friends to pray for you as you spread the Gospel? Who will you ask?

Day 3

Step 2: Make Connections with People

Rewrite 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 as if you were Paul writing to the church at Heritage. Use modern day examples of people that need to be reached with the Gospel.

What did Jesus say he was accused of in Matthew 11:19? Why?

In Jesus' day, men did not associate with women, Jews did not associate with Samaritans, rabbis did not associate with those living in sin. Read John 4:1-26. What surprises you about Jesus talking to the woman at the well?

From these passages, how would you describe Jesus' desire to make connections with people? How does your attitude line up with his?

Read the following passages, first to determine what characterized each person's approach and then to determine which examples you feel you could use with different people that you know.

Luke 5:29

John 4:28-42

Acts 17:16-34

(See also John 9:1-41 and Acts 2:14-41)

Which “style” of connecting with people seems to fit you?

Day 4

Step 3: Share the Gospel with People

Read Romans 10:14-17 and determine why actually sharing the message of Christ, not just living a good life in front of others, is absolutely necessary to see people come to know Christ.

Understanding the message of the Gospel is the first step in telling others. Read each passage below and paraphrase the important points that each one has to teach us about the Gospel message.

John 1:12

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9, 10

Ephesians 2:8, 9

(See also John 3:3, Romans 3:9-18, Titus 3:5-7, 1 John 5:11, 12, and Revelation 3:20)

Day 5

The Elders' Affirmation on the Great Commission

Christ followers realize that they have been commissioned by the Lord Himself to spread the Good News of Jesus and His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. Each follower has the responsibility to pray for lost people, reach out to them, and then share a verbal witness of what Christ has done.

We are well aware of the lack of Christian witnessing that goes on in the church at large, so we have created an environment that is conducive to allowing spiritual seekers to come and investigate the claims of Christ at their own pace. Each Christ follower plays an important part in our strategy to win pre-Christians to Christ. By serving during our services and inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members, the members of our church "team up" to spread the Gospel.

Personal Response Great Commission

Do you agree with the Heritage's overall strategy of reaching out to pre-Christians in as many creative ways as possible? Will you support these practices and seek to build relationships with pre-Christians in order to share your faith in Christ with them?

Yes
 No

If not, can you explain why you are not attempting to fulfill your role as an ambassador for Christ?

Have you participated in any evangelism training seminar, either at Heritage or anywhere else?

Yes
 No

If not, do you have plans to sign up for the next training seminar that we offer? Why or why not?

What dreams do you have concerning your personal evangelism? What dreams do you have in becoming part of the Heritage "team" as we do corporate evangelism through our Saturday evening and Sunday morning services? How do you see yourself fitting in with the "team"?