

SEEKING THE LOST

Telling the Story of Jesus Class Schedule

Date	Sunday: Telling the Story to Others	Wednesday Workshop: Bolstering My Bible Knowledge
1/1/2012	Lesson 1. Why Have A Conversation?	
1/4/2012		Workshop 1: Baptism
1/8/2012	Lesson 2. Why Should I Talk to Others?	
1/11/2012		Workshop 1: Baptism (2)
1/15/2012	Lesson 3. Is It Difficult to Have A Conversation?	
1/18/2012		Workshop 2: Bible Authority
1/22/2012	Lesson 4. Prerequisites for a Conversation	
1/25/2012		Workshop 3: Is Jesus the Only Way?
1/29/2012	Lesson 5. Connecting by Conversation	
2/1/2012		Workshop 4: Is There Only One Church?
2/5/2012	Lesson 6. What Kind of Conversation Should I Have?	
2/8/2012		Workshop 5: What About the OT?
2/12/2012	Lesson 7. Getting a Commitment In our Conversation	
2/15/2012		Workshop 5: What About the OT? (2)
2/19/2012	Lesson 8. What Do the Lost Need to Learn?	
2/22/2012		Workshop 6: Acceptable Worship
2/26/2012	Lesson 9. Teaching Those Who are Interested?	
2/29/2012		Workshop 7: What About Using Instruments?
3/4/2012	Lesson 9. Teaching Those Who are Interested	
3/7/2012		Workshop 8: Salvation – Faith and Works
3/11/2012	Lesson 10. Overcoming Objections	
3/14/2012		Workshop 9: TBD
3/18/2012	Lesson 10. Overcoming Objections	
3/21/2012		Workshop 10: TBD
3/25/2012	Lesson 11. What is the Story of Jesus?	
3/28/2012		Singing

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Lesson 1: Why Have a Conversation?

A. Purpose of this Study

This quarter we will study the Bible in order to better understand our responsibility in seeking the lost. Jesus said that the Son of Man came to “seek and save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). If we follow Him, there is a good chance we ought to be doing the same.

Our class sessions are divided into two different parts. On Sunday mornings, we will discuss what is involved in having a conversation with others about spiritual concerns. There are plenty of challenges in doing this successfully, but looking at some Bible principles and discussing different situations will help us to consider how we can be effective in this role.

On Wednesday evenings, we will have “workshops” in which we will consider different questions and Bible subjects and try to build a working knowledge of some Bible passages that will be helpful when we have a spiritual discussion with others.

B. The Conversation Between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

In John 4:1-42, John narrates a conversation Jesus had with a Samaritan woman. This example is not found in the other examples. It speaks volumes about Jesus and His interest in the souls of others.

1. Read through the narrative. Decide what was **important** about each of the following:
 - a. The **situation**:

 - b. What the **woman** said:

 - c. What **Jesus** said to the woman:

2. What does this example demonstrate about the importance of a conversation? How did it start? How did it finish? Can a conversation we have with someone lead to the same results? Why or why not?

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Lesson 2: Why Should I Talk to Others?

A. Why Should I Have a Conversation?

In our last lesson, we noted how a simple conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman had impressive results. The woman went into the city and told others about Jesus. They came out and listened to Him and many of them believed. All of this because Jesus took time to ask someone for a drink of water.

Couldn't happen to us – or could it? It really is difficult to know how someone will react to the Bible until we provide an opportunity for them. One of the real challenges for us is finding people and offering them an opportunity to respond.

List some reasons below that would motivate us to seek out someone else in order to have a conversation with them about the Bible.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. Motivation for Conversation

Look at the following passages and see if you can determine any reasons that would motivate us to mention our interest in the Bible to someone when we have a conversation with them.

1. Matthew 28:18-20
2. Luke 19:1-10
3. John 4:36-38
4. Acts 8:4
5. Acts 11:19, 20
6. Romans 3:23; 6:23

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Lesson 3: Is It Difficult to Have a Conversation?

A. Obstacles in Having a Bible Conversation

We need to discuss the Bible with others, but it isn't always easy to do. We may have had discussions like these in the past and they ended in frustration because there did not seem to be any agreement about what the Bible teaches on a particular subject.

List some obstacles that make it difficult to have a conversation about a Bible subject with someone you know.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. Obstacles – Mine or Theirs?

Look at your list above. Some of these are obstacles that we must overcome, whereas others are barriers that are on the part of the person with whom we are speaking. Group them accordingly below.

Mine

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Theirs

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Overcoming Obstacles

Now look through the list above. Try to think of a solution for each of the obstacles that are listed. If possible, give a Bible verse that supports your answer.

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Lesson 4: Prerequisites for a Conversation

A. Are there prerequisites?

“Prerequisite” is a fancy word for something that is necessary in order to accomplish a particular goal. For instance, in pursuing a college degree, it is often necessary to take some prerequisite courses (like chemistry) if I want to be a doctor (and take a course like anatomy).

There are no official prerequisites in order to talk to someone about their spiritual needs. It is not necessary to have a degree or be a preacher or pass a test that says we have a certain degree of Bible knowledge. But the Scriptures do place importance on some areas of our life that will help us in trying to reach others.

B. What are the prerequisites?

Notice the passages listed below in three different areas. What do they suggest about my motivation and preparation in trying to reach others with the gospel?

1. How did Paul refer to the apostles? 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - a. What does this word mean?
 - b. How does this kind of person function in government? Give an example.
 - c. Is there any since in which Christians could also be described in this way?
2. Look at the passages below and determine what quality is necessary in order to be a good ambassador. (Notice that many of these passages are directed toward Timothy and Titus, who are evangelists. Would they still apply to Christians?)
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:2; 2:15
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Ephesians 4:15
 - c. 1 Timothy 4:12,16; Titus 2:1-10
3. Why are each of the items in #2 above important? For each of these areas, mention one action you can take to better equip yourself in this area.

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Lesson 5: Connecting by Conversation

A. Make a List

If we are going to discuss the Bible with someone, it is important that we know “someone.” Make a list below of three “someones” in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. Are There Others?

The list in A above is a good starting point. These are probably people you already know. Maybe you have already had a conversation with them about the Bible or they have told you about your spiritual interests or you have mentioned your spiritual interests to them – or all of the above.

Are there any others you know? Our first reaction might be to say, “I really don’t know that many people.” That may be accurate. We usually have a few good friends and hang around them.

Jesus can help us here. Remember, He told the apostles to lift up their eyes and look on the fields because they were already white for harvest (John 4:35). There are probably people all around us with whom we can share the gospel, but we must first “connect” with them.

1. Look at the following examples and determine the person(s) with whom Jesus connected and how He did it. For what was He sometimes criticized? Can you think of others?
 - a. Luke 5:27-32
 - b. Luke 19:1-10
 - c. John 4:1-6
2. Name below all the people you interacted with last week (stop when you get to 10). This doesn’t mean you know their name – it just means you had some kind of interaction with them.
3. Name some ways that we could connect with the people we meet. If we were to engage them in conversation, what kind of questions would we ask? Does this mean we will ask them for a Bible study the first time we talk to them? What kind of preparation are we making?

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Lesson 6: What Kind of Conversation Should I Have?

A. Guiding Our Conversation

1. Think back to the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42). How did it start? What did Jesus do to turn the conversation toward something that was spiritual in nature? How did the woman react?
2. When we connect to others by getting to know them, this creates the opportunity for expressing our interest in their spiritual welfare. The very fact that we have shown an interest in them or done a favor for them or even asked them to do a favor for us demonstrates our interest. Does this provide us with an advantage when we guide our conversation toward something that is spiritual? Why or why not?

B. Where Do We Guide the Conversation?

1. Obviously there are a dozen different ways to direct a conversation. How we “steer” a conversation depends very much on the circumstances. Suppose we are having a conversation with someone and it is likely the only opportunity we will ever have of speaking to them. Compare that situation with one in which we have had numerous conversations with someone and anticipate many more. How would those circumstances influence what we discuss?
2. Another situation is where we react to a comment someone might make to us about the Bible or about something spiritual. It could be any kind of comment or question. For instance, what if someone said, “Do you really think the Bible came from God?” or “So do you think that if a person isn’t baptized he is going to hell?”
 - a. Consider how Jesus answered questions on occasion. In Matthew 21:23-27, He was questioned about His authority, based on His previous cleansing of the temple.
 - 1) How did Jesus answer? Why do you think He did?
 - 2) How did the chief priests and elders answer? Why? What effect did this have on the conversation?
 - b. How can we respond in similar situations? How can this help us in our conversations?
3. What should be our goal when we have this conversation? Are we likely to convert someone on the spot? What might be a better intermediate goal?

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Lesson 7: Getting a Commitment in our Conversation

A. The Spiritual Goal in a Conversation

As we discussed in our last lesson, opportunities sometimes arise when we make connections with others and find out more about them. When we have an interest in the spiritual welfare of those we know, we will take advantage of opportunities to express this interest. This often seems like a very difficult step, but it does not have to be.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the following comments in a conversation?

1. *“You know, that’s a great question. I’ve wondered about that myself. We need to get together sometime and see what the Bible says about that.”*
2. *“The Bible is very clear about what happens when we go beyond the authority of the Scriptures. Jesus said we have to go down the narrow path. A lot of people are in for a rude awakening because they are seeking what is popular.”*
3. *“I’ve been involved in a Bible reading program this year and I’ve discovered some amazing things that the Bible teaches. Would you be interested in getting together some time to read through the gospel of Luke?”*
4. *“We have a really good Bible study every Tuesday night in the homes of different members. I think you would really enjoy sitting in on one of these.”*
5. *“Why don’t you come and visit at my church sometime? We have Bible studies every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Right now we are studying the prophets.”*

B. What If Someone Says “No”?

Despite all our efforts to make the best impression on others, there are times when others will tell us “no” or “I’m not interested.” This rejection can discourage us from making efforts like these because no one likes being rejected.

How can we respond to this kind of a situation? How can we avoid letting it discourage us?

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Lesson 8: What Do the Lost Need to Learn?

A. Why We Are Lost

One of the reasons there is motivation to seek the lost is because they are lost. Imagine that you drove down a road and discovered a sinkhole right in the middle of the road. We would do everything possible to alert others about this danger. Or suppose we found out that Walmart was giving away flat screen TV's. Once we got one for ourselves, we would likely tell others we know about how to get one. It should be the same way with salvation, only more so. Seeing the big picture helps us to focus on what is really important in life and our obligation to tell others.

Many are spiritually indifferent because they don't feel like they are in any danger. Part of the motivation for wanting to be saved is knowing that we are lost. What are some ways we can convey this message to others? How would you introduce this subject? How might someone else provide an opening for you to mention this subject?

B. If We Are Lost Then ...

If we are given an opportunity to talk to or teach someone, that raises the question of what we should study (we'll consider some different methods in our next lesson). There are dozens of subjects we could discuss concerning what the Bible teaches. How do we decide what is needed?

Look at the following list of subjects. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is least important, 5 is most important), rate the importance of each of the subjects that are mentioned.

1. **The Different Dispensations** – Patriarchal, Mosaic, Christian
2. **An Overview of the Bible** – How the different books and all the Bible history fits together
3. **Proper Worship** – For instance, why we do not use instruments of music in our worship
4. **The Right Church** – All the aspects involved in finding the church Jesus established – worship, description, organization, work, etc.
5. **Principles of Discipleship** – What Jesus taught in the gospels about being a follower
6. **Salvation** – What God has done for us and what we must do in order to be saved

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Lesson 9: Teaching Those Who Are Interested

A. Approaches in Teaching Others

If we are successful in getting someone to agree to study the Bible with us, we need to have a plan of how to study. In the lessons that follow, we will consider some of the different studies that are available. It may be that you don't feel comfortable leading such a study and would prefer to turn this part over to someone else. Nevertheless, it is good to be aware of some different methods that others use.

B. Some Methods of Bible Study

The following are a few of the methods we can use in order to study the Bible with someone. They are just a sample of a few. You may know of others or you may have even developed your own method. We will consider these over the next two lessons.

1. Overview of the Bible
2. Scheme of Redemption – The Big Picture (Ken Craig)
3. Jule Miller Filmstrips
4. Read through a gospel account
5. Group Bible Study
6. Open up the Bible

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Lesson 10: Overcoming Objections

A. Why Objections Arise

It is not uncommon for people to disagree about what the Bible says. People who are religious and believe in God and the Bible as His word soon become aware that there are different beliefs about what the Bible teaches. This must be reconciled with the fact that there is only one revelation from God and He intends us to practice what He teaches in the same way.

B. Dealing with an Objection

What should we do when a difference arises (and they will) about what the Bible teaches? How do we reconcile a two different views (mine and the one with whom I am talking) about what the Bible teaches? A few examples are listed below. We will work through these in class. Take a look and see how you would respond.

1. *My church has a much less restrictive view about things. We have a lot of people involved in a lot of good activities and it seems to make a difference in their lives and it really makes the community a better place. In fact, I'm involved with the youth ministry and it is really fulfilling.*
2. *What makes you sure that this is the way to serve God? I've looked into some of the other world religions and they all seem to have some relevant beliefs. I've got good friends who are Muslims and I certainly wouldn't say they are wrong just because they don't go to church.*
3. *I appreciate your belief in Jesus. Jesus has really changed my life. I was headed the wrong way on a fast train until I accepted Jesus as my Lord. That decision has changed my life – I feel better about myself and my business seems to be growing. God is really blessing me in a lot of ways.*
4. *I may not understand everything about the Bible, but no one else does, either. I need to learn a lot, but I think God is patient with all of us and will reveal the truth we need in His own time.*

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Workshop 1: Baptism

A. Why Baptism is Important

Baptism is a frequently discussed subject. We talk about it to others because of the importance the Bible attaches to it concerning salvation. Most of the religious world that claims to follow Jesus understands that baptism is mentioned in the Bible and is important, but they would differ over who is to be baptized, the action involved and its purpose.

B. Some Bible Passages on Baptism

The following passages about baptism were mentioned in class. We considered the context of each passage, the meaning of the passage and its importance.

- Matthew 3:11
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16:15,16
- Acts 2:38
- Acts 22:16
- Romans 6:3,4
- Colossians 2:12
- Ephesians 4:5
- 1 Peter 3:21

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Workshop 2: Bible Authority

A. Why Bible Authority is Important

Everyone claims to follow the Bible, yet among those who do there is a wide divergence of practices. The Bible must necessarily be the starting point for any discussion about what God desires. It is helpful to agree on that principle when we study the Bible with someone. Then it becomes a matter of finding out what the Bible says.

B. Some Bible Passages on Bible Authority

The following passages teach some important principles about Bible authority. Determine what the context of each passage is, what principle is being taught about authority and why it is important. Think of other passages that would be helpful.

- Deuteronomy 4:1,2
- 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- Matthew 7:21-23
- Matthew 21:23-25
- Acts 15:23-28

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Workshop 3: Is Jesus the Only Way?

A. Why Jesus is Important

There are different world religions that exist and we hear more and more about those around us who believe that there is a way to God other than through Jesus. This takes many different forms. Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses each teach that Jesus is an important spiritual being, but is not a divine being. Muslims believe that Jesus is one of many prophets that God sent, the last being Mohammed. They deny that Jesus is divine. Other world religions practice beliefs that

B. Some Bible Passages on Jesus and His Teaching

The following passages teach some important principles about Bible authority. Determine what the context of each passage is, what principle is being taught about authority and why it is important. Think of other passages that would be helpful.

- Matthew 28:18-20
- John 1:1-3, 14
- John 14:6
- John 17:17
- Colossians 1:18

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Workshop 4: Is There Only One Church?

A. Why the Church Is Important

When we discuss religious matters with our friends, sooner or later we will talk about the church. We may ask them if they attend church and where or they may ask us about which church we belong to. Since there are many churches, it is good to have a basic idea of some Bible passages that mention the church and describe it. A few of these are listed below.

B. Some Bible Passages on the Church

The following passages mention the church. Look at each one and determine what the context of each passage is, what the passage teaches about the church and describe its importance.

- Acts 19:32, 41 (not translated “church” here – what is the word that is used?)
- Matthew 16:18
- Acts 2:47 (may not be in your version – look in the New King James Version)
- Acts 14:23
- Romans 16:16
- 1 Corinthians 1:1,2
- Ephesians 1:22,23

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Workshop 5: What About the Old Testament?

A. Why It Is Important to Distinguish between the Old and New Testament

The Bible is composed of two sections – the Old Testament and the New Testament. We understand that the Old Testament was given to the Israelites, then later removed by Jesus. However, many religious people do not make that same distinction. It is very useful to have a working knowledge of some passages that will help us clarify this distinction for others with whom we speak.

B. Some Bible Passages on the Old and New Covenant

The following passages mention some aspect concerning the Old and New Testaments. Look at each one and determine what the context of each passage is, what the passage teaches about the law God has given and describe its importance.

- Exodus 19:4-6
- Deuteronomy 5:2,3
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Matthew 5:17,18
- Ephesians 2:14,15
- Galatians 3:24,25
- 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- Colossians 2:13,14
- Hebrews 8:6-8

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Workshop 6: Acceptable Worship

A. Why Is It Important to Consider Worship

Most Bible believers understand that God wants us to worship Him. However, what constitutes true worship often proves to be an area of disagreement. Many people offer worship that bears little resemblance to what is taught in the Bible. It is helpful to understand the general concept of worship and know some passages that mention it.

B. Some Bible Passages on Worship

The following passages mention worship. Look at each one and determine what the context of each passage is, what the passage teaches about the law God has given and describe its importance.

- John 4:23,24
- Matthew 15:8,9
- 1 Samuel 15:1-24

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Workshop 7: What About Instruments of Music?

A. Why It is Important to Consider the Kind of Music God Desires

Baptism is a frequently discussed subject. We talk about it to others because of the importance the Bible attaches to it concerning salvation. Most of the religious world that claims to follow Jesus understands that baptism is mentioned in the Bible and is important, but they would differ over who is to be baptized, the action involved and its purpose.

B. Some Bible Passages on Music

The following passages mention music in both the Old and New Testament. Determine the context of each passage, the meaning of the passage and its importance concerning whether or not we should use instruments of music in worship.

- Nehemiah 12:27
- Psalm 150:1-6
- Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26
- Romans 15:9
- 1 Corinthians 14:15
- Ephesians 5:19
- Colossians 3:16,17
- Hebrews 2:12
- James 5:13

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Workshop 8: Salvation – Faith and Works

A. Why It is Important to Understand Salvation

In our first workshop, we considered the subject of baptism. Baptism is a subset of a much larger subject – salvation. There are many aspects concerning salvation. Much of the Old Testament sets the stage for the salvation that God promised through the Messiah. In the New Testament, Christ comes and teaches principles related to salvation. When He ascends into heaven, He sends out the apostles to reveal and preach the gospel to men. Part of that message concerns how men are saved – not by themselves, but by the provisions God has made. We will focus particularly on how God intends for us to receive His salvation.

B. Some Bible Passages on Salvation

The following passages mention the kind of music used in the New Testament. Determine the context of each passage, the meaning of the passage and why it is important in understanding salvation.

- John 6:28,29
- Romans 4:1-6
- Ephesians 2:8,9
- Hebrews 11:4,5,6,8,11,17-19
- James 2:21-26