

### III. Ministry Series--How to Lead Someone to Christ

Directions for the student of The Ministry Series: Focus on one question at a time. Read the question and answers. Look up scripture whenever possible, because reading the bible passages will help you understand the concepts and remember them more clearly. Learn the underlined parts of the answers. Be able to say the underlined parts, either in your own words, or by quoting word-for-word. When learning scripture, be able to say the scripture reference and the underlined parts, using either the NKJV (quoted here), or another translation (show your tester). Repetition aids memorization. Therefore ask three different people to test you, so that you are tested three separate times on every item. You may study the questions in any order you want. You may answer a question a little at a time, with study intervals between test sessions. If you answer a question a little at a time, ask your tester to check the parts of the answer you know with small check marks (and put small initials on their check marks). Ask your tester to sign the left margin when you know all the parts of a question. You have completed a question when it has three different signatures in the margin beside it. Have fun!

#### 1. Why do we need to share the gospel?

- a. Because we are commanded to preach, teach and witness the good news of salvation. It is part of the normal Christian life. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47.
- b. Because hell is real, Is. 66:24; Matt. 5:29-30; 8:12; 13:41-42, 50; 18:8-9; 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15; 21:8.
- c. Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into hell, Rev. 20:15.

#### 2. Know the references of at least two Scriptures which describe hell. Mark them in your bible and be able to find them quickly. (May I suggest? For major topics such as "hell", use one place in your bible to list all the related verses. For example, list all the verses about hell in the margin near Isaiah 66:24.)

- a. Isaiah 66:24 ...*For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched...*
- b. Matthew 18:8-9 (Jesus talking about hell, compare Is. 66:24)
- c. Mark 9:43-48 (Jesus talking about hell, compare Is. 66:24)
- d. Luke 16:19-31 (Jesus talking about the rich man in hell)
- e. Rev. 20:15 *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

#### 3. What is an effective way to share Christ?

Answer: Tell your own story. Use the acronym "SLAW:" Sin-Love-Ask-What happened:

Sin: What was your life like as a sinner?

Love: What made you aware that God loved you?

Ask: What did you ask Jesus Christ to do? (to come into your heart, to be your Lord and Savior, to forgive you).

What happened? What has your life been like since?

#### 4. Why is it good to know some scripture when you are witnessing?

- a. Because God's word does not return to Him void, but accomplishes the purpose for which He sent it.

##### **Isaiah 55:10-11:**

*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

- b. Because God's word is living and powerful. Even if the person you are talking to doesn't receive Christ immediately, the scripture you spoke to them may stay with them for a long time, and bring them to salvation.

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

#### 5. Know at least two scriptures to go with each part of S-L-A-W

##### **Sin:**

**Romans 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Psalms 32:1-2** *Blessed is [the man] whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

##### **Love:**

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For [God] made [Jesus Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ.*

**1 John 4:10** *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (When we ask Him to be our Savior, Jesus takes the penalty for our sins, which is death, and gives us His righteousness.)*

##### **Ask:**

**Revelation 3:20** [Jesus said,] *"Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."* (Explain that Jesus is standing at the door of their heart. They need to open the door by asking Him to come into their heart.)

**John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (Jesus is the only way to God).

**Acts 4:12** *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Only Jesus can save.)*

### **What happens:**

a) **Jesus comes into your heart**, Revelation 3:20.

b) **You become a child of God**,

**John 1:12** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*

**1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now we are children of God...*

c) **Your sins are forgiven**,

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Psalms 32:5** *I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

d) **You want to grow and become the person He wants you to be:**

**1 John 3:3** *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### **6. Practice giving your own testimony. (Do this at least three different times, with three different people.)**

**Here is a sample testimony:** all of us have **sinned** and fallen short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23. How can we possibly get to heaven? We have sinned. We are not righteous, not a single one of us. And the wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. Our lives were empty and dead.

But God **loves** us, John 3:16; Romans 5:8. He wants the best for us. His heart is to help us, and because He loves us so much He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. He came down from heaven and died for us so that we could have His eternal life in us, if we will accept it, 2 Corinthians 5:21. He took our punishment, which is death, for us, 1 John 4:10.

It is up to us to open the door of our hearts. We must **ask** Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, Rev. 3:20 We can ask Him to come in, forgive us and cleanse us, and make us the kind of people He wants us to be. The only way we can come to God is through Jesus Christ, John 14:6; Acts 4:12.

**What happens** when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts: We become children of God, John 1:12; 1 John 3:2. Our sins are forgiven when we ask Him to forgive us, 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5. We want to become the person He wants us to be, 1 John 3:3.

### **7. Be able to lead someone in prayer.**

**Sample prayer:** Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe that You came down from heaven and died for me. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. Forgive me for all my sins. Wash me and cleanse me. Make the person You want me to be.

## Consider this if you are reluctant to witness for Christ--

Hell is a literal, actual place. The Bible describes it as a lake of fire, Rev. 19:20. The souls who are thrown there are condemned eternally, Mark 9:43-48. They are burned with fire continually and eaten by worms, Isaiah 66:24; Mark 9:44, 46; Matt. 13:41-42; 25:41; Luke 16:23. There is no hope of escape, Matt. 5:26; Rev. 20:10-15.

Rev.20:15 *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*  
Mark 9: 47-48 [Jesus said] *“cast into hell fire where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’”*

Have you ever felt like not witnessing? I did. I had been offering the good news of salvation to others, and they nearly spit at me in rage. I was discouraged, for it seemed like I was just offending people. I told the Lord I was going to give up.

That night I had a prophetic vision. I was in hell on a cliff overlooking a lake of fire. I lay face down, horrified. The heat was intense. The smell was abominable, sulfur and burning. I heard screaming. I did not want to look down but saw them anyway: There were men and women standing in a lake of fire, engulfed in flames, burning. The fire burned continually. The screaming never stopped.

I heard a voice louder than fire and screaming. He repeated Himself three times:

**"PREACH THE GOSPEL!"**

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**"PREACH THE GOSPEL!"**

I awoke stunned, crying out to God.

I knew I could not give up. I preached the gospel. Soon afterwards one of the people I talked to received Christ as their Lord and Savior. It seemed they had been listening even though I thought they hadn't. I realized once again that God's word does not return void.

I preach the gospel. If someone doesn't want to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, that is their decision. But I will not stop doing what Jesus Christ told every Christian to do: **Preach the gospel!**

The gospel is *good news*. It does not condemn; it offers **life**. Those who reject the only way out of darkness condemn themselves,

John 12:46-48 [Jesus said] *“I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”*

--Diana Clancy, 9/29/2001; rewritten 4/27/11