

## Session 4: Sharing Your New Life with Others

How did you first hear about Jesus? Most likely someone told you or preached to you. Did you know that you have also been sent by the Lord to reach others with the good news about Jesus? You and I as followers of Jesus Christ have the awesome privilege of sharing the good news of God's love and eternal life with others. There is tremendous joy in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus and introducing them to him so they can know him just as you now know him.

Apostle Paul says, "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" (Romans 10:14, New Living Translation).

### Tell the World about Jesus

This amazing task is called the "Great Commission." It is what Jesus told his followers before he left earth to go to Heaven. "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) When Jesus gave that command to his followers to go and make disciples, it was not to pastors, evangelists or hired church staff. He spoke those words to average, every day kind of people like you and I are. "All nations" includes your sphere of influence, wherever that is (family, friends, workmates, schoolmates, neighbours).

**Think of it this way:** Imagine you had cancer and were chosen to be part of a special test group for a new cure. The treatment cured all of your cancer completely free of charge. What is the first thing you would do after you were healed? You would want to tell all of the other cancer victims about this great cure! Well, sin is a cancer affecting every single person. And you have been cured—forgiven of your sins—by Jesus Christ. Do you remember how you felt before you believed in Jesus? Maybe you felt lonely, guilty, and without hope. The entire world is lost without Jesus. That is why we are Christ's ambassadors. (**2 Corinthians 5:20**). He has selected us to represent him and reach them with his love and forgiveness.

Key Question: Are you willing to be Christ's ambassador to those in your sphere of influence? If so, tell God right now that you are willing.

## 1. The Gospel Is Good News

“Jesus Christ laid down his life for you so that he could give his life to you, so that he could live his life through you.” (Ian Thomas)

Sharing the good news with others takes two basic forms: **your walk and your talk**. As you grow in your relationship with Christ, others can see Christ by your walk (life). As the quote above says, Jesus living his life through us is one way he draws people to himself.

“In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

But, as we read at the beginning of this lesson, you must also share the good news of the gospel so others may believe in Christ.

The Gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ coming to earth to save us from our sins. If you have opportunity to tell someone one thing, tell them about Jesus.

Tell them that God loves them and wants a relationship with them. But sin separates people from God’s love.

Tell them that Jesus is God, who came to earth as a man, and died for everyone’s sins.

Tell them that they can be completely forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life with God only by believing in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

That is the gospel. Anyone can share it, and everyone needs to hear it. Pray and ask God for an opportunity this week and any time to share the gospel. A famous evangelist once said this, “Take the initiative to share the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God.”

## 2. Pray & Watch

You do not need to be an expert in the Bible or a person who has been a Christ for many years to reach others for him. There are several ways you can present Christ to others on a daily basis.

# Watoto

The first and most important thing to do is to **pray**: ask your heavenly Father to lead you to someone who is open to hearing more about Christ. It is the Holy Spirit's job to draw people to Christ. You can pray like this for someone who needs to give their life to Christ:

"Father, please send the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of------(name of the person you desire to become a follower of Christ) -----to draw him or her to Jesus and make him or her a follower of Jesus."

Keep on praying for that person as often as you think about or see that them, trusting the Holy Spirit to work in that person's life and drawing them to Jesus. Then you can ask the Spirit to open the door to have a conversation with them. Make a deliberate effort to spend time with that person.

When you talk to them, ask good questions to determine if the person is interested in spiritual things or whether they have already trusted in Christ as their Savior.

**You can ask questions such as:**

What is your faith background?

What were you taught about God while growing up?

Have you had a spiritual experience that has shaped your life?

Have you ever read or been taught the Bible?

How have spiritual values shaped your life?

You don't have to make a complete presentation of the Gospel to win someone to Christ. You can ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone who is open to hearing more about Jesus.

### **3. Share Your Story**

If you gave your life to Christ recently, you remember what life was like for you before Christ came into your life. How did you feel? What triggered your need for Jesus? What did God use to draw you to him? That may be how God will use you to reach others for Christ.

# Watoto

Once you have established a relationship with a friend, and “earned the right to be heard,” pray for an opportunity to share your story—what Christ has done in your life. Be ready for openings in the conversation where you can share a simple story of what God has done in your life. Give the person opportunity to appreciate the change that has happened in you. Arouse their interest and curiosity to hear more of what God has done in your life.

Most people reject Christianity because they don’t “have a clue” what it is all about, or they misunderstand it and think it is just “another religion.” They do not realize they are missing a totally awesome relationship with Jesus! The best way to share so that they really understand what the Bible says, is to prepare a short version of your own salvation story that includes the Gospel message in it—what you heard and believed.

**\*You will get an opportunity to work on your story this week.**

## **4. Ask for a Decision & Lead a Person in Prayer**

As the Holy Spirit leads, expect God to work in a person’s heart. Ask one of the following questions:

Does this make sense to you?

Would you like to accept God’s gift of salvation?

Would you like to give your life to Christ now?

Tell the person they need to personally put their trust in Christ as their Saviour to receive God’s forgiveness for their sins. If they are ready ready for a decision, pray with them to give their life to Christ. You can pray with them like this (this is just an example):

“Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for all of my sins – past, present, and future. Thank you for giving me eternal life and wanting a relationship with me. I trust in you and receive you now as my Savior, and I welcome you to be the Lord of my life.”

## **5. The Next Step for the Person who has Believed – Help them get grounded in Christ**

# Watoto

Once a person has come to Christ, now you have the privilege and honor of helping them get established and grow in Christ. Connect them to church and a small group (cell). By joining a community of believers, they can learn more about their relationship with Jesus from other believers.

## 6. The Next Step for You who have Become a Follower of Christ

To keep growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ:

- Join a small group (cell) where you can enjoy fellowship with others who are also disciples of Christ.
- Keep telling others about Jesus and get involving in discipling those who are new in Christ.
- Look for ways you can serve others in your local church.

Christianity is Christ! It's all about a relationship with him. Jesus Christ gave his life for you by grace, so he could give his life to you by grace, so he could live his life through you by grace. Knowing Christ's love for you and the presence of his life in you should motivate you to "live for him" (**2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 2:20**) and to serve him through serving others (**John 13:1-15; Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:1-4**). Both are responses to God's grace in your life. Another response is letting his life in you overflow to others around you, particularly those who need to know Christ.

### Your Salvation Story

"People love to hear stories...Telling your salvation story is just that- your personal story about how you gave your life to Christ. It's the easy and more personal way to speak about the love and work of God in your life and the love he has for all people. Your life and story is the best message to be written!"

Use the following prompts to get you started. Then, choose the highlights to make a "Five-Minute salvation Story" that you can easily share when Jesus gives you opportunity.

### Before you trusted in Christ

Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your "before Christ" experience, only give enough information so someone else would know why

# Watoto

you needed Christ in your life. Tell what you needed so that someone may identify with you.

*Identify what your life was like.*

*What were your attitudes, needs, and/or problems?*

*What did you try to find security, peace of mind, or happiness in?*

*In what ways were your efforts unsatisfying?*

Find 2-3 words to describe what only Christ could fill or do in your life (e.g. loneliness, feelings of insignificance, anger, rejection, purposelessness).

Briefly share a personal example that captures the needs and attitudes from this time of your life as identified above.

## **How you came to know Christ (point of salvation)**

*Share when and how you first heard the gospel and/or were exposed to teachings about Jesus.*

*What brought you to the place of being willing to listen?*

*Who influenced you?*

*How and when did you decide to follow Jesus?*

*Describe how you felt, what truths you heard, what you thought about them, and how you felt after you made the decision to give your life to Christ.*

**Share the gospel in this section. Use 1 or 2 relevant scripture verses.**

## **My life after knowing Jesus**

Spend the most time on this.

What specific change has occurred in your life since you gave your life to Christ?

What does it look like in your life to have a relationship with Christ?

How long did it take before you noticed changes in your life?

# Watoto

What issues are you still struggling with though you're now born again?

How do you depend on Jesus to help you overcome those struggles?

What difference does having Jesus in your life make even you're facing some challenges? Emphasize the positive change taking place in your life by briefly sharing the difference Jesus has made in your life.

**Wrap up by inviting the listener to give their life to Christ as you did so they can experience a new life of freedom and joy!**

A suggestion: Share a story of how you gave your life to Jesus with your spiritual mentor or leader and listen to his or hers as well. Ask Jesus to give you opportunity to share your story with others too.

## **Memory Verse 7**

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” (Romans 10:14, NLT)