

## **LESSON 4: IT'S TIME...to have a Passion for the Great Commission.**

LESSON AIM: To lead pupils to think of doing evangelism in new and creative ways.

SCRIPTURE RESOUCES: Different versions of Great Commission listed below.

TEACHING AID: RELATIONAL EVANGELISM READING

CREATING LEARNING READINESS:

**ASK 1. What scripture passages do you think most people can quote pretty near by heart?**

Psalm 23 (comfort, God's care)

John 3:16 (salvation)

Matthew 28:19-20 (evangelism)

(and someone will be sure to say "Jesus wept.")

**ASK: 2. What's the main theme of each one? (parenthesis above)**

COMMENT: All are related in a sense. When we accept John 3:16 we get the comfort of Psalm 23 and we are obligated to carry out the Great Commission which in turn brings salvation to others. Today we want to talk about carrying out that Great Commission.

Actually the Great Commission is found in numerous passages of scripture. Ask class members to read the following (make assignments ahead of time):

Matt. 9:37-38 The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.

Mark 6: 6b-11 Then Jesus went around teaching village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: take nothing for the journey except a staff-no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but no an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.

John 20: 21-22 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1: 7-8 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the father has set by his own authority. 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 world."

**ASK: 3. What is the common theme or instruction in these passages?**

All of us are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ASK: 4 What have been the traditional ways we have done this?**

Revivals  
Door to door evangelism  
Street corner preaching  
Sending missionaries to do the work which we paid for  
Tracts  
Radio and televangelism

**ASK: 5 Are these still effective? Why or why not?**

**ASK: 6 How did Jesus reach people? What were his methods?**

Taught  
Healed people  
Dealt with people others wouldn't deal with like lepers, sinners, people with bad reputation  
Interacted with people  
Dealt with whatever was placed in front of him  
There is a whole lot more written about his ministries to people and his teaching than about "hell fire and damnation" dissertations.

**Say:** Jesus practiced a "**As you go**" (write on board) type evangelism. Matt. 9:35-36 says: Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

**ASK 7: What are some examples of how Jesus "bumped into" people resulting in a personal ministry to them which ended up being an evangelistic opportunity?**

The woman at the well  
The woman who touched his robe (Lk8: 42a-48)  
The demon possessed man whose demons ended up in the pigs (Lk. 8:26-39)  
Raising the widow's son from the dead (Lk 7:11-15)

Healing boy with evil spirit that disciples couldn't heal (Lk9:37-43)  
Zacchaeus the tax collector (Lk 19:1-10)

Although he worked with crowds, the real stories of the New Testament are his dealings with individuals. Another name for this type evangelism is **Relational Evangelism**. (Write on board.) We've noted before that the Great Commission gives no instructions as to how to carry out the work. We are charged to do but given the freedom to carry it out in any way we can. For two thousand years people have been having to consider a lot of factors as they chose ways to carry out the commission.

**ASK: 8. What are some of the things we have to consider as we decide how we are going to do evangelism?**

**Our own capabilities-**We are charged as individuals to carry out the commission. We can band together but we are still responsible for the work as individuals. With that in mind I have to see what my talents and abilities are and plan ways to use them. Can I preach? Do I work best one on one? I can cook. I can teach. I can handle gore? I'm compassionate. I'm not compassionate. I have to discover ways I can use what I have to share the gospel.

**The moral/cultural climate around us.** Door to door evangelism may be unsafe in some neighborhoods. Soap box preachers are considered crazy now a days. We can get sued for so many things anymore...we had to stop carrying casseroles fixed in individual homes to folks in OIAM because if we gave food poison to someone we could be sued. Casseroles have to be fixed in health inspected kitchen.

**The isolation factor.** So many people live isolated lives. Many people go to work, come home, sit in front of the computer or TV and never interact with anyone.

**The busy factor.** We lead such hectic lives we not the people we want to reach don't have time for "religious" activities.

**ACTIVITY:** If time allows, go over the suggestions Dr. Vestal makes on page 34-35 of pupils book and discuss how these can be effective in practicing relational evangelism. If you don't have time encourage pupils to go back and study them.

**DISTRIBUTE:** The following is available in handout form and may be picked up in the church office. Teacher read the first part and pupils their part aloud in unison for the **lesson's conclusion**.

**TEACHER:**

**RELATIONAL EVANGELISM is one way of overcoming personal, cultural and physical barriers to evangelism. It allows us to work with our personal capabilities and within our limitations but use to our advantage what gifts we have. Discovering how to do this is our MISSIONAL PURPOSE. If the 2000 or so members of the Snyder Family all discovered a way to do relational evangelism and had a missional purpose, think of what we could accomplish.**

**CLASS**

**If in a year's time**

**each one of us could build a relationship with some person who did not know  
Jesus Christ**

**and in subtle or overt ways---**

**through the lives we were living,**

**through the ministry we had to that person,**

**through our actions which were reflecting Christ in our lives,**

**we could influence that person---**

**to examine their relationship with Jesus**

**to want to make changes in their lives**

**to accept Jesus as their Savior**

**We would have carried out the Great Commission.**

**Our church membership might not grow by one person...but God's kingdom would have grown by 2000. (Insert your church membership number here)**