

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

by George W. Robertson

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. What do you mean by *evangelism*? Try to give more than a simple "Sunday School" answer. (5)
2. Is it our responsibility to convince people of the truth of the gospel? (6)
3. Does the truth of the gospel only seek to reach the spiritual side of people? (7-8)
4. *You* have a story of how you came to Christ. On a separate piece of paper, write your testimony with the idea of limiting it to three minutes. A good testimony has three parts: First, what my life was before Christ. (Keep this short. Don't exaggerate. Don't get into too many details.) Secondly, how Christ wonderfully transformed my life through the gospel. Thirdly, the difference Christ has made in my life since he saved me. (8-12)
5. What do you think have been the two most effective ways God has used to bring people to him? (13-17)
6. Since you are able to invite people to come with you to church, then what activities would you be willing to attend with them? (17-21)

7. What keeps you from freely sharing the gospel? Be honest!

8. What things can you do to try to open up an opportunity to dialogue about your faith? (22-26)

9. Read John 1:43-51. What two mistakes did Philip make in witnessing to Nathanael? (26-30)
 - a.

 - b.

What encouragement can we get from Philip's mistakes?

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

As a Group:

Each member of the group should make a list of 5 people they know with whom they can share the gospel. The whole group is to commit to praying for each person on someone else's list, as well as their own. Each person, during this next week, is to set up a time to meet with one person on that list within the next two weeks. The person praying for that individual is to stay in contact to help encourage the other to follow through on this. Each week the group is to continue praying together for the Holy Spirit to be working in the lives of those you want to reach, as well as your own hearts.

For Further Study

Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless, C. John Miller. P&R, 1997.
Evangelism Explosion, D. James Kennedy. Tyndale, 1996.
Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally, Jim Peterson. NavPress, 1988.

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