STARTING OUT AS A CHRISTIAN · STUDY NOTES

Study 9: Sharing the good news

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

How God brings people to Himself

Think back

Think back over how you were saved. Do you remember the people, events and circumstances that influenced you? What were they? It may help to write them down.

1. The means God uses in conversion

a) God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin.

1 **Read John 16:7–8**

What will the Holy Spirit do when He comes?

The Holy Spirit's saving work is unseen, like the wind.

2 **Look up John 3:8**

To what does Jesus compare the work of the Spirit?

b) God's word, the Bible. The Spirit of God uses God's word to bring about the new birth.

3 **Look up 1 Peter 1:23**

Through what have believers been born again?

The Bible leads us to faith in Christ.

4 **Look up John 20:31**

Why were these things written?

The preached word is the Spirit's sword that cuts people to the heart (compare Ephesians 6:17).

5 **Look up Acts 2:37**

What happened to the people when they heard Peter preach?

c) God's people, the church. Jesus told us to spread the gospel.

6 **Look up Matthew 28:19–20**

What does Jesus tell His followers to do, and what does He promise them?

Some people are specially gifted for this.

7 **Read Ephesians 4:11–12**

Which gifts did Christ give His church, and why?

But we all have a part to play in sharing the gospel. How?

PART 2

Your part in sharing the gospel

2. Ways you can share the gospel

a) Telling others what God has done for you.

8 **Look up John 9:25**

What one thing did the man know?

See also: Paul tells his story in Acts 26:12–18.

b) Inviting others to Jesus, by bringing them to hear the gospel.

9 **Look up John 4:28–30**

What did the woman say to the people of her town, and what did they do?

c) Giving to support those who preach the gospel.

10 **Read Philippians 4:15–16**

How did the Philippians help Paul?

d) Praying that doors would be opened for the gospel message.

11 **Look up Colossians 4:3**

What does Paul ask them to pray for?

3. Hints on how to share the gospel

a) Be ready. Christians have every reason to be happy in Christ. If anyone challenges you, or asks why you are joyful, be ready to tell them.

12 **Read 1 Peter 3:15–16**

How should we give the reason for our hope?

b) Be clear. When you speak to someone about Christ, have a clear outline of the gospel in your mind (look back at study 1, "Becoming a Christian"). This will also keep what you say anchored in the facts of the gospel rather than in your own "experience", which may not be repeated in the other person's life.

c) Be bold. Nearly everyone is nervous about sharing their faith directly, so we need to support and encourage one another. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives boldness.

13 **Look up Acts 4:31**

What happened after they had prayed?

d) Be determined. Sharing the gospel with others is hard work, but the hardest part is getting started! The day will come when God uses your witness to help someone find Christ, just as other Christians were used to help you. His power, not our cleverness, is what counts. Never give up; your work is not in vain.

14 **Look up 1 Corinthians 15:58**

What do we know about our labour in the Lord?

4. Review

There are many ways we can share together in spreading the gospel. It is important that everyone is ready to speak up when the opportunity comes.

Caring for new believers

If God uses you to lead someone to Christ, remember that new-born babies need to be cared for – and so do new-born Christians! Encourage the new believer in prayer and Bible reading, and introduce them to the church family.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Who were the people God used to bring you to Christ?

2. Which of the four ways of sharing the gospel could you start this week?

3. Who could you pray for, and perhaps invite to hear the gospel?

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 9

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

STARTING OUT AS A CHRISTIAN · STUDY 9 · MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

Berean Standard Bible · biblehelp.net

“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **John 16:7–8** *7But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:*

2 **John 3:8** *The wind blows where it wishes. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

3 **1 Peter 1:23** *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

4 **John 20:31** *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*

5 **Acts 2:37** *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

6 **Matthew 28:19–20** *19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

7 **Ephesians 4:11–12** *11And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ,*

8 **John 9:25** *He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know. There is one thing I do know: I was blind, but now I see!"*

9 **John 4:28–30** *28Then the woman left her water jar, went back into the town, and said to the people, 29"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30So they left the town and made their way toward Jesus.*

10 **Philippians 4:15–16** *15And as you Philippians know, in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church but you partnered with me in the matter of giving and receiving. 16For even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided for my needs again and again.*

11 **Colossians 4:3** *as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

12 **1 Peter 3:15–16** *15But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you. But respond with gentleness and respect, 16keeping a clear conscience, so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your good behavior in Christ.*

13 **Acts 4:31** *After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

14 **1 Corinthians 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says ‘man’, ‘he’ or ‘brothers’ where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 9: Sharing the good news

> **Memory verse:** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- Show the means God uses in conversion: His Spirit, His word and His people.
- Encourage every believer to share the gospel: telling, inviting, giving and praying.
- Give practical hints: be ready, clear, bold and determined.

Suggested timing (about 60 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome; invite one or two people to share briefly how they came to Christ.
- **20 min** Part 1 video (4 min); John 16:7–8, 3:8, 1 Peter 1:23, John 20:31, Acts 2:37, Matthew 28:19–20 and Ephesians 4:11–12.
- **25 min** Part 2 video (5 min); John 9:25, 4:28–30, Philippians 4:15–16, Colossians 4:3, 1 Peter 3:15–16, Acts 4:31 and 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- **10 min** Pray for people by name, and for open doors.

Tips

- Practise giving the gospel outline from study 1 in two or three minutes.
- Encourage those who feel nervous: inviting someone to church or praying for them are real ways of sharing the gospel.
- Remind the group that conversion is God's work (study 2): we sow and water; God gives the growth.

Answers to watch for

- **John 16:7–8:** the Spirit proves the world wrong about sin, righteousness and judgement.
- **John 3:8:** the Spirit's work is like the wind.
- **1 Peter 1:23:** born again through the living and enduring word of God.
- **John 20:31:** written so that you may believe and have life.
- **Acts 2:37:** cut to the heart: "What shall we do?"
- **Matthew 28:19–20:** go and make disciples of all nations.
- **Ephesians 4:11–12:** evangelists, pastors and teachers given to equip God's people.
- **John 9:25:** "I was blind, but now I see!"
- **John 4:28–30:** "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did."
- **Philippians 4:15–16:** the Philippians gave to support Paul's preaching.
- **Colossians 4:3:** pray that God may open to us a door for the word.
- **1 Peter 3:15–16:** be prepared to give the reason for your hope, with gentleness and respect.
- **Acts 4:31:** filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke the word of God boldly.
- **1 Corinthians 15:58:** your labour in the Lord is not in vain.