



Becoming Fishers of Men

Making Disciple-makers
Evangelism Lessons

*An Equipping Resource
for Sunday Schools
and Small Groups*



Becoming Fishers of Men

Making Disciple-makers

The Macedonia Project 2016-17

Jesus wanted all people to repent and believe in the Gospel. He preached openly, but then He called men to follow Him. And He promised to make them “fish” for others. The process that Jesus used will be the model for this Bible Study.



“Becoming Fishers of Men” was developed to equip followers of Jesus to work among the lost in the most lost parts of Missouri. Missouri Baptists are to share Christ on their own home fronts. And the Macedonia Project invites committed “fishers of men” to share their faith in Christ in either St. Louis or Kansas City. The goal is for 20% of MBC churches and 20% of everyone in weekly Sunday School attendance to lead 5 people to Christ and on average see 1.1 of them baptized. The statewide goal is 25,000 baptisms each year for the two year emphasis 2016-17.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE:

Introduction: Changing Lives and Communities with the Gospel

1. Preparing the Net – The Urgency of the Gospel (Mark 1:14-20)
2. Casting the Net – The Gospel – repent and believe Peter on Pentecost (Acts 2)
3. Drawing the Net – Jesus Sent Out His Disciples (Luke 10:1-12)
4. Mending the Net – Making Disciple-makers (Acts 9:10-20)

A free *20-day “Becoming Fishers of Men” Devotion Guide* accompanies this Bible study. It should be distributed at the first training event and completed no later than the last training event.

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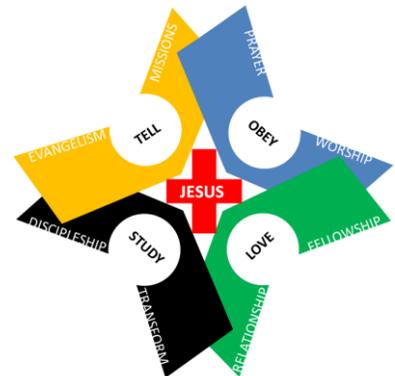
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TRAINING OUTLINE FOR EACH SESSION

LEADING THE SESSION: The following is an outline for EVERY session. It was developed for Sunday School classes and small groups that equip students up through older adults.

Only “God’s Word” changes each week. Refer to the Scripture and points on related page.

This evangelism training uses inductive Bible study methods so that the facilitator can listen to responses that help them track spiritual growth. Each participant is encouraged to conduct their own study with others outside the group during the following week. One significant advantage is that a follow-up study to this titled “New Believers Following Jesus” follows the same teaching format.

Jesus:

1. Greet everyone and introduce any new participants.
2. Focus on Jesus – Lead in a time dedicated to worshipping Jesus.
3. Sing worship songs.
4. Invite prayer requests. *Pray!*

Obey:

1. Affirmation – checkpoint – How’s it going in your relationship with Jesus?
2. Accountability – checkpoint – Are you doing what you promised?
3. Review – last week’s Scripture and Memory Verse
4. Worship / Prayer A.C.T.S.—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplications
5. Checkpoints: Acts of Obedience: Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Stewardship, Devotions

Study: Read the passage or tell the story for this session for the appropriate lesson below.

1. Head (facts): Review the story.
 - a. Learn the passage so that you can tell it as a story.
 - b. Lead in a creative expression of the story (art, drama, poetry, etc.)
2. Heart (inspiration): Stop and pray that each would hear from God. (John 16:13)
 - a. What did you like about this part of God’s Word?
 - b. Is there anything that you struggled with?
 - c. What did you learn about God?
 - d. What did you learn about people and their nature?
 - e. **Ask the discussion questions under each category for each week’s study below.**
 - f. What changes do you need to make? Will you? (Hold them accountable.)

3. Hands: (application)
 - a. Who needs to hear this? Will you tell them?
 - b. Memory verse for the week – discussing its meaning and application

Love:

1. Relationship check—Do you need to forgive someone or be forgiven?
2. What will nurture fellowship with those we love?
3. How can you or we serve the church this week?

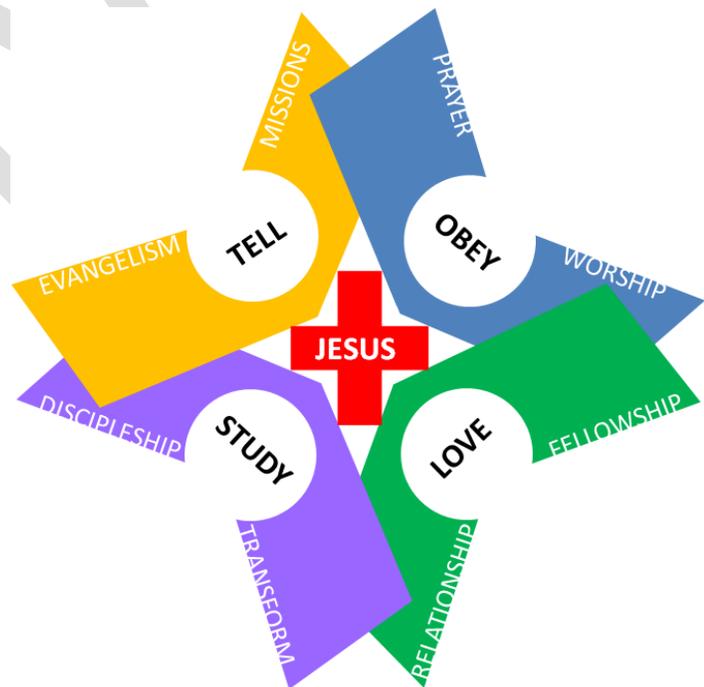
Tell:

1. Who are you boldly witnessing with (5) and praying for (5)? (Your 5+5)
2. Who needs to know Jesus that is on your heart? Need this group’s help?
3. How can you serve others who are far from Jesus this week?

Memory Verse: Help participants learn the verse section by section until they have mastered it.

Movement-oriented Checkpoints:

- ✓ Visit with each new believer in person. Share the gospel with them and their family and friends.
- ✓ When you learn about praying against spiritual warfare, developing a testimony, sharing the gospel, etc., make sure they begin doing this. Make sure they train new believers!
- ✓ After this training, decide on these options: (1) have a class member teach this with your assistance, then empower them to lead it; (2) start a new small group, or (3) take steps to become a new church.





LESSON ONE: Preparing the Net – The Urgency of the Gospel

Use the same Lesson Plan for each lesson. Use the suggestions below for this session.

ADD INTEREST: Distribute **blank index cards** purchased IN ADVANCE. Instruct each person to write “me” in a box. Then around the box write the first name of each person they have led to faith in Christ in the past six months. In a circle around that group, write the names of those that they led to Christ have led to Christ. Place a “+” next to each name that was baptized. Keep this “Me Card” updated for the next six months. (*Keep the card – it will be added to in future lessons.*)

STUDY: Tell or read “Jesus Calls His Disciples” in Mark 1:14-20.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Stop and pray for the Holy Spirit to provide each person a message about this story.
- What was Jesus telling the people?
- Why are repentance and belief required for salvation?
- Who was Jesus speaking to? On a scale of one being low and ten being maximum, how strong were the people in their religious convictions?
- Think about the community where you live? ON a scale of one being low and ten being maximum, how strong are the people in their religious convictions?
- Do you think Jesus had it harder than you do when He began His earthly ministry and why?
- What had just happened as Jesus started His ministry?
- Simon, Andrew, James, and John had been following John the Baptist. How did that relationship help them be ready for Jesus’ invitation to follow Him?
- What invitation did Jesus extend to the four men?
- What promises did Jesus give to the four men?
- What promises does Jesus make to us today when we follow Him?
- Describe what it means to be fishing for people?
- Who has God placed on your heart among whom you can fish?
- Why did Jesus place a priority on being fishers of people?
- What do you need to totally walk away from (abandon) to follow Jesus as a fisher of men?
- Will you urgently share this story with others you know this week?
- Describe in general terms those people that are far from a relationship with Jesus.
- Today we talk and listen to Jesus through prayer. How is He helping you be a fisherman?
- Stop and pray for those you know that need to hear this story and the need to repent and believe.
- Introduce the Memory Verse. What better fruit than new souls repenting and believing in Jesus?!

MEMORY VERSE: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you” (John 16:15 ESV).



LESSON TWO: Casting the Net – The Gospel Message

REVIEW LAST SESSION’S LESSON: “Jesus Calls His Disciples” Mark 1:14-20. Make sure participants understood that Jesus urgently wants us to be His disciples and follow Him exclusively.

ADD INTEREST: Distribute **small balloons** purchased IN ADVANCE. Be careful if there are babies or toddlers who might get choked. Instruct everyone to blow up their balloons. IN ADVANCE use a pin to poke one or more tiny holes in each person’s balloon. Do not poke a hole in your balloon. Suggest that each person might need to just keep blowing up their balloon indefinitely. Suggest that maybe they need to help blow up a person in need. Debrief the exercise by pointing out that our lives can each be spent trying to keep being inflated by many different things. Because of our sin nature, we are riddled with sin. However, when you repent and believe in Christ, it is like a balloon that has had its pinhole forever healed. Jesus is all we need to have fulfillment in life. The Gospel Message contains abundant life.

STUDY: Tell or read “Peter at Pentecost” in Acts 2:1-14 and 2:32-42.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to you that the disciples were praying when they received the Holy Spirit?
- Ask for participants to describe what happened right after being filled with the Spirit?
- Since new believers receive the Holy Spirit when they accept Christ as Savior, how should a long-time believer assist them in sharing their faith?
- What was the response of the people in Jerusalem that day when they heard the Good News about Jesus?
- What did Peter do when people started ridiculing the believers who were sharing their faith?
- What should you do if you are rejected or given a hard time for sharing your faith in Jesus?
- What was the Good News (the Gospel) that Peter shared on Pentecost?
- What does it mean to “come under deep conviction”? (v. 37) Ask volunteers to describe how the Holy Spirit convicted them of their sins before accepting Christ as your Savior.
- What does it mean to “repent”? (v. 38)
- Why did Peter want the people to be “saved from this corrupt generation”? (v. 40) What does “saved” mean?
- What is the first act of obedience the people of Jerusalem did after accepting Jesus as Savior?
- When do followers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- Think back to the last session’s lesson. How was Peter “fishing for people”? How was Peter beginning to make disciples by sharing the Good News?
- Pray daily for those you know that need to hear this story and the need to repent and believe.
- Have everyone refer to their “ME Card” listing those you have led to faith in Jesus. Were any names added this week? (*For details on the ME Card, see Lesson One.*)
- Introduce the Memory Verse: What Good News do followers of Jesus have because they believe in God’s Only Son, Jesus?”

MEMORY VERSE: “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 HCSB).



LESSON THREE: Drawing the Net – Witnessing Teams

REVIEW LAST SESSION’S LESSON: “Peter at Pentecost” in Acts 2:1-14 and 2:32-42. Make sure participants understood the Gospel message (repentance and belief) to follow Jesus and no others.

ADD INTEREST: Bring an empty suitcase to the meeting. (Option: gym bag) Explain that this is your first trip and that you need help to know what to “take.” Distribute index cards and markers. Have each person write three things that they would want to make sure they “took” on the trip. (*Note the emphasis on what they would take rather than things they would pack.*) Open the suitcase and have everyone put their card in the suitcase. Read them to the group. If nobody wrote “Bible” or “gospel tracts” ask if they would want to take those. Then ask if they would want to take their faith in Christ. Debrief what is really the most important thing to *take* with us when as we travel.

STUDY: Tell or read “Jesus Sent Out His Disciples” in Luke 10:1-12.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Stop and pray for the Holy Spirit to provide a special message to each person.
- Why do you think Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs? What does that mean to you when sharing the Gospel with those you do not know and have never met?
- Why did Jesus command His disciples to pray before going on their mission?
- Introduce the Memory Verse printed below. What significance is there that God sends out workers?
- What would a “harvest” look like in your community?
- What did Jesus suggest that the disciples take with them on their trip?
- What did Jesus want His disciples to do and to say on their trip?
- What was the “target” of the disciples’ mission? Why should they stay focused and not wander?
- Ask volunteers to describe who the disciples were to look for when they entered a community.
- What were the disciples to do if they were rejected or persecuted? What if you encounter resistance?

BECOMING WITNESSES:

- Either assign or encourage everyone to get a witnessing partner on the spot. Encourage men to be with men and women with women. If this is a singles’ class, have two of one gender and one of the other grouped to protect the honor of all. Explain that this is their witnessing team.
- Witnessing teams are to identify at least five each that they can prioritize to be witnesses. Have them refer to their “Me” Card listing those that have still not come to faith in Jesus.
- Identify any people groups or pockets of lostness in your community. Present these to the witnessing groups that may not have any “leads” listed yet on their card. Have them plan on a day when they could get together and witness.
- Pray over the groups. Allow them to pray together. Close in prayer for boldness as active witnesses.

MEMORY VERSE: “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’” (Luke 10:2 ESV).

LESSON FOUR: Mending the Net – Making Disciple-makers

REVIEW LAST SESSION’S LESSON: “Jesus Sent Out His Disciples” in Luke 10:1-12. Make sure participants understood the importance of taking the Gospel not just to individuals, but everyone.

ADD INTEREST: Explain that “DIY” stands for Do It Yourself. Videos and manuals help DIY with tasks. Explain that today we’re going to go full-DIY. IN ADVANCE prepare work aprons, hard hats, etc., for the volunteers. Ask for three volunteers. Explain that each volunteer does not know how to do a specific task, so the group will need to give them step-by-step instructions: (1) Have the first DIY volunteer stand up. Explain that the group needs to instruct him or her on how to breathe. The DIY’er must follow their commands very carefully! (2) Have the second DIY volunteer stand up. The group must instruct them carefully and with great detail on how to walk. (3) Have the third DIY volunteer stand up. The group must instruct this DIY’er on how to carefully and with great detail begin to follow Jesus as a new believer. Debrief the exercise by explaining that we as followers of Jesus must make disciples.

STUDY: Tell or read “Ananias Helps a New Believer” in Acts 9:10-20.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Stop and pray for the Holy Spirit to provide a special message to each person.
- Ask volunteers to describe Saul in three categories: Receptive, Reputation, and Recommends. (The Three R’s describe a “person of peace” and how they can facilitate the spread of the Gospel.)
- Ask volunteers to describe Ananias and why he hesitated to help Saul.
- What did the Lord explain so that Ananias should simply obey and not be afraid?
- What types of people are scary to you? What does this story tell you about approaching them?
- How could the Holy Spirit of God already be at work among those your Witnessing Team is seeking to repent and lead to faith in Christ?
- Have everyone refer to their “ME Card” listing those you have led to faith in Jesus. Were any names added this week? Are there any new believers needing training. (*See Lesson 1 for ME Card details.*)
- What was the first act of obedience that Saul did after deciding to follow Jesus?
- Why was it important that Saul spent time with other followers of Jesus?
- What did Saul do to be a witness for Jesus? What will you do to help new believers share their faith with those that they know that are far from Jesus? Think back to these lessons. Will you help them get their own “ME Card” going?
- Introduce the Memory Verse printed below. Help each participant understand that Saul wrote this later on when he went by the name Paul. He was discipling Timothy who was training others to teach others, too. Have everyone draw three rings around the “ME” in their “ME Card.” Explain that those are four “generations.” [*1st Gen: Paul, 2nd Gen: Timothy, 3rd Gen: faithful men, and 4th Gen: others.*] As they lead someone to repent and have faith in Jesus, they should help them lead others repent and to have faith in Jesus, too, just like Saul did after deciding to follow Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: “And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2 HCSB).

EVANGELISM and FOLLOW-UP RESOURCES:

“**New Believers Following Jesus**” is a five-session lesson designed in the same format as the Evangelism Lessons. It is available from the Missouri Baptist Convention by download as a PDF file online at www.mobaptist.org/evangelism.

Bibles: A Current List of Bibles, New Testaments, Audio versions, and Scripture Portions is a free download is available from the Missouri Baptist Convention by download as a PDF file online at www.mobaptist.org/evangelism.

Two witnessing apps free from the Missouri Baptist Convention:

1. Sharing Jesus with Missouri Baptists is available for iPhones and Android devices in English and Spanish
2. C2C Creation to the Cross is available free for iPhones and Android devices in English.

C2C Creation to the Cross (orality-friendly) witnessing tracts are free to Missouri Baptists and \$1.00 for everyone else. Information is online at www.mobaptist.org/c2c.

The Baptism Brochure has been revised for baptismal candidates, new believers, their families, and others they want to invite to a Baptism Celebration. Packs of 25 are free from the Missouri Baptist Convention and a free download of the brochure is online:

http://media.mobaptist.org/public/evangelism/baptism_brochure.pdf

New materials are updated quarterly online: <http://mobaptist.org/evangelism/materials/>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Decision Counselor and Follow-up Training is a half-day training covering topics like leading people to repentance and faith in Jesus; counseling children; handling registration and church member voting; avoiding abusive situations; and the importance of mentoring new believers.

Workers in the Harvest: Missionary Training for Church Members accompanies the manual used by churches. Learn the seven tasks that lead to missional living, making disciple-makers as a lifestyle, and starting small groups, even starting churches. Covers T4T, Bible Storying, witnessing, and many other tasks. A must for believers to obey the Great Commission.

TruthSticks Training: More than half of Missourians are oral learners. Learn what it takes to use God’s Word in an oral format to witness and make disciples. There are four learning zones that keep those in the training fully engaged. Training Events are posted online at <http://truthsticks.us>.