

ELEMENTS

10
LESSON

Evangelism

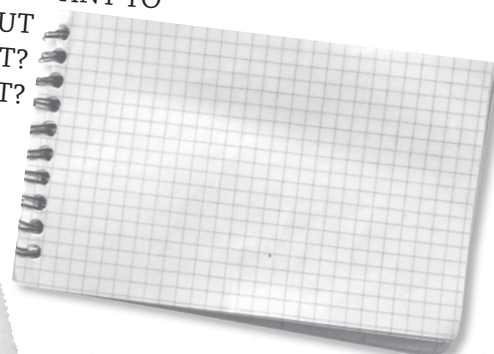
HOW TO TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST...

Speak

Talk about what you think...

DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST? WHY OR WHY NOT?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE WORD MISSIONARY BEFORE? WHAT DOES THIS WORD MEAN TO YOU?



WOULD YOU EVER BE HESITANT TO TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?

HOW DO YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH? HOW DO YOU TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS?



Study

Engage with the Bible...

In this passage we see Jesus calling Matthew to follow him. Matthew was a tax collector by trade. Tax collectors were often involved in fraudulent practices and were considered traitors by the Jews. He probably worked in a "Toll" booth on the road to Galilee, which means people would have to pay Matthew in order to travel that way. What kind of person would that be today? A corrupt government official, or a former drug dealer, or a businessman who defrauds pensioners - basically an outsider who no one trusts.

MATT 9:9-13, 25-38- JESUS DOING EVANGELISM...

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" + On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."³⁵ 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. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Discovering the key themes

1

Calling Matthew

Jesus simply asked Matthew to follow him. What do you think following Jesus involved back then (see verse 9)?

Evangelism involves asking others to follow Jesus. Evangelism comes from the Greek word “Evangel” which means good news or gospel. Evangelism simply means to announce or speak about the good news – which is about who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for us.

2

Spending time with our friends

Jesus knew how to spend time with his friends in their world. What did he do with them? What would you do with your friends who do not have a relationship with Jesus?

Jesus decided to have dinner with Matthew and his friends who were “tax collectors and ‘sinners.’” We already know about tax collectors but who were the “sinners”? They were simply normal people – anyone who was not a Jew was called a sinner. So Jesus had dinner with people who did not follow God in the traditional way. He knew how to spend time with normal people in their environment.

3

No Compromise

Think about one of your friends who is not a Christian. What would make it difficult for you to be in your friend’s world?

Jesus did not compromise his own beliefs and values to be with them. In fact, being with them was his belief and value. And he did not let their differences keep him from spending time with them. We do not see Jesus being influenced negatively by them but actually influencing them. Jesus was really good at loving people by being with them in their world. This is a great example for us today!

4

Teaching and Speaking out

What are some of the key things you see Jesus doing in verses 35-38 to spread the good news? What was his motivation for this?

Jesus makes a key statement at the end of this passage when he says, “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” What he meant by this is that there are many people around us who do not have a relationship with God and there are too few people to talk to them about it. So Jesus is asking us to be willing to spread the good news to others. Each of us has a responsibility in evangelism: to be a friend to others, to love them and then to speak to them about what Christ has done for us.



Applying it, experiencing it, practicing it

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

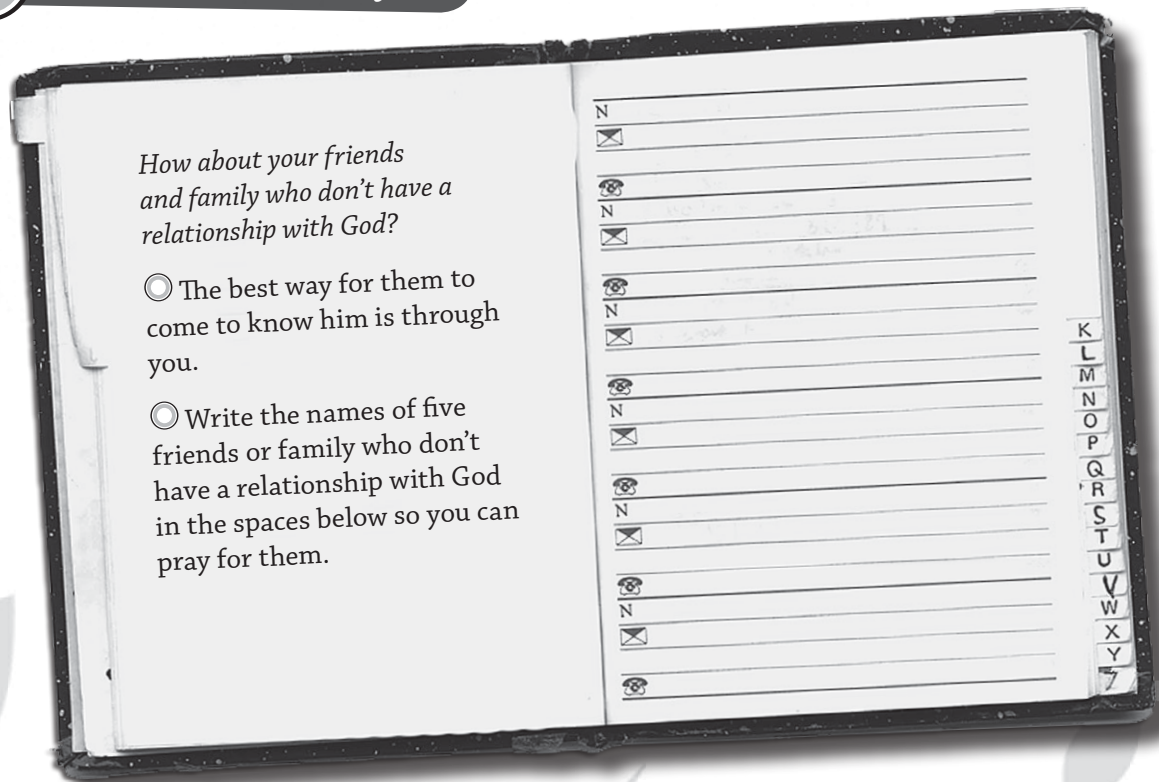
What is your attitude towards your non-Christian friends? It is easy to think that you should not hang out with anyone who has sinful habits or does not have a relationship with God. From Jesus' life we see a different example. So, be careful about your heart's attitude toward those who do not yet believe. Don't allow pride, arrogance or fear to keep you from being their friend. They need you, and God wants to use you to show them what a relationship with him can look like.



Starting with Prayer

How about your friends and family who don't have a relationship with God?

- The best way for them to come to know him is through you.
- Write the names of five friends or family who don't have a relationship with God in the spaces below so you can pray for them.



Sharing your story **2**

Your personal story is your story or testimony about how Christ has made a difference in your life. Personal stories are easier to relate to than principles, and people love to hear them. They capture our attention, and we remember them longer. The best way to be ready to give an answer for your faith is to write out your story and then memorize the main points. Divide it into four parts:

1. What my life was like before I started my relationship with God
2. How I realized I needed to start a relationship with God
3. What I did to get started
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life since that time.

Take some time this week to work on your story.



Speaking the good news

Knowing the “Good news” and being able to put it into words is important as well. Review lesson 1 and the main points of “How to have a relationship with God” and use it as a foundation for you to explain to your friends the Elements of the gospel.

TOP 10 ways to do evangelism

1. Pray for your unbelieving friends and pray that you would have an opportunity to share your story with them.
2. Earn the right to speak to them by being a good friend and a great listener.
3. As you share your story be respectful and listen to other people’s stories.
4. In your relationships, don’t just share truths; share your story about learning the truth.
5. Share the key turning points in your story with your close friends.
6. Watch for people around you who are searching for answers in life.
7. Pray for opportunities to simply help other people in significant ways.
8. Look for opportunities to show grace to those who don’t deserve it.
9. Be prepared to explain why you choose to act or react differently than others.
10. Invite your unbelieving friends to be a part of your new community of believers and to share in the fun and warmth of that group.

Real Stories from Central and Eastern Europe



Evangelism | Filip



Evangelism | Vlado



How does this work out in you this week?

SUMMARY VERSE AND MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

1 PETER 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

EXPERIENCING IT DURING THE WEEK:

| <i>Theme</i> | <i>Passage</i> | <i>Questions</i> |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1st Day – The world | <i>Acts 16:22-34</i> | What was it about Paul and Silas that made the jailer want to be saved? What was their simple instruction for him to be saved? |
| 2nd Day – What about the harvest? | <i>Matt. 9:35-38</i> | Are you willing to be a harvester to help bring others to God? What should be your first step of action toward that goal? |
| 3rd Day – The Good news story | <i>1 Cor 15:1-8</i> | What are the essential parts of the gospel that a person must believe to start a relationship with God? What is the most confusing part of these ideas for you? |
| 4th Day – Not ashamed | <i>Rom. 1:16 – 32</i> | What is the heart condition of men who suppress God’s truth about life? What is the power that can break into that condition? |
| 5th Day – Giving an answer | <i>1 Peter 3:15</i> | Take time today to work on your “answer” or “story”. |
| 6th Day – Great Command | <i>Matt 28:18-20</i> | Who is following you in your life now? Does God want you to lead them to Him? What might be your first step in leading them closer to God? |
| 7th Day – Parts of the gospel | <i>Lesson 1 - Gospel</i> | Review a gospel presentation such as “Bridge to Life” or “How to Have a Relationship with God”. |



Evangelism

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