

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living Study Guide

EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

INTRODUCTION

This series of lessons explains one method of sharing the Gospel message with others. This method uses *The Four Spiritual Laws* concept written by Bill Bright for Campus Crusade for Christ. This method can be used to structure our evangelism, and is available in booklet form for use as an evangelism tool. Printable versions in many languages are available from www.4laws.com. These lessons explain *The Four Spiritual Laws* and how to use them conversationally to explain the Gospel and invite people to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Practical discussion encourages practice of the principals involved.

The Student's Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.



EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

This purpose of this lesson is to introduce *The Four Spiritual Laws* as a method for sharing the Gospel. It outlines the basics of the four laws, and the benefits of an easy method for explaining the Gospel.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

Evangelism is the process of sharing the good news of salvation found in Jesus Christ with those who have not yet received it. Every Christian has a responsibility to share what God has done in their life with others, and make new disciples. However, many people are hesitant to share for fear they will get it wrong, or won't be persuasive enough. It is freeing to remember that our job is to present the facts of salvation, and it is up to the person hearing us to respond in faith. God can work with our efforts even if our delivery isn't perfect. Having a tool to help us present the Gospel clearly and effectively should help us and give us courage. That is what *The Four Spiritual Laws* are all about.

GETTING STARTED

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you wished you were better prepared to share the Gospel with someone? What would have been helpful?

2. Where do you encounter people who need to hear about Jesus? What places do you frequently go to, or where would be a good place to start up conversations with people about spiritual things?



STUDY

❖ INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS:

You don't need a special occasion to share the Gospel message with someone. You can be ready at any time to go out and share, or to talk to someone if you have a plan. *The Four Spiritual Laws* is a booklet that was developed by Dr. Bill Bright for ministry to students, and the booklet explains the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a simple way that anyone can understand it. Using these spiritual laws as a plan will help you be ready at any time to share the Good News.

- Why is being prepared to share the Gospel at all times important?

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- From your understanding of the Gospel, what does a person need to know and then do in order to begin a relationship with God.

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Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, there are spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God. Here we will examine the Four Spiritual Laws.

❖ LAW 1: GOD LOVES YOU AND OFFERS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE: This is the first point you should make clear to someone you are presenting these laws to.

- Read the following verses and write down what they tell us.

John 3:16	
John 10:10	

- When we share this booklet, we can ask a person:
 - What does the term 'abundant life' mean to you?
 - Why do you think most people are not experiencing abundant life?

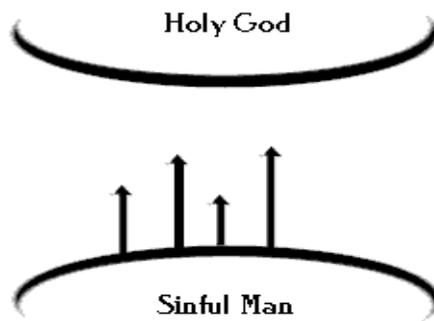


❖ **LAW 2: MAN IS SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD. THEREFORE HE CANNOT KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD’S LOVE AND PLAN FOR HIS LIFE.**

- Man is sinful. Man was created to have fellowship with God; but because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.
- Man is separated from God. God is holy and man is sinful. A great divide separates the two. Man is constantly trying to reach God through his own efforts, such as living a good life, doing good deeds or rituals.
- Read the following verses and write down what they tell us about sin and our separation from God.

Romans 3:23	
Romans 6:23	

- The diagram shows that God is holy and man is sinful, and a great gulf divides the two making it impossible to reach the holy God.



- There is only one way to close the gap between God and man...

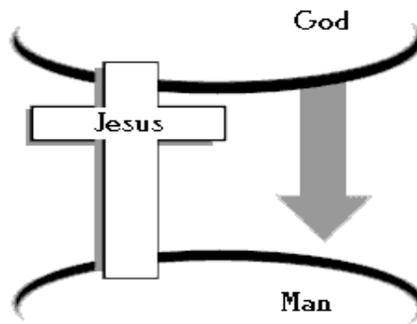
❖ **LAW 3: JESUS CHRIST IS GOD’S ONLY PROVISION FOR MAN’S SIN. THROUGH HIM YOU CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD’S LOVE AND PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.** The important points about how God made a way for us to be reconciled to God are below. Look up the verses and write down what the Bible tells us.

- **He died in our place.** We deserved to die for our sins. Jesus took our place because of His love for us.



- **He rose from the dead.** Jesus demonstrated His power over death by rising from the dead.
- **He is the only way.** No other name and no religious system can give us salvation. Jesus is the only way.

<p>He died in our place Romans 5:8</p>	
<p>He rose from the dead 1 Corinthians 15:3-6</p>	
<p>He is the only way John 14:6</p>	



- You can use this diagram to show someone how we cannot reach God on our own, but God has bridged the gap between us and God through Jesus Christ. We must understand and agree with the previous points in order to come to God. It is not enough just to know these three laws, there is one more thing we must do.

❖ **LAW 4: WE MUST INDIVIDUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR AND LORD; THEN WE CAN KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD’S LOVE AND PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.** Once we individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord we are called Christians. We have received salvation and we belong to God. Look up the verses and write down what the Bible tells us about these points.

- **We must receive Christ.**
- **We receive Christ through faith.**
- **When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth.**
- **We receive Christ by personal invitation.**



<p>We must receive Christ John 1:12</p>	
<p>We receive Christ through faith Ephesians 2:8-9</p>	
<p>When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth John 3:1-8</p>	
<p>We receive Christ by personal invitation Revelation 3:20</p>	

- ❖ This is an overview of the contents of *The Four Spiritual Laws* booklet. Subsequent lessons in this module will explain the laws in further detail and give information on how best to use this tool. Consider memorizing these laws, and practise sharing them with others!

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ *The Four Spiritual Laws* is an evangelism tool that allows us to clearly share the Gospel without missing important information.
- ❖ *The Four Spiritual Laws* simplifies the Gospel so that anyone can understand it, and so we can be ready at all times to deliver it.
- ❖ Law 1 is that God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life
- ❖ Law 2 is that man is sinful and separated from God
- ❖ Law 3 is that Jesus is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our life.
- ❖ Law 4 is that we must individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in order to know and experience that love and plan He has for us.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are the benefits of using *The Four Spiritual Laws*?

2. Why is it critical we do not leave out important information when sharing the Gospel? How will having a good plan prevent this?