

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living Leader's 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.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for Essentials for Christian Living are 1) new Christians who require knowledge of Christian living or 2) those who have been Christians for some time and would like a refresher course on the basic principles of our faith, based on the Word of God. These lessons will be helpful to those who find themselves teaching and discipling others and want to be reminded of foundational aspects of Christianity. These lessons assume the participant has made a decision to follow Jesus and wants to explore Christianity further.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at www.discipleshipessentials.org.

Essentials for Christian Living: Leader's Guide © 2014 Trans World Radio Canada.

Have you heard of the Four Spirituals Laws? © 1965 – 2015 Bright Media Foundation and Cru. Written by Dr. Bill Bright. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Unless otherwise specified, you may reproduce any lesson, in whole, in any format, without charge or further permission. For all other purposes or uses, contact Trans World Radio Canada by visiting www.discipleshipessentials.org.



EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce *The Four Spiritual Laws* as a method for sharing the Gospel, and the reasons why a person would want to use this method.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson introduces *The Four Spiritual Laws* as a way of sharing the Gospel. It is something participants can memorize, or print out for themselves. You may wish to acquire these laws in booklet form through Campus Crusade for Christ, or print off a version in the language you require from www.4laws.com. You may want to plan ahead and model how to share *The Four Spiritual Laws* with another person by role playing sometime during this lesson. Ensure that you are comfortable with the material and how to present the Gospel this way. This lesson is an overview of the laws. Subsequent lessons in this module further examine these principles and suggest methods for using them effectively.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions.

- ❖ 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?
- ❖ When you have shared the Gospel with people in the past, have you used a plan or tool to help you remember all the information? How did it work for you?
- ❖ Are you ever timid to share the Gospel? What makes you hesitate?
- ❖ 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

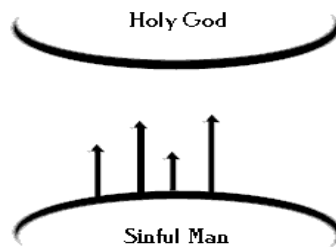
TEACH

- ❖ **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.

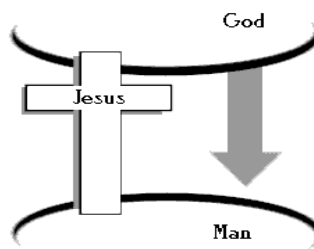
- ❖ Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, there are spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God. You may wish to memorize them so that you are always ready.
- ❖ **Law 1: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life**
 - God's Love – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
 - God's Plan – "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (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 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). 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 – "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Spiritual separation 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.



- 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.**



- **He died in our place.** “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
- **He rose from the dead.** “For I delivered to you as first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).
- **He is the only way.** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6).



- It is not enough to know these three laws...
- ❖ **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.**
 - **We must receive Christ.** “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).
 - **We receive Christ through faith.** “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - **When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth.** “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:1-8).
 - **We receive Christ by personal invitation.** – “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).
- ❖ 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.



DISCUSSION

- ❖ Share with the group about a past experience when you attempted to share the Gospel with someone? How did you feel? What did you learn from that experience? What would you do differently if you could repeat the experience?
- ❖ Why is it critical we do not leave out important information when sharing the Gospel? How will having a good plan prevent this?
- ❖ What are the benefits of using *The Four Spiritual Laws*? Can you think of any limitations?
- ❖ What are the various ways you can approach people before you share *The Four Spiritual Laws*?
- ❖ What are some of the questions that you might encounter while sharing these laws? How can you effectively answer them?

PRAYER

Close your time in prayer. Thank God that He provided a means for us to know Him and that He has a plan for our lives. Ask God to provide opportunities for participants to share the Gospel with those around them. Pray for wisdom and a courageous spirit. Ask that God would be glorified in the participants' efforts to serve Him.