



LESSON ESSENTIALS

EVANGELISM AND THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 2: THE FIRST AND SECOND LAWS

God showed us how much He loved us by sending his own Son to die instead of us. There can't be a greater love. This same God loves us so much that He wants the best for us. His plans for us are amazing and worth looking forward to. Read on to know more. We can often miss out on God's will for our lives if we shift our focus to other things. The result is not merely unfortunate, it can be disastrous. This lesson will help you present the first two spiritual laws to others as a method of clearly presenting the Gospel. These should always be presented with the next two laws which we cover in the next lesson.

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life is a simple truth, yet difficult for some to accept. This lesson tells you how you can take this message to your unbelieving friends.

Talk to someone who doesn't know God and you will find them living in insecurity and doubt. It is for this reason that you need to tell the world about God's love and purpose for their lives.

Have you ever met someone who you wanted to share the Gospel with but you were unsure how to begin? Or have you started to share with someone the excitement you have for your relationship with Jesus only to find that your presentation was probably confusing to the person listening? Having a plan in place when you share the Gospel can help you overcome both of these struggles! Talk to someone who doesn't know God and you will find them living in insecurity and doubt. It is for this reason that you need to tell the world about God's love and purpose for their lives. That's what Dr Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade did. He felt the call of God to be a part of Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) by sharing his faith. He started with students at the University he was studying in, and the movement gave birth to Campus Crusade for Christ. The Four Spiritual Laws coined by Bright serve as a good framework for evangelism, though you should always lean on guidance from the Holy Spirit while witnessing.

Creating an opportunity for spiritual conversations is the first step. If you are involved in a church or spiritual movement you could invite a friend out to an event, and make time to talk with them about it afterwards. Some people have found using the Jesus movie, a church service, or discussion held by your church a great way to begin a conversation. Another option is to begin by asking someone if they have ever heard of the *Four Spiritual Laws*.

You might meet someone on a school campus, at a market or busy street, or even in your own neighbourhood. If you are not sharing with a friend but a stranger, try to look for someone who may have a few minutes for you to share with them, and ask them if you could share something you have learned with them. Other questions you could ask are "if you died today, do you know for sure that you will go to heaven?" or "has anyone ever taken the time to share with you the Four Spiritual Laws? They have really changed my life and I think they may be of interest to you!" Sometimes finding a common ground or interest will help you share more effectively. The best way to learn is by practice – so pray that God will lead you to the right people, and get out there to share!

Once you have begun your conversation, you should begin with the first law and go through the booklet in order. If you have a copy of the booklet, hold it open so the person you are sharing with can read along with you. Be warm, confident and friendly.

The first law states “God loves you and offers and wonderful plan for your life.” Like the physical laws that govern the physical universe, there are spiritual laws that govern our relationship with God. The first part of this law states that God loves us. This is clearly stated in John 3:16, which says, ‘God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.’ God is the embodiment of love. One of the most amazing attributes of God is that He is personal and loves us so passionately, as though there was no one else to love.

And if He loves us so much, wouldn’t He also have a great plan for our lives? We often run ahead of God and plan things for ourselves, conveniently keeping God out of the picture. But God’s plan is the best possible plan. It is only when we follow His leading in our lives that we find true joy and fulfilment and maybe someday hear from Him, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Some of us may trust our spouses, parents, or friends and seek their approval for all our plans. While they might want what’s best for you, their approval is only limited to human knowledge. God however, is infinitely wise, our creator and our father. Wouldn’t you want to trust Him with your life and let Him direct your ways based on His plans for you? You can certainly depend on Him, given that He loves you more than anyone else in the world and is in control of all things, including your life. Fear of the future and confusion about the present don’t have any place in your life when God is in the driver’s seat. 1 John 4:18 says, ‘There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment and the one who fears has not been made perfect in love.’

When we put our trust in God who loves us perfectly, love drives out all fear. We are also exhorted in Proverbs 3:5 to trust the Lord completely and not ourselves. When we put God first, He directs us and crowns our efforts with success. You can however, miss out on God’s perfect plan for your life, like many other Christians, if you choose to be in control. It is easy to set our eyes on mundane things rather than on God. When we own something that we can’t give up, it usually owns us!

This is where it is important to address the second Spiritual Law. Each of us needs to understand that God’s plans for us are interrupted and our relationship with God broken by sin. Sin is a word that can be uncomfortable for many. Some do not have a

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concept of actions that are universally wrong. But the second law states that Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. It might be necessary to explain that 'sin' is anything against God's law. It is anything produced by our rebellious self-will that rejects God and His proper place in our lives. It is putting ourselves first. If someone still does not understand that they are sinful, you could choose to go through some of the 10 commandments and ask if they have kept all of these since birth. If they cannot think of a time they have lied, coveted what was not theirs, dishonored their parents, they certainly can see that they do not love God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength and love their neighbor as themselves.

It is important to convey the seriousness of sin, and that because God is a holy and perfect God He cannot have a perfect relationship with sinful people. Sometimes it helps to draw a diagram, or point to the diagram in the Four Spiritual Laws booklet if you have one available. This diagram should show God above us, and sinful man below. The gap between the two is too great for us to reach God on our own. We need Jesus who can bridge that gap for us, and provide a way for our sins to be forgiven! Romans 3:23 tells us that everyone has sin in their life, and we all fall short of what God wants from us. Not only that, but we deserve death for our sin! (Romans 6:23) We are slaves to sin, but Jesus Christ is able to set us free!

When presenting the Four Spiritual Laws, do not stop with the problem of our sin – make sure to go on to explain the third and fourth laws which show us that salvation is possible through Jesus!

IN REVIEW

- There are many ways to being a conversation on spiritual things. Having a plan will help you when the opportunity arises.
- The first Spiritual Law is that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives.
- We should explain what the love of God means, and why it should excite us that God has a plan for us!
- This plan and God's love is not apparent in our lives because of sin. This is the bad news – sin breaks our relationship with God
- This is why we require a saviour! Be prepared to learn about the other two spiritual laws in the next lesson.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Think about a friend or family member who is not a Christian. What would their response be if you told them about the love God has for them and the plan He has for their life?

- Why is it important that people know God loves them before explaining the whole of the Gospel? Why is it important that our message not stop there?

- Do you fully trust God's plan for your life? How do you demonstrate this trust?

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