

# discipleship essentials

## Essentials for Christian Living Leader's Guide

### EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS LESSON 2: THE FIRST AND SECOND LAWS

#### INTRODUCTION

This series of lessons explains one method of sharing the Gospel message with others. This method uses the *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](http://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 who would like ensure they have right beliefs, based on the Word of God, or a refresher of elementary principles of the faith. 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](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org).

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# EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

## LESSON 2: THE FIRST AND SECOND LAWS

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to look at how to begin a gospel conversation with someone using *The Four Spiritual Laws* material, and how to effectively communicate the first and second laws.

### LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson elaborates on the first two of the spiritual laws – that God loves us and has a plan for our lives and the reality of sin interfering with this plan. It is fundamental that participants understand this and live this reality. Their understanding of God's love for them will fuel their desire to see others come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour. Some participants will already be engaging in evangelism. Encourage them to try the methods outlined in this lesson. For those who have not begun to practise regular evangelism, it may be helpful for them to practise conversations in your small group. You might personally want to challenge your participants to talk to a few people about the spiritual laws before you meet next as a group.

## INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions.

- ❖ How do you know God loves you?
- ❖ How can you show people God's love through your life?
- ❖ What do you believe God's plan is for you? How do you know He has a plan for you?
- ❖ When you have a plan for your life, who do you turn to for approval? Spouse? Parents? Teachers? Why do you want their feedback on your plans?
- ❖ What difference should it make in a person's life to know they are loved by God? Should that revelation matter?

## STUDY

### TEACH

- ❖ **Sharing God's Love with Others:** As Christians, we ought to have a great love for others and desire that they too know the love and peace of God. This should fuel our evangelism efforts! In order to share God's love with others, we must create opportunities to talk about spiritual things.



- Creating an opportunity for conversation may be as simple as inviting someone to a seminar, church service, small group, movie or other event put on by your ministry group, and then afterwards discussing what was presented with questions such as:
  - What do you think of what you just heard?
  - Did it make sense to you?
  - Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing Jesus personally?
  - Would you like to?
- This leads nicely to a presentation of the Gospel. Start with ideas that you have in common and try to find out what they believe.
- ❖ **Sharing *The Four Spiritual Laws*.** Another way to begin a spiritual conversation is to approach someone and ask if they have ever heard of *The Four Spiritual Laws*. They might be curious, or may have heard of them but did not understand them. Remember, *The Four Spiritual Laws* are:
  - **Law One** – God loves us and has a plan for our lives (John 3:16; John 10:10).
  - **Law Two** – Man is separated from God by sin (Romans 3:23).
  - **Law Three** – God has provided a provision for our sin with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (Romans 5:8; 1Corinthians 15:3-6).
  - **Law Four** – Each person must make an individual choice to believe and accept Christ as their Saviour (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- ❖ **Additional Conversation Starters:**
  - Would you let me share *The Four Spiritual Laws* with you, and then would you give me your response?
  - Has anyone ever taken the time to share with you *The Four Spiritual Laws*?
  - I am attending a seminar and we are studying *The Four Spiritual Laws*. They make sense to a lot of people and so I would like to go through them with you. Have you ever heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?
  - Did you know the content of this booklet has been used to change the lives of millions of people? It contains truths that I believe will be of great interest to you. Will you read it and give me your impression?
  - If you died today, do you know for sure that you will go to heaven? This booklet, the Four Spiritual Laws, will help you know for sure that you will go to heaven when you die. Would you like to read it?
  - There are many ways to start a conversation! Can your group come up with some others?



- ❖ **Sharing the First Law:** 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.

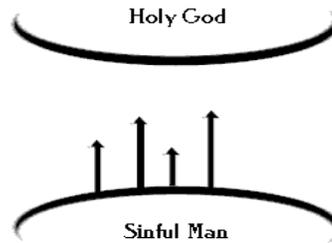
**The first spiritual law states, “God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.”** People around us live in fear and uncertainty and need to know the love of God.

- People around us need and desire God’s love. They may not be aware that this is what they are missing in their lives until it is revealed to them.
  - The Bible tells us the motivation for all that God did for us was love. In John 3:16 the Word of God tells us it is because of love that Jesus was sent to earth to die for our sins.
  - People have varied definitions of love – but in one sense love cannot be described in rational or meaningful propositions. Love goes beyond rational examination. The Greek language uses several words for love. Three of these are: eros, philia, and agape.
    - **Eros** (Greek *erasthai*) is used to refer to that aspect of love reflecting a passionate, intense desire for something; it is often referred to as a sexual desire.
    - **Philia** speaks to the fondness and appreciation of the other person.
    - **Agape**, an important term when it comes to understanding God’s love, refers to the fatherly love of God for humans. It also extends to include a brotherly love for all humanity. The term draws on elements from both eros and philia. It refers to a perfect kind of love that is transcending, and a love that does not call for reciprocity. That’s the unconditional love that God has for us
- ❖ **God’s Plan for Us:** God’s love is demonstrated to us through His Word and by dying on the cross for our sins. If God loves us so much, He must also have a great plan for us.
- We often make our own plans and have our own desires for our lives, but unless it is God’s plan for us we will not be living our best life.
  - We trust our spouses, parents, and friends, and often ask for their approval for our plans. Even if they love us and desire what is best for us, their knowledge is limited where God’s is infinite!
  - Consider 1 John 4:18 which states, “Perfect love casts out all fear.” For this reason we should not fear our future because it is in the hands of the God who loves us. When we put God first, He directs us and fulfills us.
  - We must not miss out on the plan God has for us by trying to steer our lives without Him. We must take small steps and wait for God’s peace and assurance as we abide in Him through prayer and His Word. We will not be given a whole picture of our lives all at once. We must trust Him with each step and He will reveal the direction we should take.
- ❖ **Sharing the Second Law:** After a person understands God’s love for them they must understand that God’s plans for them are interrupted and our relationship with God broken by sin. Sin is a word that can be uncomfortable for many. In some parts of the world people do not have a



concept that anything can be universally wrong, or they may view themselves as good enough people.

- **Use the Illustration to Demonstrate our Separation:** We can use the illustration that shows our separation from God in the booklet, or draw it on a board or piece of paper. No matter how hard we try and reach God, we will always fall short.



- **Explaining Sin:** 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.
- **Sin is Destructive:** It is important to convey the seriousness and destructive nature of sin. Relationships in our world are broken as a result of sin, loneliness, anger, fear and so much more are a result of sin in the world. God wants to rescue us from it. We cannot escape it on our own.
- **Sin in the Bible:** Some Bible verses you can be familiar with in order to speak about sin are:
  - o Romans 3:23 – Everyone has sin and falls short of God's standard
  - o Romans 6:23 – We deserve death because of our sin
  - o John 8:34 – We are all slaves to sin, and Jesus came to free us!
  - o Matthew 5:48 – God's standard is not that we are just good, or better than most other people. God's standard is that we be perfectly holy!
- **But there is Hope!** We should move on to communicate the third law as quickly as we can – there is hope for us because of Jesus Christ! The third and fourth laws are covered in the next lesson.



## DISCUSSION

- ❖ 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 should God's love for us fuel our desire to share His Gospel with others?
- ❖ 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?
- ❖ Why is it important that people fully understand their sinful nature and the seriousness of sin when accepting Jesus Christ?
- ❖ Do you fully trust God's plan for your life? How do you demonstrate this trust?

## PRAYER

*Close with a time of prayer. Ask God to help participants see how much they are loved by God, and to seek His plan for their lives. Ask God to give the participants a burden to reach their friends and family and neighbours with the Gospel. Thank God for His plan of salvation and His Word that we can rely on.*