

discipleship essentials

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

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EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 2: THE FIRST AND SECOND 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...

When you are ready to share the Gospel with someone, it is important to have the main points you should share straight in your mind. Sometimes people get confused in all the information they could share. The Four Spiritual Laws simplifies the presentation of the Gospel so that it is easy to remember and understand. The first two laws are important for understanding *why* we need salvation in the first place! You may need to spend a little more time on the first point if your audience does not have an understanding of who God is. It is important to be joyful, friendly and encouraging as you go through these laws with another person. It is an exciting thing to be used by God to share these wonderful truths with a friend!

GETTING STARTED

1. How do you know God loves you? How can you show people God's love through your life?

2. What do you believe God's plan is for you? How do you know He has a plan for you?



STUDY

❖ 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.

- How could you create an opportunity for spiritual conversation with people you know?

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Creating this opportunity may be as simple as inviting someone to a church service, a showing of a Christian movie, a concert or an event put on by your church or ministry group. From here, you could discuss what was presented with questions such as:

- What did you think of what you just heard?
- Did it make sense to you?
- Have you made the wonderful discover of knowing Jesus personally? Would you like to?

This leads nicely into 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.

- Do you remember the *Four Spiritual Laws*? Write them down if you can, or look them up in the previous lesson if you don’t remember.

Law One	
Law Two	
Law Three	
Law Four	

- It might be helpful to prepare a conversation starter, especially when sharing with someone you have just met. You should try and start a conversation naturally. The following might be helpful to you:



- 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 you think of any 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.” It is the first spiritual truth you want to communicate when witnessing to someone. People around us live in fear and uncertainty.

- 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.

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.

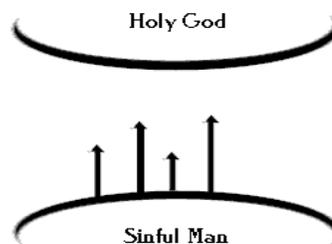
- We often make our own plans and have our own desires for our lives, but unless it is God’s plan for us we will not be living our best life.
- We trust our spouses, parents, and friends, and often ask for their approval for our plans. Even if they love us and desire what is best for us, their knowledge 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.
- Why is it important to start with these facts before discussing our sin and God's plan of salvation?

❖ **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 the Bible:** Look up the following verses in your Bible, and write down what they say about Sin. It is important that you know these ideas come from the Bible. You may choose to use some of these verses when sharing.

Romans 3:23	
Romans 6:23	
John 8:34	
Matthew 5:48	

- 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.
- ❖ **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.

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ As Christians we ought to have a great love for others and desire that they too know the love and peace of God.
- ❖ Creating an opportunity for conversation about spiritual things is the first obstacle to evangelism.
- ❖ There are many ways to begin a spiritual conversation. It may be helpful to prepare some starters in advance, or prepare to bring someone to an event held by our ministry group.
- ❖ The first spiritual law is that God loves us and has a plan for our lives.
- ❖ The second spiritual law is that our relationship with God is broken by sin
- ❖ We should understand these ideas are from the Bible, and where to find supporting Bible verses.
- ❖ There is hope for restoration of our relationship with God! The next lesson will look at the remaining two laws.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. Why is it important that people fully understand their sinful nature and the seriousness of sin when accepting Jesus Christ?