

LESSON ESSENTIALS

EVANGELISM AND THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 3: THE THIRD AND FOURTH LAW

There is a booklet which can serve as a good conversation starter. If you don't have the booklet, you can still learn the Four Spiritual laws and use them as a tool to spread the Gospel. The booklet has some diagrams in it which will be described to you in this lesson so that you can use them to explain the laws to others. The Four Spiritual Laws make evangelism a lot simpler. Whether a person accepts Christ through it or not, it does get him thinking about life and the role that God plays in it. Discover more as you read on.

The Four Spiritual Laws can be a handy evangelism tool because they are simple and to the point. Read on to know more about them, as you learn how to evangelise to others using the Laws.

It is God who equips us to reach out to people and the Holy Spirit who guides us at every step. However, it helps to have a structure in mind so that we don't find ourselves at a loss for words. The Four Spiritual Laws booklet is a useful tool to communicate the Gospel effectively.

When it comes to evangelism, there is no formula to getting it right. We also can't take any credit for people who make a decision for Christ through our influence. It is God who equips us to reach out to people and the Holy Spirit who guides us at every step. However, it helps to have a structure in mind so that we don't find ourselves at a loss for words. After sharing the first and second spiritual law, we leave people with an understanding of the sin in their life, and the broken relationship they have with God. We should move quickly on to the good news that Jesus came to deliver – there is hope!

The third Spiritual Law is that Jesus 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. By using the Bible you can demonstrate to your listener that Jesus came to die for our sins, so that the penalty for our sin could be paid. This allows us to receive forgiveness for our sins and return to a relationship with God!

The fourth spiritual law is that each and every person must accept this truth for themselves, by choosing Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord. In order to make this clear to your listener, diagrams are provided in the booklet. In each diagram there is a circle. In the diagram called a 'Self-Directed Life,' there is a throne in the circle with self on the throne and a cross outside of the circle. The other diagram is called 'Christ-Directed Life' and this diagram includes a circle with a throne inside of it with a cross on the throne (representing Christ) and self at the base of the throne. As an evangelist, you can ask your listener what he sees in the picture. Inside the 'Self-Directed Circle' there is a throne, which the person occupies. He is the ruler of his own life, while God stands outside the circle.

Within the circle is chaos and conflict, and that usually happens when we are in control of our lives. The picture of 'Christ-Directed Life' on the other hand, again shows a throne. But this time, it is God who is seated on it, while the person is sitting at God's feet. Everything here is in harmony, because God is in control of our lives.

It would be appropriate to ask your listener which circle best represents his life. You can receive three possible answers in response to that question: 'Self-Directed Life', 'Christ-Directed Life' and 'not sure'. If your listener picks the first option, then you can

ask a pertinent follow-up question, 'Which circle would you like to represent your life?'

If he chooses the Christ-Directed Circle, it means that the person is willing or ready to accept Christ as their Saviour. This is your chance to explain to him about Christ and ask him if he would like to invite Christ into his life. If he answers in the affirmative, you can then lead him through the acceptance prayer found in the booklet, asking him to say it with faith. If he believes that prayer, you can finish reading page 10 and lead in the next prayer, phrase by phrase, aloud.

If however, your listener is content living a Self-Directed life, you can objectively discuss the outcome of a Self-Directed life compared to a Christ-Directed one. You can then humbly tell him that you will be praying that someday he would invite Christ into his life and, if he will listen, show him how to receive Christ when that day comes. However, if your listener doesn't want to hear about how to receive Christ, you must accept that. You don't want to make it seem like you're forcing the Gospel on him or that you think you are better than them. By being responsive to your listener's needs, he feels respected and may feel more comfortable to talk about the Gospel with someone else or with you at another time.

If your listener is unsure about whether he would want God in his life or not, you could ask him significant questions to help him discover that his life without Christ is Self-Directed and then lead him to the question on how he can live a Christ-Directed life. You may need to talk about the emptiness and destruction that accompanies a self-focused life. Ask them if they have ever wanted to live for something greater than themselves, or to know that their life has purpose. As you go through the information together (whether you have the booklet or not), pause at the point of decision-making. You'll want to ask your listener whether he is ready to invite Christ into his life and make sure he understands what that means.

By the end of it, you would have shared the Gospel in a structured manner. You may have encouraged someone to start thinking about the Gospel, or you might even have led them to give their life to the Lord! Happy evangelising!

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IN REVIEW

- The Four Spiritual Laws is a great method that can be used effectively in personal evangelism.
- The Laws are precise, simple and easily transferable, making them a good way to spread the Gospel.
- When introducing the circle-diagram to your listeners, you should slowly go through each question, making sure that your listener understands the consequences of the decision he is about to make.
- If he has already accepted Christ as his Saviour, you should go through the information anyway, to teach him how to use the Four Spiritual Laws to communicate the gospel to others.
- If he is unsure about making a commitment, you could ask him significant questions that get him thinking about his life without Christ.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- What are some of the questions that you need to be ready for while sharing the Gospel through the Four Spiritual Laws?
- How can you share the Gospel in a calm, friendly manner without being judgemental or making it seem forceful?
- What are some of the questions that you can ask your listener to get him thinking about the importance of God in his life?

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