

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS LESSON 3: THE THIRD AND FOURTH 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.

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EVANGELISM USING THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 3: THE THIRD AND FOURTH LAWS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to look at how to share your faith with someone using *The Four Spiritual Laws* material, and how to effectively communicate the third and fourth laws.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson explores the third and fourth laws in *The Four Spiritual Laws* material. It provides examples of dialogue to help explain the circle diagrams, and how to use these to bring someone to a decision to follow Christ. If your students do not have copies of this booklet for their own use, see if you can acquire printouts. One idea for presenting this material would be to invite colleagues to role-play the scenarios, or for participants to engage in the role playing themselves. Having the opportunity to see their responses to questions will help them feel more comfortable presenting this material themselves.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions.

- ❖ What are some ways you can start up a conversation on spiritual topics that could lead to a presentation of the Gospel?
- ❖ What are some questions you could ask to get someone thinking about the importance of God in their life?
- ❖ What changes did you make in your life when you became a Christian and put Jesus at the centre of your life instead of your own desires?
- ❖ Why is a life centred on God better than fulfilling your own desires?

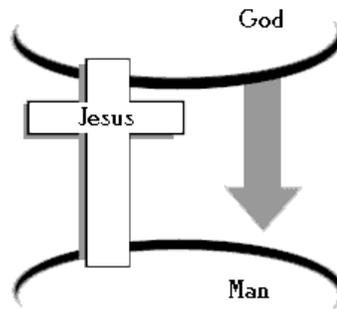
STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **Sharing the Third Spiritual Law:** So far in your presentation of *The Four Spiritual Laws*, you have shared God's love and His perfect plan for us, as well as the effects of sin on our relationship with God. Now is the time for the good news! The third law states: **Jesus Christ is God's only solution for man's sin.** Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life!



- **Make sure you emphasize the following points:**
 - **Jesus Died in our Place:** We deserve to die, and we earned the penalty of death because of our sin. Jesus offered to die in our place so that our sins could be forgiven and God's justice satisfied (Romans 5:8).
 - **He Rose from the Dead:** Jesus did not remain in the grave, but rose to life proving that He is more powerful than death, and indeed the Son of God (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)!
 - **Jesus is the Only Way:** In presenting this law, we emphasize that Jesus is the only path to salvation. We cannot be good enough on our own, and no other god or religious system can fix our sin problem. "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).
- **Using the diagram:** Demonstrate that the gap between God and man was so great that we could never reach Him on our own to restore the relationship. So Jesus bridged that gap. God came down to us! If your participants do not have access to the booklet, they could draw or otherwise demonstrate this visual for those they share with.



- ❖ **Sharing the Fourth Law:** It is not enough to know these three laws. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life. The fourth law is: **Each person must make an intentional choice to believe and accept Christ as their Saviour.**
 - It is important that the people you are sharing the Gospel with understand that their position with God has nothing to do with their parents' beliefs, their community beliefs, or whether or not they attend church. It has everything to do with their own personal relationship with Jesus.
 - As you share with someone, watch their response. Check with them to make sure they understand the information, and pause to talk through their questions or objections.



❖ **The Circle Diagrams:**

- Diagram 1 – Self-Directed Life: Pictured below is a circle with a throne/chair inside the circle. In the self-directed life, Self is on the throne with Christ outside the circle. This diagram represents a life with self-directed interests often resulting in discord and frustration.



- Diagram 2 – Christ-Directed Life: The picture here is the same circle with a throne/chair inside the circle. In this instance Christ is on the throne and Self is inside the circle at the base of the throne. This diagram represents a life that is Christ-directed resulting in harmony with God's plan.



- ❖ **Practise:** The following is a list of questions with possible responses you should be prepared for:

- "Which circle best represents your life?"
 - Possible Responses:
 - A. Self-Directed Circle: Proceed to the second question.
 - B. Not sure or In-Between: Proceed to the second question.
 - C. Christ-Directed Circle: Do not ask the second question. Instead say, "That is great. Let me continue reading this booklet so you will know how to go through it with someone else."
 - Read to them the suggested prayer below and ask, "Have you ever committed your life to Christ in this way?"



- If the person says, NO, ask, "Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?" If they say it does, lead in the prayer, phrase by phrase, aloud.
 - If the person says, YES, ask how and when, and have them tell you how their life has changed since they prayed that prayer and asked Jesus to take control of their life.
- "Which circle would you like to represent your life?"
- Possible Responses:
 - A. Self-Directed Circle: "That is all right, but someday you may want to invite Christ into your life. I would like to show you how to receive Christ when that day comes." Read through the Prayer below so they are familiar with it, and give them the opportunity to come back to you if they ever want to discuss it further.
 - B. Christ-Directed Circle: "You can receive Christ right now by faith as you pray a simple prayer." Give them the opportunity to receive Christ. Tell them God knows their heart and is not as concerned with their words as He is with the attitude of their heart. The following is a suggested prayer:
- *"Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be."*
- "Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?"
- Possible Responses:
 - A. **Yes** — Ask why and get a positive response. Then lead in the prayer, phrase by phrase, aloud.
 - B. **No** — "Let me tell you what will happen when you do invite Christ into your life."
- The moment that you receive Christ by faith, as an act of the will, many things will happen:
- Christ will come into your life ([Colossians 1:27](#)).
 - Your sins will be forgiven ([Colossians 1:14](#)).
 - You will become a child of God ([John 1:12](#)).
 - You will receive eternal life ([John 5:24](#)).
 - You will begin the great adventure for which God created you ([John 10:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).
- If they seem more interested, you can ask again if they would like to discuss it further. If they don't, say, "Thank you for your time. I am available to meet in the future if you wish to talk about these things further."



- ❖ Even if they are not ready to receive Christ, you may wish to give them some means of contacting you. Remember to pray for them. You have presented the Gospel in a structured easy-to-understand way. They may remember this information at some point in their lives when they are ready to make a decision. You may wish to leave a copy of *The Four Spiritual Laws* booklet with them.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ Why might it be helpful for people to see a diagram of how their life is ordered — with or without Christ at the centre?
- ❖ What kinds of questions get people thinking about whether or not they are truly happy when they themselves are at the centre of their lives?
- ❖ When someone responds positively to *The Four Spiritual Laws* and prays to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour, what next steps should you take with them? How can you ensure that this new believer receives discipleship?
- ❖ What possible problems might you encounter presenting the Gospel in this way to people with different worldviews? How can you deal with these challenges?
- ❖ Is there anything you need to change in your life this week to make sure that YOUR life is not self-directed, but has Jesus Christ at the centre?

PRAYER

Close your time in prayer. Pray that each participant would put Jesus at the centre of their lives, and look for opportunities to share the Gospel using The Four Spiritual Laws with people in their community. Pray that God would direct them to receptive listeners, people who are ready to have their lives changed. Pray that the kingdom of God would grow because of faithful labourers for the Gospel.