

LESSON ESSENTIALS

EVANGELISM AND THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

LESSON 4: FOLLOWUP TO THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

When a listener accepts Christ, it is important for you to help him understand the seriousness of his decision by asking him specific questions. Read on to know what some of these questions can be, as you help your listener think through the choice that he's just made.

New Christians need to grow spiritually and work towards that maturity. This lesson will acquaint you with some of the ways in which a person can grow in his faith.

New believers can often be strongly influenced by feelings. They might want to 'feel' that they are saved and have eternal life, instead of basing that knowledge on unchanging facts. This lesson will tell you about the transient nature of feelings and how you can reveal this 'truth' to a new believer.

Basing our decisions completely on feelings isn't wise because feelings change with circumstances, time, moods, and many other things.

Spiritual growth results from trusting in Jesus. As Galatians 3:11 says 'The righteous shall live by faith.' If we want to live happily in Christ, we ought to live by faith.

Do you remember when you first received salvation? Were you confused about any aspect of your new faith? After you have shared the Gospel with someone who enthusiastically receives it, you must make sure they know that what God is doing in their lives is real. It is vital that a new believer understand and be assured of their salvation. Here we will examine how to guide new believers to this assurance, and what questions to ask them to determine if they have understood what salvation means. It is important to always use the Bible to reinforce what we say.

When new believers want to know if they are truly saved in Christ, they often first look to their feelings. They want to 'feel' that they are saved and have eternal life. But any evaluation of our lives based on feelings alone will not be accurate because they change so frequently. We might feel like we are saved one day but the next day, not feel as positive and wonder if we are truly saved. Thus, our feelings should follow the understanding of facts, not the other way around.

Feelings can be deceptive. We might sometimes 'feel' that a particular person would make an ideal spouse for us, or that we are destined for a specific job, but we may be wrong. Basing our decisions completely on feelings isn't wise because feelings change with circumstance, time, moods, and many other things.

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Our faith in God is like a train, consisting of one engine and railcars. The engine is Fact (truth), the first railcar is Faith and the last railcar is Feeling. We know that only the engine pulls the train, and the railcars cannot pull the engine. So, in the same way it is fact, revealed to us in God's Word, that pulls our faith and our feelings, and not the other way round. Our faith depends on the fact that God saved us. For this reason, we should explain to our new-believer friends the importance of relying on facts more than feelings.

If your listener receives Christ by faith, and not by his feelings, you could tell him that Christ has actually come into his life. Colossians 1:27 and Ephesians 2:8-9 are good verses to show this. The greatest mystery of God's glory is that Jesus Christ is within us once we receive Him.

The next thing that you need to point out to your listener is that his sins are forgiven. Colossians 1:14 says, '...In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.' This might be a good opportunity to ask your listener a few questions, just to evaluate whether he comprehends the message of forgiveness. These questions could be as simple as 'What did God do with your sins?' or 'How many of your sins did He forgive?' Based on his answers, you can either explain the concept of forgiveness in greater detail, or move on to the next point.

As Christians, we are forgiven and called to be the children of God. John 1:12 clearly says, 'But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.' Here again you could ask a few questions, like 'What does this verse say you have become?' or 'If you and I are children of God, what does that make us?' It would be a good idea to help your listener think through these questions, helping him understand that if we are all children of God, we are all brothers and sisters. And as children of God, we have received eternal life, as we read in John 10:10 and many other verses. John 10:10 says, 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.' The best news that you could ever hear is that Jesus Christ has come to give us life - eternal life. Take this time to educate your subject on all the great things that are now his, as a child of God, and the wonderful future that awaits him. You could then conclude by asking him a few more profound questions to see whether he has fully understood his life-changing decision to accept Christ. You could ask, 'Can you think of anything more wonderful that could happen to you, than receiving Christ?'

If you're satisfied with your listener's answer, you could encourage him to say a short prayer thanking God for what He has done for him. In this, you can tell him, he would demonstrate his faith in Christ.

Your dialogue with your friend doesn't end there. You can now talk about some suggestions for Christian growth and the importance of fellowship with God and within the church. Don't

Even though the content in the Four Spiritual Laws booklet seems easy to understand, actually sharing it can seem like an overwhelming task for some. If you feel that way, it would be a good idea for you find a partner with whom you can practice sharing the Gospel using the Four Laws. After you've gained confidence, sharing God's Word will be much easier.

It is always best to leave your listener with an assurance of their newfound salvation, as revealed in the Bible. If they do not have a Bible, see if you are able to provide a copy to them through your church, ministry or spiritual movement.

worry, you don't have to come up with many new suggestions, because several are included in the Four Spiritual Laws booklet. For those who don't have access to the book, here's a quick summary. For starters, we should go to God in prayer daily. We should read His Word every day, beginning with the Gospel of John. We should obey God moment by moment, remembering His presence within us. We should be witnesses of Christ through our lives and words and should trust God for every detail of our life. Finally, we should allow the Holy Spirit to control and empower our daily life. Spiritual growth results from trusting in Jesus. As Galatians 3:11 says, 'The righteous shall live by faith.' If we want to live happily in Christ, we ought to live by faith. You also need to practise what you preach, so that you will be an example of God's Word for your friend.

It is always best to leave your listener with an assurance of their newfound salvation, as revealed in the Bible. If they do not have a Bible, see if you are able to provide a copy to them through your church, ministry or spiritual movement. If you have any means to help connect this person with a small group, church or mentor who can disciple them now would be the best time to do so. Christians need fellowship with others in order to grow in their faith!

IN REVIEW

- It isn't safe to depend completely on our feelings. Our faith should be based on facts, and not feelings.
- We should help a new believer to have assurance of their faith from the Bible.
- New believers need to be assured that their sins are forgiven. Show them verses from the Bible
- After you have helped a person to understand the change that occurs in a life when they become a Christian, you can tell them what steps to take next. Introduce them to other Christians and a church, if possible.
- Continue to pray for the new believer!

HAVE YOUR SAY

- How can you explain to your listener the importance about not relying on feelings?
- How can you guide your listener to think through your questions himself with a little help from you, instead of you quickly giving him the answers?
- How can you practise what you preach through the Four Laws?
- How can you constantly keep encouraging your listener so that he grows spiritually and matures as a Christian?

Essentials for Christian Living: Lesson Essentials
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