

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study 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.

The Study Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons 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 3: THE THIRD AND FOURTH LAWS

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

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.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

By now you should be more familiar with *The Four Spiritual Laws*. This lesson examines how you can take a person through the last two laws, and with the use of the circle diagrams help them make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. Not everyone will be ready to make a decision, and some people will reject Jesus Christ. Don't be discouraged! This matter is between them and God. Your job is to faithfully present the Gospel. Before you go and share the Gospel with others using *The Four Spiritual Laws*, take some time to pray, and make sure you are living with Christ at the center of your life! You cannot be an effective witness if you are living selfishly. Ask God to show you areas of your life you should surrender to Him.

GETTING STARTED

1. 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?

2. Why is a life centred on God better than fulfilling your own desires?



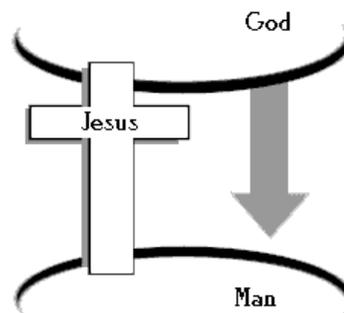
- ❖ **SHARING THE THIRD SPIRITUAL LAW:** So far in your presentation of *The Four Spiritual Laws*, you have shared God’s love and His perfect plan for us, as well as the effects of sin on our relationship with Him. Now is the time for the good news!

The third law states: Jesus Christ is God’s only solution for man’s sin. Through Him you can know and experience God’s love and plan for your 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 **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!
 - **Jesus is the Only Way:** In presenting this law, we emphasis 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.
- Write out what each of the following verses say about God’s provision for our sin:

Romans 5:8	
1 Corinthians 15:3-6	
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.





❖ **PRACTICE:** 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 then 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! Look up each Bible verse and write down what it says beside the corresponding point.

<p>Christ will come into your life Colossians 1:27</p>	
<p>Your sins will be forgiven Colossians 1:14</p>	
<p>You will become a child of God John 1:12</p>	
<p>You will receive eternal life John 5:24</p>	
<p>You will begin the great adventure for which God created you John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17</p>	

- 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 *The Four Spiritual Laws* booklet with them.



IN SUMMARY

- ❖ The Third Law shows us how God sent Jesus to die in our place and pay the penalty for our sin.
- ❖ It is important to emphasise that Jesus is the ONLY way to repair the broken relationship with God.
- ❖ The Fourth Law states that each person must make an individual choice to believe and accept Christ as their Saviour.
- ❖ The circle diagrams can help illustrate the need to put Christ at the center of your life.
- ❖ If someone you are sharing with is ready to make a decision, you can pray with them and explain what happens in a person's life when they turn to Jesus.
- ❖ If someone you are sharing with is not yet ready to make a decision, you can leave material with them, pray for them, and possibly give them means to contact you in the future.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why might it be helpful for people to see a diagram of how their life is ordered — with or without Christ at the center?

2. 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?

3. 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 center?