

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 1: CALL TO REACH YOUR WORLD

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled Introduction to Evangelism. This series of lessons aims to prepare participants to effectively share the Gospel with others. Understanding how God equips us for ministry and how to prepare our Gospel message for various worldviews will help us bring the unchanging message of the hope found in Jesus Christ to a world that does not yet know Him.

The Student's Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a to 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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INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

Lesson 1: The Call to Reach Your World

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

People often wonder what their purpose in life is. Did you know that God reveals our purpose in His Word, the Bible? This lesson will help you align your perspective with God's as you partner with Him in accomplishing His purpose for your life.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

This lesson examines God's plan for every Christian to be engaged in evangelism. Evangelism is the word we use to describe sharing the Gospel Message – or the good news that forgiveness for our sins and reconciliation to God is possible through Jesus Christ. Being engaged in evangelism is the work that all of us are called to, no matter what our station in life. Sometimes we wonder what our purpose is in life, why we were born, or what God would have us do on this earth. The specific answer to this question is going to look different for each person. Some are called to full-time ministry, most are called to serve their local church and community with the gifts they have been given while doing other work that can bring enough money to support their family and help those in need. Every person in every stage of life can reach their world – their neighbourhood or the people beyond – with the life changing message of the Gospel.

GETTING STARTED

1 If someone were to ask you: "What is God's purpose in this world?" what would you tell them?

2 Was there a person involved in helping you come to faith in Jesus Christ? Did someone share the Gospel with you? If so, what were the circumstances?



STUDY

1. MAN'S PURPOSES AND GOD'S PURPOSES

We have different areas of our life, don't we? We have our family life, our work life, sometimes school life or a part of our life that revolves around sports, hobbies or creative pursuits. We also our Christian life. For some, this part of our life may seem to have little in common with other areas. We may have goals for our career and family that seem separate from our worship of God. It can be tempting to decide our purpose in life is to accumulate wealth, or power or fame, after all it appears that those things bring security and happiness – but the Bible gives us a different purpose to center our lives around. God's desire is that we glorify God and serve Him in every area of our lives and lay aside our own purposes so we can take up God's purposes for us.

In Jesus time, people also pursued wealth and power. Jesus told a story that many of us might relate to in **Luke 12:16-20**.

- ❖ Look up Luke 12:16-20 in your Bible and read it. Describe what happened.

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- ❖ From the above story, compare what the Man in this story was focused on, and what God was focused on. What did each of them decide was most important?

The Man	God

Our soul is the spiritual part of us. Why is the soul so important to God? Our souls have an eternal future, either with or a part from God. God's desire is that people receive forgiveness for their sins so that their soul can be with God forever. No mere possession, no matter how great, has the value of a single soul!

2. THE CALL TO REACH YOUR WORLD

- ❖ Read the following verses to discover what God's primary purpose in the world is. Write down what you find out.

Luke 19:10	
Romans 10:9,10	



The Bible clearly outlines for us the purpose of Man. This applies to every person.

- ❖ What are the key things Jesus commands us to do in these Scriptures?

1 Corinthians 10:31	
Matthew 28:16-20	

This is incredibly exciting, isn't it? God's purpose is big, exciting and He wants you to be a part of it! This purpose is known as 'the Great Commission'. Did you notice something special at the end of that passage in Matthew?

- ❖ What does Matthew 28:20 say about who will be with us as we complete this task?

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3. GOD EQUIPS US

God does not expect us, even when we work together, to accomplish this on our own! God has big plans for each of us to share the Gospel with those around us, and even to the ends of the earth.

- ❖ What do these verses say about how God equips us for our purpose?

Hebrews 13:21	
Acts 1:8	

- ❖ What is our responsibility in order to receive this help from God? Read the verse below, and write down what it says about our responsibility.

John 15: 5	
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- ❖ How do you think a person can accomplish this?

Why is this type of relationship to God necessary? Because in order for Him to equip us to serve and fulfill our purpose we must receive from God the ability to do the work, the strength, the wisdom and the understanding necessary. To fulfill so great a purpose, we must be equipped by our very great God!

Three actions you can take to remain close to God are:

- read the Word of God daily
- set aside time to pray daily
- spend time regularly with other Christians.

Three attitudes to develop in your life that will help you remain close to God are:

- be dependent on God for everything,
- be grateful to God, and express gratitude
- be completely obedient to God's commands

4. WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

If you are a Christian, your purpose has been revealed to you! It is to bring God Glory and join Him in His plan to save people. God's plan is one of redemption, and displaying His nature – His love, grace and mercy. This is different from the purpose that people have devised. People desire riches, wealth and power that all dissolve when they die. Are you ready to commit your life to God's purpose for you, reaching out to those who do not know Jesus Christ?

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ What we believe our purpose in life is may not be the same as God's purpose for us.
- ❖ God's purpose in the world is to save souls that are bound for punishment and separation from Him. Jesus was perfectly aligned with God's purpose for him, and we can know God's purpose for us is to join God in this mission.
- ❖ A Christian cannot separate his secular life from his Christian life – he should aim to bring glory to God in everything he does.
- ❖ God's call to us is to make disciples of all people – in order to do that we must go and spread the Gospel message.
- ❖ God equips us for this important work, as we remain close to Him.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does God's purpose for your life match with yours? What can you do to align the two?

2. What are some of the challenges you face in sharing the Gospel with others? What can you do to lessen these challenges in your life?