

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 2: GOD EQUIPS US

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module titled 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.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

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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INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 2: GOD EQUIPS US

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to understand how God equipped Paul for his ministry to others. This lesson will help participants see, through Biblical examples, that God will also equip them for ministry.

LEADER'S NOTE

From time to time we all feel inadequate to do God's work. This is sometimes a good place to be! It helps us to rely on God and to carry out His work in the strength He provides. Are you, as a leader, feeling as though the task of discipling and teaching others is too big? God loves to give gifts to us, His children, to allow us to do what we could not do in our own strength. This gives glory to God! Give praise to God today in your weakness as you lead these lessons, and thank Him for working through you so that His power may be seen. Remind participants that God used unschooled, ordinary men and women for His ministry. As you teach this next set of lessons, model your reliance on God in your speech and prayers. This will teach participants to do the same.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.

- ❖ What do you know about the men Jesus chose to be disciples? What were their backgrounds? Were they educated or powerful people? Did they have useful training before He called them?
- ❖ When God used men and women throughout the Bible to do His work, did He choose perfect people? (Consider Moses, Esther, David, Rehab, slaves, children, and outcasts.)
- ❖ How can you see God equipping believers around you today? Do you know anyone who has a gift of teaching, healing, discernment, compassion, etc.?
- ❖ What tasks has God called us to that require Him to equip us? What dangers can a believer fall into if they try to do all God has asked them to do in their own strength?

STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **God Uses The Disciples:** Jesus' disciples were ordinary men. His followers were men and women who were from all walks of life. Four of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, one was a tax collector, and the others were probably from the labouring class and may have been tradesmen.



- Jesus' disciples were taught by Him, but equipped by the Holy Spirit to teach, and show signs and wonders that would bring people to faith in Jesus.
- Jesus' followers performed miracles not in their own strength. The Church grew by the preaching and miracles performed by these disciples. Each of them received power from the Holy Spirit. *Read the following verses together and discuss what they demonstrate about how God equips believers:*
 - [Acts 4:16](#)
 - [Acts 5:12](#)
 - [Acts 1:8](#)
- How did God's equipping of these believers bring God glory? How did they demonstrate God's power? Read also this verse:
 - [Acts 4:13](#) "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

ASK PARTICIPANTS

- Why did God equip unschooled, common men instead of wealthy, powerful, and educated men?
- What does this tell us about God's ability to use any and all of us?

TEACH

❖ God Uses The Apostle Paul

- Read the following verses to familiarize participants with the story of the conversion of Paul:
 - [Acts 9:1-19](#)
 - [Acts 22:6-21](#)
 - [Acts 26:12-18](#)
- ❖ After Paul's conversion experience, he must have felt fearful and unequipped to speak the truth. But in Paul's obedience to God's calling on his life, the Lord equipped him and protected him in all his good work. Paul was not trained as we know training today. God used his experience and knowledge of the Scriptures, and equipped him with a special supernatural ability to teach and evangelize. Paul's methods are worth examining as they were given by the Holy Spirit.
 - We can observe four things from Paul's example:
 1. **Paul identified with the people to whom he ministered and got involved in their lives** ([Acts 20:17-19](#)).
 2. **Paul imparted truth.** He did not shrink back from teaching and preaching, but solemnly testified to the "whole will of God" ([Acts 20:20, 21, 24, 27](#)).



3. **Paul implanted values and responsibilities.** Paul explained not only what he was doing, but why he was doing it. As followers of Jesus we also need to present the Gospel clearly to others (Acts 20:22-24).
 4. **Paul's ministry involved personal sacrifice.** Ministry can't be done leisurely. It requires diligence and hard work. Paul summarizes his own ministry of sacrifice and hard work (Acts 20:28-38).
- Acts 19:1; 7-10 tells how Paul strived to fulfill God's calling:
- He was a fruitful disciple.
 - He spoke out boldly.
 - He concentrated on making and building up disciples.
 - He ministered regularly to his audience.
 - He reached his community with the Gospel.

ASK PARTICIPANTS

- How can you apply these principles to your personal ministry using the gifts God has equipped you with?
- How do you feel about Paul's example? Are you apprehensive, excited, or worried about following it?

TEACH

❖ God Equips Believers Today

- God continues to give spiritual gifts or equipping from the Holy Spirit to accomplish His mission in the world today. It wasn't just for apostles and disciples! God's power is available to the believer today!
- Spiritual gifts are given to every believer. They are given to meet present needs for ministry.
- Spiritual gifts are given for the edification of the Church, and to build up the body of Christ in unity and in love (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 4:11).
- We can have boldness in our ministry knowing God will equip us when we require it, for His glory (Matthew 10:19).



DISCUSSION

- ❖ The Bible does not talk about training programs for teachers, evangelists, or pastors. Does this mean we should not pursue training? What is the role of training in developing the gifts God gives us?
- ❖ What is the purpose of spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:12)?
- ❖ In what ways do you see God equipping you for His ministry? What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them?

PRAYER

Thank God that He equips every believer in their ministry. Praise God that He can do the extraordinary with ordinary people. Pray that we would be equipped this week and rely on His power.