

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 2: GOD EQUIPS US

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple 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.

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.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All other content is © 2019 Trans World Radio Canada, and may be used in any way you like as long as you use it with the purpose of reaching the world for Christ and do not charge for the use of the material. See more license details at www.discipleshipessentials.org/licensing.



INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 2: GOD EQUIPS US

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

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 feeling as though the task of doing God's work 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 study His Word, and thank Him for working through you so that His power may be seen. God used unschooled, ordinary men and women for His ministry. A very important aspect of being equipped to serve God is studying His Word.

GETTING STARTED

1. When God used men and women throughout the Bible to do His work, did He choose perfect people? (Consider Moses, Esther, David, Rahab, slaves, children, and outcasts.)

2. How can you see God equipping believers around you today? Do you know anyone who has a gift of teaching, healing, discernment, compassion, etc.?



STUDY

- ❖ **GOD EQUIPPED 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 class of labourers and may have been tradesmen.

Jesus' disciples were taught by Him, and were equipped to teach others and bring them to faith in Jesus.

Jesus' followers performed miracles, but not in their own strength. The Church grew as a result of their preaching and miracles. Read the following verses and write down what they tell us about how God equips believers:

Acts 4:16	
Acts 5:12	
Acts 1:8	

- Read Acts 4:13. How did God's equipping of these believers bring glory and attention to God? How did this equipping demonstrate God's power.

- 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?

- ❖ **GOD EQUIPPED THE APOSTLE PAUL:** Paul is known as an Apostle, but he wasn't one of the 12 disciples Jesus chose during His time on earth.

- Read these verses and write down what you learn about how Paul (originally called Saul) met Jesus and began to follow Him. Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:6-21, Acts 26:12-18



- After Paul’s conversion experience, he must have felt fearful and unprepared 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 gave him 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:

- Paul identified with the people to whom he ministered and got involved in their lives (Acts 20:17-19).
 - 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).
 - 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).
 - 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 tells us 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.
 - Paul was equipped by God to serve and teach others. Each of us has also been given a personal ministry by God – what can you learn from Paul’s example?

❖ **GOD EQUIPS BELIEVERS TODAY:** God continues to equip His followers by giving them spiritual gifts 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 believers today!



- What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts? Read each of the following verses and write down what you learn.

Ephesians 4:12	
1 Corinthians 14:12	
1 Peter 4:11	

Spiritual gifts are given to every believer. They are given to meet present needs for ministry. They exist for the edification of the Church, and to build up the body of Christ in unity and love. They equip us for our ministry – for serving and evangelism.

We can have boldness in our ministry knowing God will equip us when we require it, for His glory.

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Jesus' disciples were ordinary men and women from all walks of life.
- ❖ The disciples were taught by Jesus, equipped by the Holy Spirit to teach, and given power to do signs and wonders.
- ❖ God chose ordinary people so that when He did miraculous things through them, people would know that their acts and the words they said were from God.
- ❖ God used the Apostle Paul in a great way, and gave Him a powerful ministry.
- ❖ God uses and equips believers today to accomplish His will on earth by spreading the Gospel and serving others in love.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 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?

2. In what ways do you see God equipping you for His ministry? What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them?