**1. Motivate**

What’s your typical response when you lose something?

* panic – run in circles scream and shout
* despair
* eat chocolate
* ask my spouse if he/she saw it
* blame the kids, the dog
* if it’s my cell phone, I call it from a different phone
* look in the car, in the sofa cushions, under the bed
* try to remember when and where I last had it
* have to go buy another one … then the lost item shows up
* retrace steps

**2. Transition**

Our stuff seems to get lost easily.

* Sometimes we know *people* who are lost … spiritually lost
* God desires for all people be spiritually rescued, to hear and respond to the gospel.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Confession and Belief in Christ

Listen for what is necessary for salvation.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

What two words did Paul use to convey being in right relationship with God through Christ?

* verbally *confess* or declare
* believe

What are the implications of confessing Jesus as Lord?

* more than just verbally, out loud saying those words
* confessing means agreement with, commitment to that Truth
* choosing to allow God to be the Lord of your life, the boss

Explain why confession and believing are two parts of the same action, not two separate actions?

* belief is a personal, inner, act of the will
* confession is a public declaration of what you have become convinced about, what you believe

If you were called upon to tell what Jesus has done for you, what would you say?

* because of my sinfulness, I deserved to be condemned to die (physically, spiritually)
* I am separated from God (spiritual death) because of my sin
* Jesus took upon Himself the death sentence I deserved, He died in my place

* He was risen from the dead and offers me new life, spiritual life, union with God forever

Recall the Campus Crusade for Christ diagram about Jesus being Lord of your life.

Confessing “Jesus is Lord” is more important than believing in Jesus resurrection

Agree or disagree

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree |
| * When you say those words, you mean it
* people must declare for Jesus
* the world will know you are now saved
* the understanding of the resurrection comes later on, eventually
 | * the resurrection is key to salvation
* trusting in a dead “savior” is no salvation
* both are equally important
* one is inner, one is outer
 |

Why do you think both are necessary?

* it is true that you must declare publicly your beliefs
* you cannot keep it a secret
* it must also be inward
* it is also true that you cannot be faking it – you must be convinced (convicted) of the reality of a living Savior
* it must be Truth that you claim as personal
* “that is Truth for me … I’m staking my life on it as reality”

So if someone is watching us, how would they know that we confess Jesus as Lord?

* here is where “works” come in – they will be the *result* of our faith, our belief
* Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV) *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
* we will be motivated by Christ’s love to minister to others around us

3.2 Not Be Ashamed

Listen for who will be saved.

Romans 10:11-13 (NIV) As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

According to these verses, who does God desire to be saved?

* anyone
* both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles)
* everyone who calls on the name of the Lord

If God desires everyone to be saved, then what responsibility does that place on the individual in need of salvation?

* must call on the name of the Lord
* confess verbally that Jesus is Lord
* believe internally that Jesus died for your sins, was raised from death

What are the implications for us that the gospel message is for all people?

* we have been given the *Great Commission* to communicate that message of Good News
* all people need to receive this message
* people near and people far away

How do these verses both encourage and challenge you?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Encourage | Challenge |
| * God included me, my family to be saved
* it is a simple process
* it is a simple message
* it is a life changing message
* it is free to everyone
 | * lots of people don’t realize these Truths
* some have never heard
* we are called to be the communicators of this message
* many people who have heard have not responded, have rejected
 |

Racial or ethnic distinctions make no difference to God. Why do they sometimes still make a difference to us?

* people different from us sometimes make us uncomfortable
* we don’t understand their culture
* they dress, speak, act different and *in our thinking* they are either wrong or not as good as us
* we judge *their* behavior and customs on *our* norms and standards and decide they are inferior

How can we overcome that kind of bias?

* see them as God sees them
* ask God to give us a love and concern for their souls
* make an effort to learn about them, learn to appreciate some of their culture
* get to know someone of another culture
* if you are not sure of their spiritual condition, get to know them well enough to share the Gospel message with them

3.3 Share the Message of Salvation

Listen for links of implication.

Romans 10:14-17 (NIV) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

List the sequence of dependencies for someone to end up believing in Christ. Work your way from the end of the first sentence in verse 15 to the beginning of verse 14.

* people must be *sent* to preach
* then they must *preach*
* this is how someone *hears* the Gospel message
* once they hear, then they can *believe*
* now that they believe, they can *call on Jesus* to be savior

Displayed as a series of links in a chain …

What were the circumstances of your coming to faith. Who do you remember being significant in communicating the gospel to you?

* pastor
* evangelist
* camp speaker
* a friend
* radio or TV message
* found or was given a gospel tract
* someone visited my home specifically to present the plan of salvation

What factors in this passage help to develop a sense of urgency for telling others about Jesus?

* the *only* way they will believe in Jesus is to hear about Him
* someone must do the telling
* Jesus has commissioned *us* to do the telling

How does Paul’s strategy for evangelism in these verses parallel the Great Commission (note it’s not the “Great Suggestion”) Matthew 28:19-20?

* Paul said people must be sent … Jesus commissioned us, sent us
* we are to preach and teach the words of Jesus
* Jesus will use the teaching of the Gospel message to change people’s lives
* God’s Holy Spirit will work in their hearts, convince them of Truth, prompt them to call on Jesus as Savior

How can you be involved in communicating the gospel in places where you cannot go?

* pray
* contribute financially
* send people from our church (short term trips, lifetime career missionaries)

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Write.

* Take time this week to write out your testimony.
* Being committed to the mission of God to take the message of the gospel to those who haven’t heard it must begin with a clear understanding of your own story.
* Write it down so that when you’re given the opportunity you can share it with clarity.

Share.

* This week share the gospel with someone.
* Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you an opportunity and then look for that door to open.
* When presents itself, simply share your story of how Jesus changed your life.
* Invite them to call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

Go.

* Pray about being part of God’s mission around the world.
* For some of you that might mean giving financially to missions.
* For others that might mean actively supporting a missionary with your time, prayers, and support.
* Still others might sense the call to go yourselves.
* Pray that God will use you, and that you will have the courage to answer His call.

