**1. Motivate**

Where do you turn for trustworthy information?

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_su8eiv9p> . If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, better to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/fczb8m5x>

* the Bible!
* selective news sources
* “How to Do It” videos on the internet
* Wikipedia
* ask my spouse
* we still have a set of World Book Encyclopedia
* keep the owner’s manual for newly purchased devices
* old timers who know what happened back in the day
* the neighbor who keeps up on everyone

**2. Transition**

Ultimately, the only One we can trust is God.

* Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life …”
* Jesus saves those who trust in Him.

**3. Bible Study**

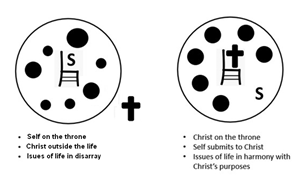
3.1 The Resurrection and Lordship of Christ

Listen for what is necessary for salvation.

Romans 10:8b-10 (NIV) " that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 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 were the simple instructions Paul gave regarding personal salvation?

* confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord”
* believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead



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

What does the dual response of “believe” and “confess” indicate about salvation?

* there is an inward, heart and mind commitment to the Truth of Christ’s work of redemption for you personally
* there is also an outward declaration and life-style choices which demonstrates what you have chosen to believe

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”

What hinders people today from believing Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of the world?

* requirements to please God are too simplistic … “Just believe???”
* we are conditioned to performance requirements
* many believe they have no need for being “saved” … “I’m a good person”
* others reject outright the concept of Jesus having been raised from the dead
* the Muslim world believes that *they* alone have “Truth” … all others are infidels

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
* they will see the Fruit of the Spirit

3.2 Salvation for All People

Listen for a promise.

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 who trust in Him
* both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews)
* in other words, all people
* all who call on the Name of the Lord

How is the gospel both inclusive and exclusive?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Inclusive | Exclusive |
| * for all who believe * available to all peoples (Jew, Gentiles) * “Anyone” who trusts * Jesus is Lord of all | * must meet requirement of “trust in Him” * must “call on the name of the Lord” * must declare verbally and by lifestyle that “Jesus is Lord” * believe that Jesus was raised from the dead |

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

* must put our trust in Him
* must “call on the Name of the Lord’
* as noted in the previous passage, confess Jesus as Lord and believe in His resurrection
* God has offered His *gift* of salvation … we must respond and *receive* it by faith

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

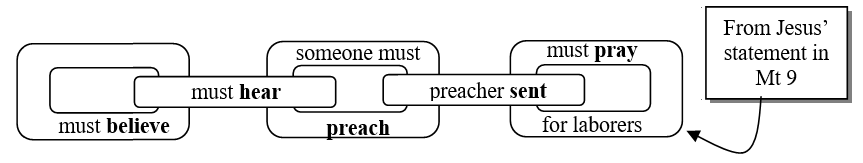
3.3 The Gospel Communicated to Others

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 happens when a link of the chain is missing?

* the unbeliever stays in his/her sinful state
* all of us have some part in that chain
* God's part is to do the convincing/convicting
* Our part is the communicating

Who is responsible at each stage of this sequence?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Believe * Hear, listen * Preach * Sent * Pray | * the lost person * the lost person * Christians – includes believers in the pew, not must pastors and missionaries * The church * all believers |

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

Maybe you cannot go to a faraway foreign country to share the gospel with someone who has never heard. In what ways *can* you be involved in *sending* the gospel to those places.

* pray that God will send someone
* give financially to foreign missions



* be involved in the Operation Christmas Child ministry of Samaritan’s Purse … pack shoeboxes for children, participate in processing centers
* be willing for your children, grandchildren to be the “sent” ones with the gospel message in a faraway place

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

Application

Reflect.

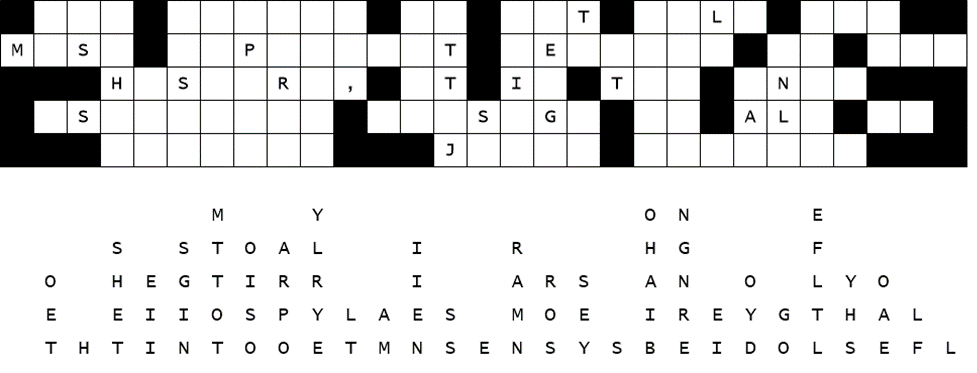
* Reflect on those who contributed to your salvation and consider what they did that led you to accept the good news they shared?
* List ways you can do something similar for others.

Write.

* Write a note or call the individuals who played a role in your coming to faith in Christ.
* Thank them for their love and obedience in sharing the gospel with you.

Share.

* Prayerfully consider those whom God has placed in your path.
* Look for opportunities to tell them the message of Christ.
* Let God empower you to be an instrument that brings others to a saving knowledge of Him.



Whoa … my old word processor went nuts! A whole bunch of letters fell straight down. This is an important quote for my article on evangelism. Help he put it back together. Replacing some letters are easy to figure out, like where there’s only one blank in that column. Look for two or three letter words and figure what two or three letters in those columns make a sensible word. If you need help go to <https://tinyurl.com/fczb8m5x> . If you’d rather do the color page, you can find it there also! Check out all the fun things to do there.

