

Basic Training!

FAST Basic Training #6 - Personal Evangelism

Memo:

Welcome back to another exciting study. We have covered some important ground so far, but we are moving on to another important topic.



In particular, this booklet will look at how you can become a witness for Christ to those around you. Study the suggestions ahead carefully, and may God grant you many exciting opportunities to share.

According to Paul, the "communication" of our faith becomes "effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 1:6). In other words, there is nothing quite so powerful as simply telling what Jesus has done in our life. This, of course, is what being a witness is all about: reporting what we have seen and heard. A word of testimony can also encourage fellow believers. So share: as often as you can!

And remember, to be effective as a witness it is essential that you keep your life centered in Christ through Bible study, prayer, and obedience to His Word. Everything we have studied so far.

**The Editor,
Hid in Christ**

Bible Secrets to Living for Christ

Objectives

Week 6

Name: _____ Initialed by: _____

Date: _____

- Complete the Bible Search entitled **Personal Evangelism**. Being able to share the Word of God with others at a moment's notice is another important reason for memorizing Scripture. As Peter says: "be ready always..."
- You have three verses this week, but they are short and easy to learn: **Romans 3:23**, **Romans 5:8**, and **Romans 8:14**. Take some time to think through your own conversion story as you memorize these verses. How does your experience relate to the truths found in these verses?
- Read the **Practical Suggestions** for sharing your personal testimony, and then try actually writing it out. Limit yourself to what you can share in three minutes—and no more! Also begin asking God to give you increased opportunities to share what Jesus has done in your life.
- Learn the **Scripture Memory Formula**. Are all the illustrations you have learned so far clear in your mind? Invest whatever time it takes to learn them well—and continue reviewing them often. There are just two more to learn!

*It's not what a man does, but why
that makes his work sacred*

Personal Evangelism

Bible Search 6

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. I John 1:3

1. What was the "mission" of Jesus?

Matthew 18:11

Luke 19:10

I Timothy 1:15

2. How did Jesus feel toward the lost? Matthew 9:36

3. How strong was Jesus' motivation to reach the lost?

John 4:34-35

4. How would your attitude toward the lost need to change to become more like Christ in this area?

5. What do the verses below say those who follow Jesus would do?

John 15:27

Acts 22:15

6. How extensive would this activity be?

Matthew 24:14

Acts 1:8

7. What is a witness asked to speak about? I John 1:1-2

How powerful can a personal witness be? Luke 8:38-40

8. Evaluate your own religious experience. Can you say you have had a personal encounter with Christ? Explain.

9. What do the following verses suggest is an important preparation for sharing your story?

II Timothy 3:15

I Peter 1:23

Psalms 119:42

Isaiah 55:11

10. How willing are you to commit right now to looking for opportunities to share your unique experience with Christ with friends and family? Why not write out your answer as a brief prayer to God?

The Personal Testimony Practical Suggestions

God's plan is to make every Christian a witness to His power in their life. And He longs to give us opportunities to share our experience with others. Yet many Christians are not equipped with even the most basic tool of witnessing—their personal testimony! And few live lives *focused* on reaching out to others. We pray the suggestions below will give you some simple insights into how you can share Christ with friends and family.

Your Personal World

Each of us has a circle of people we interact with on a regular basis. You might think of it as your *personal world*. It is God's plan to use you to reach this circle. In fact, you may be the only point of Christian contact for some of these people! To truly make Christ the center of your life, you must make Him the center of your personal world.

Think about your personal world for a moment: who is there around you that you could reach for Christ? Try to come up with a list of at least five people who are not professed Christians. If you do not have that many non-Christian friends, you may need to start thinking of ways to establish more contacts. Are there any old friends you could give a call or go visit? People on the job or at school that you could begin getting to know? Is there some hobby or activity you could take up, to begin meeting people? Keep working at it until you have at least a handful of people on your list.

Next, insert a prayer request sheet into your prayer journal for each person and begin praying for them daily—*by name*—that God would awaken a hunger in their hearts for Him. Ask God specifically to give you opportunities to share a testimony of God's power in your life, and then pray for alertness to identify those opportunities, and for boldness to make use of them. If you are friendly and Christlike, God will open doors for you to share what Christ has done for you. Remember, your job is primarily to be a witness of what you have experienced yourself.

Your Personal Testimony

If you are praying faithfully and watching diligently for opportunities to share a word of testimony, those opportunities will come. The key is to be prepared. This means taking time to think through your testimony, and actually write it out—in *advance*.

Just how did the Lord lead you to become a Christian? Or if you were raised in a Christian home, what experience most helped to establish you in your decision to follow Christ? An effective testimony should be short, no more than two or three minutes, and simple—free from religious jargon. It should also make the plan of salvation clear. Contrast your life before becoming a Christian, and your life after, but focus on how you actually *became* a Christian. Make it so clear an unbeliever could figure out how to become a Christian just by listening to your story. If possible, work in an appropriate verse of Scripture—and memorize it. Once you have written out your personal testimony, practice sharing it with a Christian friend. Later, you can prepare additional testimonies of how God has helped you in specific areas such as loneliness, fear, or lack of purpose, etc. There is nothing more powerful, or more irrefutable, than a firsthand personal testimony.

Scripture Memory Tip: Has God been working in your life through the verses you have been memorizing? Sharing a testimony with believers can also be powerful—and encouraging. And if it motivates another to begin memorizing, it could prove a turning point in their life! So share often how God's Word is blessing you.

The Importance of Commitment

Avoid falling into the trap of thinking witnessing will just occur naturally if you are spending time with Christ. We must spend time with Christ, yes—but we must also be deliberate and focused in our efforts to share Christ with others. It will take *commitment*, to consistently identify ourselves with the Master at every opportunity, and there may at times be a cost. But our instructions are clear. Won't you *commit* to becoming a living witness for Christ?