

THE LOST WORLD

The bible commands God's people to be separate from the world, while at the same time reaching lost men and women for the Lord Jesus Christ. As you seek to rescue the lost, you will receive opposition from the world because it is contrary to God's eternal purpose. This lesson is focused on the importance of being an effective witness of the grace of Jesus Christ while overcoming the opposition you receive from the world.

The key word of this lesson is:

MISSION

The key question this lesson answers:

What are your responsibilities toward the lost?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To reach the lost without compromising your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The key point of this lesson:

Allow the actions of your life to demonstrate your love for God.

MEMORY VERSES:

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." – **Romans 1:16***

*"But if any man love God, the same is known of him." – **1 Corinthians 8:3***

HOW DOES THE LOST WORLD VIEW YOU?

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

Allow the actions of your life to demonstrate your love for God. The way you live should validate the message of the gospel. Your mission to reach the lost can never be accomplished without a valid presentation of the gospel, and a visible testimony of a changed life.

*“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nations, among who ye shine as lights in the world;” – **Philippians 2:14-15***

A. The world is watching you to see if you really live out what you believe.

1. They should see your love for God in the way that you live your life.

1 Corinthians 8:3

2. They should see that you live a life that is separated from the way of the world. You should be separated from the world, but not so separated that you lose all credibility or influence.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

3. They should see that you are open and honest in all matters.

2 Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17

B. The world will oppose you because you are Christ’s representative on earth.

1. Satan is the power behind any opposition you receive.
 - a. He has established the course of this world that is directly opposed to the work of the Lord.

Ephesians 2:1-3

- b. He seeks to destroy your life in any way he can.

1 Peter 5:8

2. You will be opposed because Jesus was opposed. However, the world will only oppose a believer who is living for Christ.

John 15:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:12

3. You will receive opposition from three main areas...

- a. Society in general will oppose you because it is contrary to God's word. The majority of this opposition will come through the media, literature, and education.

1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 3:13

- b. Lost people will oppose you because you are no longer part of their family.

Galatians 4:29

- c. Your friends, family, co-workers, and acquaintances will oppose you. This opposition is often the hardest to face because of the personal relationships involved.

Mark 6:4; John 1:11

How can you overcome the opposition that you face?

1. Avoid fights whenever possible, and answer with soft words.

*"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."
–Proverbs 15:1*

2. God may give you peace with your enemies as you please him with your life.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." – Proverbs 16:7

3. Pray for your enemies with pure motives.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate your, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." – Matthew 5:44

4. Love your enemies and help to meet their needs.

"Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not... Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." – Romans 12:14, 20-21

You will never fully eliminate opposition in this life, but you can achieve victory in the face of opposition with bible principles. You already have victory because you have faith in the Lord and you have the entire armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10-20

DISCUSSION:

Is the lost world able to see that you are a Christian?

Have you received any opposition from close family or friends because of your faith in Christ?

How do you normally respond to the opposition?

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE LOST WORLD?

The people, laws, and cultures of where you live will affect your view of the lost world. It is important to understand that the truths of God's word apply to all believers within all cultures and nations.

A. You must understand your relationship with the culture.

1. Most cultures are contrary to the holiness and purposes of God.

Titus 1:10-14

2. You must live a godly life while ministering within the culture you live in.

Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:12

B. You must understand your relationship with the government.

1. Submit to the laws of your land as a testimony to the lost.

1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-5

2. Pay your taxes, giving to the government what is due by law.

Romans 13:6-7

3. Pray for your government and pray for your freedom to share the gospel.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

C. You must understand your relationship with the lost world.

1. Your home is in heaven, and not in this world.

Ephesians 2:6

2. You are a pilgrim in a strange land.

1 Peter 2:10-12

3. This world has nothing of eternal value to offer you.

2 Peter 3:10-13

4. You are now an ambassador of Jesus Christ, and this world is your mission field to reach the lost for Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

DISCUSSION:

How is your culture and government impacting your ability to serve the Lord?

How has your relationship with the world changed since your salvation?

Can you name some people in your life right now who you know are lost and need to hear the gospel so that they might be saved?

HOW DO YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH?

Jesus made disciples by leading them to evangelize.

“And Jesus saith unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.” – Mark 1:17-18

If you follow Jesus, then he will lead you to seek the lost.

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” – Luke 19:10

A. Start by understanding what God told you to do.

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” – Mark 16:15

1. **God told you to GO.**
You cannot share your faith without going where the lost are.
2. **God told you to go and PREACH THE GOSPEL.**
You cannot share your faith without going and proclaiming the gospel.
3. **God told you to go and preach the gospel to EVERY CREATURE.**
The gospel must go to everyone because Jesus died and rose again for everyone.

B. Focus on your obedience, not results

1. Share the gospel because you are commanded to.

When your actions are based upon answering the question “What did God tell me to do?” instead of “What is going to work?” then you will measure your success based upon your obedience, and not on your results.

“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”
– **1 Corinthians 9:16**

2. Do not be tempted to be clever in your presentation of the gospel.

The message of the gospel is powerful alone without attempts to make it more palatable or believable.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
– **Romans 1:16**

3. Do not be tempted to avoid sharing the gospel because you feel unequipped.

God has equipped you to carry the great message of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection to the world.

“And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament...”
– **2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

C. Pray for God to lead you in the sharing of your faith.

1. Pray that God will fill your heart with a desire to tell all men about Jesus Christ.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” – **2 Peter 3:9**

2. Pray for God to provide you with opportunities to share the gospel.

“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.” – **Colossians 4:3-4**

3. Pray for boldness to share the gospel when you are presented with an open door.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,” – **Ephesians 6:18-20**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The only way to find open doors is to knock on closed ones. You find open doors by engaging people in conversation, and asking them if they would like to talk about Jesus. How many people would get saved if someone would just ask them to? How many people would get saved if they knew how?

D. Develop a simple presentation of the gospel.

There are many different ways to share the gospel, but it is important to understand that the gospel will always include the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The most familiar gospel presentation is the “Romans Road.”

1. You must realize you are lost before you can see a need for salvation.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” – Romans 3:23

2. You must see that your sin originated with Adam, and that you are sentenced to die eternally separated from God.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” – Romans 5:12

3. You must see that your sin leads to death, but that God offers you salvation as a free gift through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 6:23

4. You must know that Jesus died for your sins.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” – Romans 5:8

5. You must confess that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that He died and rose again from the dead.

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” – Romans 10:9-10

6. You must call upon the name of Jesus to save you.

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
– Romans 10:13*

YOU CAN ALSO SHARE THE GOSPEL BY USING A SINGLE VERSE OR PASSAGE.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we may be made the righteousness of God in him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21

EXAMPLE...

Jesus says that the only way to get to God is through him. The only way to be forgiven is to accept by faith what Jesus did for us in his death, burial, and resurrection.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” – John 14:6

Jesus is the way...

The bible says mankind will die in their sins if they are not saved from the punishment that they deserve through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus became the way to your salvation by dying in your place on the cross, being buried for three days and three nights, and rising again in victory over sin and death.

Jesus is the truth...

The bible says that mankind rejects the truth of who God is by choosing to worship themselves and creation. Jesus is the truth they are seeking, and mankind needs to worship him as the one true God.

Jesus is the life...

All mankind is born into sin, and they are condemned to be separated from God in an eternal death in the lake of fire. They need the eternal life that is found in Jesus Christ.

E. Be ready to share your testimony.

One of the best ways to keep the conversation going is to share your story. Your testimony has great potential power.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” – Revelation 12:11

Your testimony gives a practical illustration of how your life has changed because of the gospel. The apostle Paul’s testimony in **Acts 22** is a great model of how to develop your personal testimony.

1. What were you like without Christ?

Paul spoke about his race, origin, education, and religious devotion.

Acts 22:3-5

2. How did you meet Christ?

Paul spoke about how he personally encountered Christ.

- a. Paul spoke about God's intervention. He encountered God's light, not man's reason or intellect.

Acts 22:6

- b. Paul spoke about the conviction of sin.

Acts 22:7

- c. Paul spoke about meeting Jesus. Salvation is in a person not a religion.

Acts 22:8-9

- d. Paul spoke about submitting to the lordship of Jesus.

Acts 22:10

3. How has your life changed?

Paul spoke about how God began to work in his life.

- a. Paul spoke about how his submission to Christ resulted in his submission to Christ's servants.

Acts 22:11-13

- b. Paul spoke about receiving God's direction for his life.

Acts 22:14-15

- c. Paul spoke about taking basic steps in following the Lord through baptism.

Acts 22:16

- d. Paul spoke about his growth in spite of his past.

Acts 22:17-20

4. Who are you in Christ right now?

Paul spoke about his ministry of reconciling the lost to Christ.

Acts 22:21

DISCUSSION:

Are you actively seeking opportunities to get the gospel to the lost?

Do you have a method you like to use to share the gospel?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Explain why you will encounter opposition from the world.

2. List four things that describe your relationship with the world. Include scripture references.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3. Briefly explain how the following verses can help you to overcome the opposition you may face from the world.

Proverbs 15:1

Matthew 5:44

Proverbs 16:7

Romans 12:20-21

4. What were the five main instructions for learning to share your faith?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

5. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

There should be a natural desire to share the great news of Jesus with others. Read the following passages. Who is the passage is about? What does each person say about Jesus after meeting him?

John 1:40-41

John 1:45

John 4:28-29

Acts 9:18-20

Acts 18:25-28

How has your testimony changed since you started discipleship?

What is your favorite passage to use when you share the gospel? Why is it your favorite?
