

can meet and share our experiences and struggles. Truly, Christians will have the BEST Bible studies in college. Everyone is close to each other, knows each other, knows where each other comes from, because age is such a powerful commonality.

Questions to think about:

1. What were the common struggles that Ashley, Kelly and Fred encountered? Do you think these are the common struggles that Christians face in college? (Maintaining one's faith, praying, reading the Bible, keeping one's integrity.)
2. Make a list of areas that you think may cause you problems in college. For each one, write down a solution on how you could overcome it. What do you foresee to be your biggest struggle?

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



*Sing hymn 358: Breathe on Me.
Preparing our hearts before we go to college is vital if we want to lead a successful student life. Knowing our goals, our values and our vision will enable us to lead a life of integrity. We need to open our hearts so that our Lord can come in and dwell in it, filling us with His wonderful spirit and taking full control.*

Lesson 3

Witnessing in College

Listed Scriptures

Mt 4:20–25; Mt 28:18ff; Mk 16:15–20; Acts 1

Lesson Aim

- 1) To be equipped with specific steps to keeping one's faith in college.
- 2) To be doers of the faith and shine forth God's light.
- 3) To be prayer warriors and have prayer partners in college.

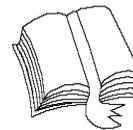
Memory Verse

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Daniel 7–9

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Prior to His ascension, the Lord Jesus gave His disciples an important commission. When the Holy Spirit comes, they shall be His witnesses to the end of the world. They are to propagate the good tidings to the entire human race, so all will come to believe in Him and receive the salvation of God (Acts 1:1–11).

Our Lord Jesus Himself took on this great task. When He came to this world, He knew His mission and worked unceasingly towards attaining that goal. He even told His disciples that He "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28). From the outset, He knew that He had come to save mankind and His goal was to serve. This strong sense of responsibility was

evident through the great works He carried out. He knew that He had come to do the will of the Father (Jn 6:38). Moreover, He told His disciples that His food “is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work” (Jn 4:34).

The Lord Jesus came to earth to fulfill and accomplish the work of God (Jn 17:4). Even though He felt the cup was too bitter and He wanted it to pass, ultimately, He gave up His own will and surrendered to the good will of God (Mt 26:39). While on earth, He went about all cities and villages preaching the gospel of the kingdom, loving the unloved, touching the untouchable (Mt 9:13; Mk 1:40–42). In order to save more souls, He worked diligently and tirelessly, often going without food and sleep (Mt 8:19f; 21:18f). He walked before His sheep and laid down His life for them (Jn 10:4, 11–15). Moreover, He sacrificed His own life and suffered on the cross to save the souls of the world. His spirit of sacrifice and unconditional love is something we need to emulate as Christians today.

In addition, before and immediately after performing miracles and other great acts, the Lord Jesus would always spend time in prayer (Mt 14:22–25; Mk 1:35). He would always go to a solitary place to pray, to renew His strength and to ask for the Father’s guidance.

The Lord set a perfect example for us to follow. He demonstrated what it truly means to love others—to grant eternal life. Are we willing to share this precious gospel with those around us so that they too will receive the gift of life?

W A R M U P



Give out candy or other treats to every single one of your students. Then ask them:

- How do you feel about receiving a treat?
- If I decided to be selfish and keep these treats to myself, or perhaps only share it with one or two of you, how would the rest of you feel?
- How is this like sharing the gospel to others?

Since you were all quite happy to receive these treats, think how joyful people would be if they were to receive the gospel of life! Today, we’ll be looking into the importance of sharing our faith with other people.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1

Sharing Our Faith

Evangelism is the act of sharing the Lord Jesus with people who don’t know Him. It is spreading the gospel—the good news of life.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn.” (Isaiah 61:1–2)

When the Lord Jesus first came out to preach the gospel, He went to His home synagogue to proclaim the gospel of salvation. In Isaiah 61:1–2 He briefly explained the purpose of His mission and the message of His salvation.



A. To Carry Out the Commission of our Lord Jesus

The Lord Jesus gave us two great commissions. The first is to go out to preach the gospel (Mk 16:15–18) and the second is to pastor His sheep (Jn 21:15–18). From the outset, the Lord Jesus knew that He had come to save mankind, and His goal was to serve. He passed on this great commission to us, commanding us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19f). Apostle Paul also reminds us of the importance of preaching the gospel and that we have nothing to boast of when we do it (1 Cor 9:16f). It is therefore our Christian duty to go and pass on this good news to the nations.



B. To Be Freed From the Bondage of Sin

The Lord Jesus came into this world to release us from our own bondage. What is this bondage? It is the invisible state of being a prisoner. That is, we are imprisoned by our own sorrow, heresy, and other false beliefs. Through our bad habits or wish to enjoy popularity and a sense of accomplishment, we find that we have been entrapped, without even realizing it. The Lord Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn 8:32). If a person knows the truth of Jesus he shall be set free from his own desires, greediness, bad habits, and also from the heresies of others. The gospel of Jesus Christ will first give us the ability to overcome ourselves and be released from the bondage of our own physical desires. However, it is not that easy to be released from this bondage. It requires an external force—the power of Jesus Christ.

There is a story about a child who fell into water and was about to drown. After this child fell into the water many people had different reactions. Some said, "Whose pitiful child is this? His parents will surely be broken hearted." But they did not go and help. Others told the child to move his arms, kick his legs and keep his nose above water. How much assistance was this to the child? None. Likewise, in this world there are a lot of people like that. They say, "This world is so pitiful and sinful." Yet their words are not helping the world change. This is just like teaching the drowning child how to swim. It doesn't help. Finally, a person jumped into the water and pulled him out. This was helpful and saved the child. Today, we are like the drowning child. We do not have the ability to save ourselves. Other people and philosophies do not help us at all. What we need is the Lord Jesus who came from heaven and jumped into the sea to rescue us. That is the only way that we can be rescued from this sea of desires.

C. To Be Released from Sorrow

Living in this world, we have many sorrows which weigh us down. Imparting the words of life to others will enable them to be released from their sorrow. There was one sister who had wanted to end her life before she received Christ. She had lost two sons in an accident, and was injured herself. She didn't want to be a burden on her oldest son. However, since she came to know the truth, she has a joy and peace that she never knew before. Moreover, she no longer needed a cane to help her walk and her sorrows vanished.

We need to impart the gospel of life to people so that the Lord Jesus will release them from their sorrow. Only the Lord Jesus can fill their hearts with peace and joy

(Jn 15:11; Phil 4:7). The Lord Jesus said in Luke 4:18 that He has been anointed "to preach the gospel to the poor." The word "poor" does not necessarily refer to the physical sense, but the emotional state of mind. The Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to release us from our emotional entanglements.



D. To Establish a Correct Concept of Life

We have to preach in order to recover the sight of the blind (Lk 4:18). This is the wisdom of truth. The gospel must be preached to establish a correct concept of life, so that in the midst of this endless pursuit of vanity, we can clearly show others what is the real value of life. Wealth, status, marriage—these are what the world pursues today. But the Lord allows those who believe in Him to see differently. The world teaches us to condemn those who have wronged against us. Yet the Lord Jesus gives us the strength to forgive and love those who have harmed us. How can we have this same vision as the Lord? We need to empty ourselves, be humble and be ready to see the Lord Jesus. Let us truly be free and be able to overcome pressures from the environment. Let us go out and recover the sight of the blind so that they too will be able to have the same vision as our Heavenly Father.



E. To Be Renewed by the Holy Spirit

The gospel of Jesus Christ is given to proclaim the Lord's merciful grace. In the New Testament era, everything starts off anew. How wonderful is this news? Many times we wish we could start fresh again. But we know it is impossible to go back in time. However, the message of Jesus Christ will make this possible, for in Christ Jesus all things are new. The old has passed and Jesus Christ has given us another chance to be renewed (2 Cor 5:17). Our mission is to pass on the wonderful grace of the Lord Jesus so that all nations will be renewed through His Holy Spirit.



F. To Grow in Faith

When we share the wonderful words of God with other people, we grow in faith too. By sharing, we learn more about the gospel, bringing us to a deeper understanding of His will and a closer relationship with Him. There is a famous saying which states that when you spread love to others, you can't help but get a little on yourself. Likewise, when we spread the gospel to others, not only are we bringing life to them, but we are also bringing benefit to our own spiritual life. Let us continue to go forth and tell of the wonderful things He's done: "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works" (Ps 9:1).



Part 2

Secrets to Evangelism

Many people often ask what the secrets to evangelism are. What must we do to be able to preach? The only secret way to evangelism is to pray and share the word of God. For it is only in sharing that people hear, and it is only in hearing that they will be able to partake of salvation. Below is a 5-step way to evangelism.

a. **Cast Our Nets (Lk 5:4f; Mt 4:18)**

Casting out our nets is to evangelize. The more we cast out our nets, the more fish we will get. Whether or not we are victorious, we must preach the gospel. There is a testimony of how a pastor decided to preach to the person next to him on the plane. At first, the pastor was hesitant in talking to that person, but he felt that it was his duty to share the wonderful gospel with anyone who would listen. Consequently, the person to whom this pastor preached ended up bringing 250 people in two years to the truth. Praise God! If the pastor never opened his mouth to preach, that person would not have been able to hear the truth, nor bring others to believe.

b. **Mend Our Nets (Mt 4:21)**

Mending our nets is to have spiritual cultivation. The nets refer to our deeds and our faith. The word of God is complete. We are imperfect but preach the perfect gospel. We need to, therefore, fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit so that we will exhibit Christ-like behavior. We need to display the good and perfect image of Jesus Christ so that all those who see us will want to come to know the Lord.

c. **Wash Our Nets (Lk 5:2; Eph 5:26; Ps 119:105)**

Washing our nets signifies the need to cleanse and purify our hearts and souls with the word of God. While living in this world, our minds and thoughts will often be tainted. We need to renew our minds daily through meditating on God's word. Our inner being needs to be transformed so that we are clean and pure to be able to present ourselves to the world. We must resort to winning others with our conduct, which is the character and conduct of Jesus Christ.

d. **Sun-dry Our Nets (Ez 26:5)**

Drying our nets out in the sun shows that we need to have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit so that we can shine the light of God. We need to allow God's spirit to live and work in us so that other people can see the glory and power of God. We are the light of the world. We need to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Mt 5:14-16; 6:22f).

e. **Pull Our Nets (Lk 5:6f)**

When they caught a great number of fish, the disciples had to signal to their partners in the other boat to help them as they were unable to pull the nets themselves. In the same manner, we need help from others to save souls. We need the strength to pull together so that we can win more souls. Unity, after all, is strength (Eph 4:1-3; Ps 133:1).



Part 3

Evangelism: Just Do It!

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things'" (Romans 10:14-15).

In order for the church to grow, we need to do our part and spread the good news. As the above verses suggest, people will not be able to receive the grace of God unless they have heard the good news. We need to totally dedicate ourselves to this important work. We need to equip ourselves and be motivated. Ask the Lord to fill us with love so that we will have compassion on those around us.

Can you think of some practical ways to evangelize? Discuss with a partner some effective ways that you and the church could implement to spread the gospel. Write them down and share them with the class.

1. Ways to evangelize
2. How am I going to carry this out?

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



- 1 Out of the 5 steps (Secrets to Evangelism), is there one which you think is the most important? Why?
- 2 Which part of the above 5-step plan to evangelism do you need to work on the most? Why?

LIFE APPLICATION



Part A: Testimonies of Evangelism

Here are some testimonies of how some believers shared the gospel with those around them.

Case 1: God's Love

"When we have the love of God in us, we must know to pass it on" (1 Jn 4:16). During her internship, one sister saw a Bible on her director's desk and asked him to attend a Bible study. The director thought he had nothing to lose by coming. At the end of the Bible study, when they knelt down to pray, the director was afraid and vowed never to come back again. However, the sister prayed for him and the next week, the director couldn't wait to attend Bible study and church services. He felt that God was in their midst and he started to pray sincerely every night. Not long after, this director received the Holy Spirit and was later baptized into the church. He has now dedicated his life to serving God.

Case 2: God's Timing

God works in miraculous ways. Sometimes, it may not be the right time. But if we entrust everything to the Lord, He will bring His sheep to Him according to His own timing. One sister tried to preach to a classmate during her freshman year in college. However, this classmate didn't want anything to do with religion, so this sister decided not to pursue it. A few years later, after graduation, this sister met up with this classmate again. The classmate had been going through a difficult period, and was encountering a lot of personal problems. During the summer, she stayed with this sister who counseled her every day. Eventually, this classmate was touched by the love of this sister and started to attend Bible study. The Lord moved this classmate and she later became a member of our church. Praise God!

Case 3: God's Providence

It is sometimes through the interactions we have with others that give us the opportunity to bring them to Christ. God always provides for His people, as the following testimony shows. A brother was introduced to his classmate's friend during his first year in college. They sat together in the same math class that first quarter and soon became friends. However, after that first quarter, they did not have a class together. It was not until the end of their second year that they met up again. The brother needed a roommate for next year, and the friend also thought he might need accommodation, since his original plans had fallen through. They exchanged numbers and went their separate ways. Late in August, this brother called the friend, saying that he was going to live with another brother and needed a third roommate. This friend decided to move in with them. It was hard for this friend to avoid the topic of God or church as weekly campus fellowships were held in their apartment. He began to learn about God, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. Every week, he learned a little more about God and through the help of the brothers and sisters, he went from doubt to praying fervently for the Holy Spirit. This friend was eventually baptized and is now a fervent worker of God.

Questions to think about:

1. Can you think of any other testimonies of evangelism? Share them with the class.
2. Write your own testimony of evangelism and be prepared to share it with the rest of the class.

Part B: "Behold, Now is the Accepted Time..."

You and a partner have just finished working on a class presentation, and you think about how nice it would be if he could come to church. You suddenly remember that there's an evangelical service at church this weekend. What do you do? A million thoughts run through your head—most of them a series of "what if's." What if he thinks I'm weird? What if he's already a Christian? What if this puts a strain on our "working relationship"? What if people at church think he's my boyfriend? What if he's scared by the way we pray? Within seconds, the train of doubt-ridden questions gives way to more definite assumptions. He's probably not interested anyway. He's probably an atheist, and he's probably busy, too—it is Friday night after all. Do you:

- a) Silently pack up your books as you internally lament the tragedy of the situation, tell your classmate you'll see him in class next week, and head back to your dorm; or
- b) Swallow your nervousness, nonchalantly ask your classmate what his plans

are for the weekend, and prepare to turn the conversation into an invitation to Bible study?

For many of us, it's probably less of a hassle to pick a).

WHAT'S HOLDING US BACK?

When I was little, I would occasionally read those choose-your-own-adventure books where you could pick to read from a number of different scenarios. Depending upon your choices, you could wind up with a completely different story and ending than someone else who read the same book. Admittedly, I always cheated whenever I read those books. If it seemed like the story was heading in a bad direction, I would go back and carefully re-read as many different choices as I could until I ended on a brighter note.

When it comes to spreading the gospel, we don't always have the luxury of being able to sit back and debate the pros and cons of a certain situation, or the ins and outs of how to go about preaching. A lot of times, we need to make decisions on the spot, which we, more often than not, have no way of reversing.

Of course, we can try to comfort ourselves after missed preaching opportunities with the thought that there's always the possibility of a second chance. For instance, you might run into an acquaintance you weren't able to preach to before and whom you never thought you would see again.

However, instead of consoling ourselves for bygones, it's better to remind ourselves that we must make the most of our present opportunities. So if hesitation is preventing us from spreading the precious gospel, we should try to think in terms of what we are going to do in the here and now. As 2 Corinthians 6:2 states, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

If we dwell in the past while neglecting the urgency of the present—if only I had done this, tomorrow I'm going to do that—no action occurs. We must also be honest with ourselves, since excuses often unconsciously masquerade as legitimate reasons. For example, we could and should try to use judgment and discretion when it comes to finding an opportune time to share the gospel.

But we must also be careful that the desire to come across a better moment isn't just an excuse not to preach. If we keep waiting for the "ideal" preaching conditions, odds are we'll end up waiting forever. Distinguishing between reason and excuse takes a hearty amount of self-reflection and the spiritual wisdom that comes from none other than God.

GO FOR IT WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

It there's one thing I've learned over the years in terms of trying to preach to classmates, it's that no matter how hard I try, I can never predict God.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord" (Isa 55:8). Knowing God's sovereignty, it seems almost shockingly irreverent that one would dare to predict or second-guess the thoughts and plans of the Creator of the entire universe.

Yet, we do it all the time. Oftentimes, before we've even spoken a word of God's grace and salvation aloud, we've already said something in our hearts like, "Oh, she'd never accept the truth" or "Why bother, no one ever believes anyway." Such defeating assumptions not only place doubt on God's power to make possible the impossible, but also place human logic above God's. Whether we mean to or not, we are sending God the message: I know better than You do.

Once, in my freshman year of college, I was eating in the dining hall with two other classmates, and they started talking about their plans for the coming weekend. Since it was the beginning of the school year, none of us knew each other very well, and I wasn't sure what they thought of Christianity, let alone whether they'd be interested in coming to church with me. I mentioned how I was planning to go to Bible study and church that Friday and Saturday. I hesitated for a split-second before I went on, and then I decided just to go for it.

"You're both more than welcome to come with me," I continued. Then, I gave a brief spiel about how our services are usually run. Neither of them was scared off by my proposal, but they didn't seem particularly interested either. Oh well, I thought, maybe some other time—at least I tried. To my surprise though, as we were leaving the cafeteria, one of my classmates suddenly turned to me and asked, "Hey, can I come with you to Bible study this weekend?"

FOLLOW HIS LEAD

Preaching about God to others helped me to learn more about Him myself. The more I tried to invite my friends and classmates to church, the more I realized that God indeed works in mysterious ways and often in ways that are contrary to what human reasoning would prescribe.

For instance, last semester, a church worker from out of town was scheduled to give a sermon during one of our Sabbath services. Hoping to use this "special" occasion as a means to plug our church, I decided to email some of my classmates with

an invite. However, there were a few people on my email list I wasn't sure about. Two of the girls had been unable to come to Bible study several times, and eventually I assumed that their busyness was a polite way of saying, thanks, but no thanks. Another potential prospect was a classmate whose email address I so happened to have, but whom I had just recently met.

As I was debating about whether or not I should include them as part of the informal list I had drawn up, it occurred to me that maybe I should kneel down and pray. My first thought, though, was whether I should bother praying about something so seemingly trivial as sending out a few emails. Why not just boldly shoot those invites out across the waves of the internet and not look back? Right away though, I realized that I should put my trust in Him even with the "little" things, since anything we do for God is never really trivial to begin with. Freshly humbled, I knelt down and prayed for God to let His spirit work in the hearts of those who had not yet received the true gospel. I also prayed that I could remember my own role—as an unworthy vessel merely planting the seeds of the gospel. Without God, those seeds could never grow.

Interestingly enough, the only ones who were able to make it to service were the ones I had been most unsure of. What's more, the classmate I had been almost positive wouldn't be interested actually brought a friend with her as well!

BE BOLD

Just as much as we need God to help us overcome our timidity, we also need God when we are feeling bold. Being a person who's usually not too afraid of coming across as "different" in the eyes of my peers doesn't make me any less in need of God's assistance. As Paul writes in his epistle to the Romans, "So as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believe" (Rom 1:15–16).

Paul was obviously an apostle who preached the gospel without fear or shame, yet he was careful to recognize that spreading the news of salvation was possible not because of his own courage but because of the power and mercy of God. Furthermore, I've learned that regardless of the outcome and whether or not any friends or classmates ended up visiting or joining our church, I should still continue to do my part.

If there are times when I feel discouraged and it seems like no one is interested in the gospel, I think of Daniel's three friends before they were thrown into the fiery

furnace. They were able to proclaim that they could accept whatever fate God had in store for them. Regardless of whether this meant their deliverance or their death, their faith never wavered. How much more, then, should we be relentless to proclaim the truth no matter what the possible return or lack thereof!

TELL OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE'S DONE

When we're under potentially nerve-racking or pressure-inducing circumstances, clinging onto our own logic often gives us a momentary, if not false, sense of safety amidst confusion. Yet, God wants us to do just the opposite. He wants us to take that leap into the unknown, so long as we don't forget another crucial step – trusting in and asking for His guidance along the way. In other words, we must have faith. Although easier said than done, preaching shouldn't be a high-anxiety experience. Just as with other types of holy work, sharing God's words with others should be a natural and pleasant extension of our genuine desire to repay His love. Just as with serving God and others, spreading the gospel should not feel like something we do because we have to, but something we do because we want to.

What's usually our first instinct after, say, hearing something interesting on the news? Witnessing something during the day that was absolutely hysterical? Experiencing a random and unusual act of kindness? Most of us would probably go and tell someone. Awe, laughter, thanksgiving, and other forms of joy are often best when they are shared. In the words of Jesus, who lights a lamp to put it under a basket? Doesn't it make more sense to put it on a lampstand so all can benefit from its light?

Let's say a complete stranger saved you from an awful death by pushing you out of the way of a moving train but, in doing so, lost her own life. I'm sure we would not only feel indebted to this individual for the rest of our lives, but we would also be singing her praises to anyone within earshot.

COMPELLED AND CONVICTED

Now consider the gospel, which literally means "good news" and is actually the greatest news in the world: that we have been saved from the most horrible of deaths—eternal suffering in hell. Shouldn't we not only feel grateful but also compelled to proclaim the news of Jesus Christ our Savior to anyone and everyone?

I must admit, there have been times when an opportunity to share God's message has come up and I didn't act, not out of fear but because I was spiritually weak. Worse yet is talking about God while feeling low in spirit and in heart. Each word sounds more and more hollow as the minutes drag by, and you think, this must be

what God hears when we pray to Him half-heartedly. On the flip side, there are the times when I reflect upon all the blessings in my life, when I feel that closeness to Him in prayer, when I experience the joy of fellowship, and I cannot help but wish that others could taste that same sweetness.

This must be what David felt when he wrote Psalm 9:1, "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works." Not only is testifying of God's grace a way of preaching, but it is also a way of praising Him.

We need many things when we preach the words of God, from a sound understanding of the truth and the knowledge that we are merely God's instruments to the boldness to speak out. However, all these qualities are useless if we do not also speak with true conviction. As Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 1:5, "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance."

We can have all the biblical knowledge in the world, and maybe insults harmlessly roll off our backs like water, but if we do not possess that full assurance of what Jesus has done and will continue to do in our lives, our words may have about as much impact as silence. Spreading the gospel is not an easy task, as even the most seasoned of evangelists will attest. And no matter how hard we may try to find one, there is no exact formula we can use to ensure the best results. Yet, it can be made a less stressful and more pleasant experience when we try to reflect upon not only how we preach but also why we preach. Surely, the sound of such heartfelt testaments of God's grace must be music to His ears.

(Manna, "The Lord's Teachings," Issue 44 Apr-Jun 2004)

Questions to think about:

1. Have you ever struggled to preach the gospel? What were the reasons behind those struggles? Did you manage to overcome them? How?
2. The author relates to us how she knelt down to pray for God's spirit to work, before she sent out her email invitations. Have you ever prayed for a particular friend so that the Lord will open his/her heart? Relate your experiences to the class.
3. What do you see as your biggest obstacle to preaching the gospel? How do you think you can overcome this?

Part C: Be a Prayer Warrior!

Prayer is an integral part of serving God. We cannot live without it, nor can we serve our Heavenly Father without seeking out His will. Apostle Paul was a praying apostle. He would constantly pray for others and would ask others to remember him and the work of evangelism in their prayers (Col 4:3f; 2 Thess 3:1; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Cor 12:8f).

One sister testified of how during one NYTS, she went through the names of all the members in her campus fellowship and asked God to help them in some way or another. When she went through her list again, she decided to thank God for that particular individual. When she started to pray in this way, she noticed that her tongue changed and she literally entered into a deeper level of prayer. From this incident, she learned that God not only wants us to pray for our members, but also to give thanks for them.

Let's become prayer warriors, developing a life of prayer and thanksgiving while at college. Choose a brother or sister whom you would like to be paired with as your prayer partner. Your task is to pray for each other every day this week, and to contact each other either by phone, email, or in person sometime this week to ask how your prayer lives are going. Encourage each other. Ask each other what he/she would like you to pray for. If possible, try to get together to pray sometime during the week. If not, set up a time when you'll be able to pray at the same time. You'll notice a difference!

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



Sing hymn 422: *Pass It On*.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things" (Rom 10:15). To preach the gospel we must have the incarnation of the gospel. We have to absorb the words of God and live them out. We must have good behavior and knowledge and ask the spirit of the Lord to work within us continuously. Let us ask our Heavenly Father to open our eyes and our hearts so that we will see the needs of the people and will be willing to share the gospel with them. May the Lord continue to guide our footsteps.