

CHURCH OF HOPE EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE BY EMAIL AND WEBSITE: *STUDY GUIDE: WEEKS SIX AND SEVEN*

TOPIC SIX: THE URGENCY TO EVANGELISE AND GOD'S HEART FOR EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION TO WEEKS SIX AND SEVEN:

The next two weeks we will be focusing on the important topic of evangelism and the urgency to reach out to the lost now. For topic number six we will be doing a four page study guide which covers the next two weeks. Jesus Himself emphasised the urgency to reach out to the lost and to make the message of the gospel know to all people. Jesus said,

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’” (John 4:35)

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” (Mark 16:20)

With Easter fast approaching, we now have a great opportunity to share the message behind Easter with the many unsaved in our community (*the glorious message of the gospel*). The Apostle Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

In this passage of Scripture we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others: 1) Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins, 2) Christ was buried, 3) God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and 4) Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts

It is as we preach the gospel, (the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ), that the Holy Spirit moves upon people's hearts to convict them of their need to come to Christ (God's saving Grace) so that they can receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour (Romans 1:16) FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

“Jesus Christ bled and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, but death could not hold Him down. Three days later He arose from the grave triumphantly and is now back in Heaven. He died that we may live forever. Because He lives we all have a hope and a future. Because He conquered the grave we can be free indeed, we can live a life that is full of purpose and meaning and we can have eternal life. God has a great love for you. You matter to God. Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Today you can open your heart to Him and receive the free gift of eternal life.” (SINNERS PRAYER)

With such a harvest of lost souls needing to be brought into God's Kingdom at this time, how important it is that we equip all believers to be able to share the gospel and to become soul winners. GOSPEL TRACTS ARE A GREAT TOOL FOR ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO UNBELIEVERS. In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, **And he who wins souls is wise.**” (Proverbs 11:30)

The role of the five-fold ministry is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Given the late hour that we are now living in and with Easter just two weeks away, there is no better time than NOW to equip and mobilise as many Christians as possible to be active in the sharing of their faith with others.

This four page study guide is to be read in conjunction with six attached readings and is full of discussion points which would be great to be studied in a small group setting. i.e. Those involved in a Bible Class could break up into smaller study groups for several of the discussion points.

As you work through this study guide number six, reference will be made to the appropriate attached readings to look at and to study in relation to particular discussion points. I have also included many scripture references that relate to the discussions points.

AGAIN NOW IS THE TIME TO BRING IN THE HARVEST OF LOST SOULS. The coming of the Lord is at hand.

We need to make the most of every God given opportunity to reach the lost with the gospel message. We will begin this study for the next two weeks by looking at “Attachment one – the First Two Foundations of our Faith” (Repentance from dead works and of faith toward God per Hebrews 6:1).

Jesus Himself preached repentance and faith. Without true repentance there is no real faith. Jesus Himself clearly emphasized this in Luke 13:1-5. In Luke 13:5 we read the words of Jesus, “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” In the gospel of Mark we read, “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”” **Attachment one clearly outlines what True Repentance is.** In short TRUE REPENTANCE has two compulsory components; FIRSTLY, A recognition of our sins (confessing our sins) and SECONDLY, Turning from our sins to live for God. (This involves a turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intention to serve Him and to obey His commands.) I will now begin going through the discussion points for topic number six: The urgency to evangelise and God’s heart for Evangelism.

DISCUSSION POINTS (AND TEACHINGS) FOR TOPIC SIX THE URGENCY TO EVANGELISE AND GOD’S HEART FOR EVANGELISM

1) The importance of always preaching the uncompromised pure gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) (Romans 1:16-17) **REFER TO ATTACHMENT TWO – THE SIMPLE GOSPEL MESSAGE (Key Teaching)**

- **There is only one Gospel which we must preach** (Galatians 1:6-9)
- **Only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ can anyone be saved.** (Acts 3:19) (Acts 20:21)
- **Only Jesus Christ can take away our sins** (John 1:29) (Isaiah 43:25) **that separate us from a Holy God and save us.** (Acts 4:12) (John 10:9) (John 3:16)
- **When we come to Christ in repentance and faith all of our sins are washed away by the Blood of Jesus** (1 Corinthians 6:11) (Ephesians 1:7) (Isaiah 1:18) **and we receive the gift of eternal life.** (John 3:15)
- **It is only through entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that a person can be forgiven of their sins and get to heaven. There is only one way to be reconciled to God and that is through Jesus Christ.** (1 Timothy 2:5-6) (John 14:6)
- **Jesus Himself made it clear that a person must be born again (have a spiritual birth from above) if they are to enter the kingdom of God** (John 3:3-7) **and receive the free gift of eternal life.** (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **ALL people need to make a personal response to the gospel message to be saved.** (John 1:12) (REFER TO ATTACHMENT ONE AGAIN)
- **When we enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ we are justified and declared righteous in God’s sight** (Romans 3:24) (Romans 3:28), **and we are “...holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight –”** (Colossians 1:22)
- **We must never deviate away from the TRUE Gospel when sharing our faith.**
- **God’s desire is that all would be saved.** (2 Peter 3:9)
- **He who the Son sets free is free indeed.** (John 8:36) **There is power in the gospel to liberate lives. God is able to resurrect broken lives.** (Psalm 103:2-5)

2) We need to have a clear understanding of the pure gospel message and be able to communicate it in a clear and simple way to all people, so that all can understand the message, irrespective of their educational level. As pastors and leaders, it is also important that we teach other Christians to have a clear understanding of the simple gospel message as well so that they can share their faith with others. **WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON – That we are always ready to share our faith with others.** (1 Peter 3:15) (2 Timothy 4:1-5) **REFER TO ATTACHMENT TWO FOR A CLEAR AND THOROUGH STUDY ON THE SIMPLE GOSPEL MESSAGE which can be used to teach others.**

3) We need as pastors and leaders to be actively encouraging, EQUIPPING and mobilising all Christians to share their faith. (Ephesians 4:11-12) For many the thought of evangelism puts apprehension in their hearts. So in many ways we need to help them to develop a new mindset by saying that Evangelism is really “just sharing good news (the gospel) with new friends”

4) THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING SOME PRACTICAL KEYS TO HELP US TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN WITNESING TO OTHERS. There are many practical keys that can help us to share our faith more easily and effectively with others. As Christians the more prepared we are to share our faith and to lead others to Christ, the more we will be able to populate heaven and plunder hell. As every person is so precious to God, our focus on becoming good at sharing our faith should be a major priority in our life. **(Proverbs 11:30) (2 Timothy 2:15) Refer to ATTACHMENT THREE – “Some keys to being effective in witnessing to and preaching to others”** This teaching has many practical keys that can help Christians to become more effective and confident in witnessing to others. In this four page teaching we cover; i) The absolute importance of prayer, ii) Some things to consider when approaching people (including good ice breakers), iii) Some keys to overcoming fear, iv) God’s desire that all would be saved, and v) Some other practical considerations that can help us to share our faith more effectively

THIS TEACHING INCLUDES MANY POINTS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN COVERED IN THIS STUDY GUIDE OUTLINE – for this reason this teaching is very important to read.

SOME FURTHER BRIEF DISCUSSION POINTS IN RELATION TO LEADING OTHERS TO CHRIST

- 5) All that we do must be motivated by love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) We need to have a genuine love for those we are sharing our faith with and have an interest in their life.**
- 6) The importance of being led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do. (John 16:13) The Lord will give us divine appointments with people who are open and receptive to the gospel message**
- 7) How we live our life is important. (Matthew 5:13-16) We must not disqualify our witness with the way we live our life. We will never be perfect but if we allow the Lord to change us we will shine brightly for Him. For many people we are the only bible that they will ever read. As Christians we have the potential through the Holy Spirit to make a great difference in the lives of those around us. Our witness is far more effective if our life reflects the message that we are preaching.**
- 8) The importance of seeking God for His outreach strategies for our church. His ways are far higher than our ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9) Obedience to His ways is a key to having successful outreaches.**
- 9) Planning helps to make things happen – We must purposely make plans as a church to reach out into the community on a regular basis (Proverbs 21:5) It is also importance that we schedule in regular training sessions to help equip believers to become soul winners. In Blacktown we have monthly Evangelism workshops to equip Christians to share their faith and to encourage one another.**
- 10) The importance of consistency and commitment – As we continually reach out into our community and share the gospel message, we will eventually see a harvest of souls. (Galatians 6:9) Being consistent in our outreaches is a key to our churches making a difference in our community. EVERY Thursday night and Saturday Lunch time we have “church in the streets”. At both of these outreaches we have regulars who attend and who have progressively come to faith**
- 11) The importance of preaching the Word of God – Memorising Scriptures helps us to share the word of God in season and out of season. (2 Timothy 4:2) “...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) See also Hebrews 4:12 and Isaiah 55:11**
- 12) We must never forget the reality of their being a heaven to gain and a hell to shun and that all people will spend eternity in one of these places – The value of every single person to God (Luke 15:3-7) As Christians we need to always live with eternity in mind (Proverbs 24:11)**

- 13) The importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.** Being baptised in the Holy Spirit is a key to being empowered to witness to and preach to others. It is as we allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us that people are convicted of their sins and need to come to Christ. We need to minister the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit **(1 Corinthians 2:4-5) (1 Peter 4:11)**
REFER TO ATTACHMENT FOUR – RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT
- 14) Worship and Evangelism go hand in hand.** God inhabits the praises of His people **(Psalm 22:3)** Worship changes the atmosphere and ushers in God’s tangible presence which makes people open to receiving gospel tracts and to responding to the gospel message and experiencing miracles. **(Luke 5:17)**
- 15) Worship helps us to touch God’s heart for lost souls.** As a church creating an atmosphere of praise and worship in our meetings is crucial. A church full of worshipping Christians will make a great impact in their community. Worship connects our heart to God’s heart of compassion. **(Psalm 37:4) (Luke 4:18)**
- 16) The importance of being a 24/7 Christian –** God will often give us opportunities to share our faith, even sometimes when it is inconvenient. We need to be always open to being used of the Lord to help people come to Christ, not just when it suits us. I have met people that were about to take their life
- 17) As pastors and leaders we need to lead by example. (1 Timothy 4:12)** As Pastors we need to also have an evangelist’s heart. As Evangelists we also need to have a pastor’s heart. That we see what God can do in a person’s life when they come to Christ (saved for a purpose). We must never see a person’s commitment to Christ as just another notch in our evangelistic belt. A major pastor in Melbourne was challenged by the Lord to have a greater focus on evangelism. In response to this he began sharing personally in a greater way and through his new passion for winning souls the church grew rapidly as his heart for evangelism was caught by others in his church. Evangelism is more caught than taught.
- 18) THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUALLY GROWING IN OUR OWN WALK WITH THE LORD AND SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH THE LORD.** The more we are on the front line winning souls to Christ the greater the spiritual warfare we will also encounter. **(2 Timothy 3:12)** We need to be strong in our own walk with the Lord to finish the race. **(1 Corinthians 9:27) (Ephesians 6:10) (2 Timothy 4:7-8)**
- 19) The more REAL Jesus is in our own life the easier it is to spontaneously share our faith with others.** Our own love and passion for the Lord will make it easier to share our faith with others. If our heart is full of a love for God this will be reflected in the way that we share our faith
- 20) We need to pray for and believe for miracles of healings in our outreaches and as we reach out to others.** (Mark 16:15-18) **Miracles help to lead people to Christ (REFER TO ATTACHMENT FIVE)**
- 21) Having a continual abiding (intimate) relationship with Christ gives us a great love for people.** This is a great key to overcoming any fears about sharing our faith with others **(2 Timothy 1:7) (1 John 4:18)**
- 22) Having outreach teams helps to empower more timid Christians to share their faith with others as they receive support and encouragement from other team members.** MAINTAINING UNITY is a key to having effective outreach teams. **(Psalm 133) (John 13:34-35)** Having a time of prayer and worship together prior to an outreach helps to create unity in a team. As a team we can achieve much
- 23) There are many things that can make our outreaches more effective such as serving people with tea and coffee and meeting first the practical needs of those that we are reaching out to**
- 24) THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING DISCIPLES AND NOT JUST CONVERTS. (Matthew 28:19-20)** People are saved for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10) When a person comes to Christ it is just the beginning of their walk with the Lord. As pastors we need to help them to grow in their faith, **and**
- 25) Choosing to live a consecrated life for the Lord. (John 12:24) (Luke 9:23-24)** This is a great key to living for the cause of Christ and becoming an effective soul winner (evangelist). Like Isaiah we need to say continually, “Here am I! Send me.” REFER ATTACHMENT SIX – John Harper (his heart for the lost)