

Lesson 4: BECOMING LIKE JESUS AMONG THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW HIM

Learning Objectives:

- Jesus emptied himself of everything in order to reach the lost. Will we?
- Our “baggage” slows us down. Our “sacred cows” make us ineffective.
- Learn to quickly apologize for yourself and other Christians.
- Learn to distinguish between “the Way of Jesus” and “Christianity”.
- Ask people to get into groups to study the Word if they want to learn more.

1) Review Lesson 3 in pairs

- **Top 3** lessons
- How they **obeyed**
- **Pray** for each other based on lessons learned from the Great Commission lesson and the field work.
- **Review** memory verses.

Then do large group review – writing up key lessons and obedience examples.

2) Exercise: Chair Race

- Get one chair or desk and put it in the front of the room.
- Ask for 2 volunteers. Have one stand behind the chair. Have the other stand beside him. Give the one not behind the chair a Bible and tell him to carry it wherever he goes. Then begin to load up the chair with “Christian supplies” or “missionary supplies”, like theological books, laptop & projector, smartphone, a large cross, a podium, heavy theological books, a large purse (representing money), etc.
- Then tell the two people they must race from one end of the room to the other. Whoever gets to the end and back first, touching your hand wins. But, nothing can be broken or damaged in any way during the race, and they must play fair. Then let the race begin.
- Afterwards, ask participants what the point of the exercise was. Ask them what things most Christians think are necessary for reaching the lost and planting churches among them but in fact are really just Christian traditions?

3) Use the Bible study method “CPO” (writing out these verses):

- **John 20:21-23**

In group debrief - key questions, if not yet covered:

- What’s the meaning of “If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven?” (If we don’t bring them the news of forgiveness, can they be forgiven?) Focus on how to obey this passage.
- What’s the relationship of these things on efforts to serve unbelievers?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our being sent?

- **Philippians 2:4-11**

- What did Jesus do?
- What was his attitude?
- What was the result of his doing this?

IMPORTANT Note: If participants have a hard time coming to consensus on a particular topic, tell them that 2,000 years of theological debate has yet to solve all the hard passages. Then ask them if they can't make some applications anyway? [This is to illustrate we don't have to know everything to do something! We can obey what *is* clear.]

4) Make two lists

- 1) What do you need to let go of? How would the Lord have you empty yourself so that you can be more like Christ to unbelievers around you? Who might you need to forgive? Prayerfully consider the answers to these questions, then share with another participant and pray for one another.
- 2) What are some "organizational sacred cows" (ie, things their church and/or organization has a hard time letting go of, but if they did, would likely speed up the DMM process. Examples: buildings, paid staff, large teams, team socials, focus on individual fulfillment, too much e-mail, over-dosing on conferences, doing the out-front ministry ourselves more than equipping others, etc.)?

List these on the white board / flipchart and discuss it as a group.

Additional Exercise (or Homework): Read the following verses and write the main application of each text. Work on this by yourself. Then in a small group decide what are the three most important lessons overall, and discuss how you plan to change to obey these teachings. Matthew 23:8-15, Matthew 15:1-9, Isaiah 29:13-16, Amos 5:21-24

Transition – the following practice and exercise is to prepare people for their fieldwork this week.

- 5) **Practice** for fieldwork: Pair up and role play the fieldwork scenario of finding a non-Christian, asking them about offenses, and apologizing. Then practice asking them to study God's Word with you. Change roles and repeat.

Some work until the next training session:

Fieldwork: Find one or more people who are not followers of Jesus. Ask them to tell you the actions and statements from Christians that offend / bother them. Then apologize on behalf of other Christians. After you apologize, explain that what God teaches in His Holy Book is often very different from what many "Christians" do.

If they seem open then ask them the question: **"Would you and your family and friends like to learn more from God's Holy Book?"** Practice saying this sentence!

Memorize: John 20:21

Prayer work: Pray for a partner this week that he/she will be able to do applications and let go of things (personal and organizational) that are hindering effective outreach.

Hand Gesture: Ask how could you summarize with a gesture? (Example: Get on knees in a serving position.) Now do all the gestures in order for all the lessons so far starting with lesson 1.