

Lesson 5: BECOMING LIKE THOSE YOU WANT TO REACH

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- We must be willing to become like lost people in order to win them to Christ.
- Do everything we can to spread the Gospel.
- Results matter – and what we do affects results.

Our goal shown in lesson 4 is to give up our rights just like Jesus did. Part of this is letting go of our interpretations of Scripture and traditional practice of Christianity. We need to let go of this baggage and try to show and tell as close to the simple gospel as we can. The inside group then will be led by the Holy Spirit to understand the Scripture in their context and obey it to transform their society. So as outsiders, our goal is “de-culturalizing” the gospel so that the Holy Spirit can lead them to “culturalize” / contextualize the gospel.

1) Review lesson 4

➤ Individually

- Write the **Top 3 Lessons** from last time.

➤ Small Groups (If you have more than 6-7 people split in small groups)

- Discuss and agree as a group on your group’s **Top 3 Lessons** from last time.
- Discuss how you **obeyed** Scripture (concepts / principles).
- **Pray** for each other to become more and more like Christ. Each partner can tell one way to pray for this.
- **Review** memory verses.

➤ In the large group

- Review key lessons learned
- Write responses up on the whiteboard or a flipchart – after you have written all/most of the key lessons ask if there are any key lessons still not listed.

2) Exercise: Barriers to People Hearing the gospel (orange skit) – prepare beforehand

- Take a really nice orange (fruit)
- Wrap it up in several layers of dirty paper, oily rags, old clothes, socks, etc...
- Label each wrapping by writing Christian cultural stumbling blocks on them with a black marker. (Possible layers/wrappings are: drinking alcohol, worshipping in church building, eating pork, “Western” morals between the sexes, wearing a cross, etc.)
- Bring it to the seminar as a big, ugly ball in a sack.
- Show the sack and tell the participants you brought something very delicious for them to eat, but before you give it to them they have to promise to eat it. Try to convince someone to take it, but try to make them a bit worried.
- Then give it to the one promising to eat it, and have them unwrap each layer and read the names of the layers, one by one.
- After the participant unwraps everything, he finds a lovely orange...that still needs to be peeled. Have him/her peel it and eat it.

- Discuss lessons from the skit. Ask what would form layers in their context?

3) DBS: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23 - use RRO (oral)

Key questions

- What does Paul mean that “he is free from all people”?
- What was his attitude toward other cultures?
- What was Paul’s reason for doing these things?
- What’s the relationship of these things to efforts to reach lost people?

- 4) Discuss 1 Cor. 10:32-33** in small groups and large group – what does Paul mean and how can you apply it?
- 5) List:** Have each person write down a list of some things Christians do that are barriers for non-Christians (“Christian culture” that’s a hindrance) in the culture in which you’re ministering. Then, have small groups make lists and then combine them all into a large group list. Encourage them to add new items to the list as this is discussed.

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

- 6) Practice:** Pair up and role play the fieldwork scenario below. Practice asking the question to your partner. Change roles and repeat.

Some work until the next training session:

Fieldwork: Use self-descriptions other than “Christian.” Terms other than “Christian” are more likely to arouse interest. Because the term “Christian” is often a stumbling block and was not the term most commonly used by the early church (“Christian is only used 3 times in NT), we also prefer to use other descriptions that are more easily received, like “Follower of Jesus (Arabic = *Isa*),” “Follower of the Way, (7 times in NT)” “Follower of the way of God (Arabic = *Allah*),” etc. In places where Islam is strong, we’ve found that “Follower of the way of Allah” is most effective (see Acts 18:26).

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 several times to each other in the training.

Prayer work: Pray for a partner this week that you will recognize the unnecessary barriers we create for lost people. Use 1 Cor 9:24-27 as a guide to pray that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to “win the race”.

Memorize: 1 Cor. 10:32-33.

Hand Gesture: Ask how could you summarize with a gesture? (Example: Mime dropping two heavy suitcases, walk a few steps and put on a new hat.) Now do all the gestures in order for all the lessons so far starting with lesson 1.