FOR WITNESSING CHRISTIANS



FISH: FOR WITNESSING CHRISTIANS—TEACHER'S MANUAL Written by Frank Hamrick

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Fish: For Witnessing Christians is a Bible study designed to teach individuals and groups the basics of sharing their faith in Christ. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus tells His disciples that He intends to make them fishers of men. In the Great Commission, Jesus gives this vocation to every believer. As you lead your group through this study, each of you will once again face this greatest of commissions. We pray that by God's grace you'll be encouraged and equipped to fulfill it.

Fish is the final book in the Christian Growth Series. This four-book series was first designed as a self-guided study through the basic truths of the Bible. Because of the importance of the material's content and its user-friendly format, many pastors and youth leaders began using the books in Sunday School classes and small group Bible studies. To accommodate this new venue, Positive Action for Christ began producing a series of teacher's manuals to go along with the student books.

To make teaching and review easier, the teacher's manuals feature the same divisions and headings as the student manuals. Lesson and discussion content is provided, along with facsimiles of the student manual pages with the answers filled in. For each section, the teacher should first review the answers to the student manual, and then present any material in the teacher's lesson.

Read through the teacher's lesson ahead of time, choosing the number of discussion questions you feel comfortable covering in a single setting. Depending on how much time you allow for review or discussion, some lessons may require more than one week.

We trust that God will use this study to challenge you and your students to share His love through the gospel of Christ.

1 THE NECESSITY OF WITNESSING

Jesus told His disciples to follow Him, and He would make them fishers of men (Matt. 4:19).

Fishers of men? What does that mean?

- What was their occupation? <u>fishermen</u>

Being fishers, these men knew that Christ was talking about catching people instead of fish. Later, they came to fully understand what He meant. Just as the Old Testament speaks of the souls of people as being like lost sheep, the New Testament refers to mankind as being like fish. The responsibility that Christ gives believers is to help lead these lost souls to Christ.

Oh, I get it. You're talking about witnessing.

Right. The Bible compares winning the lost for Christ with fishing. It says we must witness.

What does it mean to witness? Why did Christ use that term?

A witness is one who tells others about something he has experienced. For example, if you saw a car wreck, you might be called in as a witness to tell what you saw. Likewise, a Christian witness is one who tells others what he has experienced in Christ.

But can't I show people what I've experienced with just my behavior?

Certainly, but showing isn't the same as witnessing. When you see an accident occur and appear before the judge as a witness, you don't just sit in the witness chair and say nothing. Your face and attitude might reveal that you've seen something important, but the court requires details. So a witness speaks up and describes

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OUR CONDITION DEMANDS IT

According to Isaiah 64:7, how many people truly seek after God?

No one stirs himself up to take hold of God. The same truth is recorded in Romans 3:10–12. No unbeliever has ever sought after God of his own accord. Romans 8:7 puts this into sharp focus. It says that the natural, carnal mind is at enmity against God because it is not subject to God's law, nor can it be. Unbelievers naturally hate God, and they cannot bring themselves to seek or submit to God.

What does God use to disprove people's words when they brag about their righteousness?

Romans 3:19 tells us that He uses His law. When God's moral law comes into view, a person cannot boast about his righteousness. As a person studies this law, it shows the whole world as guilty before God.

Romans 7:12 tells us that the law is holy. It's an unchanging standard that declares God's righteous demands. And Romans 7:14 states that the law is spiritual. God's moral law is not just an outward code of behavior. The law is also spiritual, making people aware of their desperate need of salvation. God therefore gave the law to show people that they were sinners. Note the wording of Romans 3:19–20.

The law is like a mirror. Have you ever seen a man look in a mirror and notice that he needed to shave? But have you ever seen the same man take that mirror

and try to shave himself with it? Of course not. The mirror is not to shave someone, but to show the need for a good shave. Likewise, the law, like a mirror, was not given to save us, but to show us that we needed to be saved. Before God gave the law, people thought that they were all right. But God gave them a perfect and holy law, and no one was able to measure up. Mankind then saw how strict God's standard was, and people were able to see that they could never please God in their own strength.

What is the moral law of God?

It is clearly expressed in the Ten Commandments (Exo. 20), which is just a small part of the entire law that God revealed to the people of Israel in the Old Testament.

Theft—Exodus 20:3

To some people, money is a god. To others, power, influence, position, and abilities are gods. Essentially the question comes down to, "What do you idolize?" Is it music, a celebrity, a good car, or a dream? The modern use of the word *idolize* seems harmless—it's synonymous with admiration and respect. But it still contains the root *idol*, and for some people that means more than admiration—it is a form of worship. Do you have other gods that you idolize above the true God? If you were to take account of your time and personal investment, would it be obvious whom you worship?

Idolatry-Exodus 20:4-5

The worship of graven images is a common practice throughout the world. But the majority doesn't make sin right. When people worship idols, it violates God's holy law.

Some say that they worship the true God, but they make graven images to remind them to pray. But the commandment specifically says that we aren't to *make* them. God knows that when people focus on an object, they get more attached to the object than to God. Statues, beads, special cloths, and pictures are all worshipped in this world, however innocuous they may seem.

John 4:24 tells us that God is a spirit, and those that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. Our attitude and focus are important, and we must not distract our attention with images that invite worship.

Profanity—Exodus 20:7

People blaspheme God's name often, sometimes in defiance, sometimes in ignorance, but always in sin. The promise in verse 7 is that the Lord will not consider guiltless the person who uses His name in vain. People who profane God's name, who try to make it common or a curse—they violate God's moral law.

Dishonoring the Sabbath—Exodus 20:8

One of the requirements of God's law is that people set aside a day to worship God and rest. In the Old Testament, this was the what he saw. We should try to reflect Christ by our behavior, but we must also share Him with our words.

 Romans 10:17 says that people must <u>hear the Word</u> in order to have faith in Christ. Simply living your witness gives a person something to see, but nothing to hear.

But why do I need to tell others? Isn't Christianity something personal? I don't believe in bugging people about religion.

• Turn to Acts 1:8. What does Christ command every disciple to do? <u>be a witness</u>

Then one reason we should witness—or fish for souls—is that Christ commanded us to do so. That ought to be enough. But let's also note a few other reasons for witnessing.

OUR CONDITION DEMANDS IT

- Read the following verses and state the awful inner condition of mankind.
 - 1. Job 25:1–6 <u>Man is a worm and cannot be clean.</u>
 - 2. Isaiah 1:5–6 <u>Man's whole head is sick, his whole heart</u> <u>faint. He is bruised and wounded, with sores.</u>
 - 3. Isaiah 64:6 <u>Even man's righteous acts are like filthy rag</u>s.
 - 4. Jeremiah 17:9 <u>Man's heart is deceitful and desperately</u> <u>wicked.</u>
 - 5. Ezekiel 18:4 <u>The one who sins will die.</u>

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seventh day, based on God's example of rest after Creation. In the New Testament, Christians began resting on the first day of the week, after Christ's resurrection on a Sunday. To make this holy day common is to disrespect God's work.

Dishonoring Your Parents—Exodus 20:12

God's moral law is simple, but it is so difficult for people to keep. Disrespect and disobedience to parental authority are very common—some even try to tell children that these attitudes are healthy, not self-destructive. But God gave parents the responsibility to take care of their children, and with that responsibility, the right to tell their children what they believe should and should not be done. To dishonor our parents is to disrespect God's own authority. And if we disobey our parents, we show how likely we are to follow other authorities later in life, like our employers or the government.

Earthly authorities do not take the place of God, however. We should obey God first when His will and His commands contradict imperfect men and women (Acts 5:29). But we must honor our parents as the people God uses to teach us.

Remember, the law does not save us. Rather, it makes us aware of our need for salvation. Honoring father and mother is not the way to salvation. But the failure to honor parents reveals a person's sinful heart.

Murder—Exodus 20:13

This commandment tells us that we are not to murder. Elsewhere in God's law, He makes provision for the use of deadly force in war, executions, or self-defense, but here He specifically condemns one person taking the life of another. In the government He established for the people of Israel, the penalty for intentional murder was death (Exo. 21).

Jesus Christ explained the implications of this commandment. Read Matthew 5:21–22. If we are so angry with a person that we would kill him if we had a chance, we are just as guilty of murder as if we had actually murdered him. A person characterized by the wrath and malice in verse 22 is a murderer even without the physical act of murder.

Adultery—Exodus 20:14

Hebrews 13:4 says that marriage is to be honorable, and married couples should keep their relationship undefiled. But God will judge those who commit adultery or other forms of sexual immorality. Do not think that God is somehow against sex. On the contrary, He created it, designing it to be a pleasurable way for a husband and wife to express intimacy. The Creator and Lawgiver ordained that sex within marriage is appropriate, healthy, and good. But outside of marriage, it is immoral and scarring, and we can trust God to judge that sin in His time.

This is not to say that those who have been abused sexually are damaged or unusable. God is the God of the forsaken and the downtrodden, and He does not condemn people for being taken advantage of by others. Instead, He offers special grace and comfort through His Word and the fellowship of caring believers. As we see through the life of Rahab and countless others, God has a plan and a purpose for those who endure even the harshest of afflictions.

As with murder, Christ gave us additional commentary on the commandment against adultery in Matthew 5:27–28. There He says that even a man who has lusted for woman has already committed the equivalent of adultery in his heart.

Theft—Exodus 20:15

Does a person become a thief when he steals? Or does he steal because he's a thief? God's moral law was given to show people their true state. People steal because they are thieves.

One of the authors of this book witnessed to a young man who was in jail for grand larceny. He claimed that a demon inside him made him steal. The author exhorted the man not to excuse his actions by claiming a demon did it, but to recognize that it was an outgrowth of his own sinful nature. His theft indicated that he had come short of the glory of God and God's righteous demands. A week later, by God's grace, this young man accepted Christ. As Solomon wrote in Proverbs 6:23, God's law shone like a lamp in this man's heart, and the reproofs found in the law were his way to life.

False Witness—Exodus 20:16

Have you ever lied about someone? This is an outward indication of your sinful heart. God's moral law is so simple, but it gets right to the heart of the matter. It discerns both the thoughts and the intents of the heart.

Coveting—Exodus 20:17

To covet is to nurture a consuming desire or lust for something. Several practical examples are given in God's Word. No person should allow himself to have a consuming desire for another person's house, possessions, spouse—or anything that belongs to someone else.

The word often translated *covet* here in verse 17 is the Hebrew term *chamad*. It's used again in Proverbs 6:25. Can you find it? Here it's usually translated as *lust* or

desire. This possessive lust after someone or something simply reflects the natural wickedness of a person's heart.

When you witness to someone, make sure he understands what it means to be a sinner. Don't lead a person to believe that sin is simply a mistake or a struggle—more than that, sin is a transgression of God's law and character. It is a rejection of Him.

The authors of this book have had the joy of seeing people from the most horrible backgrounds come to Christ. But whether witnessing to relatively innocent children or sharing Christ with murderers and rapists, we've found the Ten Commandments to be an effective tool to present God's holy standard to sinners. To accept Christ, people must first understand their inability to earn God's forgiveness. He offers His mercy, love, and grace to everyone.

THE GOSPEL'S POWER REQUIRES IT

Review answers from the student manual, if needed.

- 6. John 3:18 <u>Man stands condemned already.</u>
- 7. Romans 3:10–12 <u>There is no one righteous, no one</u> who understands or seeks God.
- 8. Ephesians 2:12 <u>Man is a stranger and an alien, without</u> <u>Christ and without hope.</u>
- According to Romans 3:23, how many people are in this condition? <u>all people</u>

I understand that every person is a sinner. What does that have to do with witnessing?

THE GOSPEL'S POWER REQUIRES IT

 Read Acts 4:10–12. According to these verses, what is the only way a person can be saved? <u>Salvation is only</u> <u>through the name of Christ.</u>

We can see why we must witness. There is no other name under heaven that can save a soul.

- Read Romans 10:9–17. Before people can trust, or call on, the name of Christ for salvation, what must they do? believe
- Before they can believe, however, what must they do?
 <u>hear the Word</u>
- Before they can do that, what must happen?
 <u>A preacher must preach.</u>
- Before a preacher can preach, what must take place?
 <u>He must be sent.</u>

• A person's salvation therefore follows an orderly procession of events. State the correct order by placing the following in their logical sequence:

- Hear—the gospel
- Send—a preacher
- Trust—in the name of Jesus
- Preach—the gospel, the Word of salvation
- Believe—the message
- 1. Send—a preacher
- 2. Preach—the gospel, the Word of salvation
- 3. Hear—the gospel
- 4. <u>Believe—the message</u>
- 5. Trust—in the name of Jesus
- According to Romans 10:17, what is required before a person can be saved? <u>He must hear the Word.</u>

God could have reached out to unbelievers any way He wanted, but we can see that He has chosen to use us to share His gospel with the world.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS IT

• Read 2 Corinthians 5:14. Why was Paul constrained, or compelled, to witness? <u>because of the love of Christ</u>

This might be one of two loves—our love for Christ, or His love for souls. Either could apply to this verse. As Christ grows His love in us, we cannot help but reflect His love to others.

The more you love the Lord, the more you will long to see people saved.

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THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS IT

Review answers from the student manual, if needed.

THE REALITY OF HELL DEMANDS IT

Review answers from the student manual, if needed.

THE REALITY OF HELL DEMANDS IT

- Read Luke 16:19–28. From this passage we understand that people in hell are physically and mentally aware of their pain and anguish. Name the parts of the body—stated or implied—that the rich man had in hell.
 - v. 23 <u>eyes</u>
 - v. 24 <u>tongue</u>
 - v. 24 (he suffered) <u>nerves, nervous system</u>
 - v. 25 (he remembered) <u>mind, memories</u>
 - v. 25 (he heard Abraham) <u>ears</u>

But I don't think that was a true story. Isn't that just a parable?

Unlike Christ's other stories and illustrations, this was not a fictional parable. First, it features real, named characters and real, named places—things that Christ did not include in His parables elsewhere. Second, Jesus always clearly introduced parables as parables, but He did not in this case. He presented this story as an account of something that actually happened.

The Bible provides us at least seven other facts about hell, any of which should stir our hearts to reach the lost before they go there.

1. The Darkness of Hell

How do the following verses describe the darkness in hell?

- Matthew 8:12 outer darkness
- 2 Peter 2:4 <u>chains of darkness</u>

Here is a darkness kept from all glimmer or possibility or even hope of light.

2. The Fire of Hell

This verse implies not only that the fire will never be extinguished, but also that those suffering in the flame will not be consumed. The pain simply will not stop.

3. The Death of Hell

• Revelation 9:1, 2, and 11 describes hell as being like what? <u>a bottomless pit</u>

• What comes out of it? smoke, like from a great furnace

4. The Loneliness of Hell

Luke 16:24 describes the rich man calling out to whom?
 <u>Father Abraham</u>

There was no one in hell with whom he could talk. Hell is a place of total isolation—there will be no relationships or community.

Most importantly, people in hell will be separated from God forever (2 Thess. 1:9).

5. The Sounds of Hell

- According to the verses below, what will people hear in hell?
 - 1. Matthew 8:12 weeping, gnashing of teeth
 - 2. Matthew 13:50 wailing, gnashing of teeth

6. The Thirst of Hell

Luke 16:24 describes the rich man's thirst. As with everything else in hell, this thirst is eternal, unending, unquenchable.

7. The Endlessness of Hell

According to 2 Thessalonians 1:9, what kind of punishment shall be brought upon the lost? <u>everlasting</u>
 <u>destruction from the presence of the Lord</u>

Hell must be terrible. No one in their right mind would want to go there.

And that is one of the greatest reasons we should witness. The lost simply don't think about hell. They either don't think it's a real place, or they don't want to consider if it could be. But hell exists, and we, like Christ, must confront people with its reality. Therefore, we must get men and women to think about hell.

Complete This Section Without Looking Back at the Lesson

- 1. How does the New Testament picture lost souls? <u>It pictures lost souls as fish.</u>
- 2. What is a witness? <u>A witness tells others about something</u> <u>he has experienced.</u>
- 3. Besides the fact that God commands believers to witness, what four reasons compel us to tell others of Christ?
 - Our condition demands it.
 - The gospel's power requires it.
 - The love of Christ compels it.

- The reality of hell demands it.
- 4. According to Acts 4, what is the only way a person can be saved? <u>through Christ's name</u>
- 5. What four things must happen before a person can trust, or call on, Christ for salvation?
 - A preacher must be sent.
 - He must preach the Word of salvation.
 - Man must hear the gospel.
 - Man must believe the message.
- 6. How do we know that the story of the rich man and Lazarus is not a parable? List two reasons.
 - When Christ shared a parable, He clearly stated that it was a parable.
 - <u>A man's name was mentioned, which was not</u> <u>characteristic of a parable.</u>
- 7. Name the seven facts about hell that were presented in this chapter.
 - Darkness
 - _____Fire______
 - _____Death_____

•	Loneliness		
•	Sounds		
•	Thirst		
•	Endlessness		
Verses to M	emorize		
• Acts	thew 4:19 s 1:8		
• Ron	nans 10:17		
		14	

2 Making contact and Stirring interest

Now that we have seen why we should witness, we will study how to witness effectively.

Isn't witnessing easy? All you have to do is talk about God.

Witnessing is more involved than some people imagine. Even though the message of the gospel is simple, witnessing is far more than just saying the words, "You're a sinner, Christ died for you, and if you trust Him now, you will be saved." Before a person accepts Christ, much groundwork must be laid. This book presents five general stages of witnessing, two of which are studied in this chapter.

An analogy may be drawn from fishing. Before the fish can be caught, someone must know where the fish are, take the time to go there, know how to bait the hook, and be patient enough to wait for the fish to bite. He then must be skilled in setting the hook and landing the fish.

Here we'll learn some of the preliminary activities in sharing the gospel.

MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT

• Read John 4:6–18. Of what ethnic group was the woman at the well? <u>Samaritan</u>

Samaritans shared a mixture of Jewish and Gentile ancestry, and therefore were despised by both groups. Most Jews would not even travel through Samaria—which lay at the very center of their country—but instead traveled miles out of the way to bypass it.

What does the last sentence in verse 9 say? <u>The Jews</u>
 had no dealings with Samaritans.

Did the woman expect Christ to shun her? yes

• Did He? <u>no</u>

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MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT

Do you see a personal contact in Acts 8:26–31?

The Lord led Philip into the wilderness to make personal contact with an Ethiopian eunuch of great authority.

What was the man doing when Philip met him?

He was reading Isaiah 53. This is an Old Testament prophecy of Christ's suffering and death.

How did Philip "break the ice"?

He recognized the man's natural curiosity about the Scripture. Perhaps Philip himself had not understood that passage until he trusted Christ. In any case, the man asked Philip to explain the Scriptures. And in Acts 8:35, God uses Philip to begin at that same Old Testament passage and show the man Christ.

PERSONAL CONTACT WITHOUT PARTNERSHIP

Does the Bible really command us to avoid partnerships with unbelievers?

The Bible commands believers not to partner with unbelievers. This truth applies to many areas of life. Many marriages have ended badly because two people decided to marry each other while one was a believer and the other was not. The same is true of business partnerships where some of the partners are believers and others are not. In any partnership, the believer holds a different set of beliefs and values than the unbeliever. This will lead to grave disagreements on how to run a business or family. He deliberately went to Samaria to reach her.

I thought Christians shouldn't fellowship with unbelievers.

There is a big difference between being best friends with the ungodly and trying to lead them to Christ. While we should not become partners in ministry with unbelievers, or be open to ungodly influence, we must be a friend and a help to them.

- What does 1 Corinthians 5:9 say about this?
 <u>We should not associate or keep company with the wicked.</u>
- But to avoid any misunderstanding, Paul clarifies his statement in verse 10. What does he say? <u>We would</u>
 <u>have to leave this world to completely avoid them.</u>

So even though we are not to partner with the lost, we are to show them love with the ultimate goal of winning them to Christ. After all, there's no greater love we can share with them than the love found in a relationship with God.

PERSONAL CONTACT WITHOUT PARTNERSHIP

How does this biblical principle apply to areas such as dating, marriage, or business partnerships?

Does that mean I can form partnerships with unbelievers if my goal is to see them accept Christ?

First, let's examine the issue. If winning them to Christ is the purpose, a partnership is not necessary. You can befriend a person and show him you are interested in his soul without compromising your principles.

- What does the Scripture say about this in 2 Corinthians 6:14–17? List the things that cannot have a true relationship.
 - <u>righteousness</u> and <u>unrighteousness</u>
 - _light _____ and _darkness _____
 - _Christ______ and _Belial_____
 - _believers_____ and _unbelievers_____
 - _temple of God _____ and _idols _____

Without fellowship or agreement or spiritual accord, what kind of partnership do you think you would have? Not much of one. Therefore, do not expect an unbelieving friend to be able to understand your struggles as a Christian or offer you advice with the help of the Word and the Holy Spirit. Show them love, but if you depend on them for friendship, trouble will follow.

STIRRING THEIR INTEREST

After we've built a relationship with an unbeliever, showing them that we genuinely love and care for them, we can begin to kindle their interest in spiritual things—in particular, Christ.

But how is this done?

- Note John 4. How did Christ stir this woman's interest in spiritual things? <u>He asked her for water and then told her</u> <u>that He had "living water."</u>
- What did He offer her that was especially interesting and unusual? <u>living water</u>

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STIRRING THEIR INTEREST

Who was Nicodemus, according to John 3:1, 10?

He was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews and a master in Israel. He was not only a civil leader in the Sanhedrin, but also a teacher of God's Word in the synagogue. This man came to Jesus by night because he was very curious, but he didn't want anyone to know that he sought Jesus. Nevertheless, he thirsted for what Christ had.

What was it that drew Nicodemus to Christ?

Jesus' doctrine and power. Remember, Nicodemus was a teacher himself. He knew the law and could discern falsehood. But he told Jesus that He was clearly a teacher from God. Nicodemus, a master in Israel, recognized that he needed to sit at Jesus' feet.

Nicodemus also noted Jesus' miracles. He knew that God's power worked through this Teacher's life.

What can this teach us about our witness? Only the power of God will attract the lost to His salvation. We must therefore study God's Word and seek His wisdom as we share Him. We must maintain a constant communion with Him, asking Him to use us as channels of His truth. An effective witness doesn't think about the gospel right before he shares it with someone else—he lives and breathes it every day. His witness is only the overflow of a life filled with God's love, joy, and grace.

How did Christ further this man's curiosity?

By telling the man that he must be "born again." You are probably familiar with this term, but Nicodemus wasn't. This is the first time the phrase is used in Scripture. Christ focused the mind of this ruler on a physical illustration. How is it possible for a man to re-enter his mother's womb and be born again? Christ had Nicodemus's attention, and He went on to explain the illustration.

What common elements did Christ use to explain salvation?

Christ used water, flesh, wind, light, and darkness to explain salvation (John 3:5–8, 18–19).

In John 3:5–6, Christ presented a contrast between physical birth and spiritual birth. To be redeemed, a person must be born of water—physical birth from a mother's womb—and also be born of the Spirit, who gives us spiritual life when we accept Christ. Therefore, only flesh gives birth to flesh, and only the Spirit can offer spiritual birth.

Christ explained that this spiritual birth was intangible, like the wind. You could see its effects, but you could not see its source or direction. Perhaps Christ took advantage of His surroundings to reinforce this illustration. Some commentators have written that the spring weather in this region produced strong winds.

And in verses 18 and 19, Christ used light to illustrate God's glorious truth. It pushes back darkness, which is where people naturally want to be.

Through Christ's use of these common elements, He expanded Nicodemus's understanding of God's plan for the gospel.

What was Nicodemus's second question?

In John 3:9, he asked Jesus how these things could possibly be true. Specifically, Nicodemus wanted Christ to explain how a man could be born again.

How did Christ answer the second question? (John 3:14–16)

He used an illustration with which Nicodemus was very familiar. Back in Numbers 21:7–9, Moses raised up a bronze sculpture of a serpent in the people of Israel's wilderness camp. This was part of God's plan to provide healing to those that had been bitten by snakes during a period of punishment for the people's rebellion. Anyone who looked at the bronze serpent would be healed.

With this image in Nicodemus's mind, Christ said that the Son of Man must be raised up in the same way. This Son was the key to God's overall plan of redemption, which Christ explained to Nicodemus in verses 16–21.

- Christ turned a conversation about ordinary things into a discussion of what He had to offer. He made an offer that made her aware of her own need. In what way did the woman express her need? <u>She asked Christ to give</u> <u>her some of this living water.</u>
- What questions did the woman ask Christ? <u>Where do</u> You get this living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob...?

If by God's grace you can encourage a person to begin questioning his own needs, he will ask you the questions.

But what can I say that will stir people's interest?

Many illustrations could be given, but we will offer one: A guy approaches you, and he is really down on himself. His girlfriend just broke up with him, and he blew the basketball game the night before. He says, "Man, this just isn't my day. Nothing goes right with me anymore." What can you say?

I get it. I can say, "I used to be like that, but now everything that happens is for my good."

You're getting the idea. Something like this could get your friend's attention and spur him to ask questions. Get excited about what God has done for you, and you will share it naturally. Relate your discussions to His character and His work.

To encourage you to find ways to bring up spiritual topics, we've listed a few hypothetical situations below. Write down a response that might turn the discussion toward your faith and beliefs.

- Situation: John tells you about a science fiction adventure movie he saw. <u>Answers will vary.</u>
- Situation: Mary complains about all her problems.
 <u>Answers will vary.</u>
- Situation: Bill asks, "How are you doing?" <u>Answers will</u> vary.

Complete This Section Without Looking Back at the Lesson

- 1. Name the two stages in witnessing included in this chapter
 - Making personal contact
 - Stirring their interest
- 2. For what five reasons would a Christian who was really in fellowship with the Lord not join in a partnership with a lost person?
 - <u>Righteousness and unrighteousness have no fellowship.</u>
 - Light and darkness have no communion.
 - Christ and Belial have no concord or harmony.
 - Believers and unbelievers have nothing in common.
 - The temple of God and idols have no agreement.
 - 20

3. What is the primary reason we should seek the friendship of the lost? How can we share the greatest love with them? ______ The primary reason we should seek friendship with the lost is to witness. We can share the greatest love with them by stirring their interest in Christ. Verses to Memorize • 1 Corinthians 2:1–2 21