



PERSONAL EVANGELISM

It is sure
good to
know the Lord.

Joseph F. Pope
Helen Pope

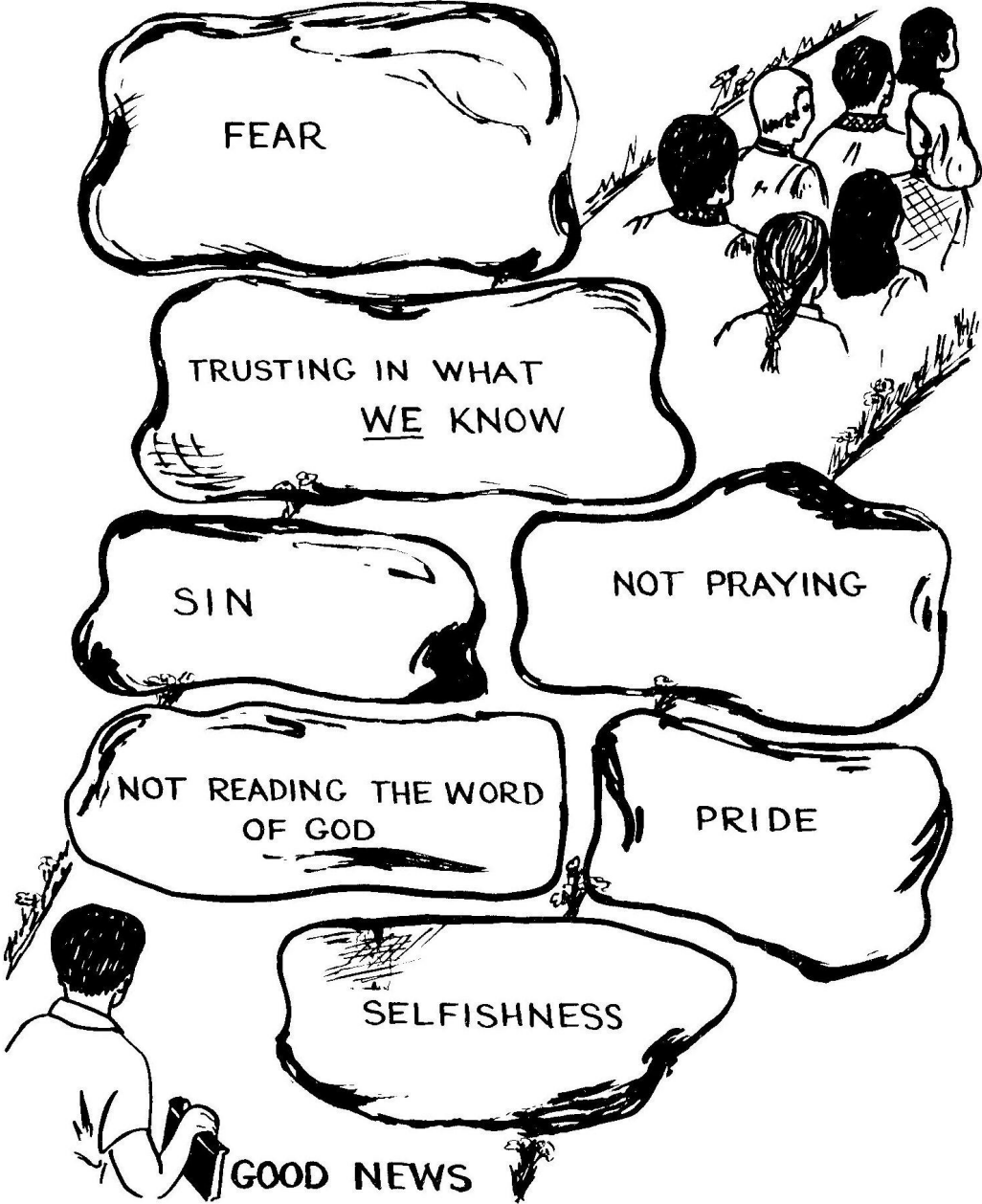
LESSON 3



Personal Evangelism

Lesson 3

What Could Keep Us From Talking to
People About Jesus



What Could Keep Us From Talking to People About Jesus

In this lesson we want to learn:

1. Things which can keep us from talking to people about Jesus
 - 1) fear
 - 2) pride
 - 3) trusting in what we know
 - 4) sin
 - 5) not reading the Word of God and not praying
 - 6) selfishness

2. Things that happen when we do not tell others about Jesus

In this lesson we also want to:

1. Learn some new words
2. Memorize Bible verses
3. Do an assignment

* * * * *

1. Things which can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

1) Fear can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

Many people are afraid to talk to others about Jesus. They think, "What will they think about me? What will they tell others about me? What will they do to me?" The devil wants Christians to think this way. He wants to make Christians afraid. He does not want Christians to tell others about Jesus.

We do not need to be afraid. The Bible says,

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7

We should ask God for power and courage.

We should read the Word of God many times. Then we will know what to tell others. Then we will know we are saying things that are true. Then we will know how to answer questions. This will take away much of our fear.

We should talk often to the Lord. Then it will be easier to talk to others about Jesus.

2) Pride can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

Some people laugh at us when we talk to them about Jesus. We do not like this. It is hard on our pride. We want others to think highly of us.

Has anyone ever told you, "I feel sorry for you because you believe the Bible"? A well-learned man said to the writer one day, "You believe the Bible? I feel sorry for you." Such words hurt our pride.

But, we know that it is wonderful to believe in Jesus. It is wonderful to know Jesus loves us. It is wonderful to have a friend who helps us all the time. It is wonderful to have the Word of God (the Bible) to show us the way.

Because we know this, we should not feel badly when people say bad things to us. We believe in Jesus and they cannot take away our friend, Jesus.

3) Trusting in what we know can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

Example

John planted a garden. He was careful to plant everything the way he was told. He did not make any mistakes. Now John wanted to make the seed grow.

Could John make the seed grow?

Why not?

Example

You may say, "I took classes in learning how to tell people about Jesus. Now I am going to tell many people about Jesus."

These words sound good. You can tell many people about Jesus. This is good. But only God through His Holy Spirit can make people come to Jesus. We must trust God to do the work. **GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CHANGE PEOPLE.**

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." John 6:37

4) Sin can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

When there is sin in our life, God cannot use us effectively. Maybe no one else knows about this sin. Maybe it is something we did many years ago. But God knows about it. If there is sin, God may still use us some, but it will not bring us joy.

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Psalm 66:18

Example

The people of Israel came from Egypt. They came to the country of Palestine. The people of Israel took the city of Jericho. God helped them. God said to the people, "Do not take or keep anything from Jericho."

Achan took a few things from Jericho. He hid them under his tent. No one knew Achan took these things, but God knew Achan took them.

The people of Israel tried to take a small city next. They could not take the city. God said, "Someone sinned. You cannot take the city." One small sin kept the whole army from winning.

Example

There is sin in John's life. He is angry with his brother. He does not forgive his brother. No one knows about it. But God knows.

God cannot use John effectively because John has sin in his life.

What should we do when we have sin in our life?

We should admit that we have sin in our life.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

We should confess the sin.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

We should believe Jesus forgives this sin.

“The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” † John 1:7

When we admit our sin, confess it and believe Jesus forgives it, then God can use us again.

5) Not reading the Word of God and not praying can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

We must read the Word of God to know what it says. We must read the Word of God to really know God. Only when we know God can we tell others about God. We must read the Word of God to tell others about God through Jesus.

God can help us only when we pray. The Word of God says,

“Ask and it will be given you. . . .”

Matthew 7:7

When we do not ask God for something, God will not give it to us. God's Word says,

“. . . You do not have, because you do not ask God.” James 4:2

When we do not ask God to change a person's life, our words will be for nothing.

6) Selfishness can keep us from talking to people about Jesus

We know we should tell others about Jesus. Sometimes we do not want to tell others about Jesus. Maybe we are afraid. Maybe we think we do not have time. Maybe we think it is not important.

Example

John sees smoke coming up in the bush. He goes to look at it. He thinks he is too busy to tell anyone about it.

The fire becomes a big fire. No one can stop it. The houses burn down. Later the others hear that John knew about the fire and did not tell anyone. They say, "John is selfish. It is his fault the houses burned."

Example

Jack has heard the good news. He knows Jesus died for his sin. He knows Jesus has forgiven his sin. Jack knows he will be with Jesus when he dies.

Jack does not tell his friends. He does not think it important. Jack's friends never hear how they can come to Jesus. They die and go to hell because they did not come to Jesus.

Jack is selfish. He should have told his friends the good news.

When we know the good news, we should tell others the good news also.

2. Things that happen when we do not tell others about Jesus

Some people will never hear the good news. They will never know that Jesus came to save them. They will never be with us in heaven.

God says in Ezekiel 33:7-9

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, "O wicked man, you will surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his

sin, but you will have saved yourself.”

What do these words mean to you?

Example

Many nurses lived in one big house. The big house was near the hospital. Both the hospital and the house were near the river.

Some nurses would go to work at midnight, and others would be finished work at this time. For some weeks a man was hiding along the river at night. He was trying to catch a nurse. He was a very bad man. The nurses were scared.

The boss at the hospital asked one man to watch over the nurses when they came to work and went home at night. This man was called a watchman. He warned the nurses of danger. He said, “Walk to the big house under the street light so I can see you. I do not want that bad man to hurt you.”

If the watchman did not warn the nurses, and the bad man hurt someone, it would be the watchman’s fault. If the watchman warned the nurses, but one nurse ran into the dark to the river, it would be her fault if she got hurt.

Just like this, God says, “If you warn a person and he does not listen, it is his fault. If you do not warn a person, it is your fault.”

When we ask a person to come to Jesus but he does not come, it is his fault. When we do not ask a person to come to Jesus, it is our fault.

We may not see people come to Jesus right away, but God’s Word will keep working. God’s Word is powerful and it will do what God wants it to do.

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

* * * * *

New words:

1. **iniquity** - sin
2. **watchman** - a man who watches over buildings or people so they will not be hurt

* * * * *

Verses to learn:

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Isaiah 55:11

“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

* * * * *

Assignment:

1. Write in your own words what will happen if you do not tell others about Jesus.

2. Write out the verses you memorized with this lesson

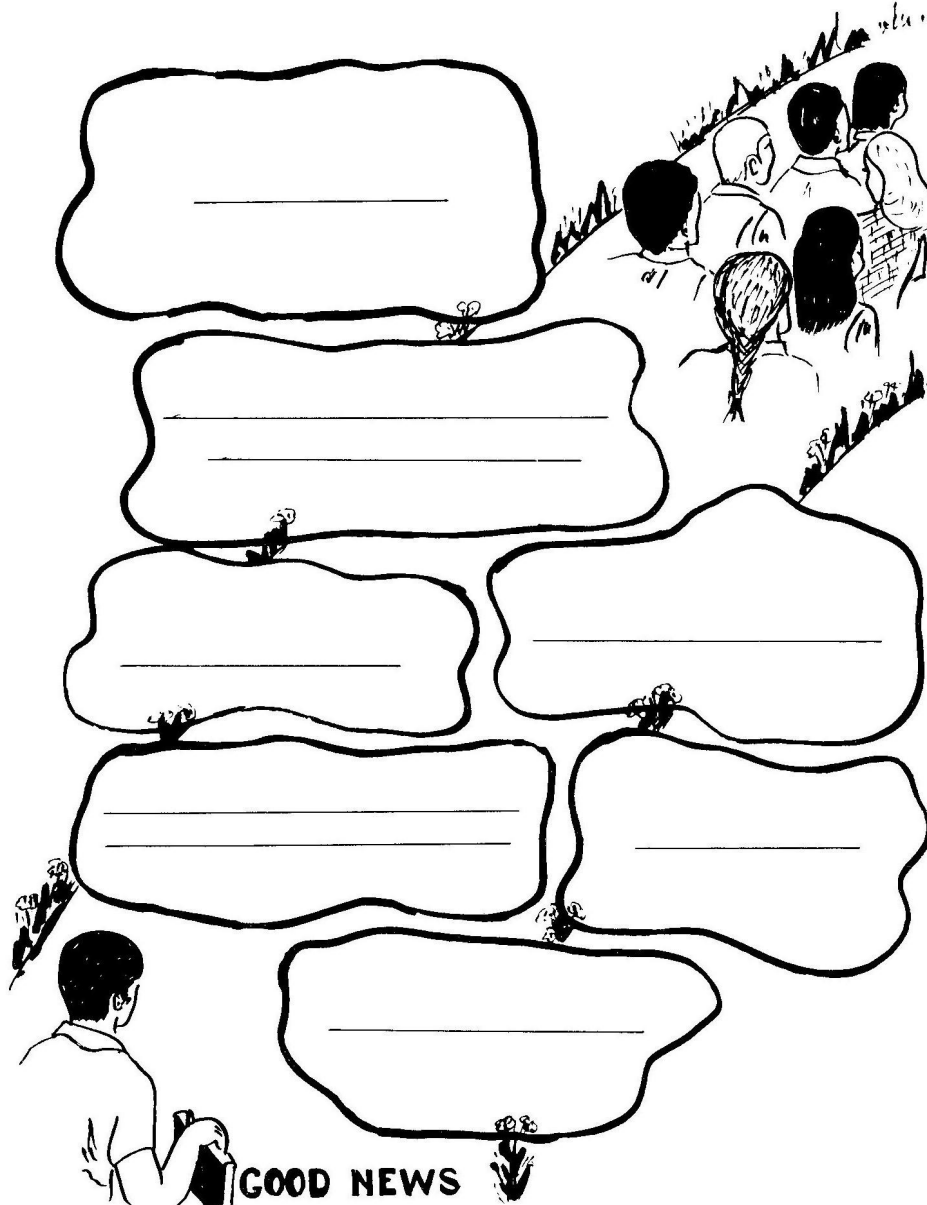
1 John 1:9

Isaiah 55:11

2 Timothy 1:7

3. Name six things that can keep us from telling people about Jesus. Remember these. Do not let them be in your life.

What Could Keep Us From Talking to People About Jesus



If you have questions, you may contact Tribal Trails at 306-961-2588
or by email at TribalTrails@ncem.ca or website at <http://www.tribaltrails.org/>.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM by Joseph F. and Helen Pope. Copyright, 1975, 1991, edited by Helen Pope 2015. Copyright by Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, Inc., Box 3030, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, S6V 7V4. All scripture quotations in this publication are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright (c) 1973, 1978, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Other Scripture quotations identified.