

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

A Plan for Effective Witnessing

Matthew 28:18-20

¹ God does have a plan for effective witnessing. His divine plan is found in Matthew, chapter 28, verses 18 through 20. ²

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I have had a really hard time dealing with this passage of scripture, called the Great Commission. I want to obey the Lord and have Him pleased with my life. But I struggle with sharing Him individually with others. Maybe I’m describing you as well.

Because of my struggle, I came up with a plan that has helped me. ³

This is . . .

I. How the Plan Works

How the plan works. ⁴

Understand that our God is an awesome God.

Years ago I visited the Space and Atom exhibit at Great America in San Jose, California. The video documentary was outstanding.

It started with a panoramic view of Venice, Italy. Then focused on a plant in the city. It magnified the plant to the tenth power several times until it reached the atom, the basic building block of chemistry.

The presentation shifted back to Venice. This time the images reduced to the tenth power. The first few viewed our solar system, then our galaxy, then numerous galaxies. Each view depicted hundreds, then thousands, then millions, then billions of these galaxies.

I came away from that exhibit astounded at how awesome our Creator God must be! ⁵ He orchestrates the universe and sustains it by the power of His Word.

6 He is so far beyond our understanding of Him, we can't even comprehend Him. 7

This is why He had to reveal Himself to us through Lord Jesus and His Bible. The Incarnation, God becoming a man, was His way of showing us Who He is in terms that we could understand, appreciate, and identify with. That way, He could also sacrifice that human body for us on the cross so we could live with Him forever if we chose to. 8

This awesome God has given you the privilege of asking Him for things. 9 In Mark, chapter 11, verse 24, He says, Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 10 You can approach the Creator of the universe and boldly make requests of Him! 1 11

This awesome God wants you to represent Him to this world with your life and witness. 12

¹ Hebrews 4:15-16 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

You are to be His ambassador. Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 20, **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.** ¹³

This is how you do it! Again, the Great Commission, **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** ^{2 14}

Now . . .

II. How Do You Put It into Action?

How do you put it into action? ¹⁵

Here's the process. ¹⁶

First, you prepare. You need to know the facts of the gospel and prepare to share them. First Peter, chapter 3, verse 15, **. . . in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.**

² Matthew 28:19-20.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. ¹⁷ Then, Second Timothy, chapter 4, verse 2, **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.** ¹⁸

Next, you pray for divine encounters. Pray for a meeting with someone who would be receptive to your loving witness. Ask the Lord to set it up! ¹⁹

Establish a genuine friendship with that person so your words will be trusted. ²⁰

Witness is to share what you know. The word witness ³ in the New Testament, is one who testifies. We get our English word “martyr” from this term. In our legal court system a witness is someone who shares what they have personally seen, heard or experienced. ²¹ **You are the expert on how God has affected your life.**

³ μάρτυς.

Finally, put the process into practice! My wife, Linda, has a sign prominently displayed in our house, “The best way to get anything done is to do it!” ²²

Step 1: Establish your home as a lighthouse of prayer. Your awesome God enthusiastically listens to you when you talk to Him! ²³

Step 2: Prayer walk your perimeter.

Several years ago a group of us pastors in the East Bay area, across the bay from San Francisco, encouraged our church members to prayer walk their neighborhood. Claim a few houses surrounding your house you have staked out as your prayer responsibility. Walk in front of each house regularly praying for its occupants. ²⁴

Step 3: Build a bridge. As God provides divine encounters, tell them you are praying for them. ²⁵ Ask for prayer requests. Write the requests down and pray for them often. ²⁶ Ask your neighbor to notify you when the prayers are answered. ²⁷ Check in with them

occasionally to see if the prayers have been answered. ²⁸

Step 4: Reach out. Establish rapport with them and wait for the Lord to give you a receptive opportunity to share your faith. Rejoice with them when your prayers for them are answered. ²⁹

Step 5: Share. ³⁰

Share your faith. Witness to them in whatever way you feel comfortable doing at the time. ³¹

Share the gospel. Be appropriate for the occasion. ³²

I prepared two online gospel presentations to help you present the gospel to others.

ConnectionWithGod.Org is a presentation of the gospel message with an invitation to surrender to the lordship of Jesus. You can simply sit down at a computer with Internet access and share it with others. After experiencing the presentation enough times you should be able to remember enough of it to share the gospel without using the website. ³³

BibleLifeMessages.Org consists of several Bible messages designed to lead Christians to a closer personal walk with the Lord. ³⁴ This website can be used for individual Bible study, small group presentations or Sunday worship messages. ³⁵

Step 6: Expect to receive the satisfaction from the Lord that you are representing Him. ³⁶

Remember, God saved you to be Lord of your life. He wants you to serve Him. Presenting the gospel message, the story of the Lord's life, death and resurrection, and introducing others to Him will bring you immeasurable satisfaction.

Start today being the Lord's ambassador!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>