

W

WITNESSING

Being a Fisher of Men

Study #23

Checklist

- This Lesson
 - Spiritual Journal
 - Gospel Tracts
- For Next Session**
- Lesson X

Without any doubt, the greatest and most notable difference between apostolic New Testament Christianity and present-day New

Testament Christianity is **witnessing!** The early churches were most noted for their witnessing of Christ. They were accused of “turning the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). Notice their influence:

The church at Rome – (Romans 1:8) “your faith is spoken of throughout the W_____ world.”

The church at Thessalonica



Lesson Overview

- I. What Does “Witnessing” Mean?
- II. Are “Witnessing” and “Soul Winning” the Same Thing?
- III. Why Should I Witness and Win Souls?
- IV. Is Witnessing the Duty of Every Christian?
- V. How Often Should I Witness?
- VI. What Qualities are Found in Effective Soul Winners?
- VII. I Want to Witness, but Where Do I Start?

– (1 Thessalonians 1:8) “For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in E_____ P_____ your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.”

Informal

Conversation –

Ask about his week.
Ask about answers to the prayer requests you have shared.

Discuss Last Week's Assignments –

1. Ask him to share his Scriptural insights, prayers, and applications from his Spiritual Journal.
2. Share one of your Quiet Times.
3. Exchange highlights of your sermon notes.
4. Ask him about his effort of handing out a gospel tract.

Read page one with your Timothy.

On the contrary, many 20th Century churches are characterized by their **lack** of witness. In this lesson, you will learn that it is God’s will for you to witness and be a soul winner for Him. You will also begin learning *how* to be a soul winner; that is, how to lead someone to Christ. The value of all the other lessons you have learned through this series will have been greatly diminished if your life does not bear fruit. There are many Christians who want to be an effective witness for Christ; they just need training. Our church will train you.

Comment:

You don’t have to be a highly trained soul winner to be an effective witness. Start where you are – tell people that you received God’s gift of eternal life and how you received it. Just tell them what happened to you.

I. WHAT DOES “WITNESSING” MEAN?

A. A Courtroom Witness

A witness in a courtroom trial is expected to tell what he knows, that is, what he has seen and what he has heard. He cannot tell what others have said; he must relate his own personal experience in his own words. This is what the Apostle John is saying in 1 John 1:1-3.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;...That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you....”

Witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ is the same. It is YOU telling in YOUR own words what happened to YOU as you came to know God in a personal way, as you were saved.

B. Read the story of how Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:1-38.

1. When questioned by others, do you think this man was able to give a detailed explanation of what had happened?

Read this exciting

story together! Here is a man that met Jesus and started giving a witness.
v.11 – He simply told what Jesus did for him.
v.12 – He didn’t have to know “all the answers”
v.18 – People didn’t believe him
v.25 – He gave a clear witness that couldn’t be argued with
v.27-34 – Many of his hearers rejected the message

Yes No

2. What was this man able to say? John 9:25 says, “Whether He be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, _____.”
_____.”

C. **Read the story of how Jesus won a woman to Himself in John 4:5-30.**

What was the first thing this woman did when she realized she had actually met Christ? (verses 28-30)

II. ARE “WITNESSING” AND “SOUL WINNING” THE SAME THING?

A. **These words are often used interchangeably; but there is a slight difference.**

1. WITNESSING is relating your own personal experience of salvation.
2. SOUL WINNING is using your witness and the Word of God to bring others to salvation.

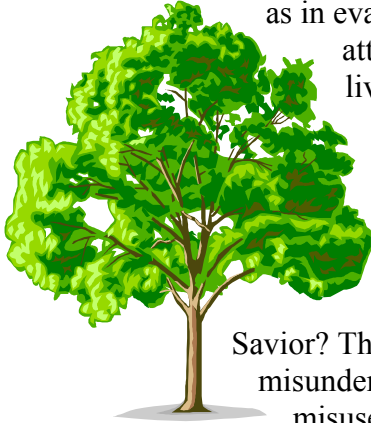
Review what witnessing and soul winning are.

B. **God’s desire is that you both witness and win souls.**

1. (1 Peter 3:15) “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you”
2. (John 15:8) “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye B_____ M_____ F_____.”
(Pro. 11:30) “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that W_____ S_____ is W_____.”

A Verse Often Misunderstood

The fruit (or result) of a righteous living person is that he becomes a tree of life, that is, he is the source of a meaningful life for others. The “winneth souls” in this verse does not specifically mean soul-winning as in evangelism. The “winneth” means attract. The idea is that a righteous living person attracts others to wisdom. He is that tree that gives life to others. Certainly an evangelistic Christian imparts wisdom and life to others, for what is more life-giving and wiser than to lead a sinner to the Savior? Though the verse may often be misunderstood, it is not altogether misused.



III. WHY SHOULD I WITNESS AND WIN SOULS?

Here are nine Bible reasons why each of us should tell others of Christ and attempt to win them to Him.

A. *It is commanded.*

Look up Acts 1:8. “. . . and ye shall be witnesses “

B. *It is our responsibility.*

Evangelism becomes our responsibility since God has commanded it. John the Baptist’s ministry included warning sinners to flee the wrath to come, and many heeded. Jesus preached “*repent,*” as did the Apostles and early Christians.

Briefly review each of the points (A., B., etc.) under III. WHY SHOULD I WITNESS AND WIN SOULS?

You want to impact your Timothy with the TRUTH that he must be a witness!

An Old Testament Analogy

Read Ezekiel 3:17,18. Ancient fortified cities were surrounded by high walls with ramparts and towers strategically placed thereon. According to the historian Herodotus, the walls of Babylon were two hundred feet tall, one hundred and eighty-seven feet thick at the base, and had towers that reached a height of three hundred feet! Guards were stationed in these towers to alert the city of invading armies. Negligence on the guards part was a capital offense for it endangered the entire city. With this analogy in mind, answer the following questions:



1. In a real sense, God has made us W_____.
2. The duty of watchmen is to W_____ those in danger.
3. If we fail to warn the wicked, they will die in their I_____.

Though a watchman would be held accountable for the blood of the city's inhabitants if he failed to warn the city, the Christian is *not* held accountable for the eternal death of the wicked. They are responsible for their own sins. Our motivation to witness is not fear of being held accountable for unbelievers; it is love for Christ and for unbelievers. We witness because it is the most benevolent act we can do for the lost, and because it is our responsibility. If Christians don't witness, who will? Who can?

C. It is our duty.

Look up Matthew 4:19. "F_____ Me, and I will make you F_____ of M_____."

D. It is our debt.

Look up Romans 1:14. Paul said, “I am D _____ both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.” The gift of salvation is free, but a **moral debt** exists for us to tell others.

E. It is our calling.

Look up 2 Corinthians 5:20. Each believer is called an A _____ for C _____. This is a very important position with which to be entrusted.

What is an Ambassador?

It is a person who represents the sovereign from whom he has received his commission. The ambassador acts and speaks on behalf of his king or president. It is his duty to proclaim faithfully and precisely the message entrusted to him by his sovereign. The Christian is called to represent God, and His proclamation is the gospel. (Mark 16:15) “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

F. There is a need.

Look up Mark 8:36. Why is soul winning so important? _____

G. There is a reckoning day coming.

Look up 2 Corinthians 5:10,11a.

1. One day you will stand before your Lord at the J _____ S _____. (This is a judgment for *how* you served the Lord. See the T Lesson, VII.)
2. What was Paul’s motivation for persuading men? _____

H. It is caring.

Comment:

Paul persuaded men to trust Christ. Why? Answer – “...knowing the terror of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:11). The thought of one day standing before God awed Paul and compelled him to service. One day you will stand before God and give account of your life and service!

Read Romans 14:12.

Comment:

Focusing on physical needs is good, but insufficient. Various groups focus on feeding the hungry, clothing the destitute, teaching farming, improving the water supply, and so on. And they forget the main thing that Jesus said to do – evangelize the lost. What good does it do to feed a hungry man and let him grow old, die, and go to hell to be tormented for eternity? Wouldn’t it be better to win him to Christ and then upon death he has an blissful eternity to spend in heaven with God?

1. So much of today’s *compassion* centers on the physical needs of man. Godly caring focuses on *all* the needs of a person – physical, spiritual, and eternal.
2. Look up Psalm 142:4. This verse expresses a tragic reality – “. . . no man C _____ for my S _____.”

I. It brings joy.

1. Look up Acts 3:5-8; 8:35, 39. There is joy on the part of _____

2. Look up Luke 15:7,10. There is joy on the part of _____
3. Look up 1 Thessalonians 2:19. There is joy on the part of _____



Comment:

The “they” in point 2 were the people in the church. The pastors stayed in Jerusalem while many of the church members scattered everywhere “preaching the word.”

Word study:

The word “preaching” in Acts 8:4 is the Greek word euaggelizomenoi. Our English word “evangelize” comes from this word. It means “to bring, proclaim, or declare good tidings.” These early Christians scattered over the countryside and evangelized! – some by preaching and others by giving personal words of witness.

IV. IS WITNESSING THE DUTY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN?

Reject the thought that witnessing and soul winning are only the duties of the pastors, the deacons, the Sunday School teachers, or those with the “gift of gab.”

A. The Bible clearly shows that evangelism is the task of every Christian.

1. “...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh Y____ a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).
2. “Therefore T____ that were scattered abroad W____ everywhere P_____ the W_____” (Acts 8:4).

- 3. Look in Acts 8:1. Did this group of people referred to in verse four include the apostles (pastors)? Yes No

B. Christians are given the ministry of reconciliation.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

- 1. According to verse 17, who is a new creature? _____
- 2. According to verse 18, who has God reconciled to Himself? _____
- 3. According to verse 18, what has God now **given** unto us? _____
- 4. According to verse 19, what has God now **committed** unto us? _____

Comment:
Reconciliation means “to restore to friendship.” Because of sin, we are the enemy of God. Christ’s death fulfilled the justice of God and made it possible for us to be restored to friendship and fellowship with Him. Our task is to introduce sinners to the Savior. Evangelism is the ministry of reconciliation.

V. HOW OFTEN SHOULD I WITNESS?

What words in Acts 5:42 and Acts 20:31 indicate the frequency with which the New Testament Christians testified of Jesus Christ? _____

VI. WHAT QUALITIES ARE FOUND IN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNERS?

A. They are compassionate people – having a burden for the lost.

Read Romans 9:1-3; Romans 10:1 and ask God to burn their message upon your heart. Many Christians don’t witness because they have no burden to do so.

- 1. How did Paul described his burden in Romans 9:2? _____

Briefly review IV.
WHAT QUALITIES ARE FOUND IN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNERS?

Emphasize here that what a Christian IS has a great bearing on his effectiveness in evangelism. It is not primarily a matter of what a Christian knows but of what is in him. Is he excited about Christ? Is there a spiritual vibrancy about him? Does he long to see people saved? And – does he keep speaking up and telling the unsaved how to meet the Savior?

2. _____
According to Romans 10:1, what was Paul's heart's desire and prayer? _____
3. _____
In Mark 6:34 Jesus was "*moved with compassion*" when He saw the people as sheep without a (spiritual) shepherd. What did He do? _____

B. *They are loving people – reaching out to those without Christ.*

According to 2 Corinthians 5:14a, it is Christ's love that "*constraineth*" or compels us. *Love* is a verb – an action word. The action of love is *giving*. John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world that He G_____ His only begotten son....*" Love motivated God to reach out to mankind, and love will also motivate you to reach out to others.

C. *They are "modeling" people – living Christianity themselves.*

1. Read Matthew 4:19. Jesus said, "*F_____ M_____*, and I will make you *fishers of men*." A Christian who is following Christ (modeling Christianity) will be a fisher of men (soul winner). In fact, one who is not a *fisher of men* is not really following Christ.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-4. God is instructing Christian wives to live Christianity as a testimony to their unsaved husbands. A wife can only verbally witness so much before it becomes "nagging" from the husband's viewpoint. Her godly demeanor becomes a powerful witness to her spouse. The saying, "Actions speak louder than words" has no

greater relevance than in the matter of soul winning.

D. They are Spirit-filled people – obeying the Scriptures and thereby are empowered of God.

Read Acts 1:8 and Ephesians 5:18. God’s work must be done in God’s way in God’s power.

E. They are persevering people – continually witnessing.

1. Read Matthew 22:1-10; I Corinthians 15:58; and Galatians 6:9. Not everyone will listen, and not everyone will be saved. However, soul winning is one task in which God promises success.
2. Read Matthew 16:18; “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not P ___ - ___ ___ ___ against it.”

Comment:

Being filled with the Spirit means being controlled by God’s Spirit. This is synonymous with “letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Compare Ephesians 5:18-21 with Colossians 3:16-17. A Spirit-filled Christian is obeying and living out the truth of God’s Word. It is not *mysterious* living but *disciplined* living.

VII. I WANT TO WITNESS, BUT WHERE DO I START?

Our church takes witnessing very seriously. The Bible has the answers to man’s problems – problems of living and problems of dying. Therefore, we regularly conduct *evangelism classes* to help Christians become more effective in sharing their faith. Enroll in the next class. But don’t wait for a class to begin witnessing. You may be thinking, “I don’t know how to witness!” Just tell others how you received Christ. God will use that.

Read this paragraph and tell your Timothy about your church’s evangelism training program.

The most common illustration of soul winning found in the Bible is “planting.” Read Matthew 13:3-9; John 4:35-38; and 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. There are several steps to take before reaping a harvest:

A. Step #1 = Go

No farmer reaps a harvest apart from a lot of preparation and hard work. And you will never win a soul for Christ without this preliminary step!

- (Matt. 28:19) “___ ye therefore and teach....”
- (Mark 16:15) “___ ye into all the world and preach ...”
- (Acts 5:20) “G___, stand and S_____”

Important!!!

This lesson will be useless to you unless you determine your heart to take this first step in witnessing.

HOW MAY I “GO”?

Our church has an organized evangelism outreach. You are welcome to participate in it and will receive valuable OJT (**on-the-job-training**).

In addition to this, you can make a list of people in your own circle-of-influence who are lost (relatives, neighbors, friends, co-workers, etc.). Each will spend eternity somewhere. Begin a plan of action to witness to them.

B. *Step #2 = Sow*

You have to win the confidence and trust of the people you attempt to win to Christ. Even with this foundation, before they can be saved, the seed *must* be sown.

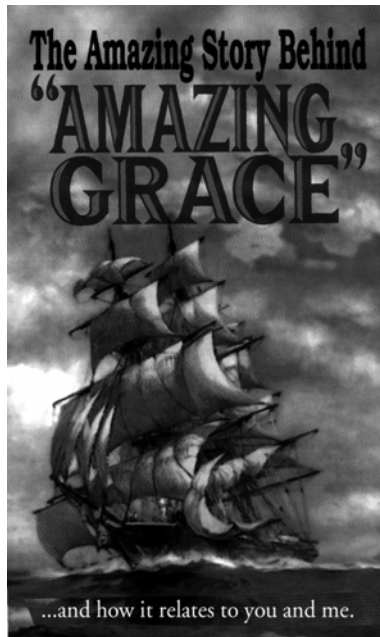
The results of a national survey show that 86% of the people interviewed credit friends and relatives with influencing them to salvation.

- (Luke 8:11) “...the seed is the *W* ___ ___ of *G* ___.”
- (1 Peter 1:23-24) This Scripture says the incorruptible seed is _____

It is unnecessary for you to use logic, philosophy, theology, or salesmanship when witnessing. God’s Wo

HOW MAY I “SOW”?

1. First, get into the habit of carrying Gospel tracts with you. Leave a tract with those you meet – store clerks, garage attendants, cashiers, friends, etc. Leave a tract in the phone booth, on the restaurant table, or in the waiting room at the doctor’s office. Include a tract with letters you write. Many have been saved through the silent witness of a tract.
- Note: Make sure our church name, address, and phone number is on the tract.



Review this section, HOW MAY I “SOW”? Take your review to the end of the Romans Road to Heaven box.

- Note: Be careful not to litter or violate reasonable ordinances by indiscriminate use of tracts.
- 2. Second, invite people to the services of our church. Don't give up when people decline or make excuses.
- 3. Third, be "soul-conscious." Ask God to help you become aware that everyone you meet is a soul that will spend eternity somewhere. Cultivate the ability to insert a witness into daily conversation – share a blessing, a verse, a warning, etc. Don't be pushy or over-bearing, but don't keep silent either.
- 4. Fourth, understand and practice "bonding." If you repeatedly reach out through genuine personal concern and touch the people you want to lead to Christ, it builds a bond between you that will also make it easier for them to accept you and your Savior. On an average people need "7 touches and 3 hearings" to respond to Christ.

SEVEN TOUCHES

I Invited My Friend To:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Seminar | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit a Nursing Home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Craft Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Class Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling | <input type="checkbox"/> Tupperware Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Home for Dessert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> Racquetball | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday Party | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball Game | <input type="checkbox"/> Sight-seeing | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> VBS | |

I Offered To:

- Provide transportation if person's car is in the shop
- Provide a meal when person is ill or there's a death in the family
- Baby-sit: allow them a night out for a special occasion
- Clean house for a mother who has just had a baby
- Feed a pet while the neighbor is on vacation
- Mow the lawn for the man who is temporarily unable
- Help meet a financial need
- Other

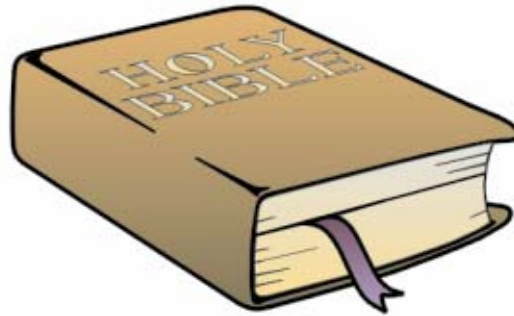
I Sent A Card:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> When person was feeling down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Anniversary | <input type="checkbox"/> Get well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At Thanksgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Death in family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> Congratulate for accomplishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At Easter | <input type="checkbox"/> Thank you – for no reason |

THREE HEARINGS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Testimony | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelistic Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tract | <input type="checkbox"/> Special | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit by a church member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Program | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Revival Service | |

5. Fifth, learn a gospel presentation such as *The Romans Road to Heaven* or *Evangelism Explosion*.



These are simple salvation plans that assist the soul winner in giving a clear presentation of the gospel. Using the

five verses below is a good starting point. A fuller presentation may be learned in our evangelism training class.

The Romans Road to Heaven

Romans 3:23 – the FACT of sin

(Romans 3:23) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 6:23 – the CONSEQUENCES of sin

(Romans 6:23) “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 5:8 – the REMEDY for sin

(Romans 5:8) “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 10:9,13 – the HOW to be saved

(Romans 10:9) “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

(Romans 10:13) “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Note: In the margin of your Bible by each verse put the reference of the next verse. This will help you flow from one verse to the next as you explain salvation. For example: in the margin by Romans 3:23 write “6:23.”

C. *Step #3 = Water*

Water is essential to the growth of seed. You have sown the seed; now water it with prayer. Tears in prayer show the concern of your heart. Pray for them earnestly and fervently until they are saved.

- (Acts 20:31) “Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with T_____.”

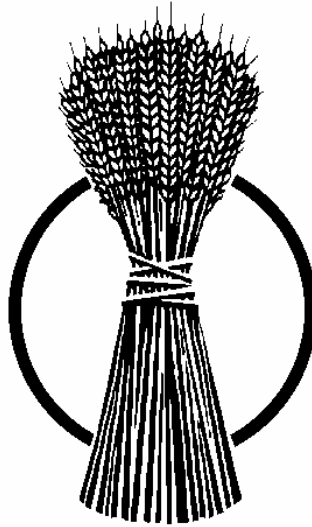
D. Step #4 = Reap

There will be a harvest if you continually sow seed and water it. Witness and pray; you will experience the joy of leading a person to Christ.

HOW MAY I “REAP”?

Review this section
HOW MAY I “REAP”?

1. Plan to! Act in faith, take God at His Word, and expect to reap a harvest. Chances are you will reap where another has sown and watered. Evangelism is often a “team effort.”
2. Make certain (by asking questions) that the one you are dealing with fully understands the plan of salvation. Do not proceed to reap if there is no conviction of sin evident or if there is no understanding of what Christ has done. Human nature expects to “work” for salvation. If it is not time to reap, leave the door open for future witness.



3. Explain carefully that salvation is *believing*, that this means *receiving* (Christ), and that this is done through a simple prayer.
4. The “sinner’s prayer” has no set format, but needs to include two important elements – *acknowledgment* of the facts and *receiving* the Savior. Here is a sample prayer:

Dear Lord, I know I'm a sinner and helpless to save myself. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me of my sinful ways. I believe that You died to save me and rose again thereby proving You are God. I ask You to come into my heart and life right now. Take control of my life and help me be the kind of person You want me to be. Amen.

5. After you lead a person to Christ, rejoice with him and encourage him to come to church at the next opportunity. Share this with your church leadership and get their assistance in helping your convert take his next step.

Instruct your Timothy to let his church leadership help him when he wins someone to Christ. Baptism and discipleship are good “first steps” for this new Christian.

I accept that the Bible teaches I am to witness and attempt to win others to Christ. I now dedicate my life to this Christian duty, first by sharing my personal testimony, second by studying and memorizing the necessary Scriptures, then by praying for the lost and verbally giving the plan of salvation.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Did your Timothy sign this commitment? This is a big step, and an unnerving one. Don't be discouraged if they did not.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT

- My church's visitation program is on _____ (day) at _____ (time). Purpose to come.
- Pick up a supply of tracts and church brochures from the Tract Rack in the church foyer.
- List two or three people whom you can pray for and plan to witness to.
- Write out your testimony in 300-500 words as though you were telling someone of what Christ has done for you.
- Complete your X Lesson (**X**-rated for Christians).
- Continue reading through the New Testament.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal*.
- Give out copies of *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session?
- Bring your Bible, pen, X Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Encourage your Timothy and cast a vision for him regarding spiritual growth.

Pray for him and have him pray aloud.

REMEMBER!!!
Turn in the "Discipler Report Back" page by dropping it off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
____ / ____ / ____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You

**This is a
sample of
the
“Discipler
Report
Back” page
that you
removed
from the
back of your
Timothy’s
lesson.**

**Return that
sheet to the
Hospitality
Booth in the
church foyer.**