

GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ARUSHA - TANZANIA

SUBJECT: **EVANGELISM & CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

LESSON 1: **INTRODUCTION & DEFINITIONS**

COURSE TEACHER: **BISHOP EKONG**

Introduction: - Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:8; Proverbs 11:30

The last command of our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples or His close followers was to preach the gospel to every creature, to every nation, and to make those who believe to become His disciples by teaching them His commandments.

Not everyone is an evangelist or a preacher by calling but every believer is called to evangelize, or at least be a witness of Jesus Christ by declaring to others what God has done in their lives (*1Peter 3:15-16; 2Timothy 4:5; John 4:28-29, 39; Acts 1:8*).

Who is a witness?

A witness is one who has a first-hand information or knowledge about something and has been asked to declare, testify or confirm what he has seen, heard or experienced (*Acts 4:18-20, 31; Proverbs 14:5, 25*)

Who is an evangelist?

An evangelist is one who evangelizes, declares, proclaims, preaches or shares the good news. The good news is same as the gospel and it is about the Kingdom of God and salvation through Jesus Christ alone. An evangelist, in this context, is not just the office as defined in Ephesians 4:11 but also the function or work that is required of all believers in Christ (*2Timothy 4:5*).

Types of Evangelism

There are various forms of evangelism adopted by individuals, churches and organisations throughout the world. The commonest forms are explained below and can be adopted and adapted by anyone, depending on which is most effective under various circumstances. Jesus Christ, the greatest Evangelist of all, adopted most of these forms – open-air meetings, door-to-door, friendship, roadsides, social outreaches, etc.

Every adopted form of evangelism must be dependent and led by the Holy Spirit for effectiveness and fruitfulness.

1. Crusades & Open-Air meetings

These meetings are intended to gather people for evangelism (*Acts 2:5-16, 37-42*). It is often advertised in the press and the broadcast media. The intention is to have a large percentage of unsaved in the crowd with a possible target of a particular age, economic, or cultural group.

Strong emphasis is on music ministry, testimonies as well as preaching. It also includes emphasis on healing and deliverance. The message is aimed at convicting the sinner and stirring the saints.

Altar call, prayer and counselling ministry are usually expected at the meeting. Provision must be made for follow-up of new believers. Practical ideas about follow-up will be covered in the next lesson.

The key essential for this form of evangelism to succeed and yield results is adequate preparation. What this means is Planning, Planning, and Planning.

2. Friendship Evangelism

This involves showing the love of God through being a caring friend. It could be neighbour to neighbour, fellow worker, or school mate. It requires much effort and time because it involves building a relationship of trust and care. Numbers of converts are usually smaller than with some other forms of evangelism but lasting results are greater because of relationship and follow-up.

Statistics show that over 70% of people that come to faith in Christ did so through one to one evangelism to friends and relatives.

3. Street Ministry, Tracts & Personal Witnessing

This involves going on the street, to public gathering places, sporting events, town squares, or shopping centres (*Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1, 5-16*). The format can include preaching, singing, drama, mime, or simply speaking to people personally.

It requires preparation, training and well-chosen gospel tracts and literature. This type of evangelism is more effective if working in teams rather than alone. Provision should be made for follow up.

4. Door-to-Door Canvassing

This involves teams going door to door to witness for Christ covering a chosen community or neighbourhood (*Luke 10:1-12; Acts 20:20*). These teams offer practical assistance, spiritual ministry, prayer, and counselling or encouragement. The use of well-chosen literature or tracts is very important.

Some churches or ministries have a printed brochure which describes the range of ministries offered by the church including their meeting schedules. These may be helpful.

It is important that allowance must be made for flexibility and stamina to deal with a variety of situations and responses during evangelism. **Never go alone on door-to-door ministry!** A male-female team can be helpful when invited into a home for discussion or ministry.

It is important to keep a record of responses and arrange for follow up to maximise the effectiveness of this form of outreach.

5. Sports Evangelism

This is usually done by Christian athletes involved in popular sports. For example, Christians in secular teams or Christian teams in secular leagues. They provide an example of Christian sportsmanship, witness for Christ, and structured opportunities to speak about Jesus Christ.

6. Children and Youth Clubs

This is usually a Christian oriented activity for children or teens that involve them in fun and social activities. They offer alternatives to the street and its ungodly

activities, share with them the love of God and salvation available in Jesus Christ. This can be set up in neighbourhoods, ghetto areas, Children's homes and rural communities.

7. Self-Help & Vocational Training

This form of evangelism taps into developmental needs, unemployment, illiteracy, lack of marketable job skills among the people and are tremendous opportunities for the church to minister (*Acts 18:1-4*). This could involve self-help projects, vocational training, literacy classes, on-the-job training by Christian businessmen and women, and enlisting help from Christians and organisations.

Creative ideas and a commitment to follow through are the keys to success.

8. Social Outreach

It is often difficult to reach certain people if they have material or physical needs. Christians are to be involved in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and visiting the sick and imprisoned (*Matthew 25:31-40*). This type of ministry forms part of an on-going involvement of the church in the society. This can include soup kitchens, food and clothes distribution, homes for children and for adults, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, prison ministries, care and counselling for abused women and children, health clinics in rural or depressed urban areas. The possibilities are unlimited.

This form of social outreach must be learned from those already involved in this type of ministry for useful ideas and lessons.

9. Drama

Drama can be used in church settings and on the street in secular settings. For evangelism, Jesus Christ and the principles of the Kingdom may be used to deal with issues of everyday life. It should not be merely 'entertaining' but effort should be made to be real and realistic dealing with real life issues. As much as possible, strive for excellence in the presentation of the drama.

10. Music Outreach

Music that is intended to minister to Christians especially in Church can be in the form of inspiration, comfort, challenge, and praise and worship. Whereas music that is intended for outreach and evangelism should deal with life issues and presenting the reality of Jesus Christ. It should be skilfully presented in contemporary style. The music style must fit the intended audience to be effective. Strive for skill, quality and excellence. As much as is practicable, use quality or serviced equipment.

This type of outreach can be used in crusades, street meetings, concerts, schools and children's homes, and in conjunction with drama.

11. Internet & Social Media

This is another opportunity of using technology to reach people with the gospel and can come in the form of literature or gospel messages sent online either through a website or social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, GooglePlus, Instagram, Snapchat, Youtube, Godtube, etc. It is possible to use these alongside with or to promote the other forms of evangelism already described.