

MODULE 3
PERSONAL, SMALL GROUP AND PUBLIC EVANGELISM
LEADER



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU
AMBASSADORS
fostering a new generation of spiritual leaders



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AMBASSADORS

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AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

AMBASSADORS



Welcome to Ambassadors.

Ambassadors is a new level of youth ministry designed to equip leaders with resources to train a new generation of youths to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in their local churches and communities.

An ambassador generally represents a country or a cause. A Christian ambassador is a representative of another kind; they represent the values, principles, culture, and laws of the kingdom of God. They stand for the character and purpose of the King of this kingdom—Jesus Christ, Himself.

This Youth Department resource is based on seven foundations that are considered as essential to meet the developmental needs of our young people between the ages of 16–21. They include:

1. A Christ-centered discipleship plan
2. Leadership development
3. A personal, public, and small group based mission lifestyle
4. Character and personality development, including outdoor, high adventure programming
5. Lifestyle and vocational training
6. Nurturing godly relationships
7. Community outreach development through service projects and emergency preparedness training

Each of these seven foundations will be presented in modules, with participants gaining certification for each module completed. While each module has a specific focus, there are FOUR elements that will be common throughout the curriculum. Leaders **MUST** ensure that all these elements are embraced to make the experience meaningful, attractive, and challenging.

- First, the concept of a spiritual companion. At the beginning of each module, each participant will choose a friend who will be their companion for the duration of the module. They will meet during each session to encourage and support each other in their role and growth as an Ambassador. Groups of spiritual companions will also come together for specific activities. This builds the concept of interdependence and accountability into the Ambassador experience.
- Second, an Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP). At the beginning of every module, each participant will make a simple plan of how they would like to grow spiritually and acquire practical competency in the area of the upcoming module. Their spiritual companion will be there throughout the module to help and encourage them to accomplish their plan. The IDP helps to emphasize the continuing nature of discipleship and that learning is a continual part of life. By linking spiritual companions together for this work, it stresses the need for interdependence on each other as we learn, grow, and work for God. (See guidelines for creating the IDP on page 11. Participants have their IDP pages in their Guidebook.)
- Third, projects. Each module will have a project that will integrate the core concepts from the module into a service learning activity focused on helping others. This will be an opportunity for the Ambassador class to work together as a whole. You will

find INSTRUCTIONS for setting up your project in the back pages of this Leader's Guide. You might have to plan for multiple projects, depending on the size of your group.

- The main objective is to incorporate service as a way of life, rather than an occasional activity.
- Aim for projects that would call for regular involvement over a period of time.
- Make contact with your Volunteer Service organizations, the local Council, and other entities that could assist you.
- If your group settles on a particular medium/long term project, there is no need to change the project when the time comes to engage with a new module. Use your discretion.
- Fourth, social activities. Ensure that you plan for a social activity at least once a month. Make sure that you always provide opportunities for good and wholesome fun for that age group.
 - You do not have to conduct all your sessions in a building. As appropriate, conduct some in nature, in the context of a camp, in someone's home, etc.
 - In the back pages of your Leader's Guide you will find a list of websites where you can access 'Ice Breakers' or brief fun activities that you can inject into all your sessions.

Of course, CONDUCT ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES PRAYERFULLY.

RECOMMENDATION

It is highly recommended that you set aside your first meeting as a fun ORIENTATION to share the Ambassadors concept, share the Participant's Guides, give an overview of the first module, discuss the FOUR elements and their implementation, discuss the frequency of meetings, organize calendars, etc.

Participant's Guide

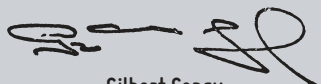
A participant's guide for each module has been prepared for each participant.

- The Participant's Guide is essentially the workbook containing all the sessions of each module that the participant will engage with.
- In the back pages of each module there is a page for creating the IDP. There is also a list of the sessions for that module that the leader will date and sign upon the participant's completion.
- Each participant will be required to complete 75 percent attendance and participation to receive the certification or award at the end of each module. Participants can make-up for missed lessons to achieve the required 75 percent at the discretion of their leader.

Fostering togetherness is at the heart of a model for discipleship, which the General Conference is focusing on; it is known as "Together Growing Fruitful Disciples." This model emphasizes understanding, connecting, equipping, and ministering—but doing all of this "together." For God did not design us to grow or minister alone, but in community. Paul writes that growing in Christ is achieved as everyone uses the gifts God has given to them, "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Thank you for helping to educate our young people to become Ambassadors of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

General Conference Youth Ministries Department



Gilbert Cangy
GC Youth Director



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Associate GC Youth Director



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CREATING YOUR IDP

As a human being with a nature that naturally tends to move away from God, growing to reflect Jesus as an Ambassador will rarely happen by chance or without much thought. That's why for each of the Ambassador's modules, you will be creating your own IDP. The focus of each IDP will relate to the theme of your current module and last for the duration of that module.

Here is an example of what an IDP will look like. Fill in your own IDP on the form provided.

1. IDP Module Name:

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP

2. Spiritual Companion: Who is the spiritual companion who will encourage and support you in the next stage of your spiritual journey of growing as an Ambassador of Jesus? They will remain your spiritual companion throughout the current module.

JOHN WILCOX

3. Personal vision statement: This includes two parts: (a) What do you see in your life today that you would like to change in order to become more effective as an Ambassador for Jesus? (b) Describe how you would like to see yourself in the future. Before you start writing, take a moment to pray for God to guide your thoughts.

- CURRENTLY, I DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR OR VERY MEANINGFUL DEVOTIONAL LIFE.
- I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A DEVOTIONAL LIFE THAT CAN EQUIP ME SPIRITUALLY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS.

4. Expected evidence of change: After looking at your personal vision statement, list the evidence you might expect to see that reveals you are growing in Christ.

- I THINK AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR IS SOMEONE WHO IS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WHEREVER THEY GO. THAT IS WHAT I WANT FOR MY LIFE.

5. Next steps: List the practical steps you will take to accomplish your personal discipleship vision. Think about how these steps will also shape your daily devotions with God.

- SET MY ALARM CLOCK FOR 7AM TO START MY DEVOTIONS
- SPEND 30 MINUTES IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING
- REPEAT BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP
- FIND A BOOK TO READ THAT TEACHES DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE
- PRAY EACH DAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME AS HIS AMBASSADOR

6. Reflection: How did I do? This is completed at the end of the module. It gives you a chance to reflect on what worked well and what you would like to improve in the future. You can compare your expected evidences of change to what actually happened.

- I REALLY ENJOYED THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE MORE I READ AND UNDERSTOOD, THE MORE CONFIDENT I BECAME TO PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME. I THINK I WILL EXPAND THE TIME FOR DEVOTIONS I HAVE IN THE EVENING, AND NOW THAT I HAVE READ A BOOK ON BIBLE STUDY, I WOULD LIKE TO READ ANOTHER ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER. I HAVE FOUND THAT I REALLY ENJOY PRAYING FOR OTHERS.



basic template for teaching sessions

This template will be used during most in-house teaching sessions. There will be variations in the format depending on the focus for the day.

welcome & activity

2+ min

1. General welcome and opening prayer.
2. A short getting-to-know you activity. As friendships continually deepen, so the ability to encourage and support each other spiritually deepens.

did you know?

13 minutes

An activity that introduces the theme for the day.

mission briefing

10 minutes

A simple Bible study that gives the biblical foundation for the theme done in groups of two or three. It will be helpful for leaders to circulate around the room to listen in on conversations to see that participants are going in the right direction and to answer questions.

thinking it through

5 minutes

A personal reflection time where each participant writes down what they have personally learned from the Bible study and how this applies to their own life as an Ambassador. To be shared briefly with their spiritual companion who will be a spiritual encourager during the curriculum.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

An activity that expands on the main theme for the lesson. This section is called “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” because an ambassador’s main task is to represent who Jesus is to others, as well as what the kingdom of heaven stands for.

next steps

15 minutes

An ambassador for Jesus will grow spiritually and will witness in everyday life beyond the training sessions. Therefore, each participant will develop an individual discipleship plan that will help them grow as an ambassador for Jesus when they are outside of the learning environment.

At the beginning of each module in the curriculum, participants will develop an individual discipleship plan (IDP) that will guide their personal spiritual journey during that section. Each IDP will focus on the theme of that section. “Next Steps” is a time for participants to reflect on how their IDP is working and to pray for each other in what they aim to do next. This will be done with their spiritual companion. A spiritual companion is a friend who prays for and encourages their own companion over a set period of time.

summary

5 minutes

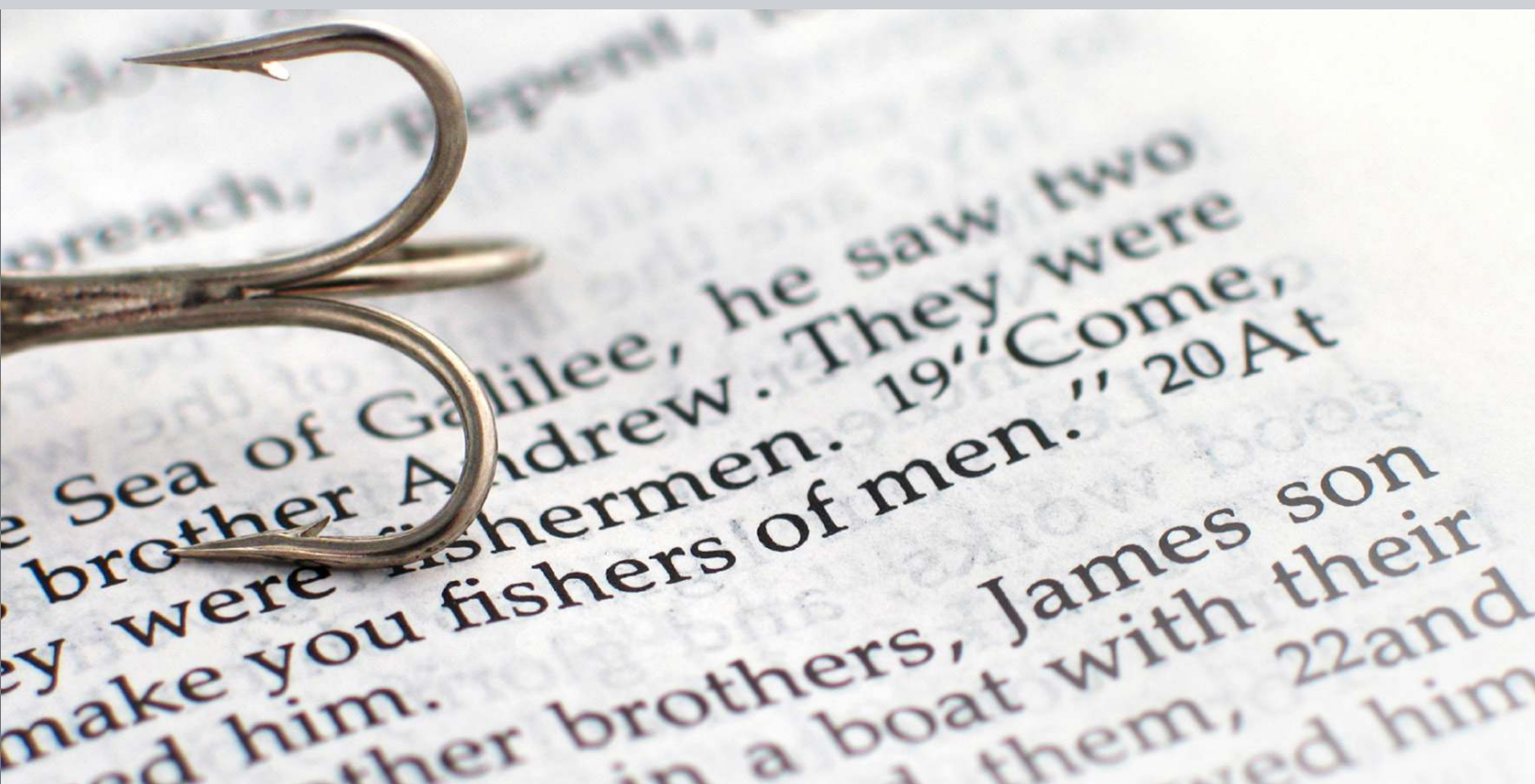
As a whole group, this is an opportunity to summarize what participants have learned during the session. It is a time for the leader to generally review what has been done and to ask for volunteers to briefly share what they have learned.



SESSION 1

now, it's personal

leader's guide



1: now it's personal

session overview

- leader notes**
1. This lesson begins a new module on how to grow into a lifestyle of evangelism. There is really no question as to whether the Christian church should evangelize the world—its very purpose is to bear witness to Christ to “all the world.” The challenge for Ambassadors today is how should we make disciples of others?
 2. This lesson focuses primarily on the essence of personal evangelism as a lifestyle.
 3. As you consider the learning outcomes in the table below, be mindful that a lifestyle takes time and work to develop.

- materials**
1. Lesson handout for each student
 2. Pens/Pencils
 3. Paper to write responses and ideas for IDP

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Conceive ways to deepen the lifestyle of looking for people who are lost.	1. Sharing in Groups current and desired life style
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice living purposefully for opportunities to converse with others about God.	1. Integrating Christ's method into the IDP development
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Feel the Holy Spirit give them courage, opportunities, and ideas about how to life deliberately as a witness.	1. Prayer List of people to pray for and “see”

extra resources

A powerful passage from Ellen White on lifestyle evangelism: *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 14. Sample: “Do we realize how large a number in the world are watching our movements? From quarters where we least expect will come voices urging us forward in the work of giving to the world the last message of mercy.”

<http://www.wcablog.com/2012/06/5-ways-to-embed-evangelism-in-your-culture/>

The following is from *Evangelism* p. 158, a powerful section focused on the lifestyle of gospel work:

“There are numbers of families who will never be reached by the truth of God’s Word unless the stewards of the manifold grace of Christ enter their homes, and by earnest ministry, sanctified by the endorsement of the Holy Spirit, break down the barriers and enter the hearts of the people. As the people see that these workers are messengers of mercy, the ministers of grace, they are ready to listen to the words spoken by them.” (*Evangelism*, p. 158)

1: now, it's personal

teaching plan

welcome

10 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the idea of a personal evangelism lifestyle by asking the simple question: How many of them/you start the day thinking, praying, and expecting to come in contact with someone else who is searching for God?

did you know?

13 minutes

1. Say: The word *lifestyle* means, “manner of living, routine, regiment, standard of living, daily pattern.” How would you describe your current lifestyle?
2. Share in groups of 3–4 five characteristics of your lifestyle (i.e. school, work, exercise, hobbies, etc... the regular things you do). How long did it take you to develop lifestyle patterns you now do without thinking? While the regiment of witnessing is much different than brushing your teeth or playing sports, becoming an Ambassador whose life wins others to Christ requires proactive effort. For this reason you will write your testimony, develop a gospel presentation, and practice Christ’s method of reaching people. You will also be challenged to do small group ministry and plan for evangelistic meetings, as well as plan for unplanned evangelistic opportunities.
3. Encourage the participants to take a moment to pray individually for God to open their eyes to see opportunities to grow.

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. The “mission briefing” activity is focused on getting participants to consider the work of evangelism as a lifestyle that is lived during the usual and the unusual moments of every day as portrayed in the story Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40).
2. In groups of 2–3, have the participants answer the questions in their “mission briefing” handout. Read the story, paying careful attention to every phrase. Ask them to organize the key phrases of this story in one of two groups: the usual and the unusual.
3. Invite the participants to share what they believe to be the most important feature of this story for them.

thinking

it through

10 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to share their responses in their group of 3–4 and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

47 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3 or 4 to complete the “mission briefing” handout (3 min).
2. They are to respond to the first question for a few minutes then analyze the styles of evangelism and the Bible references accompanying each example. As the participants share, guide them to give equal time to each style (30 min).



3. The participants need to read the quote from *Ministry of Healing* and answer the questions in their study guide (10 min).
4. As a way to wrap up, ask: “Of the activities mentioned (mingling, sympathizing, meeting needs, gaining confidence, asking them to follow), which do you see as the hardest to do?” “Which do you want to do more out of the natural flow of your life rather than something you have to try to do?” (4 min)

next steps

15 minutes

1. Developing your IDP for this module will involve several activities introduced in this lesson. First, your plan will need to call for a lifestyle shift—you need to diligently practice. Second, it is obvious that you will need to become “a witness”—someone who has a story to tell and is willing to tell it. Third, you alone will not possess all the qualities/styles of evangelism, thus you will need a team/small group. How will you team up with others?
2. As you develop your IDP for the next few weeks, begin by identifying where your lifestyle needs to be more deliberate.
 - a. Discuss with your Spiritual Companion what you sense God moving you to change in your life to be more proactive with your witness for Christ.
 - b. Who are some friends, co-workers, acquaintances that you would like to pray for?
 - c. Begin making a list of 2–4 people you feel God is calling you to start a small group with.
 - d. Take time to reflect on your spiritual journey up to this point. What are the high points or pivotal moments where your life changed because of Christ?
3. Pray with your Spiritual Companion for boldness, wisdom, and eyes to see people you would not normally see.

summary

15 minutes

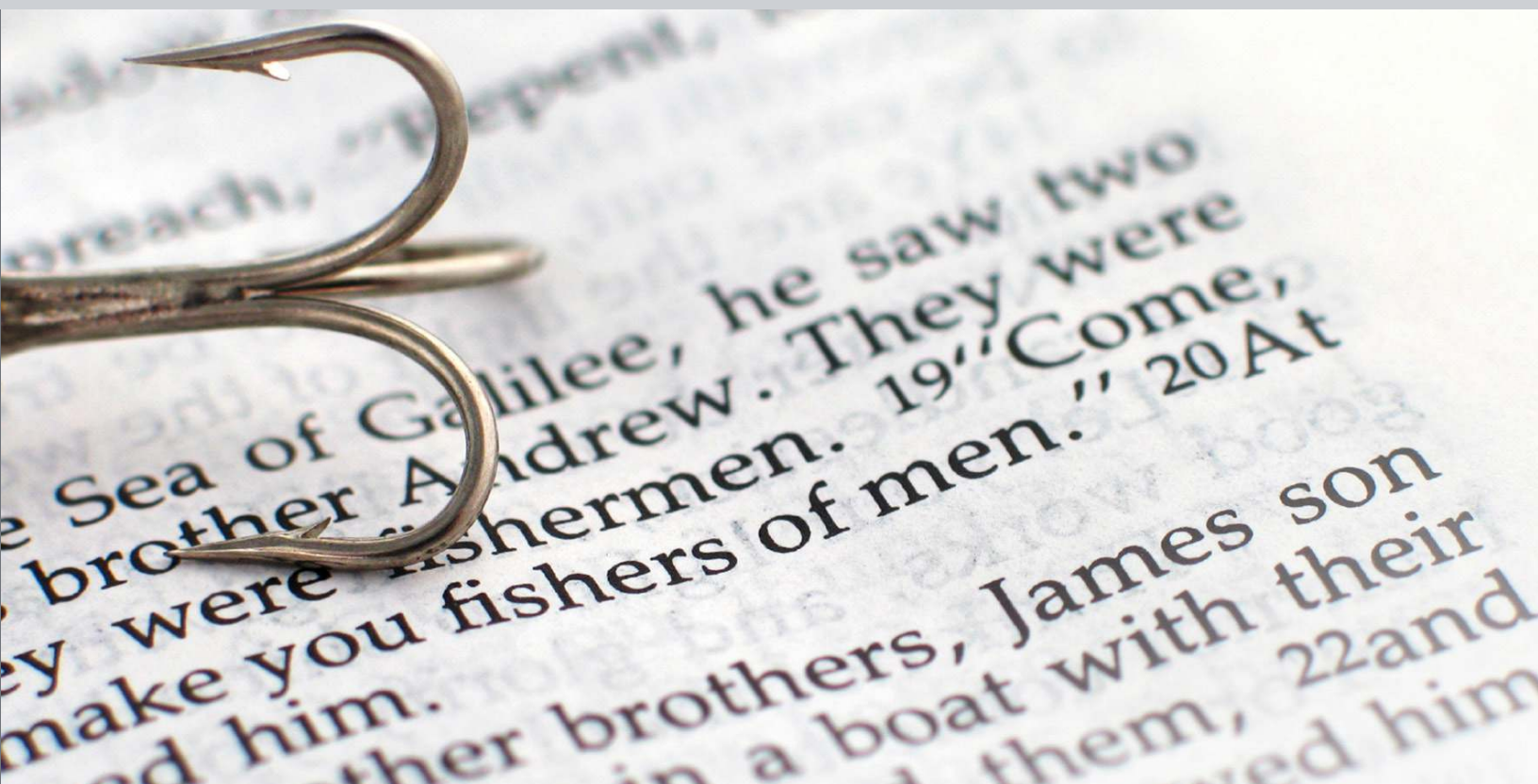
1. Affirm the participants for a meaningful time together.
2. Encourage them to pick one thing to do repeatedly over the course of the week. It could be to pray three times a day to run into a non-believer and to “see” them. They could commit to pray with someone personally each day. They could write a note that says, “Dear friend, I have been praying for you and if you ever have any questions about why I believe in Christ, please feel free to ask...” Invite them to expect angels to appear or other opportunities to arise because this “cannot, will not, be without fruit.”



SESSION 1

now, it's personal

participant's guide



SESSION 1

now, it's personal

?

did you know...

An action or attitude repeated consistently 20–30 times
creates a neurological effect, a habit.

Habits I Have

Habits I Want

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

1 Peter 2:11–12





mission briefing

1. Read the story, paying careful attention to every phrase. Organize the key phrases of this story in one of two groups: the usual and the unusual.
 - a. What is usual/unusual about an angel appearing to a believer?
 - b. What is usual/unusual about a believer venturing out to meet an unidentified person?
 - c. What is usual/unusual about an Ethiopian seeker being in Jerusalem?
 - d. What is usual/unusual about a Bible study on the side of the road?
 - e. What is usual/unusual about the presence of water for baptism?
 - f. What is usual/unusual about the disappearing act of Philip after the baptism?
 - g. What is usual/unusual about the whole story?
2. What would it take for you to expect God to lead you to people who are seeking Him?

3. If it is true that such a lifestyle is made over repeated experiences, what are the implications for us as a church?



thinking it through

1. If it is true that evangelism is a lifestyle and not merely an event, what are the implications for us as a church?

2. If the style of my life is going to be more evangelistic...

I need to think _____

I need to be _____

I need to do _____



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. What do you think the Christian church needs more of today—more faith in God's power or more action to meet the needs of people? Why?
2. There are at least six styles or approaches for sharing the gospel message with others. Read through each style and look up the story to see what it looks like in action. Discuss what each approach might look like today.
 - Confrontational—a direct no-nonsense approach often using a clear challenge or a call that urges the individual to respond. (Acts 2:14–36, Peter is unmistakably direct.)
 - Intellectual—a thought-provoking approach that appeals to the individual's need to understand or learn what is true. More often than not, this style does not force or persuade someone to choose Christ but trusts that the information/truth will marinate in the mind and heart of the seeker. (Acts 17:2,3; 17:10–12; 17:16–34, Paul's ministry constantly targeted those who see the world through reason and logic. You will notice that some believe over time and some don't.)
 - Testimonial—an approach that simply tells the truth as it has come from personal experience. It is, in essence, declaring what you know. It is terribly hard to argue or disregard the honest, passionate testimony of a believer. (Consider the boy who was born blind in John 9 or the demoniac in Mark 5.)
 - Interpersonal—a style of evangelism based on developing enduring relationships and interactions that are meaningful. Their connection to Christ comes not as much from information as it comes from relationships with believers. (An example of interpersonal evangelism is with Levi Matthew in Luke 5:27–29. It is also found in John 3 with Nicodemus, who took a long time to come around, and with Zacchaeus in Luke 19.)
 - Invitational—a method of evangelism that appeals to the human desire to respond. This approach can be simple and non-threatening (John 1:35–39 and 1:43–46) to a more persuasive approach as found in John 4 with the Woman at the Well.
 - Serving—an approach to spreading the good news of Christ through service. It is compelling to see people come to know God through actions and not merely by words. (Dorcas, in Acts 9:32–42, is a shining example of how service to others declares good news in ways that Peter's sermons or Paul's arguments could not.)
3. What approach do you resonate with the most and which do you resonate with the least? Share your responses with others in your group.
4. Think of one person you know who is not currently a disciple of Christ but you think God is calling you to be a part of bringing them to Christ. As each member of the group shares about the person they are thinking of, ask the following questions:
 - What evangelistic approach do you think would be most effective in reaching them? Why?
 - What method of evangelism would surprise you the most if it were effective?



5. Ultimately, we have to work practically and wisely, but also understand that our methods are tools God uses. Consider the following statement from *Ministry of Healing*, p. 149.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

6. How do you see the style of evangelism represented in this statement from Ellen White?
7. How do you see Christ’s method of evangelism being more of a lifestyle than an event?



SESSION 2

my story

leader's guide



2: my story

session overview

leader notes

1. Now that we have established that the gospel is meant to be “fleshed out” in a disciple’s lifestyle—the way they live—then the next step is to begin building our personal testimony through a three phase process: your story, His story, and our story. Each phase is meant to help you refine and practice your ability to witness for God.
2. This lesson focuses primarily on developing “YOUR STORY”—a personal testimony that is simple, meaningful, and most of all, useful.
3. Review the learning outcomes in the table below about developing a personal testimony.

materials

1. Lesson handout for each student
2. Pens/Pencils
3. 3 X 5 cards or pieces of paper to write on

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Know their personal story is most effective message in gospel ministry.	1. Reflecting Jesus—discussing parts of a testimony
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Write and share their story.	1. Reflecting Jesus—writing and sharing their story
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Sense God’s power in the stories of individuals.	1. Mission Briefing—identifying with biblical stories

extra resources

Excellent counsel from *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 125 on the need for every believer to share their story: “All who receive the gospel message into the heart will long to proclaim it...”

Ellen White as a personal evangelist: Check out the article on her passion for telling others her story in a “one to one” setting. <http://www.adventistworld.org/article/827/resources/english/issue-2010-1008/ellen-g-white-as-model-evangelist>

2: my story

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

- 1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
- 2. Extend the previous introduction on lifestyle evangelism by moving the question, “How can your personal story with God help others choose to follow Him?”

did you know?

11 minutes

- 1. In the “did you know” section of the participant’s handout there are simple formulas: Genesis Body + Breathe = Living Being, 2+2=4, e=mc2, H2o and ...

BC	+	MC	+	AC	=	MS
_____		_____		_____		_____

- 2. Lifestyle evangelism compels people to want to know more about Christ because of how we live. The goal is to enable others to know Christ through you. Naturally, every believer needs to be able to tell their story of how and why they chose God, and what difference it has made in their life.
- 3. The individual stories of people have influenced believers over the centuries. Share in groups of 2-3 one example of how someone else’s story has deepened your commitment to Christ. Share a little about their story and why you think their testimony matters today.

mission

briefing

15 minutes

- 1. Invite the participants to complete the “mission briefing” portion of the handout in groups of 2-3. This activity introduces them to a personal testimony from the Old Testament—a Babylonian king in Daniel 4. They are to read the whole story and then respond to the parts of the story that were compelling to them.
- 2. In groups of 2-3 have the participants answer the questions in their “mission briefing” handout. Read the story, paying careful attention to every phrase. Ask them to organize the key phrases of this story in one of two groups: the usual and the unusual.
- 3. Invite the participants to share what they believe to be the most important feature of this story for them.

thinking

it through

10 minutes

- 1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5 min).
- 2. Ask the participants to share in their group of 3-4 their responses and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).

reflecting Jesus & His Kingdom

3 minutes

- 1. Divide the participants into groups of 3 or 4 to complete the “mission briefing” handout (3 min).



next steps

15 minutes

1. The primary thrust of your IDP should reflect how you are to practice being a witness for Christ. Part of that will be developing your personal testimony, which will evolve over the next few weeks, followed by small group and a public evangelistic event.
2. As you meet with your Spiritual Companion, pray for the ability to reflect and see in your own journey the parts God wants you to share with others. Also, consider how God calls everyone and their story to participate equally in reaching the lost.
3. Pray with your Spiritual Companion for clarity to fashion a testimony that will help someone else know Christ.

summary

5 minutes

1. It is crucial to share a few tips at this time:
 - Be natural. It is your story so tell it in your comfort zone—but tell it. It may seem awkward, but the more you practice, the more your story will ring in your own heart.
 - Keep your story simple and clear (the Holy Spirit is the agent that works mightily on your behalf. You don't have to try to be clever, profound, or relevant).
 - Ask them a question that calls for them to respond, even if the question is as simple as: "So, what do you think about what I shared?" The key is to get them to respond.
 - Pray. Pray. Pray for people to share your story with.
2. Know that this is only the first phase of your personal testimony and next we will consider some other crucial pieces that will shape what you have done this week.



SESSION 2

my story

participant's guide



SESSION 2

my story



did you know...

In Genesis 2:7 the Bible claims that Body + Breath = Living Being

Conventional wisdom holds $2+2=4$

$e=mc^2$

Water is described as a formula of H_2O

and ...

BC	+	MC	+	AC	=	MS
_____		_____		_____		_____

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”

1 Peter 1:10-12





mission briefing

1. Read the story in Daniel 4 as told by King Nebuchadnezzar. After reading the story, what part of the story was compelling for you? Why?

2. Approximately how long does it take to read this story out loud?

3. Do you think this story is the whole story? In other words, does Nebuchadnezzar tell everything he can or does he choose carefully the parts that are most meaningful? If so, why do you think he chose this particular story?



thinking it through

1. What are some of the pivotal moments that cause me to believe fully in Christ?

2. What are some seasons of growth and discovery that can't be described in one event but are more of a process taking place over time?





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Today you will begin a process of developing your personal testimony. It is a process, but the more you work on it, the more you practice sharing it, the more it will become a powerful witness for Christ.

Christ's method of reaching people:

- Mingle with people as one who desires their good
- Sympathize with them
- Meet their needs
- Win their confidence
- Bade them to follow Christ

Read 1 Peter 3:15–16 as a group and share what you think God is saying to you in this passage.

It's time to begin developing your own personal testimony using the apostle Paul as an example. Read the story of Paul before King Agrippa in Acts 26.

2. In detail, Paul shares who he was before he met Jesus.
 - BC (Before Christ), verses 4–11. How does Paul describe his life before meeting Christ?
 - Individually, in four to six sentences, write on a 3X 5 card what your life was like before you met Christ. (For some who have grown up as believers, simply write what that was like. Paul was a “believer” from birth too!)
 - Share with your group what you wrote about your life before Christ.
3. Paul describes his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.
 - MC (Meeting Christ), verses 12–18. How does Paul describe his encounter with Jesus—where his life shifted significantly?
 - Individually, on another 3 X 5 card, write briefly about an event or a season in your life where it was clear God was leading you and you were choosing Him. While some may have more dramatic moments that were pivotal, others may see their story unfolding through a process of discovery. Both are worth telling!
 - Share with your group what you wrote about a pivotal moment or a particular season where you “met Christ” or “His grace and power became real to you.”
4. Paul describes what his life is about now that he has chosen to follow Christ.
 - AC (After Christ), verses 19–23. What does Paul say about his life as a result of becoming a follower of Jesus?
 - Individually, on another 3 X 5 card, write what is different about your life now. How is your life different now as a result of Christ being in it? (Try and think of the biggest difference Christ makes in your life.)
5. The final part of Paul's testimony has a subtle but extremely important appeal in the form of a question: “Do you believe the prophets?” (Verse 26). Paul wrapped his testimony around the history of the Jewish hope, which was all based on the writings of the prophets.



Note: Everyone who develops their personal testimony needs to think about a question to ask that naturally grows out of their story. [For example, my story is that I was a disillusioned teenager who rebelled against my family, authority, God—but discovered God’s grace and His calling when I lost a loved one. The BC is clear, and the MC occurs at the funeral where it dawned on me that “life is short and fragile and there is more than what I’m living for.” So “after searching, studying, praying, and getting involved in church I have a hope that is beyond the grave and I have more to live for now!” A good question might be: “Don’t you ever think there has to be more to this life than the things we chase after or run away from?”]

6. Try it out.

SESSION 3

His story

leader's guide



3: His story

session overview

leader notes

1. This lesson develops the content portion of the personal testimony focusing on the Savior, Jesus Christ, as part of “Your Story.”
2. In today’s material the participants will survey who Jesus is in Scripture, but their ultimate goal is to discover how the Person of Christ shapes their personal story.

materials

1. Lesson handout for each student
2. Pens/Pencils
3. 3 X 5 size cards or paper

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See Christ as the Author of their salvation and their story. 2. Recognize that everyone’s story is different, however Jesus remains unchanged. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible Study in the “mission briefing” and “reflecting Jesus” sections
Hands Participants will be able to...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practice organizing scripture, themes, and questions on the plan of salvation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyzing the most appropriate passages and presenting a short Bible study
Heart Participants will be able to...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confidently share who Jesus is to them and compel others to consider following Him. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commit to sharing their refined testimony with others in a written form

extra resources

1. In *Steps to Christ* there is a chapter entitled, “A Knowledge of God.” Read the chapter but notice especially the statement that reads: “One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained” (90–91). Everything in Scripture is meant to tell the story of salvation!
2. Sample gospel presentation on Sabbath School Net: <http://ssnet.org/blog/2012/04/the-gospel-presentation/>



3. Read the chapter in *Desire of Ages* where Ellen White urges for a compelling presentation of the gospel. “In Christ is the tenderness of the shepherd, the affection of the parent, and the matchless grace of the compassionate Saviour. His blessings He presents in the most alluring terms. He is not content merely to announce these blessings; He presents them in the most attractive way, to excite a desire to possess them. So His servants are to present the riches of the glory of the unspeakable Gift. The wonderful love of Christ will melt and subdue hearts, when the mere reiteration of doctrines would accomplish nothing” (p. 826).



3: His story

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Remind participants that the testimony portion is a way to be ready when people inquire or when a good opportunity arises (1 Peter 3: 15–16). However, Christ's method continually practiced will produce so many opportunities to share that God's power will be unmistakable.

did you know?

11 minutes

1. The graphic displaying two approaches to sharing Christ with the world is given in the participant's guide. It conveys the idea that Christ is a link in a chain of many teachings, or, Jesus is The Teaching by which all other teachings makes sense.
2. Ask the participants to draw a line out from the circle where Christ is center and write as many doctrines or teachings they can think of in one minute. Invite them to share their list with another person. Which model has been portrayed more prominently to you? (5 min).
3. Say: "Clearly, Christ is supposed to be central, but how do we integrate who Jesus is in our testimony? What would it look like if Jesus were the central theme of all of our events, activities, and efforts—personally and as a church?" Ask the participants to briefly share what it would like (5 min).

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to complete the "mission briefing" portion of the handout in groups of 3–4 (7 min).
2. Debriefing: What teachings seemed to be most relevant to you as portrayed in Christ? (3 min)

thinking

it through

10 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to share in their group of 3–4 their responses and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

35 minutes

1. As you guide the participants in this section it is important to break them into groups of 4–5. Each participant chooses one verse or story and is challenged to read and share insights from that passage with their group. (There are extra verses provided in brackets for further study and reflection.)
2. There are at least four reference points to use as you make a confluence of your story and the life of Christ: God, Humanity, Jesus, and You. Read and examine the passages in your group and highlight or star the verses that really resonate with you and your story. Also, since these passages are suggestions, brainstorm in your group and add any verses or stories that you think should be included under these headings (30–35 min).



- Who Is God? Bible verses and stories on God's character
 - What is humanity? Bible verses and stories on what it means to be human/sinners
 - Who is Jesus? Bible verses and stories on the saving work of Jesus Christ
 - What Now? Bible verses and stories that evoke you to respond
3. Integrating Jesus and Scripture in your personal testimony takes reflection, thinking, and even writing. The inclusion of Scripture needs to be natural, seamless, and meaningful. Challenge the participants to go back to their story and add a phrase or two that integrates Scripture with their story (5–10 min).

next steps

15 minutes

1. As your personal testimony gets practiced and refined, remember to plan to organize a small group effort as part of your IDP for this module.
2. As you meet with your Spiritual Companion, take time to share and debrief together on how things are going with each other. Feel free to talk about real life challenges and hopes you have.
3. Pray with your Spiritual Companion for the Risen Christ to be seen and known through you and your fellow Ambassadors.

summary

5 minutes

1. When you read Paul's testimony in Acts 26 and Nebuchadnezzar's in Daniel 4, you see patterns of personal sharing mingled with an unmistakable truth that is beyond the individual story. Sometimes connecting your story to the person of Christ takes a little work, but don't get frustrated, keep trying; this could make a difference in someone else's life so work through it. Remember that your testimony is about what Christ has done in you. Christ and You. Keep it simple, natural, and seamless.
2. Some examples of transitions to share are listed below:
 - When I sensed Christ calling me....
 - When I think of how Christ made it so clear....
 - When I hear how Jesus...
 - Even though my life is uncertain I know that what God said is true...
 - As I discovered how God's word speaks to me personally...
 - Now I see how God is more than some supernatural force. To me He is...
 - Ever since I gave my heart to Christ...



SESSION 3

His story

participant's guide



SESSION 3

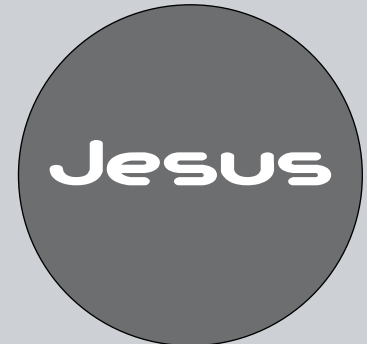
His story



did you know...



or



Jesus

There are two ways to describe Christian beliefs in relationship to the Person of Christ.

Jesus is 1) One of many biblical truths, or 2) The truth by which all other teachings exist.

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6





mission briefing

Some think that Jesus Christ is one teaching or truth among many teachings, like one link in a chain. You don't have to go too far into Scripture to see that Christ is the beginning, center, and end of the Bible.

- 1. Read Hebrews 1:1-3, John 5:37-41, John 1:1-3,14, 15-17 and share how Christ is central to every truth in the Bible. Below are a few teachings/themes from Scripture to start with.

Jesus and...

Sin	Hope	Grace	Eternal Life
Love	Death	Power	The Law
Goodness	Evil	Joy	Marriage
Strength	Forgiveness	Heaven	Healing
Creation	Worship	Service	Sabbath

- 2. Which of these is the most meaningful for you and your story? Share why with your group.
- 3. Read 1 Peter 1: 3-12 to help you focus on Christ and His story in your life.



thinking it through

- 1. How do you make Christ central to your life, lifestyle, and the story you tell? In what areas of your life do you feel Christ does not hold as prominent a place as you would like?

- 2. Write out a prayer to God to specifically put Christ first, best, and all in that part of your life.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Previously, you explored the possibilities of YOUR STORY, beginning with your life before Christ (BC), to how you came to meet Christ (MC), to the difference God has made in your life since you received Him (AC).

This activity visits the biblical plan of salvation to connect and inform your personal testimony with the story of Christ. If evangelism is only introducing people to teachings and ideas, just give them the facts. If your desire is to connect them to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, integrate who Jesus is to you as the centerpiece of your story.

There are at least four reference points to use as you make a confluence of your story and the life of Christ: God, humanity, Jesus, and you. Read and examine the passages in your group and highlight or star the verses that really resonate with you and your story. Also, since these passages are suggestions, brainstorm in your group and add any verses or stories that you think should be included under these headings.

1. Who is God? Bible verses and stories on God's character:

Exodus 34:6,7

1 John 3:1,2

Revelation 21:1-5

Jeremiah 31:3

John 3:16,17

Matthew 6:25-34

For further study: [Psalms 34:1-4; 1 John 4:8; Micah 7:18,19; Psalms 23; Deuteronomy 7:9; Hebrews 8:12; Isaiah 43:10-13; 2 Chronicles 6:14]

2. What is humanity? Bible verses and stories on what it means to be human/sinners:

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Isaiah 59:1,2

1 John 1:8

Genesis 1:27-31

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For further study: [Genesis 3; Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 9:35,36; 2 Peter 3]

3. Who is Jesus? Bible verses and stories on the saving work of Jesus Christ:

John 1:1-3, 14, 17

Genesis 3:15

Luke 24:13-35

John 4:24-26

Isaiah 53:1-12

Luke 5:20-24

For further study: [Mark 1:40-43; 1 Timothy 6:15,16; Acts 2:38; Hebrews 1:1-3; Mark 1:11-13; Isaiah 9:6; Acts 4:12; John 5:38-41; John 1:29; Revelation 1:18; Acts 3:1-7; Luke 19:1-10; Luke 7:1-11; Philippians 2:5-12]



4. What now? Bible verses and stories that evoke you to respond:

Deuteronomy 6:4,5
John 17:31

2 Peter 3:13,14
John 1:9

John 1:11-13
Acts 2:38-39

For further study: [1 John 5:11-13; John 3:1-16; Ephesians 2:8,9; Matthew 11:28,29]

5. If you had to choose only 3-5 passages from Scripture that really captured your story (BC, MC, AC), which would you choose? Why?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

6. Everyone’s life is different, and so the lens we see and receive salvation through is affected by our individual story. Consider what stories and passages have brought you to a deeper knowledge and a more certain commitment to Christ. How does our storied life shape the way we respond to the message of salvation?

SESSION 4

our story

leader's guide



4: our story

session overview

leader notes

1. This lesson develops the content portion of the personal testimony, focusing on how it relates to the corporate witness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While each personal story is unique, they are all a part of one story of God saving humanity. Moreover, the unique elements of the Seventh-day Adventist mission are a crucial part of the way the story of God and people reaches its ultimate climax.
2. In today's material, the participants will refine their testimony to consider the unique influence of the Adventist message on the world. The teachings that are somewhat distinct are timely for a world of confusion and despair. The messages of the Adventist church reach to the deepest questions of disbelief and meet the needs of humanity at the end of earth's history.

materials

1. Lesson handout for each participant
2. Pens for each participant

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Understand the connection between the Adventist message to the needs of humanity at the end of time.	1. "mission briefing" and "reflecting Jesus & His kingdom" discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Commit to more fully owning the unique message of Adventist story.	1. Sharing, refining, and listening to testimonies
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. An earnest desire to connect our Adventist story to the human dilemma.	1. Discussing the seven hungers of the human heart and their connection to Adventist beliefs

extra resources

1. <http://www.adventist.org/world-church/facts-and-figures/history/>
2. George Knight, *A Search for Identity: The Development of Seventh-Day Adventist Beliefs*.
3. George Knight, *A Brief History of Seventh-day Adventists*.
4. Merlin D. Burt, *Adventist Pioneer Places: New York & New England*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2011.
5. Jud Lake, *Ellen White Under Fire: Identifying the Mistakes of Her Critics*. Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2010.



4: our story

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Affirm and encourage the group and continue to review the last few sessions:
“We are challenged to practice Christ’s method of reaching people as a way of life. This practice builds a lifestyle of witnessing that is productive and life changing.”
“Each of us has a story to tell about our journey as a believer. As you have been refining and working on your testimony, please be writing it out.”
“Today we will consider how the unique message of the Adventist church shapes our personal testimony.”

did you know?

11 minutes

1. The graphic for the “did you know” is a simple list of the five pillars that defined the unique message of the Adventist church in the mid 1800’s. Invite the participants to briefly share what they know about each pillar of faith in order to instruct those who may not know and to refresh the memory of those who may have forgotten.
2. Below the five pillars there is a statement from Hebrews 1 that declares Christ as the central mode and message of “these last days.” Ask: “How is Christ central to each teaching?”

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3–4 and challenge them to analyze the cliché’s that seem universal to Christians. Their task is to evaluate the statements for what might be true but also for what might be missing or misleading. Ask them to share their responses in their groups.
2. The next question directs the participants to a few passages that are considered to be foundational to the Adventist story.
In groups of 4–5, have the members in the group number 1–5. Once they have numbered off, ask the 1’s to read Revelation 14:6–13, the 2’s to read Daniel 8:1–14, the 3’s to read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, the 4’s to read Revelation 12:10, 11, 17, and the 5’s to read 1 Corinthians 15:50–57.
Ask the participants to share how these particular passages can inform their personal testimony. (Another question to ask is: “In what way does the Sabbath, State of the dead, Second Coming, or the Sanctuary affect the way you relate to God?” Some might struggle with a direct connection, but press them further: “How do these truths shape our view of God and the way this earth will come to a dramatic close? In what way should these truths be a part of the story we will share with others?”)
3. Ask: Which did you resonate with? Why?
4. Ask: Which teaching do you think seems to be under-emphasized? Why do you think it should become a more prominent part of Our Story?



thinking
it through
10 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to share in their group of 3–4 their responses and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).

next steps
15 minutes

1. As your personal testimony gets practiced and refined, remember to plan to organize a small group effort as part of your IDP for this module.
2. As you meet with your Spiritual Companion, take time to discuss how sharing a distinct Adventist faith with others requires more careful planning and prayer.
3. Pray with your Spiritual Companion for an opportunity to share the hope of Christ from an Adventist worldview.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom
35 minutes

In groups of 4–5, invite the participants to work through the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section of their participant’s guide.

1. The first question challenges Ambassadors to tell “Our Story” as Seventh-day Adventists. If you were asked directly, how would you respond to the following questions?
 - Why are you a Seventh-day Adventist Christian?
 - How is the story of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian the same as other Christians throughout the world? How is the story of a Seventh-day Adventist different from other Christians?
 - How can I know which path I should take when everyone is so different but they all think they are right?

Affirm their responses but challenge them to keep in mind the principles taught in the previous sessions about being personal and clear.
2. As the participants consider the second question, they are given a list of 28 Fundamental Beliefs. The task is to choose three teachings that become talking points to tell the story from. Invite the participants to share what three they chose and why.
3. Questions 3 & 4 challenge the participants to connect the Adventist story to the human heart and the human situation. Give the participants time to discuss this section freely because it will enable them to think more practically about sharing their story as they consider how the story is needed today.
4. As participants reflect on their own story it is entirely possible that they may want to explore or study fundamental teachings or Adventist Church history more carefully to see how they fit into the broader story.



summary

5 minutes

1. Perhaps one of the most humbling paragraphs about the church is the opening from Acts of the Apostles: “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to “the principalities and powers in heavenly places,” the final and full display of the love of God.” (p.10)
2. How many of you feel a keen sense of joy and confidence that God has brought Our Story to humanity for a particular role in salvation history?



SESSION 4

our story

participant's guide



SESSION 4

Our Story



did you know...

Between 1844 and 1848 five pillars of Adventist faith became prominent reference points for our story as a movement:

Pillars of Faith

- The personal, premillennial return of Jesus
- The sanctuary and its antitypical work of atonement beginning on October 22, 1844
- The validity of the gift of prophecy and how it is manifested in the work of Ellen White
- The role of the Seventh-day Sabbath in the life of the believer and its relevance to end-time prophecy
- Humanity does not inherently possess immortality but only receives it through faith in Christ

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

Hebrews 1:1–3





mission briefing

1. Below are some common Christian clichés that are well meant, but when you think about them, they don't really tell a clear story of what is true. Read the list and even add a few of your own that are not mentioned. How are these statements true and how do they fail to tell the whole truth?

“God loves you just the way you are.”

“When bad things happen, it is not God but Satan. “

“Just give your life to God and He will take control.”

“God is not so concerned about doctrines but how much we love one another.”

“God loves the sinner but hates the sin.”

“When God closes a door He opens a window.”

“Maybe God is trying to get your attention with this tragedy.”

“God helps those who help themselves.”

“The Lord never gives someone more than they can handle.”

2. Read the following passages in your group (assign each person a passage) and discuss how each passage speaks to the grand story of God and people
- Revelation 14:6-13
 - Daniel 8:1-14
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - Revelation 12:10,11, 17
 - 1 Corinthians 15:50-57





thinking it through

1. Reflect for a moment on the distinctive Adventist teachings that you are passionate about. Why do these teachings ring true in your heart and mind?

2. What aspects of Adventist teachings are still a little unclear to you today? Which would you like to study in more detail in order to more confidently share with others?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. If you were asked directly, how would you respond to the following questions?
 - Why are you a Seventh-day Adventist Christian?
 - How is the story of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian the same as other Christians throughout the world? How is the story of a Seventh-day Adventist different from other Christians?
 - How can I know which path I should take when everyone is so different but they all think they are right?
2. If you had to tell the story of the Seventh-day Adventist Church using only three major teachings, which would you choose and why?

The Holy Scripture

The Trinity

The Father

The Son

Great Controversy

Life/Death/Resurrection Christ

Experience of Salvation

Growing in Christ

Baptism

Lord's Supper

Spiritual Gifts

Gift of Prophecy

Christian Behavior

Marriage/Family

Christ—Heavenly Sanctuary

Second Coming of Christ



The Holy Spirit	Church	Law of God	Death and Resurrection
Creation	Remnant and Its Mission	Sabbath	Millennium/End of Sin
Nature of Man	Unity in the Body of Christ	Stewardship	New Earth

3. Below are seven “hungers” that the Adventist story speaks to today. Read and discuss the teaching and how that teaching is relevant to what people are searching for. Which of the seven hungers does your personal story resonate with today? Why?

7 Hungers of the Human Heart

Salvation: There is unmistakable evidence of the effects of sin everywhere. Most of all, humanity is lost and people long for a Savior.

Sabbath: The pace of life presses the human spirit toward exhaustion. Without a sense of who you belong to and where you come from, there is no rest. The human struggle for identity is not defined by work, but by your creator and redeemer.

Sanctuary: The work of God to save humanity and explain His kingdom way is displayed comprehensively in the drama of the sanctuary.

State of the Dead: How life begins and why it ends is central to what it means to be human, saved or lost, and ultimately whether immortality is an inherent feature of human life or a gift from the One who purchased it for you.

Second Coming: Christ will return as promised to gather those who by faith have become sons and daughters of God. Christ will raise the dead believers and those who are alive will join them and dwell in heaven for 1000 years, then the earth will be cleansed and re-created.

Sovereignty of God: God is in control and has a plan (the essential theme of the Great Controversy).

Simplicity: Believers are moved by devotion to live with clear priorities about what matters most. Daily effort is not leveraged to accumulate wealth, power, or popularity, but set on the work that leads to the life to come.

4. Consider the different seekers and their description below and discuss which parts of Our Story would speak powerfully to their life.
- A single mother trying to gain some certainty and stability with her life. She is frazzled but open to you because she seems desperate for something to work in her life.
 - A university student who is struggling with the question about the existence of God. He/she is skeptical about people who don't take science or logic seriously, but they are interested in what you have to say because you seem intelligent and genuine.
 - A 28 year-old man/woman who has been mistreated by Christians in the past but recognizes that you seem to be different. They are careful but open to you, but not at all interested in “church.”
 - A young boy or girl (12 years old) who is keenly interested in Bible studies but their family is not supportive and tries to distract or dissuade them.
 - An 18 year-old man/woman who is not familiar with God, the Bible, or church. They face decisions about school, work, relationships, and other lifestyle issues. He/she hopes there is a God and there is a plan for them but just doesn't know. They are easily distracted by all the pitfalls of this season of life, but they are interested.
5. Reflect on your own testimony and consider how you might augment your story in light of pivotal Adventist reference points. Reflect on how God has called “Us” at a specific season in the story of salvation.



SESSION 5

small group bible study

leader's guide



5: small group bible study

session overview

- leader notes

1.

All the elements of this module are connected to the work of evangelism Christ commanded His disciples to do in Matthew 28:19, 20. Christ's method of reaching people, as described in *Ministry of Healing*, provides an overall mindset that instructs believers to live evangelistically—the way Christ did:
 - He mingled with people as one who desired their good
 - He sympathized
 - He met their needs
 - He won their confidence
 - He bade them, “Follow Me”

As we come close to people in the world, we should train to share our testimony as we have the opportunity.

2.

Small group ministry is another feature to a balanced evangelistic ministry. The next three sessions will focus on three types of small group approaches, which will feature diverse training tips and skill development for effective small group leadership.
- materials

1.

Lesson handout for each participant

2.

Pens for each participant
- together growing fruitful disciples framework

1.

www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com

2.

TGFD Process: Seeking Opportunities

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Have an understanding of small group study, dynamics, leadership, and relationship to gospel commission.	1. Discussion and practice of interactive skills
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice leading, thinking, and sharing in a small group Bible study.	1. Practice interactive Bible study: “reflecting Jesus & His kingdom” section
Heart Participants will be...	1. Hopeful about the many ways small group life can change lives.	1. Pray for and contact candidates for small group

extra resources

Small Group Sites:

1. GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, <http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org>
 - personal ministries
 - IICM
 - Look for Small Group Training/ Resources
2. www.smallgroups.com
3. <http://www.willowcreek.com/grouplife/resources/studies.asp>



5: small group bible study

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Be sure to welcome visitors and affirm those who regularly participate.

did you know?

11 minutes

1. In the “did you know?” section of the participant’s lesson there is some research cited and a text from Ecclesiastes. The research is from America, which is not indicative of the world, but studies are beginning to show that around the world people are communicating less with each other in relational ways. Ask: Why do you think this is happening? What are factors that you see in your part of the world that cause people to be with one another less? (3–4 min)
2. If the wise man who wrote Ecclesiastes is truly wise, share how this proverb has been true for you (2 min).
3. What do you think are the benefits of small group evangelism? What are the challenges as you see them? (2 min)

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3–5 and ask them to begin answering the questions in the “mission briefing” handout.
2. Ask: As you considered the possibilities of small group evangelism, what were some of your hopes? What were some of your concerns?
3. Ask: In the last year, how many of you have had encounters with people you would have invited to a small group if it were meeting?

thinking

it through

10 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to pray and list people they would like to invite to a small group (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to get back into their groups of 3–5 and pray in a circle for the person on their left and their list of possible small group candidates (5 min).

next steps

15 minutes

1. As the participants meet with the Spiritual Companion they need to begin to plan: a) Who will I start a small group with and when? b) Who will we invite? c) What will be the nature of the group (Bible study, service oriented, prayer focused)?
Remind them that all groups have the capacity to be evangelistic no matter what format they take, as long as they are practicing a lifestyle of evangelism (Christ’s method).
2. Ask them to share and pray about their progress on the IDP and how they might be helpful to each other.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

35 minutes

1. This part of the session will call for the participants to be in groups of at least three, and preferably no more than six. When groups are larger than six, the dynamics of the group change in a way that is not as productive.
Disclaimer: All small groups can be evangelistic because the people in them are leading lifestyles of evangelism. Some, however, are more directly connected to this study.
There are hundreds of different types of small groups, however, in this module we will dig deep into the three that resonate with our evangelistic purpose the most.
 - Bible Study Groups (Doctrinal, Devotional, Expository, Topical/Thematic)
 - Action/Service Small Groups: Meet to remind each other of their scriptural foundation, pray for power to help others, and plan outreach
 - Prayer and Encouragement Groups: Meet to fellowship, pray, and encourage each other
2. When the participants get through with questions 1–3 in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section, help them negotiate through the next part of the session step by step.
3. After they read the summary of the three parts of a small group study, ask for clarification or comment with each section so that they understand.
Then proceed with each major section of a small group.
4. After they have read and discussed each part of a group study you can say:
“All of these suggestions are just that—suggestions. There are so many other ways to enhance the group experience. The Holy Spirit will speak to each of us as we study, pray, and share in a community of faith.”
5. Next is a chance for them to practice on a powerful story in the Bible (Luke 24). Encourage them to move through the story carefully and develop questions.
6. Finally, read “The Ten Commandments for Small Groups” out loud or in the groups, however seems most appropriate. Remind them that for the next few sessions there will be various practical tips to collect.

summary

5 minutes

1. Today we launched into some of the nuts and bolts of small groups. In the coming sessions there will be different ways to do different types of group ministry to serve the purpose of winning others to Christ. Again, how we live, work, pray, and share our story is the cornerstone of evangelistic work.
2. Read the following passages in your group, each taking one verse and reading it out loud. These passages declare the purpose, value, and product of God’s Word. [Romans 15:4, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:14–17, Acts 17: 10–12, John 5:39, Psalm 119:105] What verse seems to resonate or prompt you to do a small group Bible study? Why?



SESSION 5

small group bible study

participant's guide



SESSION 5

small group bible study



did you know...

Robert Putnam, a Harvard professor, in his book “Bowling Alone,” chronicles the decline of participation in various forms of community in America.

- The percentage of adults who belong to a bowling league today is only about one quarter of what it was in the 1960’s.
- Active membership in local community clubs and civic organizations has dropped by almost 50 percent since the 1970’s.
- People are less frequently visiting one another, having friends over for dinner, and getting together socially than in previous decades.

Also, studies have shown that people who don’t belong to a church indicate that they would not attend a worship service alone. Nonetheless, the same study reported that more than 90 percent of Americans say they want to learn more about the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 4:8–10 (NIV)

“There was a man all alone;

he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,

yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,

“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”

This too is meaningless—

a miserable business!

Two are better than one,

because they have a good return for their labor:

If either of them falls down,

one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

and has no one to help them up.”





mission briefing

Five Reasons why Small Groups are Effective

- The first reason that small group evangelism is effective has to do with the way we learn. The process of interacting with others is a more effective way to grow than passively listening to a sermon. Whether we are an introvert or an extravert, the exercise of listening and sharing in a group increases our learning and growth.
 - The other reason comes from the human need for community. People were created to experience intimacy in relationships—with God and others. To regularly interact with people in a safe, comfortable environment about the themes of Scripture is probably the most effective way to experience life transformation.
 - Small group evangelism allows for greater accountability because participants are more easily known.
 - Small group evangelism becomes part of an ongoing lifestyle rather than an intense influx of meetings. It is more manageable to have a group meeting once or twice a week that accommodates various schedules.
 - A small group is less threatening than a more public event or gathering. A community center, church, or other public venue can be intimidating, but a small group in a home or a quiet place in a neighborhood is not as hostile.
1. Of the five benefits of a small group, which do you think is the most important value for you and your peers? Why?
 2. Imagine if you had, as part of a small group experience, individuals who shared their testimony for a portion of the Bible study time. How would such a format enrich believers and even compel seekers to find Christ?
 3. Read Hebrews 10:19–25 and count how many times the words “us, our, and we” are repeated. In the New Testament, churches gathered not in public buildings, but homes. Re-read the passage, but this time imagine it being read to a small group of people meeting in a house rather than a large congregation.
 4. When you consider the fact that we are called to live a lifestyle of evangelism, how does the possibility of winning souls to Christ in a small group fit into the flow of your life?





thinking it through

1. Take a moment to think and pray about people you know or are acquainted with that you would like to invite to a small group Bible study that you organize. Write their names below:

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. Who is someone you could/should partner with to start a small group?

<hr/>
<hr/>
<hr/>



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

During Ellen White's visit to Australia, a major Christian revival took place in Melbourne, at the height of which 2,000 small groups were meeting in homes all over the city. She subsequently wrote: "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."

1. There are hundreds of different types of small groups, however, in this module we will dig deep into the three that resonate with our evangelistic purpose the most.
 - Bible Study Groups (Doctrinal, Devotional, Expository, Topical/Thematic)
 - Action/Service Small Groups: Meet to remind each other of their scriptural foundation, pray for power to help others, and plan outreach
 - Prayer and Encouragement Groups: Meet to fellowship, pray, and encourage each other



2. What are some ways in which you have been involved in groups such as those mentioned above? What was your experience?
3. Which type of group do you personally resonate with more than others? Why?

The Small Group BIBLE STUDY

4. For our purposes there are three main parts to a small group Bible study:
 - Open (questions or activities that welcome and engage everyone in the group to share in a non-threatening way)
 - Discovery (questions to negotiate and examine the passage for the purpose of learning what God is trying to say to you today)
 - Application (questions or activities that launch the group into action; basically, it is going beyond “hearing the word” to “doing it”)

Open

It is helpful for group dynamics to engage participants in discussion and sharing early in the meeting. The open question is a way to get people to reflect and share from their experience or point of view about a topic, issue, or concept that relates to your study. For instance if the study is on anger, an open question might be, “What really makes you angry and why?” The question requires more than a “yes” or “no” response—it requires the individual to reflect and share from their experience.

- When in the last year have you failed when you thought you were sure you would succeed? (Mark 9:14–29—disciples fail to cast out the evil spirit)
- Think of a time when you felt like you were alone. (1 Kings 19:10–18—Elijah in the cave after Mt. Carmel)
- What story in your life have you gone quickly from utterly sad to extremely happy? Or vice versa? (Luke 7:11–17—Jesus and disciples run headlong into a funeral procession)

Then connect the shared responses to the Bible study with a simple transition: “There are many things that make people angry. Today we are going to look at a story that shows Jesus responding to a scenario and seemingly is very angry. The story is found in...”

Discovery

Two principles that guide Bible study questions and prompt small group discussion:

- Questions need to be relational—What do you think? This helps everyone feel like they have something to share.
- Questions need to move people to personal discovery. The idea that God is going to speak to individuals personally in the study can be initiated by the question, “So, what is the message God has for you in this passage?” Or, “What part of this section really spoke to you—and why?”

Application

Applying what we discover in a group study is an important part of group life. Questions like, “How are we going to live differently because of this study?” and “In what ways can we practice this week what we talked about tonight?” help build a bridge from our study to our everyday life.



The three P's of applying Scripture to our lives are as follows:

Personal—The application should be personal. Is the application about you and your response to the passage?

Practical—The application should be reasonable—do-able. Is what you are hoping to do going to be within the sphere of your life experience?

Provable—Is the application specific enough so that you know when you have applied this to your life? This may seem awkward but often the lack of specificity can create a lack of accountability.

5. In your group, practice writing open questions, discovery questions, and application questions for the story of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13–34. As a group, read the story through once privately and then read the story out loud together.

Using the framework and examples you just read, write sample questions (open, discovery, and application) to prompt effective small group discussion.

Open

- _____
- _____
- _____

Discovery

- _____
- _____
- _____

Application

- _____
- _____
- _____

There are many different ways to do a Bible study in a small group. The above is one example. Even though this is one of the more structured types of studies, being able to lead a group through this kind of study will enable you to lead most any type of small group. Below are a few tips for small groups:

Ten Commandments (or tips) for Small Group Leaders

1. The key to effective small groups is interaction. The job of the small group leader is to facilitate, not educate. This is usually successful when the environment is open and friendly and when the format of the study naturally engages the group by the use of relational questions.
2. Be prepared. Understand the themes and the questions that are in the text.
3. Be aware of the personalities that develop in your group.



4. As a leader, model the authenticity you want the group to experience.
5. Make a covenant—a commitment to the next few weeks and to the goals of the group. One way to do this is to ask, “What are you hoping this group will do for you?” or “What do you have as expectations for this group?”
6. Find ways to practically apply what you discover in your group and share from week to week the stories of your journey.
7. Remind your group that it’s okay to continue to invite people.
8. Be careful not to over-study the nuances of the text to the degree that you miss the big idea. The key to this is asking the question, “What is God trying to say to me/us in this study?”
9. Use the study guides as a resource or a guide, but most of all allow the Spirit to lead. In other words, the questions and suggestions in the study guides may not be inspired, but what takes place when “two or more are gathered” with God’s word is most inspiring.
10. Take time to reflect right after your group leaves on what went well, what you could do differently, and most of all, what you noticed about how God was working in your group experience.



SESSION 6

leader's guide

small groups—prayer



6: small groups—prayer

session overview

- leader notes**
1. This is the second part of the small group training section. Previously, the participants have developed a well-balanced view of personal evangelism—focusing on the personal ministry mindset and developing personal testimonies. In the last session the emphasis was on the biblical view and practice of Scripture in small group as well as information on structure and group dynamics. This session is on the role of prayer in the life and practice of a small group.
 2. In today's material the participants will have the opportunity to deepen the relevance of prayer in their own life as well as in their small groups.

- materials**
1. Lesson handout for each student
 2. Paper and pens/pencils
 3. 3 X 5 cards
 4. Local/global newspaper (1 copy per group of 3-4)
 5. Large piece of paper/poster board/ or a chalkboard

- together growing
fruitful disciples
framework**
1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
 2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Discover that reaching others for Christ grows out of an enduring conversation with God.	1. Bible studies will discuss the role of prayer in the lives of out-reachers
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice praying in different ways.	1. Share favorite modes of prayer with group members
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Greater desire for unbroken conversation with God about lost people.	1. Choosing, contacting, and committing to pray for someone this week

extra resources

1. E.M. Bounds is perhaps one of the most respected and quoted prayer warriors. The best books on prayer are free to download! (<http://www.ccel.org/search/books/Bounds?>)
2. Fantastic suggestions and practical thoughts on prayer and small groups: <http://www.smallgroups.com/articles/2012/preparewithprayer.html>



6: small groups—prayer

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and open by asking three people to pray briefly for this particular session (2 min).
2. This session is about the prayerful way in which small groups function and grow people toward Christ. Affirm and encourage the group and continue to review the last few sessions. It is important keep the personal story and the urgency to practice Christ's method of reaching people as a continuous approach to the way you live. When participants start to compartmentalize the activities in this module instead of integrate all the sessions together into a way of life, the whole approach loses its meaningfulness as soon as adversity and challenges emerge.

did you know?

11 minutes

1. The graphic of the sanctuary prompts the question, "Why?" Why did God ask for a place to be built? Answer: According to God, He wants to be with His people. He wanted to dwell with them. It appears as though God is a relational Creator who wants to connect and "be with" people. Ask the participants to look at the picture and read the passages and share what these verses have in common with each other.
2. Encourage the participants to explain how the description of Jesus as "Immanuel" (God with us) in Matthew 1 is significant for small group evangelism.
3. Illustration: One small group had the idea of symbolizing the promise of Christ to dwell with them (Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them") by always having an empty chair as they gathered.
On one occasion a member of the group brought a guest who had just moved into the area and was basically alone. The guest sat in the empty chair that usually represented Christ's place among them. Afterward, one group member shared privately, "Should we have added another chair?" Another replied, "Jesus said, 'When you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it to me.'"

mission briefing

15 minutes

1. As the participants divide into groups of 3-4, ask them to begin with the activity in the "mission briefing" handout. The first activity is to have them (privately or in groups) write all the phrases they normally use when they pray. The goal is to get them to think about what they pray about. Ultimately, the objective is to make praying a priority for those who are seeking Christ.
2. Ask the participants to share the common things they prayed about. This can be placed on a large chalkboard if available or simply announced from the groups.
3. What Jesus said to Peter before Peter denied Him is especially relevant for small groups/leaders. Jesus prayed for Peter. Ask: What is significant about praying for "when" Peter turns back rather than "if" he turns back? How does Jesus' prayer model how small groups should be praying for others?



**thinking
it through**
10 minutes

1. Ask the participants to take time to reflect on the “thinking it through” questions.
2. Invite them to share their thoughts with their small groups before meeting with their Spiritual Companions.

next steps
15 minutes

1. As the participants meet with their Spiritual Companions they need to be discussing how they are doing with the formation of a small group. Also, they need to think about how the small groups might relate to evangelistic meetings in the future (whether the small groups are something that happens before public meetings, during, or after, all throughout).
2. Take time to pray for each others’ struggles and hope to be connecting with people who need to know Christ.

**reflecting Jesus & His
kingdom**
35 minutes

1. In groups of 4–6, invite the participants to work on the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section in the participant’s guide. Perhaps you might introduce this section saying something like: “In this time you will be urged to consider the role of prayer in small group ministry as well as practice some simple, practical ways to pray for each other as well as those who are far from God.”
2. The first question challenges the participants to consider the affects and the effects of prayer. As they discuss and read the Bible passages and selection from the Spirit of Prophecy, ask them a question: Why do you think prayer plays such a prominent role in small group life? Growing churches? Personal evangelism? The statistics report that churches and people who pray play a more active role in reaching un-churched people than others who pray minimally. Why is it that we tend to overlook prayer as a method for reaching people? (12–15 minutes)
3. The next activity (30 minutes) has to do with practicing different types of prayer formats in small groups. Small groups that succeed do so because they are spiritually alive and experiencing God’s presence among them in real, vibrant ways. Depending on the time available, invite the participants to read a prayer format in their group and practice praying. Each “way to pray” should have a different leader, so ask the participants to number off in their groups from one to five. Each person will read the format and think through the process of how to introduce it to the group and then they are to lead the group to pray. (Make sure those who need a newspaper and 3X5 cards have them as they start.)
(These prayers are diverse enough so as not meant to be pretended or to enter into prayer disingenuously. Spending a half an hour seems like an enormous season to pray, but it is only a beginning!)
4. As the groups gather together as one assembly again, ask: “What was helpful to you today?”

summary

5 minutes

E. M. Bounds said these words more than one hundred years ago:

“We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or organization. God’s plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God’s method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...

What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer.” (*Power Through Prayer*)

May it be so with you!



SESSION 6

participant's guide

small groups—prayer



SESSION 6

small groups—prayer



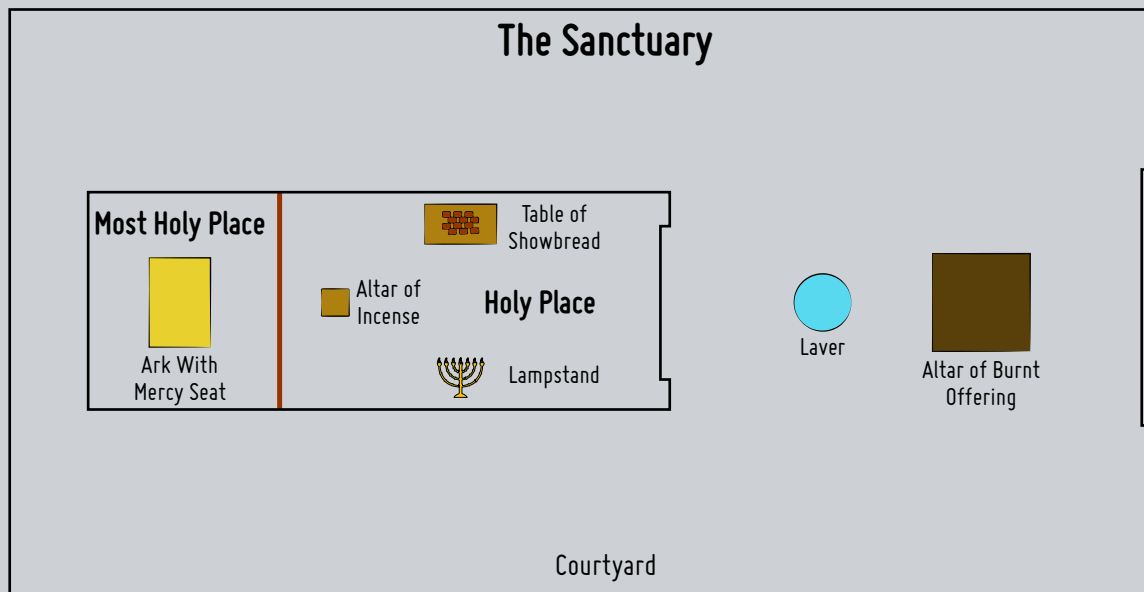
did you know...

WHY?

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them”
(Exodus 25: 8)

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them”
(Matthew 18:20).

“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”
(Matthew 28:19,20).





mission briefing

1. Make a list of twenty words or phrases you use in prayer the most:

• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____

Write out a prayer that does not use any of the words and phrases above and share it with a member of your group.

2. How is prayer a different experience when you stop and think more carefully about what you are saying?

3. What is the relationship between prayer and small group evangelism?

4. John 17 is a prayer Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples, and all the people who will come to know God through the work and ministry of those who follow Christ. There is a very personal moment between Jesus and Peter (Luke 22:31,32) that reveals how Jesus prayed for people He wanted to reach. Read this passage and consider how it relates to you and your small group.



thinking it through

1. Think about your contacts and connections with people who are not a part of the fellowship of faith. Reflect on the following quote from the book *The Great Controversy*.
“Again, worldly wisdom teaches that prayer is not essential...Were not miracles wrought by Christ and His apostles? The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural cooperates with the supernatural. It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask” (525).
2. Who/what should you be praying for individually and as a small group?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Read the following statement and share whether you agree or disagree and why.

“Prayer changes the person who prays more than it changes anything else.”

Read the following statements about how prayer changes the one who prays, how prayer changes the one prayed for, and how prayer changes the mind of the one you are praying to:

- 1 Chronicles 4:10



- Psalm 34:17

- Jonah 2:7-10

- Exodus 32:9-14

- “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary, in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him” (STC).

- “The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural cooperates with the supernatural. It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask” (GC 525).

Practicing Different Ways To Pray in Small Groups

Consider a few different activities to try that can enrich your prayer time together in groups.

1. The Lord’s Prayer

In John 17 we see one of the most powerful prayers prayed. Jesus prays first for Himself—that He and the Father would be one. Then He prays for the disciples—that they would have the same union with the Father. Finally, He prays for all those who will believe because of the work of the disciples. Remind them of the steps.

Options:

- Pray individually around the circle.
- You can all pray the first part, for yourself, then go around again and pray for each other, and finally, go around again and everyone will pray for the things that will happen because of the group’s influence in the world.
- You can also pray the whole prayer individually.



2. Clockwise Prayer

Simply have everyone pray for the person on their left. This can be a sentence or two or don't feel like you have to limit it at all. Make sure you assign someone to begin and the last person will end up praying for the first person who started.

3. Popcorn or Conversational Prayer

In a relaxed format, tell your group to say what they want to say whenever they feel led. Let them know there will be moments of silence so they don't get distracted wondering, "Who's going to pray next?" Use your judgment as to when to draw the prayer time to a close. What is important is that we learn to pray to Christ as a friend and that means saying what we want to say the way we normally say it, in conversational language. Be sure to be clear about who will close so that the last thought is not, "Are we done?"

4. One Another's Burden Prayer

Paul challenges Christ's followers to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2, NIV). Each person in the group writes a brief list of the things they want God to do in their life this week on a 3 X 5 index card. The group members trade cards for the week and pray throughout the day for the requests that are on the card. Make sure everyone has someone to trade with.

5. What In The World Prayer

Using a local or global newspaper, randomly hand each person a section or a page to peruse for 3-5 minutes. Have each member choose one issue, person, or event to pray for, then pray around your group about "the world."



SESSION 7

action small groups

leader's guide



7: action small groups

session overview

leader notes

1. The previous sessions have developed the approach to evangelism from a relational format, understanding that few will ever come to accept Christ as their Savior if they are starving or alone. Christ’s method of reaching people provides an overarching philosophy that balances message and ministry in the way that Jesus did. Of course this is a story worth telling, and as Ambassadors practice creating, shaping, refining, and telling their stories they become fit for greater influence.
2. This session is the last of three attempts to engage, train, and deploy participants in small group ministry. Small groups are not complicated. The entire experience can be over-planned, and it is true that those who don’t put effort into the experience also fail. But successful groups are Spirit-guided teams that do more than teach, affirm, encourage and pray. In fact, if groups do not have some active/practical expression they will morph in an unhealthy way. This lesson focuses on small groups that are primarily ministry or action oriented as well as how every group can have action as a component.

materials

1. Lesson handout for each student
2. Pens/pencils and paper
3. 3X5 cards (2 per person)

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFDF Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will understand that...	1. Small groups must have application for them to be meaningful.	1. Discuss Jesus’ teachings on “doing”
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice leading, thinking, and sharing in a small group Bible study.	1. Sharing and listening “mission briefing” activity and “reflecting Jesus & His kingdom” sections
Heart Participants will find...	1. A deep joy in integrating thoughts and deeds for advancing the gospel.	1. Sharing personal stories where action made the difference

extra resources

1. *Living by The Book*, Hendricks and Hendricks
2. <http://blog.outreach.com/>
3. <http://www.thesource4ym.com/outreacheventideas/default.aspx>
4. <http://seegodswordinaction.com/churches.php>



7: action small groups

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Encourage the participants about how important it is to continue to practice Christ's method deliberately so as to develop a lifestyle of reaching lost people. Sharing our testimonies and developing small groups are pivotal for churches to reach their communities, and so what they are doing is something God is smiling on.

did you know?

11 minutes

1. The graphic in the participant's guide displays a small group of stick people with arrows pointing out in four different directions. Ask the participants to reflect and write which specific people, problems, or specific aspects of life they want their small group to actively help. Sometimes the outreach is a target group (single moms or at-risk teenagers) and sometimes it's a community problem (illiteracy, abuse, poverty). Sometimes the most pressing outreach need is a person. Have them list four examples of outreach targets and then share their thoughts in groups of 2-3.
2. Debrief with the entire group, saying: Throughout this session we will share ideas and commitments to real, actual, missional ministry. Pray now on your own for God to stir in you the clarity and the commitment to put His word into practice.

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to fill out the "mission briefing" handout in groups of 5-7. Scan through the messages to the seven churches and write down all the deeds that are done in a list. On your paper draw a line down the middle and make two columns; on the left column put a "+" sign for positive deeds and on the right put a "-" for negative deeds (5 min).
2. In groups of 5-7, divide up the messages to the seven churches, each taking 1-2 churches to save time. Each person in the group will find the good deeds/actions and the negative ones, if mentioned. Share your responses around the group as a whole (5 min).

Ask:

- What common themes were mentioned?
 - What themes seem to be important in these messages?
 - What is the relationship of the deeds/actions to their effectiveness as a church/era?
3. The idea is not to spur participants on with guilt but to look at their groups to be action oriented with God's word and deeds.



thinking
it through
10 minutes

next steps
15 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5min).
 2. Ask the participants to share in their group of 5-7 their responses and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).
1. Ask the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and review their IDP, especially in light of the planning they will need to do for public evangelism.
 2. Have them discuss their current personal walk with God as well as their progress in the area of small group ministry. The big question to ask is: "Am I developing a lifestyle or am I trying to do tasks?"
 3. Invite them to pray with each other for courage and wisdom to make bold choices about their role as an Ambassador for Christ.

reflecting Jesus & His
kingdom
35 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4-6. In these groups they will study, plan, and practice action-oriented ministry that is personal, practical, and provable. Invite them to work on question #1 in their groups, assign a passage to each member of the group to read and report, then have all the groups share a response to the following question: Which challenge for action from Scripture spoke profoundly to you? Why? (10-13 min)
2. After hearing some of the responses, have them return to their groups for question #2 where they are to survey the stories of people in action and answer the question. Again, invite the participants in each group to take a story and report back to their group. After they have briefed each other and responded to the individual questions, ask of the entire gathering: Which story spoke of action or portrayed a call to "doing" that spoke directly to you? Why? (15 min)
3. Next, urge the participants to review the three P's of application and practice it! [The application portion of a small group Bible study is crucial, as mentioned in previous sessions. Consider the three P's and apply them to one particular passage, story, or idea you have today about reaching the lost (10 min).
Personal—the action must relate and be connected to you. It is not enough to say, "God calls believers to feed those who are hungry." Say, "God is calling me to feed those who are hungry."
Practical—the action must be something that is possible for you to do in your sphere of influence. It doesn't work to say, "God wants me to feed all the starving people in the world." Say, "God is calling me to gather food for the mother down the road who does not have a job."
Provable—the action must produce a tangible result. It is not enough to announce, "I will help the woman and child down the street by delivering groceries to her house when I get a chance." Instead say, "On Sunday night, after getting my small group friends to help raise money, we will deliver food to the woman and child and pray with them."
Being specific, intentional, and accountable is a small group recipe for real growth and evangelistic effect.

4. As the participants finish this activity, they need to put it into practice THIS WEEK. Have them individually or in pairs make a commitment card on 3X5 cards provided (one for them and one for their accountability partner). This can be done in various ways; be flexible according to group size and dynamics, but ultimately the participants must practice doing, serving, sharing, giving, helping, apologizing, caring, saying words of encouragement, offering gifts of kindness, etc... Tell them: Next meeting we will have time to share our stories!

summary

5 minutes

1. Small group is made powerful when teams of young people do what God's word challenges them to do. If it is to pray without ceasing—do it. If it is giving your neighbor your best coat—give it. If it is plucking out your eye because it has caused you to sin—don't do it! It isn't meant to be taken literally, but what is meant to be taken literally is this: God calls groups, teams, pairs of people to work actively for His cause. This is part of developing the lifestyle of evangelism!
2. Remember what Ellen White said: "There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit" (*Ministry of Healing*, 143).



SESSION 7

action small groups

participant's guide

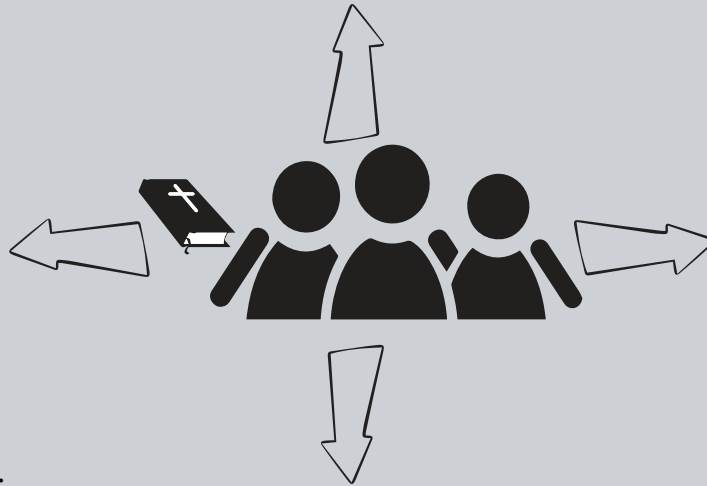


SESSION 7

action small groups



did you know...



Famous action idioms:

Talk is _____

If you are going to talk the _____ you have to walk the _____

People don't care about what you _____ until they know that you _____

(answers: know\walk; talk\know; know\care)

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

1 John 3:18



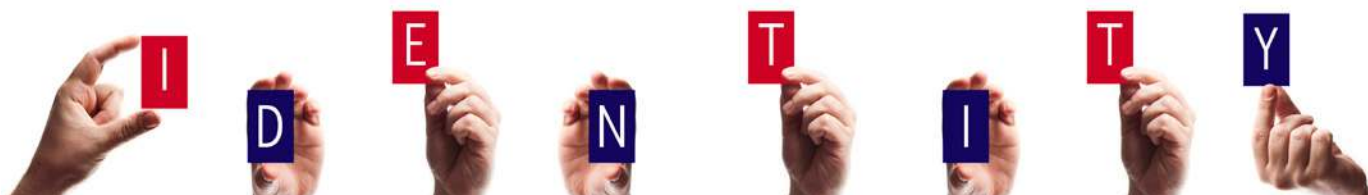
mission briefing

1. Scan through the messages to the seven churches (Revelation 2:1–3:22) and write down all the deeds that are done in a list.
2. On your paper draw a line down the middle and make two columns; on the left column put a “+” sign for positive deeds and on the right put a “—” for negative deeds.
 - What common themes were mentioned?

 - What themes seem to be important in these messages?

 - What is the relationship of the deeds/actions to their effectiveness as a church/era?

3. Take a moment to think about your reputation in your community through three spheres:
 - individual
 - local youth group/church
 - Seventh-day Adventists in general
4. What do people know, see, believe about you and your deeds?



thinking it through

1. Reflect for a moment on how your deeds speak as loud, if not louder, than your words. If this is true with lifestyle evangelism, than our actions speak as loud, if not louder, than beliefs.

2. Will your present course and lifestyle get you to where you want to be? What needs to change?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Small group evangelism is an effective way to share the gospel with the world as long as it is practical in its ultimate effort. This session includes examples and ideas from Scripture as well as practical tips to implement in your small group.

1. Read the following verses on being action oriented as believers. Which one is especially speaking to you today?
 - James 1:20-22; James 2:14-17
 - 2 Peter 1:5-8
 - 1 Timothy 6:18-19
 - Leviticus 25:35
 - Matthew 7:24-27
2. Read the following stories of action and respond to the questions given.
 - Mark 2:1-7 Whose faith healed the paralytic?

 - Luke 10:33-37 How does this story challenge people to go the extra mile?

 - Acts 4:32-35 How much of the reputation of the church was based on their beliefs? How much based on their deeds?

 - Acts 9:32-42 In the story of Dorcas, what affected the most change—the work of Dorcas? The miracle of Dorcas' healing?

3. The application portion of a small group Bible study is crucial, as mentioned in previous sessions. Consider the three P's and apply them to one particular passage, story, or idea you have today about reaching the lost.
Personal—the action must relate and be connected to you. It is not enough to say, “God calls believers to feed those who are hungry.” Say, “God is calling me to feed those who are hungry.”



Practical—the action must be something that is possible for you to do in your sphere of influence. It doesn't work to say, "God wants me to feed all the starving people in the world." Say, "God is calling me to gather food for the mother down the road who does not have a job."

Provable—the action must produce a tangible result. It is not enough to announce, "I will help the woman and child down the street by delivering groceries to her house when I get a chance." Instead say, "On Sunday night, after getting my small group friends to help raise money, we will deliver food to the woman and child and pray with them."

Being specific, intentional, and accountable is a small group recipe for real growth and evangelistic effect.

4. Make a list of three deeds you will do this week that are connected to the needs of someone you know in your sphere of influence. Apply the three P's to make sure you will follow through. Write them down on two 3X5 cards (one for your accountability partner and one as a reminder for you). Be ready to report at the next meeting! Take time in your groups to make plans, set reminders, and cooperate with each other to launch into action.

My/Our Plan This Week

•

•

•

Signature _____

Witness _____

SESSION 8

going public

leader's guide



8: going public

session overview

leader notes

1. The relationship between personal or lifestyle evangelism and public evangelism can often get misconstrued. In some cases when public meetings or crusades are planned, the energy, finances, and attention go into the event of evangelism and not the process. This module has sought to orient building a lifestyle that includes various efforts: personal ministry, developing your testimony, small group life, and public evangelism.
2. This particular session will focus on the different ways to plan and prepare for public events, keeping in mind that any event is part of the ongoing community of faith—the church.

materials

1. Lesson handouts for each student
2. Paper and pens/pencils
3. Calendar that shows months of the year

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will understand...	1. That conveying the Adventist message is a sacred, timely effort needing much prayer.	1. Prayer for meetings, people, and for the Holy Spirit
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Choose and organize the next year for intentional lifestyle evangelism that includes public reaping meetings.	1. Suggested calendar of events
Heart Participants will feel...	1. A real fervor for sharing truths in God's Word to those who are seeking.	1. Volunteers for planning and implementation

extra resources

1. “Share Him” is one of the widely used resources for lay evangelism. This site is loaded with resources and different opportunities as well as schedules of meetings young people are conducting all over the world. <http://sharehim.org/php/index.php>
2. Another resource tool that might be helpful is: <http://www.adventistevangelism.com/>
3. Adventist evangelism with a medical leaning: <http://amensda.org/>

8: going public teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Reviewing the process of evangelism briefly is important. “Christ mingled with men as one who desired their good. He sympathized with them, met their needs, and when he won their confidence, He bade them, “Follow Me.”
3. The next two sessions are about learning how to do the last part: inviting people to follow Christ.

did you know?

11 minutes

1. The graphic shows personal ministry, small groups ministry, and public evangelism. All are important, but no one effort on its own has any more power than the next. These are modes at which Christ is revealed to the world. In groups of 3–4, discuss which mode you personally resonate with. Why?
2. The “did you know” questions are crucial to ask prior to planning a year of evangelism. Ask: What happens if you focus solely on personal contact/friendships? What happens when you focus on small group life only? What would happen if the only thing you did was to schedule public meetings? (Invite the groups to answer.)
3. Considering Paul’s comment from 1 Corinthians 3, what should be your attitude as you prepare? How should Ambassadors negotiate the tension between trying to do it all and expecting God to do everything there is to do? What are some activities that you would describe as “sowing” and “watering”?

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into group of 3–4 and have them fill out the “mission briefing” handout. Urge them to think carefully about what the relationship was between the Jewish believers and those who lived in Jerusalem. Even more severe is the relationship between the new believers and the people of Judea and Samaria. Long had the hatred between Jews and Samaritans lingered. And even more dramatic might be the relationship between these new believers and the rest of the world.
2. Say: The task of those believers is our task today. One thing they did was to tell “their story.” When you look at the people in your community, in what way are they like fellow Jews in Jerusalem, gentiles from Judea and Samaria, and how are they like people who seem to be a whole world away?
Comment: For those of you who want to know how the disciples accomplished this task, simply read the book of Acts. The first eight chapters are all about the gospel going to Jerusalem. Chapters 9–13 are about the ministry that moved into the region of Judea and Samaria due to persecution. And chapter 14 to the end describes the storied journeys of missionaries to the ends of the earth (with a few returns back to meet with the church and to be tried).

thinking
it through
10 minutes

1. Give participants a few minutes to pray silently about their place in the evangelistic ministry of the church. Some may feel constrained to preach, plan, pray or simply support with hard work. Some may be wondering about their testimony, doubting whether it is worth hearing. Take time to affirm them that God is going to ask the Ambassadors to plant seeds and water, but God will grow the people (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to share in their group of 3-4 their responses and comment on what they learned from each other (5 min).

next steps
15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and review their work thus far on their IDP. Encourage them to discuss future plans and hopes for evangelism in their church.
2. Ask the pairs to pray for each other to answer the call and hold each other up before the Lord.

reflecting Jesus & His
kingdom
35 minutes

1. This portion of the meeting is designed to expose groups to the process of planning evangelistic meetings in the context of a church that is living the lifestyle of gospel ministry. Have the participants meet in groups of 4-5 and read and respond to the material: 3 Steps to Planning for Public Evangelism and Ten Commandments to Remember. The lists given are relatively detailed but it is much better for the participants to see an outline, evaluate it, add to it and subtract to it in order to make it their own.
2. The steps include a suggested outline for a calendar so groups can sense the time and commitment involved in doing public evangelism well. Give them fifteen minutes to read and react to the schedule and the different formats for meetings. Ask the following questions so everyone can hear and share responses:
 - What is your reaction to the timetable or schedule presented? Is it over planned? Not detailed enough?
 - What other activities or suggestions should be included?
 - What should be included as far as financial or budget planning?
 - How did you feel about the various types of meetings? Seminar approach or crusade approach? What are the ups and downs of both?
 - What other approaches are not mentioned that you think should be considered?
 - Scheduling the meetings can be challenging. What do you think about some of the suggested meeting time schedules? What do you think would work best in your community?
3. The Ten Commandments of Evangelism are really a survey and reminder of what this module is about. There are some specific tips that need to be considered. Encourage the participants to read each commandment (suggestion) in their groups and look up the corresponding Bible verse. After they have made their way through, invite individuals to share which suggestion is most important for them. Why?



summary

5 minutes

1. Close this session with a time for anyone who wants to plan and develop meetings further to stay by after and make specific plans to prepare (this is the start of a leadership team).
2. Pray for them, affirming their calling and the plans God has laid on their hearts.

SESSION 8

going public

participant's guide



SESSION 8

going public



did you know...

What happens if you focus only on...

Personal Contact

or

Small Group Ministry

or

Public Efforts

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

1 Corinthians 3: 6,7



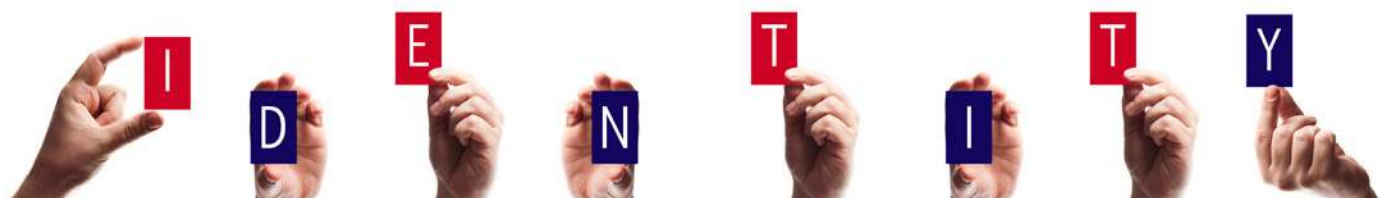


mission briefing

1. Read Acts 1:1–8 and review what it means to be a witness. Jesus charged the disciples to be witnesses in:
- Jerusalem

◦ Judea and Samaria

◦ To the ends of the earth
2. Knowing what you know about lifestyle evangelism, how would your “witness” look different in these three spheres of humanity? What would remain the same?
-
-



thinking it through

1. Take a moment to reflect and pray about what you think God is calling you to do as part of the evangelistic ministry of His church. Pray for insight and humility to do whatever He calls you to do. What if He asks you to do something so simple and easy almost anyone could do it? What will you say? What if He calls on you to do something that you truly believe is too much or too big for you to handle? What will you say?
-
-

2. If someone in your group were to say, “It’s too little” or “it’s too big,” what would you tell them? How would you encourage or counsel them?
-
-



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

The objective of holding public evangelistic meetings is to create an event where people will make decisions for Christ, be exposed to the community of faith, and allow the planting and watering process to take place. Again, public meetings are a part of a process, not the focal point or fruit, but an essential piece to the journey.

This session will focus on planning tools and tips to remember.

Step 1: Plan Ahead

It is always good to plan at least nine months to a year ahead for public evangelistic meetings. Below is a suggested timeline. Read it and discuss it in your group.

9 Months Prior to Meetings

- Assign major leadership team roles: speakers(communicators), event planners—(organized), music—(musical), site leaders (service/physical workers), contact—interests (people oriented/organized), technical/pa/audio visual (technical—excellence), advertising and promotion (artistic communicators), hospitality team (hospitable, sensitive, extra-mile people) and set calendar to have two meetings to organize rally and communicate how the work and plans are coming along.

6 Months Prior to Meetings

- Plan rally weekend to happen about three months prior to evangelistic crusade/meetings. In this rally there should be call to be a part of and bring a friend to a small group, a call to lifestyle evangelism, and a call to write and share testimonies. Prepare leaders with needed resources and training.

3 Months Prior to Meetings

- Rally Weekend. Be ready to launch various types of small groups. There should be sign-ups for small group participation, prayer ministries, outreach projects, all around a brief series of 3–5 sermons/testimonies about lifestyle evangelism.

1 Month Prior to Meetings

- All advertising should be ready. The site, technical plan for audio visual, music teams, special features should be organized and ready. During this month the speakers should refine and practice sermons. Significant effort needs to go into getting members to make personal visits as well as door-to-door invitations. Finally, prayer partners and teams begin a daily prayer vigil (three times a day or however they decide).

1 Week Prior to Meetings

- Practice opening night meetings as a rehearsal so that all the details can be sorted out beforehand. Note: The devil is in the details, but so is God! Be prepared.

Step 2: Decide the Type of Meeting Format

Seminar Approach

- Daniel/Prophecy Seminars
- Christian Beliefs Studies (28 fundamental beliefs or broader doctrinal groupings such as: What does the Bible say about: God, His Revelation, Humanity, Sin, Salvation, Death, etc...)
- Big Questions Get Answered (Organize each meeting to answer a question: What does God say about the Sabbath? How can I know I am going to heaven? What will happen at the end? What is God's plan for my life? How can I start over? Vampires, ghosts and wizards—are they real?)

Preaching or Proclamation Approach

- Preaching Crusade (more of a music/preaching event)
- A traditional format is to hold meetings 3–5 days a week for 3–4 weeks.
- Another way to organize an evangelistic event is to hold meetings every night for a week, then conduct the rest of the meetings over a longer period of time either in a small group or a mid-week prayer meeting or Sabbath school class.
- Even a long weekend series (5–7 sermons Friday through Sunday) with a follow up Sabbath school class that teaches the core Adventist message is working well.

* Vary the meeting format and approach any way that you think will work well for you and your team.

Step 3: Do It—Commit Your Lifestyle to the Process and Follow Through

The Ten Commandments/ Suggestions for Evangelism

As you plan, keep the following reminders before you. Read each one in your group and look up the corresponding passage from Scripture. Add any other Bible verses you know of that relate.

1. Foster at every meeting, service project, event, and training session that evangelistic meetings are only a small part of a larger process where every member is praying, serving, and sharing their story throughout the year (Matthew 5:13-16).
2. Leaders are modeling Christ's method for other believers to see and learn. You must earnestly, prayerfully, repent, submit, set aside sins that entangle you, study, search, fast, give, surrender, forgive. The more the Holy Spirit has hold of you, the more great things will happen in His name (John 14:12).
3. Small groups meet to study, grow, pray, and serve before public meetings and after the events are over (Hebrews 10:22-25).
4. Seekers are prayed for and expected to come into contact with believers. God will bring more people to you than you may expect (Luke 19:1-11).
5. Plan to be faithful, kind to each other, true to the cause of Christ no matter what adversity comes—it will come (John 13:35).
6. Execute the details as they are as important as the big picture issues (Matthew 25: 14-30; Colossians 3:23).
7. Communicate often, clearly, and honestly with your people and the community. You cannot over-communicate (Philippians 1:9-11).
8. Seek out and rely on the support and wisdom of your elder members. We are meant to do church work as a family with old and young working together. Compromise where you can. Challenge the status quo as the Spirit leads. Always show respect, appreciation, and love to the brothers and sisters (Galatians 6:10).
9. Practice, practice, practice the sermons, music and testimonies. You honor God by doing what you do in excellence. You are called to be faithful, don't worry about being successful; God takes care of that (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15).
10. Model for and mentor younger youth with you as you do all of these things. Your influence will maximize. Know that around the world 90 percent of all who convert to Christianity (SDA Church included in this statistic) do so before the age of 16; another five percent convert by age 25, and a very small number do so the older they get. Why? 1) People in some parts of the world don't live past the age of forty. 2) Our minds are more open while young. 3) The older we get the more we rely on ourselves rather than God (1 Timothy 4:12).



SESSION 9

leader's guide

preaching, teaching, and beseeching



9: preaching, teaching, and beseeching

session overview

leader notes

1. It is always helpful to review the past sessions. These lessons contain practical suggestions for planning and practice, but ultimately the participants and their leaders must find extra time to work towards planning public evangelism. Sharing testimonies, starting a small group, and doing ministry for others does not require an inordinate amount of planning. However, public evangelistic meetings do. It is suggested that you start with a small group of leaders who are organized and willing to give their time and energy to make this happen.
2. For this session, there will be some Bible study that serves to remind participants of the work of public evangelism as well as how it fits into the whole process of lifestyle evangelism.

materials

1. Lesson handout for each student
2. Pieces of paper and large tip markers
3. Tape to attach papers to wall or board

together growing fruitful disciples framework

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. TGFD Process: Equipping

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. The more you think about evangelism, Bible truths, and God's work—the more you will live it.	1. Evangelistic reminders
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice appealing, asking questions, and declaring truths from God's word.	1. Simulation and discussion in groups
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. A deep enduring burden to share God's message to those who seek it.	1. Affirmation and volunteering for action

extra resources

These may provide resources, ideas, and help young adults brainstorm what they want to do.

1. Momentum Resources are creative and helpful: <https://npucmomentum.wordpress.com/>
2. Share Him has many resources: <http://sharehim.org/php/supplies.php>
3. Other public Adventist Evangelistic Resources: <http://www.adventistevangelism.com/>

9: preaching, teaching, and beseeching

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Affirm and encourage the group and continue to review the last few sessions:
 - Christ's method of reaching (see if they have it memorized by now)
 - Telling your story/personal testimony
 - Key parts of a gospel presentation
 - Small group life: purpose?
 - Planning for public evangelism

did you know?

8 minutes

1. This is designed to get participants to think about what needs to happen before and especially after evangelistic meetings. Divide them into groups of 3-4 and encourage them to be creative, practical, and thoughtful about the types of activities they think should bookend a series of evangelistic meetings.
2. After they have shared in their groups, invite all the groups to respond and put the ideas on a marker board or poster board labeled "before" and "after."
3. Give the groups 3-4 minutes to walk up and put their names beside the activities they would be willing to help with and even organize.

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to get into groups of 4-5 and respond to the questions in the "mission briefing" handout.

"Think of the best sermon you have ever heard. How did some of the greatest preachers develop their sermons?" This question is meant to inspire them to the topics and ideas that arrest the heart. Have them share publicly some of their favorites.
2. Below are a few sermons preached in a public setting. Have each member of your group read one sermon and share their reaction to the content and to the way in which it was delivered.
 - Acts 17:16-34 • Acts 2:14-41 • Luke 3:1-18
 - Acts 26:1-32 • Acts 3:11-26

In your groups, make a list of twelve topics and titles of sermons that must be preached. Come to consensus as a group and be ready to share your list with the rest of the participants.

thinking

it through

10 minutes

1. Give participants about five minutes to read, reflect, and respond to the two questions given (5 min).
2. Ask the participants to share their response to the second question. Which sermon would you preach? (5 min).

next steps

15 minutes

1. Give the participants time to meet with their Spiritual Companions and debrief and share from their personal lives.
2. Invite them to pray for each other and offer suggestions and affirmation for their journey so far.
3. Also, give them a challenge to talk about where they see themselves fitting into a public evangelism event.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

35 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4–5. Have them answer the first section in their participant's guide. The final part of this first activity will be writing reminders and taping them to a wall or board (15–20 min).

Below is a list of passages from Scripture that urge, instruct, and command believers to do the work of evangelism in a public way. In your groups of 4–5, divide the verses among the participants so that all the passages are read.

Matthew 28:19–20

Romans 10:10–17

1 Corinthians 9:22

Isaiah 6:8

Romans 1:16

Acts 1:8

Matthew 9:37–38

1 Peter 3:15

1 Corinthians 1:17

Revelation 14:6,7

- a. Ask them to state in their own words what the Bible is urging, instructing, or commanding.
- b. Summarize the verse/s in a cogent reminder in five words or less. Write the five-word reminder as large as possible on a sheet of paper. Each participant should have at least two to present.

Have them share briefly in the groups and be ready to tape them to a wall or board for display.

Say: Everyone who had Matthew 28:19–20 post your reminder at this time. (As people post, affirm the participants for their insights. Go through all the verses quickly in this way.)

Summarize this portion by saying something like: “As we plan and work together to live a lifestyle of evangelism, we will publicly declare God’s message part of that process. These reminders will keep us focused and diligent. Thank you all for your devotion.”

3. The next section is a list of suggestions about evangelistic sermon preparation that may be helpful. It may also inspire other ideas not mentioned. Invite the groups to go through the seven major suggestions from evangelists and then add any of their own to the list under question # 3.
4. Invite them to simply share a response to this question: If you had to preach one evangelistic sermon, which topic would you preach? Why? Affirm their responses and challenge them to begin working on that very sermon on their own, in small groups, with their Spiritual Companion, or another member of the church.

summary

5 minutes

1. As we have spent time looking at the public evangelistic event, remember that the greatest work we will do is not a meeting, but a relationship, a Bible study, a personal challenge to follow Christ as part of our lifestyle. Develop the habit of thinking about all that God has done for you. Practice your story in your head and in public. As you serve and share and live your life, you will be like salt, light, cups of cool water, and seeds that get planted with a promise of a harvest.
2. As Paul said to Timothy, “Do the work of an evangelist!”

SESSION 9

participant's guide

preaching, teaching, and beseeching



SESSION 9

preaching, teaching, and beseeching



did you know...

before

after

“As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work
of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

2 Timothy 4:5 ESV





mission briefing

1. Invite the participants to get into groups of 4-5 and respond to the questions in the “mission briefing” handout.

“Think of the best sermon you have ever heard. How did some of the greatest preachers develop their sermons?” This question is meant to inspire them to the topics and ideas that arrest the heart. Have them share publicly some of their favorites.
2. Below are a few sermons preached in a public setting. Have each member of your group read one sermon and share their reaction to the content and to the way in which it was delivered.

- Acts 17:16-34

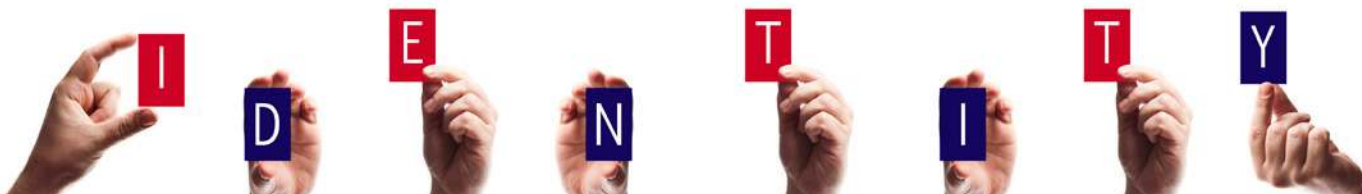
- Acts 26:1-32

- Acts 2:14-41

- Acts 3:11-26

- Luke 3:1-18

In your groups, make a list of twelve topics and titles of sermons that must be preached. Come to consensus as a group and be ready to share your list with the rest of the participants.



thinking it through

1. Reflect for a moment on the struggle of choosing which topics to address and what to leave out. What are things in Scripture that mean the most to you right now? Consequently, there are people out there just like you seeking with the belief that some topics are more relevant than others. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and the other participants as you shape the topics of your meetings.

2. Share with your group an answer to: If I had to preach just one sermon, which would it be? Why?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Below is a list of passages from Scripture that urge, instruct, and command believers to do the work of evangelism in a public way. In your groups of 4–5, divide the verses among the participants so that all the passages are read.

Matthew 28:19–20

Romans 10:10–17

1 Corinthians 9:22

Isaiah 6:8

Romans 1:16

Acts 1:8

Matthew 9:37–38

1 Peter 3:15

1 Corinthians 1:17

Revelation 14:6,7

- State in your own words what the Bible is urging, instructing, or commanding.
- Summarize the verse/s in a cogent reminder in five words or less. Write the five-word reminder as large as possible on a sheet of paper. Each participant should have at least two to present.



2. Developing An Evangelistic Sermon

Below are suggestions from seasoned evangelists. Read them in your groups and evaluate and affirm key ideas you think are important for your planning.

A. Begin and End with Jesus

All the texts of the Bible might inform a person, but Jesus said, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life” (John 5:39, 40). In the end, people will decide eternity not based upon a day of worship or the truth about what happens when you die. They will decide to be forgiven, surrendered, and obedient to a Person—Jesus. Let every doctrine and every teaching be bathed in the Person of Christ.

B. Be Organized, Sincere, and Clear

Evangelistic sermons are not meant to be complicated. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the One who convicts the heart and does the teaching. The preacher is an instrument. Formulate clear, logical thought progressions that make sense to you. And again, what makes your heart beat out of your chest? How does this message fill you with joy? Power? Hope? Love? Clarity? Peace? People want to come and listen to someone burn with conviction and tell the truth.

C. Asking and Answering Questions

What are the burning questions people ask? How do those questions resonate with the message of Scripture? Some evangelists will formulate their entire sermon based on a question and answer format. “Today we are going to look at what the Bible says about the end of the world. Where does this idea that the world is going to end come from? In Genesis the story of Noah declares... Why is the world going to come to some cataclysmic end? When will the end of the world be?” The idea is to formulate meaningful questions that people are asking and connect them to Scripture that not only answers the question but meets the need of their heart.

D. Telling Stories

People think in stories, not lists. So choose your stories or illustrations well. Modern stories, personal stories, and historical stories connect the ancient world of the Bible to our world today. They are crucial to making a sermon real. Never tell stories or illustrations that make fun of people at their own expense.

E. Saying Hard Things—Let the Bible Say It

When it comes to declaring hard truths that might shatter the foundations of what people have been taught over time, simply let the Bible speak it. Allow God to say, through His word, what He does so well and then declare how you have responded to this challenge personally. For example, “When I read that God says the Sabbath is a sign between Him and us in Ezekiel 20:12, it spoke to my heart. I was looking for a connection between God and me and it was as if God said, “We are related—here is the sign—the document—the birth certificate! I chose to keep Sabbath and it is like a flag I fly that announces my relationship to Him.”

F. Making Appeals and Extending Invitations

The key to making invitations is to give people a chance to respond to things they should respond to. For example, “in Romans 15:4 it says that the Scriptures were written that you might have hope. Is that something you want in your life today? Perhaps you are like me, and you look around and one thing after another seems to ruins your plans. Do you ever feel hopeless? God is saying to you today, “Listen to what I have to say. I’m offering you hope. Do you want that tonight?”

G. Preach your sermon before a friend or a small group and get suggestions

You want to be clear, and what is often clear in your mind does not come out as refined and powerful. Sometimes this is surprising to new preachers, but it is helpful. While the Holy Spirit will guide, win, and teach on behalf of you, it is your responsibility to do your best.

3. What would you add to your list or to any of the suggestions given?
4. If you had to preach one evangelistic sermon, which topic would you preach? Why?



icebreakers

The following icebreakers can be found at: <http://christianteens.about.com/od/youthworkercenter/a/icebreakers.htm>

Hey, You're Like Me!

This game demonstrates how people are alike and different. Have all the students stand along one wall. The leader stands in the middle of the room. The leader then asks the students which of them has a certain trait, like, dislike, etc. The students that fit the characteristic cross the room to the other side. If there is time, the students can then describe what it is like to be a part of that group. For instance, one of the traits could be “plays on a sports team,” and a couple students can discuss what it is like to be a part of that team.

Scavenger Hunt

This is an oldie, but definitely a goodie, because it can be twisted and turned into just about any fun scavenger hunt. Maybe you are doing a youth activity in the city, so your students can go on a scavenger hunt to find certain landmarks that fit cryptic clues. You can also go on a spiritual scavenger hunt or a personal scavenger hunt where people are trying to find other people that fit certain personality or spiritual traits.

Toilet Paper Get-to-Know You

Have each person tear off squares of toilet paper. They can take as many pieces as they want. After everyone has some of the toilet paper, each person has to tell one thing about themselves for each piece of toilet paper they have in front of them. This game can also be done with pretzels, M&M's, and more.

Truth, Truth, Lie

Each person has to tell at least one lie and two truths about him or herself. Then the group has to guess which statement was a lie.

Would You Rather?

Give your group cards that contain questions like “Would you rather eat flies or eat caterpillars?” All of the questions should be tough choices.

I Never!

Give each student ten M&M's or pennies as “tokens.” Each student tells the others something that he or she has never done. Whoever else has done it has to put one of their “tokens” in a bowl in the center. The last person holding tokens wins the game.

community service project planning

module 3: OUTREACH

introduction

The goal is to identify a needy cause and devise a medium/long-term plan to meet that need in the community. The emphasis is on the project being local and the participation being sustained over a period of time.

1. Introduce the idea of an Ambassadors' community service project. Describe it as an integral part of the Ambassadors' experience that begins now.
2. It would be advisable to do some prior research before approaching your group with the following tasks or you can choose to begin the process with the participants.
 - a. Identify a needy cause in the community that would benefit from the Ambassador's help. You might come prepared with a list of services offered in your community that need volunteer help or start brainstorming with the group. At some stage, this will require some research and consultation with volunteer services and the city/village council. Examples might include:
 - Health services
 - Mentoring
 - Community clean-up
 - Vulnerable citizen help (e.g. children of prison inmates)
 - Vulnerable families support
 - Food services
 - Seminars and classes
 - Community events
 - Fundraising
 - b. Explore as many options as possible and do a realistic evaluation of each one on the basis of your resources, time, and personnel.
3. Choosing the Project
 - a. Vote/decide on a short list of three or four for closer evaluation.
 - b. It would be advisable to do a site visit of the short list.
 - c. Have a feed-back session after the visit.
 - d. Prayerfully, choose the final project.
4. Get ready to participate in the community service project.
 - a. Present the idea that serving others with a loving heart and without any conditions requires some self-assessment and re-consecration to God.

- a. Take some minutes to lead the participants in the following: In the participant guide, write down your reaction to the idea that you will give away your time and effort for free. Write down what you really feel about it, not what you think you should feel. If you find any objections in your mind to giving time and effort to others, write those down too. Apply the Golden Rule to the plans the group has made. Write down your reaction to giving to others what you'd like to receive if you were in their "shoes" (their situation). Write a commitment statement that expresses what you pledge to do for God through serving the chosen group in the community.
5. Plan a field trip to the final project site.
 - a. Sign up participants so that all have a commitment to a time and place for the visit.
 - b. Make the visit a combination of learning the details of the organization's work and some time that the participants spend doing a sample of the work.
 - c. At the visit itself, ask participants to think about their experience and prepare to debrief at the next session when you will ask them to share their reactions to the community service visit.
6. Assuming that the response is positive and the group seems ready to proceed, ask participants to assist you in planning the following:
 - a. Decide on overall goal
 - b. Define tasks involved
 - c. Determine time commitment and schedule
 - d. Assign volunteer positions and duties (a mix of leaders and participants)
 - e. Seek permissions if needed
 - f. Work on budget if applicable
 - g. Obtain insurance if applicable
 - h. Plan for equipment and supplies if applicable
 - i. Plan for regular evaluation of goals
7. Arrange the bi-weekly or monthly project schedule and duration.
 - a. Get a clear list from the organization's representative that states expectations and requirements.
 - b. In situations that require background clearance, arrange for background checks.
 - c. Take time to coordinate participants and sign them up for particular times and dates of service.
 - d. Create and show a record in which you will log the main activities of the group.
 - e. Record the plans and share aspects of it and progress at each session.

**mid-way through the
module**

1. It's time for a formal review of the initial community service efforts.
2. You can prepare a formal review form or simply record in the log the responses given by participants.
3. Take a careful look at how the activity is developing. Is the group truly meeting the needs identified at the beginning of the module? Does the activity seem to fit the group? What is God telling you about what has happened so far?
4. Take the participants through some minutes of free-flowing discussion of their experience.
5. Steer them toward the goals of serving the community without condition and for no reason but to give.

**at the end of the
module**

1. Celebrate what has been accomplished thus far.
2. Decide if the group will continue with the same project or choose a new one for the next module.
3. The designers of the Ambassador program would encourage continuity as much as possible.



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU
AMBASSADORS