

Lesson 2

Sharing My Faith: The Simple Method of Sharing Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

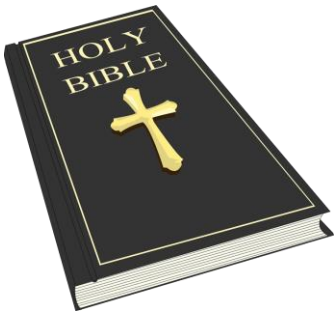


Lesson written by

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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: The following lesson is designed to help students understand that sharing one’s faith is not hard, but it does require intentionality. God offers opportunity for each of us to share our story of how Jesus has made a difference in our lives. If we are attuned to the opportunity, we will infuse conversations with an invitation to worship, a message of Jesus’ difference in our lives, a question about someone else’s relationship with Jesus, or other simple “seeds” of faith.



Readings for this lesson:

John 9: 1-41

I. The Condition and the Cure—John 9: 1-9

Readers will notice in chapter 9 of John that Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth by putting mud over his eyes and then telling him to go wash in a pool named Siloam. The situation is very straightforward and the man uses 0 verses to explain his previous condition and uses 0 verses to explain his healing.

In fact, a close read of chapter 9: 35-38 indicates the man was not clear about who Jesus was in relationship to being the Son of God (some versions say Son of Man). However, the man was capable of telling his own story.

Let’s analyze what the man said beginning in verse 8, a conversation arises.

1. What do his neighbors notice? _____

2. When a simple conversation arises, what does the man say?

3. When they ask him how it happened what does he tell them?

Now, let's break these processes down so that we can use them as a method for sharing our story!

STEP 1. Understand that you must be willing to be real with people. When sharing your story about Jesus, begin with what you personally have experienced. People want real connections with real people about real events that have occurred in their lives. The failure and fear many have about sharing their faith is they assume they do not know what to say. We all have had a condition and a cure, similar to this man's story. See John 9: 8-9

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

⁹ Some claimed that he was.


Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

We must be willing to acknowledge and share our reality with others. When we share our truth, we give others permission to confront the struggles in their lives. This in turn gives them the opportunity to connect with the idea that we serve a savior who did it for us and can do it for them.

STEP 2. Let's talk about our condition and how Jesus makes a difference. Readers will notice in John 9: 11 how the man explained his healing. He does not use theological words. Nor does he utilize scripture, preaching, or fancy gimmicks. He tells exactly what he understood and nothing else.

¹¹ **He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So, I went and washed, and then I could see."**



NOBODY WANTS A
THEORETICAL
CONVERSATION ABOUT
WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD
OR WHAT THE PASTOR
PREACHED!

This simple explanation is all you and I need to give someone else hope for what Jesus can do in their lives. You too can share the story of how Jesus has made a difference.

Take a few moments and use one of the following phrases so that you can become familiar with a simple straightforward way of saying what happened in your life.

1. I used to have no control over _____ but Jesus did _____ and now _____.
2. I remember when I struggled with _____ and Jesus did _____
3. I was just remembering how _____ was a problem for me too, but I prayed and Jesus did _____.
4. I'm not perfect, but I used to _____ but Jesus has helped me to do _____.

II. The Conversation—John 9:8-10 and 13-17, 30-33

In the three passages, the question regarding what happened arises. In verses 8-10 the man explains the exact occurrence. In verse 13-17, the man goes further in

REMEMBER: IF YOU DO NOT HELP TO MEET THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF A PERSON, YOU HAVE NOT DONE ALL THAT YOU ARE CALLED TO DO!

explaining his understanding of Jesus. He does not have a clear understanding of Jesus, but he attempts to explain what he does know. By verses 30-33, he makes it as plain as he can by telling the Pharisees that Jesus must be from God because only God could and would have done this.

Notice, the man speaks when he is given an opportunity to explain what happened. First he speaks to his neighbors. The people knew him and recognized the change which occurred in his life.

Rarely will people simply walk up to you and ask you to explain what Jesus has done for you. However, people will ask or say the following:

1. What did you do this weekend?
2. What are you doing this weekend?
3. Where do you go to church?
4. Do you know how to handle X?
5. Can you pray for X?
6. I'm so frustrated because _____.
7. X situation is driving me crazy.

You may have heard people saying one of these in the last 24 hours! If you are thinking, you will recognize these as an opportunity to begin a conversation about who you are as a Christian in an easy and non-threatening manner. This is how you and I can get into the “conversation” and begin planting seeds for people to connect with Jesus for the first time or to reconnect with Jesus and begin growing again.

Directions: Take each of the phrases above and write down how you can turn these into an opening for a conversation about Jesus.

Example: If someone says, “*I am about to go off on X person.*” You can say to them: “*Hey Bill, let’s take a minute and talk through this situation. I get really mad at times too and I used to go off big time, but I found that when I am in those highly emotional moments if I pause, say a prayer (notice the turn of the conversation) and as Jesus to help me, I calm down. Do you mind if I say a 1 or 2 sentence prayer for you right now?*” AFTER the prayer. “*How can I help you in this situation so that it will turn out for the positive?*” (James 2: 14-17 reminds us that faith, which was the prayer, without works, which is you offering help, is a dead faith.)

Later, you can check on Bill and begin to share your story. This is where you would discuss how Jesus has helped you. Use one of the sentence starters from part 2 to make things easier.

III. The Commitment—John 9: 35-38

The blind man had a few misconceptions which Jesus clarified. The commitment implied in this portion of the text is that he learned more about Jesus to the point

where he could understand that Jesus was the son of God. You and I may already have clarity around who Jesus is, but this does not mean we cannot learn more. Each of us must make a commitment to grow our understanding so that we can worship Jesus in greater ways. Worship includes sharing our beliefs and understandings with others.

The man began with an understanding that Jesus was a prophet (v. 17). The man's understanding ends with him acknowledging Jesus as Son of God. This progressive growth should be the behavior of each person who has an encounter with Jesus. We must continually grow in our knowledge of who Jesus is and what our connection with Him means for us. Remember, this is the discipleship part (learner and follower)!!!!

1. What are you doing to grow your understanding of Jesus?
2. How can you make an even stronger commitment to your own growth in Jesus?



What is your next step?
