

BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

Lesson 5: The Need for Contagious Christians

A Bible Study of The Mount Zion Church



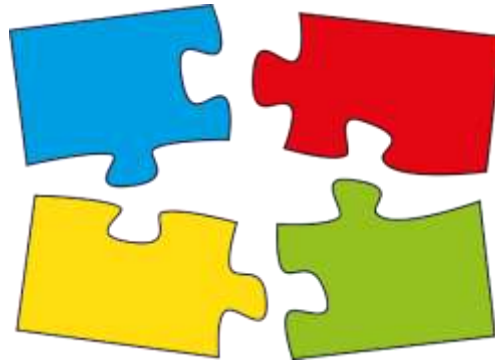
Contagious (adjective)

(of an emotion, feeling, or attitude) likely to spread to and affect others.

Example: "Her enthusiasm is contagious"

Taken from the book
Becoming A Contagious Church:
Increasing Your Church's Evangelistic Temperature
By Mark Mittelberg

Introduction: The purpose of the following lesson is to give students a systematic method for telling people about Christ. Some are comfortable simply telling their story off the top of their head. Others need a process or a pattern to follow to ensure they have covered the pertinent information someone needs to be saved. Each approach is effective and part of the Christian “toolbelt” that can be utilized depending on the audience. By the end of this lesson, students should be able to articulate four (4) key truths to salvation.



Each part of this puzzle is necessary to complete the picture.

- 1. What happens if one piece is thrown away or left out?**
- 2. Which piece is most important?**

Before beginning this lesson complete the following activity in 2 minutes or less.

What do I need to know to be saved and what are the basic steps to salvation? Write them in the box below.

COMMUNICATING GOD’S MESSAGE

The Four Key Characters

Character 1: God. “God loves us.”

- ❖ God is **loving**.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him (1 John 4:16b).

- ❖ God is **holy**.

And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, Almighty; the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

- ❖ God is **just**.

The Lord is known by his justice (Psalm 9:16a).

Character 2: Us. “We blew it.”

Humans were originally created good, but we became **sinful**.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

We deserve **death**.

For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a).

We are spiritually **helpless**.

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6a).

Character 3: Christ. “Christ paid for it.”

Christ is **God**, who also became man.

Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God [was] made in human likeness (Philippians 2:5b – 7b).

Christ died as our **substitute**.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18a).

Christ offers his forgiveness as a **gift**.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Character 4: You. “We must receive him.”

We must **respond**.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

We receive him asking Christ to be our **forgiver and leader**.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord (1 Peter 3:15a)

The result of receiving him is our spiritual **transformation** by the Holy Spirit.

What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! (2 Corinthians NLT).

The Bridge Illustration *

KEY CHARACTERS	NARRATIVE	PICTURE
<p>GOD</p> <p>US</p> <p>CHRIST</p> <p>YOU</p>	<p>God loves us, and he wants to have a relationship with us. [Write "God" on one side and "us" on the other side.]</p> <p>However, we blew it by rebelling against him, and this broke off that relationship. [Draw lines by both words to form walls on each side of a large chasm.]</p> <p>Most of us are aware of this and do things to try to get back to God, but our efforts fail. [Draw arrows going over the "Us" cliff; these represent our failing attempts to get back to God.]</p> <p>Our sins have to be punished, and the penalty is spiritual death – which means separation from God for eternity in a place called hell. That's the predicament we're all in – and there's nothing we can do in our own strength to change it. [Write the word "Death" at the bottom of the chasm.]</p> <p>But there's good news: God did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves, by building a bridge back to himself. [Draw a cross so it touches both sides of the chasm.]</p> <p>How? <i>Christ paid for it</i> by dying for us on the cross as our substitute. He paid the spiritual death penalty that we owed, and he rose from the dead to give us his life. [Cross out the word "Death" at the bottom of the chasm.]</p> <p>It's not enough to just know this. We must receive him by admitting that we have sinned against him and by asking for his forgiveness and leadership [Draw a person on the left side of the chasm; then an arrow to the right side of the chasm; then a person on the right side of the chasm.]</p>	

Before ending this lesson complete the following activity in 2 minutes or less.

What do I need to know to be saved and what are the basic steps to salvation? Write them in the box below.

After participating in this lesson, you are now equipped to go and tell others about Christ (you always had it in you!!!) Now it is time for you to go and do!