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## TEACHING NOTES

### KEY VERSES

Romans 10:12-17, Matthew 28:16-20,  
1 Corinthians 3:7-8, Ephesians 4:11-16

### KEY THEMES

God uses people of faith  
Different people, different roles, one  
goal

**WCC's Vision:** People, equipped and led by the Holy Spirit, reaching their world for Jesus Christ

### Sharing our reasonable faith



**Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:12-17)**



**The Great Command (Matthew 28:16-20)**

**Our role, God's role (Ephesians 4:11-16 & 1 Corinthians 3:6-8)****Our story, God's story**

John 3:16

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8-9

Romans 3:22

**Worldview (Romans 1:16 & Colossians 4:2-6)****Lesson Objective:**

*To be equipped to live out the Great Command – reaching our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Open your time with an expectation for what God is going to show you in your personal time with Him. God delights when we seek to know Him more personally. Pray with anticipation that He does what He says He is going to do.

*If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. (Jeremiah 29:13)*

**God uses people of faith****Read 1 Peter 3:15b**

The first disciples of Jesus were under heavy persecution, yet they still had hope. The hope they had was evident to those around them. Peter emphasized the urgency in being able to share their faith. Nearly 2000 years later, as Christ followers, we have the same hope and the same urgency. We should be ready to share for the hope that is in us. It shouldn't be a burden. It's actually a privilege to share the hope that we have.

One objective for the Evangelism course is to help participants be ready to share their faith in order to reach their world for Jesus Christ. To be ready means you have prepared yourself for use or action.

**Ways we can prepare for action*****Read scripture daily***

Studying the Word of God builds our faith and equips us to go into our world. Where are you in your efforts for a personal time of reading scripture daily? Is there room for growth? If so, what are ways you can increase your time in the Word?

(Some suggestions: begin a *Read the Bible in a Year* program, read the same chapter daily for a month, or read scriptures that are topical such as love, the life of Christ, or miracles of Jesus)

**Read John 15:1-17**

Jesus identifies Himself as the vine and we are the branches. Nourishment for our souls comes from God and His Word. The bottom line is, apart from God we can do nothing. We have to remain in God and one way we do that is through reading His transforming Word daily.

***Know your faith story***

Are you growing more confident in how you would share with someone the work that Christ has done in your life? Write out your story in 100 words or less.

***Practice how you would respond to potential tough questions***

Does your life provoke questions of why you live life differently than the world around you? Write out how you might respond to the following questions people may ask.

*Why do you read your Bible?*

*Why do you pray?*

*Why do you go to church?*

*Who is God to you?*

*Why does a good God allow evil to exist?*

There are some really hard questions out there facing people. You may not always have an answer on the spot. It is ok to say that you don't know. Try practicing these questions with other people in this class or with someone who is a Christ follower. Spend some time exploring answers to tough questions by researching. (See the included Evangelism Resources page for more help.)

It's okay not to have all the theological answers to questions people may ask. More importantly, people need to see a great Savior in the relationship you have in Christ.

***Pray specifically for who God is asking you to share your faith with***

It's important we are aware that God is continually at work around us. Is there someone who has come to mind as you have participated in this course that you should intentionally reach out to? If so, pray for God to give you an opportunity to share the hope of Christ with this person.

**Key verse**

Put to memory Romans 1:16.

*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

**Prayer time**

Spend some time thanking God that you are part of His plan for reaching the world for Jesus Christ. Thank Him for the people who have been a spiritual influence in your life. Ask God how you can personally respond to the world around you. Finally, pray that God would give you courage and confidence to share your faith story to the people He reveals to you.

**Study 2****Prepare your heart and mind**

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help you concentrate and learn what He has for you from this time with Him and His Word.

**Yielding to the Spirit**

Our unique role in reaching the world for Christ requires that we unplug and plug-in with God. In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster encourages all Christians to take time away from the world to be with God. He says, “Like Jesus, we must go away from people so that we can be truly present when we are with people.” The time we spend praying during our commutes to work or studying God’s Word after dinner can help us yield to the Holy Spirit. The idea of *yielding to the Spirit* might sound a little too much like “Christianese” for you. What it means is that we are intentionally seeking to be available to God so that when we enter into the busyness of our days, we can follow His leading more closely. The reality is we need time away in order to begin to follow Him and **not** our own selfish desires. As we do this, the Holy Spirit will give each of us unique opportunities to share Christ with people. We must simply slow down and listen to Him with our hearts.

 **Different people, different roles, one goal** **Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

Each of us has a role to play right where we are. However, there are all sorts of temptations to do just the opposite. We may be tempted to get lost in our routines or believe we have no purpose in our current lives. We can resent those in our lives whom we are called to serve or feel as though we deserve to put our own interests first.

What temptations may be keeping you from fulfilling the role God has for you here and now?

Maybe you have “burned some bridges” and struggle to see how God could use you to reach others in your current situation. What “burned bridges” are you struggling to move past?

What would it look like for you to trust God to help you overcome these temptations and obstacles?

Who in your life could walk beside you as you seek to apply the truth of God’s Word in 1 Corinthians 7, being a light where He has placed you?

**Key verse**

Continue memorizing Romans 1:16. See if you can write it out from memory in the space below.

**Prayer time**

Ask God to give you a greater awareness of your role in His mission. Specifically ask God to help you see how you can connect with Him in the midst of your day-to-day life. Also pray for opportunities to connect with others and help point them to Jesus. Finally, spend some time just being still before God.

**PARENT GUIDE****Table Talk**

Read Colossians 4:5-6.

*Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.*

This verse talks about living wisely and being gracious. Let's figure out what those words mean to help us better understand what this verse is telling us.

Wisdom means having experience, knowledge, and good judgment.

Gracious means being kind, courteous, polite, and well mannered.

Why is it important for us to live wisely in front of people who are not believers?

Why should we be gracious in our conversations with people who are not believers?

Think of a time that you were not very wise or gracious. Describe what happened. Were there any negative consequences because of what you did or said?

*(Parents, this is a great opportunity for you to share a story from your own life about the consequences of living unwise and not being gracious to people who didn't know Jesus.)*

How could you have reacted differently to the situation you just described?

What are some things you could do to practice living wisely and being gracious?

*(Being polite to your teachers, doing your chores without being asked, being nice to the kid that doesn't have a lot of friends, etc.)*

*(Parents, please share examples of how you could do this in your life too.)*

Spend some time praying with your children. Pray that God would help you to live wisely and be gracious — especially with people who don't know Him yet.

## ADDITIONAL STUDY

There's an old saying that goes like this, "You just don't know what you don't know." Seems kind of simple and obvious yet very profound at the same time. It is impossible to have knowledge about something you have never been told about or introduced to. The same principle applies to the knowledge of God and the truth of the Gospel.



### Read Romans 10:12-17

When you look at the world around you and see all the hurt, struggles, and hopelessness, what conclusions do you draw? Do you judge or are you moved to share the hope you have?

Whose responsibility is it to tell the lost world the truth about Jesus? How about your lost co-workers? Your unsaved family members?

Jesus said that out of the mouth comes the overflow of the heart (Luke 6:45). In an average day, what do you find yourself talking about most?

We need to realize that we possess the words of eternal life and that the way we live and speak either points people toward or away from Christ. What do you think the people who interact with you on a regular basis would say is important to you?

*How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. (James 4:14)*

We came into the world with nothing and we will leave this life without a single worldly possession. After this life those who don't know and believe the truth about Christ there remains then, the eternal judgment of God. You, the Church, have been given the responsibility of taking the truth about God and His Son, Jesus, to **YOUR** world.

What is a practical step you could take to begin looking for opportunities to share Christ with people?



*So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ from merely a human point of view. How differently we know Him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation, so we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)*

