

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: Why Spread the Good News?

TEXT: *Luke 15:1-2 and Verses 11-32*

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Have you ever felt uneasy about evangelizing because you didn't want to treat people as mere evangelistic projects? Or perhaps you suspect that witnessing may be a form of manipulation or a civilized method of scalp hunting. In the Parable of the Two Sons Jesus describes the proper motive for spreading the good news.

1. What are some of the reasons people have for sharing the gospel?
2. Read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32. Why did Jesus feel the need to tell this story?
3. Why would this Jewish crowd be indignant that the younger son pushed for his share of the inheritance (w. 11-12)?
4. In the Jewish culture of Jesus' day, children were not only raised to obey the law but to stay close as a family unit. How would the Pharisees react on hearing the further antics of this son (v. 13)?
5. How would the boy's job be the worst imaginable occupation for a child who was probably raised in a kosher kitchen (w. 14-15)?
6. How does Jesus make his audience even more disgusted in verse 16?
7. What types of people are you so repelled by that you find it difficult to reach out to them with the gospel? Explain.
8. After hearing a story in which Jesus deliberately pressed all their buttons, what might the Pharisees and teachers of the law expect the father's response to be?
9. Jesus gives us one of the most beautiful portraits of God the Father seen in Scripture. Name everything that the father does (w. 20-24).
10. Jesus' point is that we are so precious to God and he is so loving by nature that the mere act of repentance makes him want to throw a party. How does this square with your understanding of God's attitude toward you?
11. How can fully appreciating God's love for us motivate us to reach others who have turned away from God?
12. The older son was so angry that he refused to go to the party (v 25-30). How were the Pharisees and teachers of the law like him?
13. We see two different kinds of hard hearts in this story. The first is the flagrantly immoral sinner who lives life with reckless abandon and yet who discovers more quickly his desperate need of his father. Following Jesus' examples, how can we develop friendships with people like the younger son?
14. The second type of sinner is the self-satisfied, self-righteous person who tries to live morally and who no doubt thinks: "God will accept me because basically I'm good." How can we reach this type of person?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: Reluctant Evangelists

TEXT: *Luke 5: 1-11*

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Most of us can think of 101 reasons not to evangelize. Reason #1: "I'm too busy." Reason #2: "I don't know any non-Christians" Reason #87: "My dog ate the four-law booklet." If we were as skillful at doing evangelism as we are at avoiding it, the Great Commission might have been fulfilled long ago! Peter and his companions felt much more comfortable catching fish than people. In Luke 5 Jesus helps these four unlikely prospects to overcome their reluctance.

1. What are some reasons you don't evangelize more of the people around you?
2. Read Luke 5:1-11. Use your imagination to describe the scene, the sounds and smells in verses 1-2.
3. The fishermen are washing their nets (w. 1-2). Why hasn't Peter noticed the eager, seeking crowd and Jesus' need of his help?
4. Jesus' request in verse 3 probably required the help of several men. How do you think Simon felt about this inconvenient interruption?
5. How can the tyranny of the urgent prevent us from doing what is truly important, especially when it comes to evangelism?
6. Why do you think Simon is reluctant to comply with Jesus' second request (w. 4-5)?
7. Why does this event create such strong reactions in Simon and his companions (verses 6-10)?
8. Note Jesus' statement in verse 10. From a merely human standpoint, how must these rustic fishermen have felt about their qualifications as full-time evangelists?
9. How do you suppose Peter's new self-evaluation (v. 8) affects him as he considers this new assignment?
10. In what ways do you feel fearful or inadequate in evangelism?
11. How would the experience of the big catch have prepared Peter and the others for their new work?
12. Matthew and Mark add a condition to Jesus' wonderful promise on this occasion: "*Follow me*, and I will make you fishers of men. What did following Jesus mean for them, and what may it mean for you?

How can Jesus' promise help you overcome your reluctance to evangelize?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Seeking the Lost**

TEXT: ***Luke 19-1-10***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: In 1893 Francis Thompson wrote a poem which described how desperately he had avoided God:

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;

I fled Him, down the arches of the years. . . .

But with un-hurrying chase,

And unperturbed pace,

Deliberate speed, majestic instance . . . the "Hound of Heaven" pursued relentlessly.

In Luke 19 we meet a man who also spent most of his life fleeing from God. Then one day he sought and was found by Jesus.

1. Think back to your own conversion. What led you to seek Jesus?
2. Read Luke 19:1-10. What can we discover about Zacchaeus before he met Jesus?
3. What may Zacchaeus have heard and believed about Jesus that made him so eager to catch a glimpse of Jesus (w. 3-4)?
4. The crowd stops and Jesus publicly addresses Zacchaeus in the tree (w. 5-6). Why must this have filled Zacchaeus with mixed feelings?
- 5- Tax collectors were ostracized from Jewish society because they collaborated with the Roman occupation forces. What risk does Jesus take in entering Zacchaeus' home (v. 7)?
6. Why was it necessary for Jesus to break the masses' stereotype of him?
7. What assumption about Jesus do your non-Christian friends hold that you need to change?
8. How do Zacchaeus' actions indicate the depth of his repentance (v. 8; see also Lev 6:1-5)?
9. What thoughts and feelings do you think Zacchaeus has as he hears Jesus say, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham" (v. 9)?
10. People don't wear signs saying, "I'm desperate, I'm seeking God." What cues might they give that they are ready to hear more about Jesus?
11. Zacchaeus had been seeking Jesus. But verse 10 suggests Jesus had come seeking Zacchaeus! How can it help you to know that the Lord actively seeks the friends you are evangelizing?
12. Jesus continues to seek and to save those who are lost. As his disciple, what can you do to follow his example?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Getting People Interested**

TEXT: **John 4:4-30**

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Have you ever met a person and instantly concluded, "Oh, they would *never* be interested in the gospel," only to discover later how wrong you were? If you have, then you're in good company. The disciple crossed the Samaritan woman off their list because a mere glance betrayed her immoral life and her Samaritan racial characteristics. But Jesus shows us that we must never look at a person superficial instead, we should ask ourselves: Why are they doing what they do? Are they looking for the right thing but in all the wrong places?

1. What kinds of people make you feel they'd never be interested the gospel?
2. Read John 4:4-30. While Jesus is resting from his journey, a Samaritan woman approaches at "the sixth hour" (noon). Why would s come to draw water at the hottest time of the day (w. 6-7)?
3. The Jews had high standards of righteousness they thought their rabbis should live up to. How does Jesus arouse the woman's curiosity by taking the risk of talking to her?
4. Instead of telling her right away who he was, Jesus began by asking the woman for a favor (v. 7). Why is it important to allow unbelievers to meet *our* needs, instead of our doing all the giving?
- 5- How does Jesus' statement about living water begin to move the conversation to a deeper level (w. 11-15)?
6. How can we use objects, ideas, experiences and needs people are familiar with to arouse interest in spiritual truths?
7. Why, at just this strategic moment, does Jesus delve into the woman's personal life (w. 16-18)?
8. What relationships do we now see between this "thirst" he I been speaking of and the woman's immoral past?
9. Think of non-Christians you know. In what ways do they indie they are spiritually thirsty? How can you show them the way the gospel can meet their net without being judgmental? (Note that even though Jesus speaks frankly about the woman's morals, she does not respond defensively.)
10. The Samaritans worshiped on Mount Gerizim, the Jews in Jerusalem. How does Jesus deal with the woman's "red herring" in verses 19-24?
11. Why does he wait until the end of the conversation to reveal wt he is (w. 25-26)?
12. How do verses 28-30 reveal the woman's excitement about her conversation with Jesus?
13. Look back over the passage. What are the ways Jesus aroused the woman's interest in the good news?

Give one specific example of how you might arouse someone's interest in the gospel.

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Creative Communication**

TEXT: ***Luke 10:25-37***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Have you ever met a skeptic who listens to you talk about fl in passive silence, and you just can't get him to interact with you do you know someone who enjoys discussing the faith on an intellectual level only, yet you are unable to get her actively involved: maybe you've got a friend who is content and satisfied with life, you can't figure out how to help him see his need for Jesus. Jesus answers to a lawyer's questions offer some clues on how to deal' each of these situations.

1. Communication theorists tell us that we learn in a variety of ways. For example, some need their intellects aroused, some like to be challenged to action and some need their imagination sparked. What stimulates you to learn? Explain.
2. Read Luke 10:25-37. Why do you think the expert in the law wanted to test Jesus (v. 25)?
3. Jesus could simply have said that eternal life comes from surrender and faith in him. Instead, he asks the man a question (v. 26). Why?
How can asking good questions help us to communicate the gospel more effectively?
4. What does the lawyer's answer reveal about his understanding of eternal life (v. 27)?
5. When the lawyer answers "correctly," Jesus tells him to act on what he already knows to be true (v. 28). Why do you think the lawyer becomes defensive at this point (v. 29)?
6. In order to feel the impact of Jesus' parable, we must look through the eyes of the lawyer. How would he have expected a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan to respond to the man's needs? Explain.
7. Why do you think the priest and Levite "passed by on the d side" instead of helping the man?
8. In what ways do we tend to pass by those in need?
9. How does the Samaritan demonstrate the meaning of "love your neighbor as yourself (w. 33-35)?
10. Why do you think Jesus used a story instead of directly confronting the lawyer's inconsistent view of loving one's neighbor?
11. How can stories, illustrations and examples help us to be more effective in sharing the gospel?
12. This passage shows us the importance of asking good questions rather than sermonizing and of being creative communicators of God's truth. Which of these are your strengths and which are weaknesses you want to improve on?

What can you do to build skills in these areas?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **The Good News**

TEXT: **Acts 10:23-48**

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Some news is so good it simply *must be* shared: a long-awaited engagement, the birth of a baby, a great success or triumph. We feel we will burst unless we tell someone what has happened! The early evangelists felt that way about the gospel. They wanted to tell everyone the good news of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. If we are to recapture their sense of wonder and excitement, we too must grasp what Jesus has done and why it is the best news people will ever hear.

1. Apart from the gospel, what is some of the best news you have ever received? How did it make you feel?
2. Acts 10:23-26. What evidence is there that Cornelius was eagerly awaiting Peter's arrival?
3. What circumstances brought this scrupulous Jew into the home of a Gentile (v. 27-33)?
4. These circumstances helped to overturn Peter's sense of racial superiority (v. 34-35). Why is it important to realize that the gospel transcends racial, economic, social and political barriers?
5. Why do you think Peter begins his message to these Gentiles by characterizing the gospel as "the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all" (v. 36)?
6. Jesus' three-year ministry is summarized in verses 37-38. How do these verses capture the essence of his ministry?
7. Deut. 21:23 states that "anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse." How would you explain to someone today why Jesus, who was anointed and blessed by God, died under his curse (v. 39)?
8. How would you explain to a friend why it is significant that C raised Jesus from the dead (v. 40)?
9. Twice Peter mentions that he and others are "witnesses" of what he is describing (v. 39, 41). Why do you think he stresses this fact!
10. God commanded the apostles to testify that Jesus will judge the living and the dead (v. 42). How does this "bad news" highlight the good news in verse 43?
11. How would you explain to someone what it means to *believe in* Jesus (v. 43)?
12. Imagine that you, like Cornelius and his friends, are hearing the truth about Jesus for the first time. In what sense would the gospel seem like good news to you?
13. Verses 44-46 have been called the "Pentecost of the gentile world." Why was this event significant for both Peter and those who experienced it?
14. Look back over the passage. What are the essential facts about Jesus that Peter mentions?
15. In this passage God goes to extraordinary lengths to spread the good news. This emphasizes the importance he places on the message of salvation. What can you do to learn the gospel message better?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Friendship Evangelism**

TEXT: ***John 1:29-51***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: For many of us evangelism is like guerrilla warfare. We make brief raids into enemy territory then retreat to the safety of our "holiness to die." No wonder it makes us nervous! The early Christians did talk with strangers about Jesus. But the gospel often spread from friend to friend or one family member to another. John 1 gives an excellent example of the patient, friendship approach to evangelism.

1. Who introduced you to Jesus Christ, and how? Explain how it happened.
2. What thoughts and feelings do you think John's statements aroused in the two disciples? Jhn 1: 29-36.
3. The two disciples follow Jesus because they want to know more about him but also seem hesitant to question him directly. How can we help our friends to feel free to ask us about God?
4. Jesus used a "come and see" approach with the disciples (v. 38-39). Why would this be more effective than merely asserting his deity?
How can we help our unbelieving friends to observe Jesus in action?
- 5- Even in temporary lodgings Jesus used hospitality evangelism (v. 39). In what ways can we make better use of this approach?
6. Note Andrew's hurry and imagine how he tells the news to Simon (v. 40-42). As we seek to bring family members or friends to Jesus, why is our attitude about the good news important?
7. Jesus finds Philip, and then Philip finds his friend Nathanael (v. 43-46). Why would it be unthinkable not to talk about Jesus with someone care about?
8. Nathanael knew the Messiah had to come from Bethlehem, not Nazareth (Micah 5:2). How do Jesus' words immediately dispel Nathanael's skepticism (v. 46-50)?
9. Jesus' first six disciples are relatives and acquaintances from a single fishing village (v. 44). What advantages are there in concentrating our evangelism on natural groupings of people like families and co-workers? What acquaintances do you have at work, school or in your neighborhood whose friendship you could begin to cultivate?
10. Interestingly, Jesus is content to let the disciples hang around for months before asking them to make a decision about who he is. Why is it important not to pressure people too early about making a decision?
11. Throughout this passage it seems natural for one friend to tell another about Jesus (v. 36, 41, and 45). Why do you think we often find this so *unnatural*?
12. What ideas does this passage give you for reaching those friends or family members who have not met Jesus?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Talking with Strangers**

TEXT: **Acts 8:26-40**

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Have you ever been led to talk with a stranger about the gospel? Perhaps you were sitting next to someone on a plane or bus, and you began to find out the interests and needs of the person, the Holy Spirit prompted you to speak about Jesus. In Acts 8, Philip had a similar experience. His encounter with the Ethiopian official provides an excellent example of when and how to talk about Jesus with people you don't know.

1. How do you feel about talking with strangers about the gospel?
2. Read Acts 8:26-29. The kind of direct guidance given to Philip is exceptional. How else might the Holy Spirit indicate that we should witness to a particular person?
3. What facts can we discover about the traveling stranger before his encounter with Philip (v. 27-28)?
4. Visualize the highway scene. The foreigner would have traveled in a caravan of slowly moving chariots, since it was dangerous to travel alone. He may have had a small retinue of his own. Having been guided to the man, what initiative does Philip take, and what initiative does the traveler take (v. 30-31)? What are some natural ways we might begin talking with a stranger about the gospel?
5. What advantage does Philip gain by asking a question and listening to the man before he begins to evangelize?
6. Together in the chariot the two men have one of the first recorded evangelistic Bible studies (v. 32-35). What are some of the advantages of evangelistic Bible discussions over other methods of evangelism? How can you be prepared to lead spontaneous Bible discussions™ the occasion arises?
7. Imagine that you are Philip. How might you use the Isaiah passage to begin telling the man the good news about Jesus (v. 32-35)?
8. What shows that Philip also explained the need for a person response (v. 36-39)? What do you suppose being baptized meant to the Ethiopian?
9. What kinds of responses can we suggest when someone eagerly hears the gospel?
10. Circumstances made it impossible to disciple the man, but what spiritual resources did the man take with him? What could you do to disciple a convert you couldn't see again?
11. The Holy Spirit might lead us to speak with strangers on planes or buses, in our neighborhood, on campus or at the beach. What principles in this study can help us to make the most of these opportunities?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Cross-cultural Evangelism**

TEXT: ***Acts 17:16-34***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Today it is possible to be a missionary without learning another language, raising support or even leaving home. We are surrounded by international students, immigrants, refugees and illegal aliens. But how do we share the gospel with someone whose beliefs and customs are so different from our own? In Acts 17 we see what happens when Paul, a Jewish Christian from Palestine, communicates the gospel in pagan Athens, the intellectual capital of the Roman Empire.

1. Think of someone you know who comes from a very different cultural or ethnic background. In what ways are you similar?
2. Read Acts 17:16-34. Much like a tourist, Paul looks over Athens while he waits for Silas and Timothy (v. 16). Why do you think he reacts so strongly to the city's idolatry?
3. As a result of his distress, Paul begins evangelizing in the synagogue and the marketplace (w. 17-18). Why do you think he felt these two places were strategic?
4. What are some of the common gathering places for non-Christians in your area, especially those from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds?
Which of these places would provide a good opportunity for sharing and discussing the gospel?
5. Why do you think Paul's message about Jesus and the resurrection seemed so strange to the Athenians (w. 18-21)?
6. The Court of the Areopagus required teachers like Paul to give account of their teaching (w. 19-21). As he begins his speech, what common ground does Paul find with the Athenians (v. 22-23)? Why is it important to find such common ground when communicating the gospel cross-culturally?
7. What might have happened if Paul had begun by condemning the Athenians idolatry?
How can we disapprove of things our friends believe or do with being judgmental?
8. According to Paul, how is the "unknown God" different from; the other Greek gods (w. 24-29)?
9. Paul's statements to the Athenians were obviously based on Scripture. Yet why does he quote Greek poetry to them rather than Scripture! (v. 28)? What popular literature or current movies can you use constructively in evangelism?
10. Paul says that in the past God had patiently overlooked the ignorance of pagan people (w. 30-31). Why does God now require them to repent of their ignorance and idolatry?
11. How are the responses to Paul's message typical of those we can expect when we share the gospel (w. 32-34)?
12. As you look back over this passage, what principles have you learned about communicating the gospel cross-culturally?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Presenting the Cost of Commitment**

TEXT: ***Luke 14:25-35***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: Jesus is sometimes presented as the ultimate product. He will help grades to go up, our weight to go down and our teeth to be white as can be. It is good to approach people on the basis of their felt needs, but we must also present the cost of being a disciple. People must know who Jesus really is and the demands he makes on I followers. Jesus himself describes the cost of discipleship in Luke 14

1. What are some of the more superficial reasons why people con to Jesus today?
2. Read Luke 14:25-26. How do the words *turning* (v. 25) and if *anyone comes to me* (v. 26) help us visualize the scene? According to this story and your own experience, how are believe and nonbelievers affected when a professed Christian doesn't re follow Jesus?
3. What does the stiffness of Jesus' requirements for following him (w. 26-27) indicate about how he viewed these "followers"?
4. The word *hate* (v. 26) is used as an obvious exaggeration for emphasis. Parents were to be honored (Mt 15:3-4). How might relationships with others hinder a person from following Jesus?
5. To bear one's own cross meant to face the prospects of crucifixion daily (v. 27). What are some of the costs of following Jesus today?
6. In verses 28-30 Jesus may be alluding to Herod Antipas's pretentious, unfinished military tower (which may have been in sight). How does this story emphasize the importance of counting the cost of following Jesus?
7. In verses 31-32 Jesus may be implying that he is like the king with twenty thousand men. How does this story illustrate the importance of counting the cost of *not* following Jesus?
8. Jesus calls us to give up our rights to ownership (v. 33). What difference should that make in how we use our possessions?
9. In Jesus' day salt was valued as a preservative and for seasoning food. What then does it mean for a disciple to be "salty" (v. 34)?
What does this verse indicate about the value of superficial commitment?
10. How can we help our friends to think through the costs of commitment?
11. How should we respond if our friends need time to think things over before making a serious commitment to Christ?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: **Facing Opposition**

TEXT: **Acts 4:1-31**

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: God's world is enemy-occupied territory. The purpose of evangelism is to persuade rebels to defect from the ranks of "the rule this world" and to pledge allegiance to the only rightful King, Jesus But the imposter is not about to give up territory without a fight! I consistently present the gospel; we are bound to face opposition whether subtle or overt.

1. How might our lives be different if Christianity were suddenly declared illegal?
2. Read Acts 4:1-31- The religious leaders were "greatly disturbed" what Peter and John had said and done (w. 1-2). Why were they threatened by these things?
3. Peter and John were being obedient to God in making Jesus Christ known. In your opinion, why didn't God protect them from arrest and trial (v. 3)?
4. In what subtle or overt ways might we experience opposition today as we talk with people about Christ?
5. Why might Peter and John have easily felt intimidated on the day of their trial (w. 5-7)?
6. As Peter begins to speak, he is "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 8). How is the power of the Spirit evident in his words and his attitude (v. 9-13)?
7. What most impressed the Jewish authorities about Peter and John, and why (v. 13)?
8. The authorities decided to forbid further evangelism (v. 14-18). In what situations today might the apostles' response in verses 19-20 be appropriate?
9. What does the prayer of these early Christians reveal about human frailties and feelings (v23-30)?
10. Why do you think the believers pray for boldness rather than freedom from opposition (v. 29)? How can we distinguish boldness from the tactlessness and brashness that turn people off?
11. According to verses 24-30, how was the evangelism of these ea Christians affected by:
— Their concept of God? — Their thinking about Jesus? - Their use of God's Word?
12. How can these things help and encourage us in evangelism, especially when facing opposition or persecution?
13. God answers their prayers by filling them with the Holy Spirit (v. 31). Why is the Spirit's presence and power essential in our evangelism?

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday school Outline

TOPIC: Balanced Expectations

TEXT: ***Mark 4:1-25***

Instructions: *The whole members of the class should have a thorough understanding of the scriptures. Let the above passages be read each time you would be going through this lesson as to enable everyone to participate fully. Always try to use relevant but brief Bible references to illustrate your points.*

Introduction: There is no greater joy than leading someone to Jesus Christ. Every prayer, every late-night conversation finally comes into focus. As God's Spirit gives life to his new child, we stand back in wonder and a But there is no greater pain than rejection. How discouraged we can feel when numerous conversations don't result in a single conversion Mark 4 gives us a balanced perspective about the results we can expect when we share the gospel. Jesus tells us how and why people react differently to the good news.

1. What is most exciting and most discouraging for you about evangelism?
2. Read Mark 4:1-25. Picture in your mind the scene recorded verses 1-2. Now describe what you see, hear, feel and smell.
3. In what ways might different people in the audience have reacted to Jesus' simple agricultural story (v. 3-9)?
4. Jesus chides his disciples for not understanding this parable (v. 13). Yet how can parables reveal truth when they seem to obscure it (v. 10-12)?
5. Through this parable, Jesus had been telling his audience something about themselves. What four kinds of listeners are likely to be present in almost any un-evangelized crowd (v. 14-20)?
6. According to verses 15-20, what determines the fruitfulness of the message they have heard?
7. How have you seen Jesus' parable confirmed in your own evangelistic efforts?
8. Poor soil reduced the chance for a harvest. What are some ways we can improve people's receptivity to the gospel?
9. Consider the principle in verses 24-25. What happens to people each time they respond positively or negatively to God's Word?
10. How does this principle shed light on the meaning of verses 12?
11. The sower scatters the seed indiscriminately. The quality of the soil only becomes evident (to us) by its *response*. In this passage how is Jesus like the sower?
How should his example affect our evangelism and our follow-up of those who respond?
12. Spend time praying for non-Christians you know, that the gospel will bear fruit in their lives.