

Sharing the Gospel in our Samaria



by

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Sharing the Gospel in our Samaria

- I. Are you a Philip or a Jonah?
 - A. Philip and Jonah were opposites (Jonah did not want the Lord to be gracious)
 - B. Philip looked for opportunities to minister cross-culturally
 - C. Philip yielded to the Holy Spirit in order to minister effectively
 - D. Philip ministered in love as he yielded to the Holy Spirit

- II. Learning how to cross barriers in evangelism
 - A. Jerusalem - the barrier of our own fear
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- III. Understanding four C's for evangelism
 - A. Confrontation
 - B. Clarification
 - C. Compassion
 - D. Creation

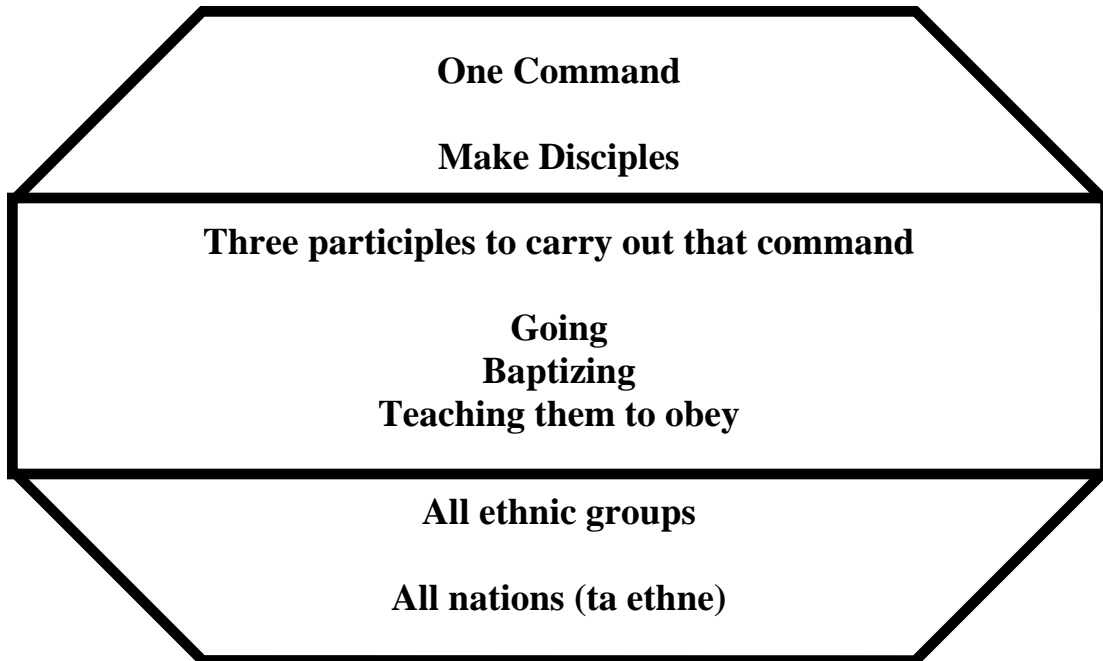
- IV. Christ's training approach to help us share the Gospel in our Samaria
 - A. Christ called the disciples to lift up their eyes and look
 - B. Christ showed how to make contacts in Samaria by example
 - C. Christ provided bridges to cross cultural barriers

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 - E. Follow-up of new Christians in our Samaria - spiritual parenting
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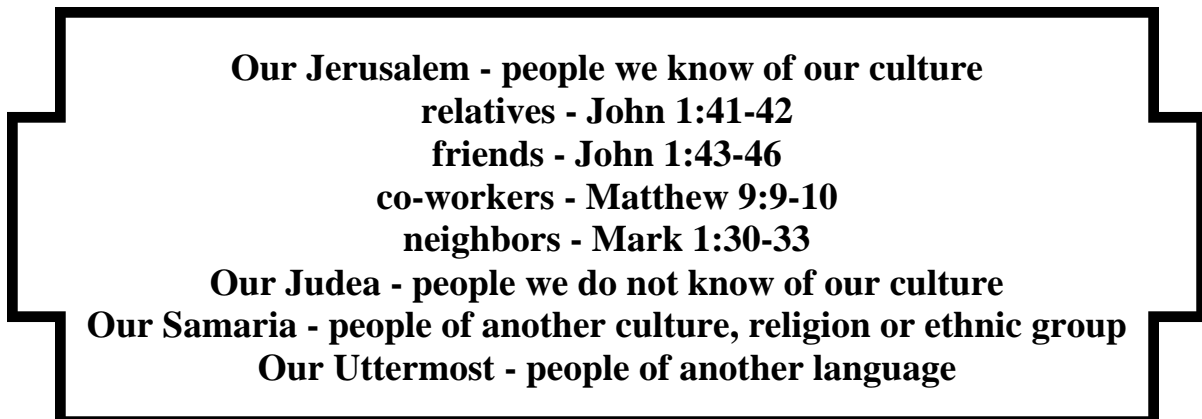
I.

Are you a Philip or a Jonah?

In our Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, we are commanded to Make Disciples among all of the ethnic groups, “Going, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.” In this Commission we have:



In Acts 1:8, we see that this command is to be carried out in a progressive order. That verse tells us, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” We can look at the four areas mentioned in this verse in several different ways. One way that we can look at this verse is:



A. Philip and Jonah were opposites

Philip had love for his Samaria

Acts 8:4-8

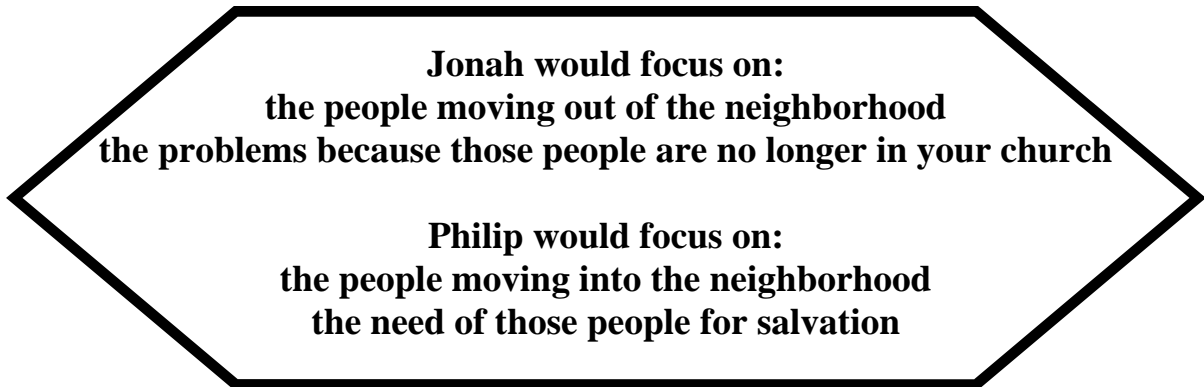
“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”

Jonah had anger toward his Samaria

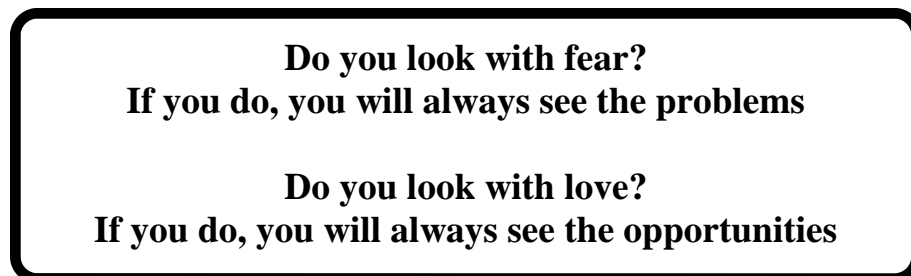
Jonah 4:1-4

“But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the LORD, and said, ‘Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!’ Then the LORD said, ‘*Is it* right for you to be angry?’”

If Jonah and Philip both lived in your neighborhood



Today as you look at your neighborhood



Lift up your eyes and look! - John 4:35

B. Philip looked for opportunities to minister cross-culturally

Philip saw the opportunity of the Samaritans

Acts 8:4-5

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”

Philip saw the opportunity of an Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-30

“Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, ‘Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’”

Philip saw the opportunity of outreach in Caesarea

Acts 8:40, 21:8

“But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea”...“On the next *day* we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him.”

Principles for cross-cultural ministry from the life of Philip

Yield to the Holy Spirit

Go everywhere preaching the Word

See the Samaritans as people needing Christ

Share the Gospel with the Samaritans

Be sensitive to the needs of other groups

Be ready to help others understand the Bible

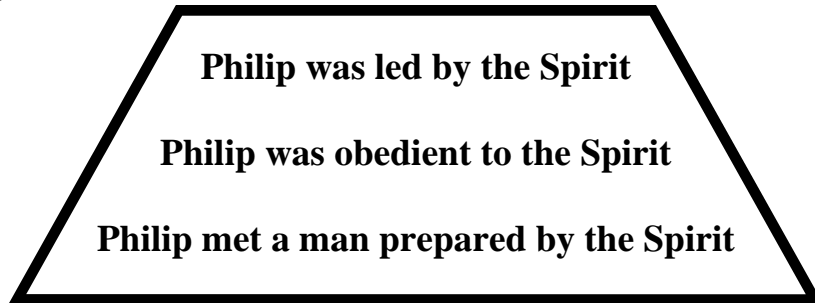
Be ready to share with every culture

C. Philip yielded to the Holy Spirit in order to minister effectively

Philip was led by the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:29-30

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’”



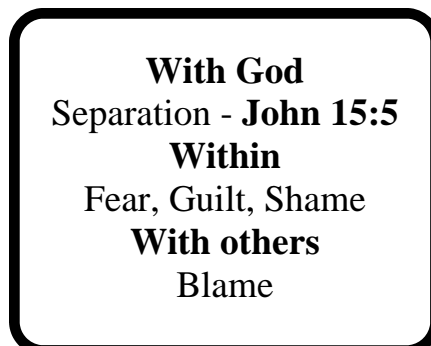
Many Christians try to minister in their own strength

When we minister in our own strength we experience the same inner feelings Adam experienced when he committed original sin

Genesis 3:7-13

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where *are* you?’ So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ And He said, ‘Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’ Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

**When we depend on our own strength,
we experience the following results of sin**

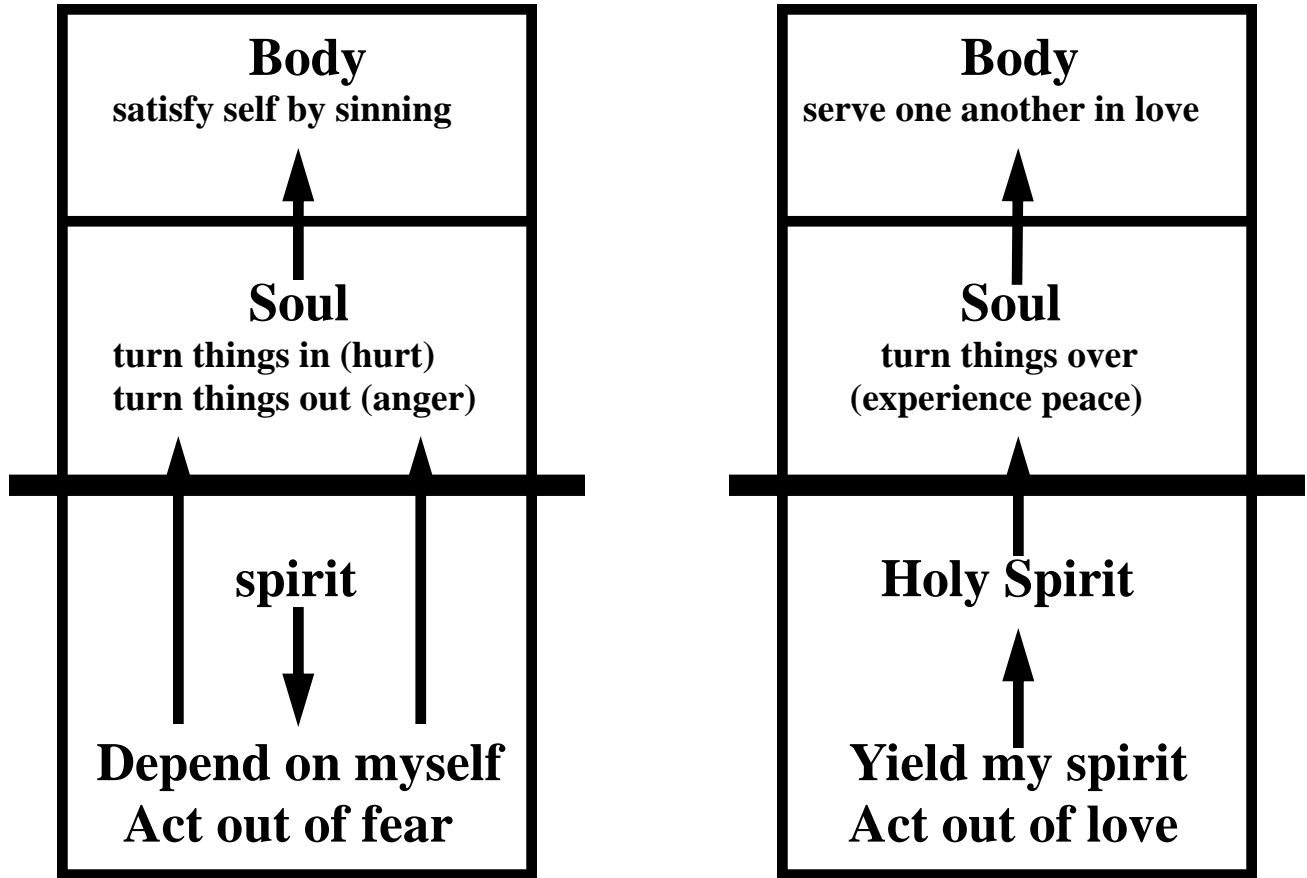


D. Philip ministered in love as he yielded to the Holy Spirit

**We will act out of fear when we depend on our own strength
We will act out of love when we yield ourselves to God**

Romans 7:14-25

Romans 8:1-39



Yield ourselves to sin

Yield ourselves to God

Our Choice

Motivated by fear
Genesis 3:7-13

Motivated by love
II Corinthians 5:14-17

I John 4:18
Romans 6:6, 11, 13, 16
Ephesians 4:29-32
Romans 12:17-21

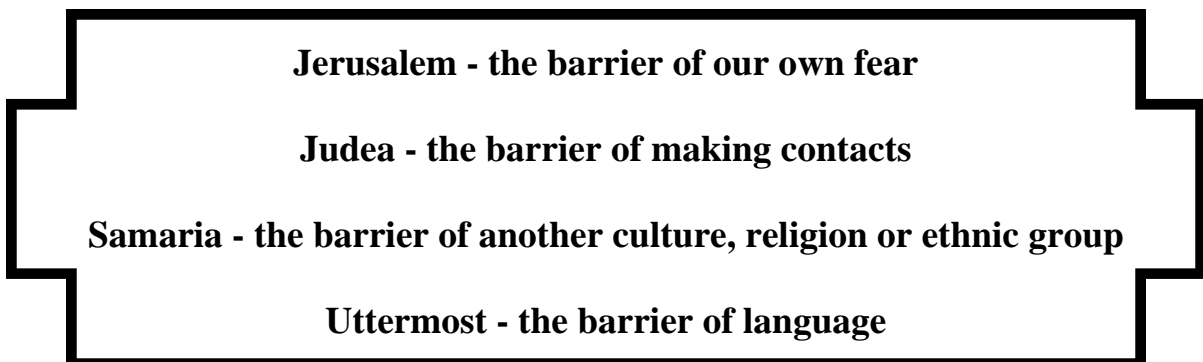
II.

Learning how to cross barriers in evangelism

As we seek to share the Gospel with others, we see that we usually have to cross one or more barriers. In fact the order of progression given in Acts 1:8 helps us to understand the four most common barriers that we face in sharing the Gospel. That verse tells us, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Our Jerusalem	people of our own culture that we already know
Our Judea	people of our own culture that we do not yet know
Our Samaria	people of another culture, religion or ethnic group
Our Uttermost	people of another language

The barriers that we experience in reaching these four groups



Many times people are afraid to witness due to the fact that they have never been shown how to cross each barrier. Often the approach that most churches use to focus on evangelism forces people to try and cross several barriers at one time. Christ gave us a Biblical pattern for teaching people how to cross each barrier. If we understand and use that Biblical pattern for our own ministry of evangelism, we will become effective in our Samaria. In addition, we will also know how to train others for effective evangelism in their Samaria.

The first key principle that Christ taught about evangelism was the importance of showing people how to share the Gospel instead of just telling them. In **Matthew 4:19** Christ said:

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

A. Jerusalem - the barrier of our own fear

We see the barrier of fear demonstrated by Peter

John 18:17, 25-27

“Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, ‘You are not also *one* of this Man's disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’...Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, ‘You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?’ He denied *it* and said, ‘I am not!’ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of *him* whose ear Peter cut off, said, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with Him?’ Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.”

We see why Christ said we have this barrier

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**”

We see how Christ said we must cross this barrier

Luke 24:48-49

“And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

We see what happened when Peter and John depended on the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:13

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

We see the source of this boldness

Acts 4:23-24a, 29-31

“And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:...‘Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

We will be fearful when we speak in our own strength
We will speak the Word with boldness when we are filled with the Holy Spirit

The way the twelve learned to share the good news about Christ

They began by learning to share the Good News with their relatives

John 1:41-42a

“He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus...”

They shared the Good News with their friends

John 1:45-46

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’”

They shared the Good News with their co-workers

Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

They shared the Good News with their neighbors

Mark 1:30-33

“But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

We learn to share the Gospel most easily if we only cross one barrier at a time.

The twelve give us the example that we need to begin with:



The next two pages give an outline that can be used with new Christians to help them begin praying for relatives, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Driven by Fear or Led by Love

II Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

When we are driven by fear:

1. We are experiencing the results of Adam’s fall - Genesis 3:7-13
2. We will fear people instead of fearing God - Romans 3:18
3. We will focus on the law (or man’s rules - Romans 3:19-20) when we are no longer under the law - Galatians 3:24-25
4. We will serve out of fear instead of love - II Timothy 1:7

When we are led by love:

II Corinthians 5:14-15

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again.”

1. We no longer live for ourselves - II Corinthians 5:15
2. We no longer regard people according to the flesh - II Corinthians 5:16
3. We realize that we are new creations - II Corinthians 5:17
4. We realize that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation - II Corinthians 5:18
5. We realize we have been given the word of reconciliation - II Corinthians 5:19
6. We realize that we are ambassadors for Christ - II Corinthians 5:20
7. We realize that we have received the righteousness of God in Christ - II Corinthians 5:21
8. We pray for boldness to speak the Word of God - Acts 4:13, 29-31, Ephesians 6:19-20, Philippians 1:20

I. We will pray and share the good news of Christ with our relatives

“He first found his own brother...and he brought him to Christ” - John 1:41-42

Started Praying for: Prayer Answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

II. We will pray and share the good news of Christ with our friends

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.’ ...Philip said to him, ‘Come and see’.” - John 1:45-46

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

III. We will pray and share the good news of Christ with our co-workers

“And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And so it was, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.” - Matthew 9:9-10

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IV. We will pray and share the good news of Christ with our neighbors

“Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John...And the whole city was gathered together at the door.” - Mark 1:30-33

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

B. Judea - the barrier of making contacts

We see the way Christ taught the twelve to cross barriers

Matthew 10:5-6

“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”

The twelve were not to cross the barrier of language - Gentiles

**The twelve were not to cross the barrier of another culture,
religion or ethnic group - Samaritans**

The twelve were to cross the barrier of making contacts - Jews

We see the way Christ taught the twelve to make contacts

Matthew 10:7-12

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for *your* journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food. Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. ‘And when you go into a household, greet it.’”

The twelve were given a message to share

The twelve were to be sensitive to physical and spiritual needs

The twelve were to give freely just as they had received freely

The twelve were not to depend on their own efforts

The twelve were to find out who was respected

The twelve were to greet those that they visited

We see the way Christ reviewed what had happened as they made contacts

Mark 6:30-31

“Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’”

The twelve told what they had done

The twelve told what they had taught

The twelve spent time resting and reviewing

C. Samaria - the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group

The disciples had to begin to see the Samaritans

John 4:35

“Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’”

The disciples had to lift up their eyes

The disciples had to see the other cultures around them

The disciples had to see the other cultures as people to be reached

The disciples had to begin to see that Samaritans were open to the Gospel

John 4:39-41

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I *ever* did.’ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.”

The Samaritans were open to listen to the woman

The Samaritans wanted to learn more about Christ

The Samaritans urged Christ to spend time with them

The Samaritans believed as they learned from Christ

The disciples saw the openness of the Samaritans

The disciples had to change their attitudes toward the Samaritans

Luke 9:51-56

“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was *set* for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*.’ And they went to another village.”

The disciples had to understand their own spirit (prejudices)

The disciples had to see that Christ came to save all cultures

D. Uttermost - the barrier of another language

The barrier of another language illustrated

Acts 14:11-18

“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.’ And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.”

Paul and Barnabas did not understand the language
Paul did not know that they were misunderstood
Paul observed the actions of the people
Paul explained they had the same human nature
Paul used the opportunity to present the living God as Creator
Paul showed how people in the past had walked in their own ways
Paul said that the creation pointed to the Creator

Practical ways to cross the language barrier

Be friendly as you meet people of other languages
Find out which members of the family speak some English
Build bridges to those who speak some English
Find out the primary language of the family
Get a Bible in the language of the family if possible
In most cultures speak to the senior adult even if through an interpreter
Offer help to learn English for those who desire help
Use Bibles in both languages to help teach English
Ask them to help you memorize verses in their language
Take time to discuss the verses they are helping you memorize
Begin a Bible study using both languages

III.

Understanding four C's for evangelism

As we go through the New Testament, we see that Christ and the disciples used many different approaches to share with others. Four of the key ways that the Gospel was shared in the New Testament are:

Confrontation
Clarification
Compassion
Creation

In order to share the Gospel effectively in our Samaria, it is helpful to understand these four approaches. That makes it possible for us to know what way may be the most effective way to share the Gospel with each individual of another culture. That will help us to build bridges to other cultures rather than barricades.

Confrontation was used in the New Testament in some cases

John 3:3

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

Clarification was used in the New Testament in some cases

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

Compassion was used in the New Testament in some cases

John 4:7

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’”

Creation was used in the New Testament in some cases

Acts 17:23-24

“For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

A. Confrontation

These individuals are church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Using confrontation to share the Gospel

**Illustrated with Nicodemus - John 3:1-21
(he had depended on religious involvement)**

Confront with Scripture - John 3:14-15

Confront with love - John 3:16-17

Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - John 3:16-21

**Illustrated by the rich young ruler -
Mark 10:17-22, Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 18:18-27**

Confront with Scripture - Luke 18:19

Confront with love - Luke 18:21

Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - Luke 18:21

Confrontation

Is necessary when we are talking to church attendees who are depending on their religious involvement or their own good works

Was used by Christ primarily with religious leaders like the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees

Was used by Christ with those who were depending on their own efforts to be right with God by trying to keep the law

Knowing what approach to use

Use Confrontation

With church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Use Clarification

With people who are interested but have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith

Use Compassion

With people who feel they are “too bad” to be accepted by God

Use Creation

With people who have no background of the Bible

B. Clarification

These individuals are interested church attendees who have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith -Acts 20:21, I Thessalonians 1:9-10

Using clarification to share the Gospel

Illustrated by Philip in Acts 8:26-40

Listen to find out what the person understands - Acts 8:30-31

Be available to explain what is not clear - Acts 8:31

Use the Scripture - Acts 8:32-34

Listen to see what the person does not understand - Acts 8:34

Focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35

Make certain the person clearly understands - Acts 8:36-37

Illustrated by Paul in Acts 17:11-12

Share the Word of God

Encourage the people to study the Word for themselves

Take time to study the Scriptures with them

Both speak and listen

Illustrated by Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26

They invited Apollos to their home

They explained the Gospel more clearly

Applied to our own lives

Explain the Word of God - Acts 17:11, 18:26

Encourage group Bible study - Acts 17:11

Take time to study with them - Acts 17:11, 18:26

Listen to the things they understand - Acts 8:30-31

Listen to the things they do not understand - Acts 8:34

Focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35

Use your home for personal one-to-one studies - Acts 18:26

C. Compassion

These individuals feel I am “too bad” to be accepted by God

Using compassion to share the Gospel

**Illustrated with Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13
(he had rejected the acceptable standards of culture and religion)**

Go to people where they live, work and spend their free time - Matt. 9:9-10
Accept people as they are and invite them to follow Christ - Matt. 9:9
Eat meals with those who need compassion - Matt. 9:10
Accept the friends of those with whom you come in contact - Matt. 9:10
Accept criticism from the religious - Matt. 9:11
Choose to show mercy - Matt. 9:12

**Illustrated with the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24
(he had lived a wild life)**

Accept the right of people to make wrong choices - Luke 15:12
Have compassion and show it - Luke 15:20
Accept people as they are - Luke 15:20
Forgive (let go) of the sins of people - Luke 15:21
Explain how Christ makes us worthy - Luke 15:21, II Timothy 2:21
Explain how God accepted the righteousness of Christ - Luke 15:22,
II Cor. 5:21
Explain how Christ accepts us as sons - Luke 15:22, 24, John 1:12
Celebrate the salvation of new Christians - Luke 15:6-7, 9-10, 23-24

**Illustrated with the Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42
(she had grown up in a different religion and culture and had lived a sinful life)**

Accept people as they are - John 4:7
Accept rejection and distrust - John 4:9-10
Develop curiosity - John 4:10
Offer everlasting life - John 4:14
Don't get sidetracked by questions about religion - John 4:19-21
Focus on the meaning of true worship - John 4:22-24
Introduce people to Christ - John 4:25-26
Use the opportunity to train those with you - John 4:31-38
Focus on reaching the extended family and community - John 4:39-42

D. Creation

These individuals are the people who have no background of the Bible

Illustrated by the people of Athens - Acts 17:16-34

Characteristics of the people of Athens

- The people were given to idol worship - Acts 17:16
- The people gathered daily in the marketplace - Acts 17:17
- The people had no understanding of Paul's message - Acts 17:18
- The people wanted to learn about Paul's message - Acts 17:19-20
- The people enjoyed empty talk - Acts 17:21
- The people were very religious - Acts 17:22
- The people did not know what they worshiped - Acts 17:23
- The people either mocked or questioned - Acts 17:32

Paul's approach to the people of Athens

- Paul met them where they spent time - Acts 17:17
- Paul took time to listen to them - Acts 17:18-21
- Paul observed and tried to understand their worship - Acts 17:22-23
- Paul began at creation - Acts 17:24
- Paul focused on the Creator - Acts 17:25-26
- Paul showed that no man seeks God - Acts 17:27
- Paul used illustrations from their own poets - Acts 17:28
- Paul focused on the Godhead - Acts 17:29
- Paul focused on the message of repentance - Acts 17:30
- Paul focused on judgment for sin - Acts 17:31
- Paul focused on the resurrection of Christ - Acts 17:32
- Paul gave them time to think - Acts 17:32-33
- Paul spent time with those who accepted his message - Acts 17:34

Applied to our own lives

We need to listen and understand their background - James 1:19-20
We may need to begin evangelistic Bible studies with Genesis 1-12
We need to focus on the death and resurrection - I Cor. 15:3-6
We need to focus on repentance and faith - Acts 20:21

IV. Christ's training approach to help us share the Gospel in our Samaria

The Jews and the Greeks had very different ways of teaching people. The Jewish or Hebrew way was to show people how to do something. The Greek way was to tell people how to do something. Today most education throughout the world is based on the Greek model.

This has created some real problems in the various societies of the world. People gain knowledge but their lives are not changed. By and large, the church has copied the model of the world. As a result, this has created great problems in the church. In **Exodus 18:20** Moses was given the three key ingredients of an effective training ministry.

Three key ingredients of an effective training ministry Exodus 18:20

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.”

**Teach people the Word of God
Show people the way to walk
Show people the work to do**

This was the pattern that Christ used as He trained the twelve. In **Matthew 4:19** Christ said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then in **Mark 3:13-14** we read, “And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,” Christ invited the twelve to follow Him and be with Him.

That made it possible for Christ to train the twelve

**They learned to teach the Word of God by hearing Christ teach
They learned the way to walk as they observed the example of Christ
They learned the work to do by seeing what Christ did**

A. Christ called the disciples to lift up their eyes and look

The disciples were in Samaria but did not see the Samaritans

John 4:35-38

“Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ‘And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

The disciples did not see the harvest

The disciples were in the middle of a ripe harvest field

The disciples would be rewarded if they would reap

The disciples could reap what others had planted

The disciples could share in the labor of others

The disciples were told to do two things

Lift up their eyes

Look on the fields

The disciples did not see people of other cultures

Matthew 15:21-23

“Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.’ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she cries out after us.’”

The disciples heard the cry for mercy

The disciples urged Christ to send the woman away

The disciples did not want to be bothered

B. Christ showed the disciples how to make contacts in Samaria by example

Christ took the disciples through Samaria

John 4:3-4

“He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria.”

Christ initiated contact with the Samaritan woman and accepted initial rejection

John 4:7-9

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.’”

**Christ spoke to the woman first
Christ accepted the rejection of the woman**

Christ aroused the curiosity of the woman

John 4:10

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’”

Christ saw the rejection turn to respect

John 4:11-15

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?’ Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.’”

Christ focused on reaching the family

John 4:16

“Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come here.’”

**We need to pray that Christ will give us wisdom to approach other cultures
We need to be prepared for initial rejection and accept it
We need to focus on reaching the entire family**

Christ complemented the woman twice for telling the truth

John 4:17-18

“The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’”

Christ accepted her question about what religion is right

John 4:19-24

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’”

The woman chose to change the subject
The woman asked what was the right place to worship
The woman was told that the place of worship is not the key
The woman had the meaning of true worship explained
The woman heard that God was seeking her worship

Christ introduced Himself to the woman

John 4:25-26

“The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am *He*.’”

Christ let the disciples observe Him talking to the woman

John 4:27

“And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why are You talking with her?’”

Christ taught the disciples the importance of doing the will of the Father

John 4:34

“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”

The will of the Father is to reach out to our Samaria!

C. Christ provided bridges to cross cultural barriers

God uses bicultural people as bridges

Acts 7:3-5

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,”

All seven were Hellenists (people of Greek culture)

**Six were Jews who grew up in the Greek culture
One was a proselyte (a Gentile who attended the synagogue)**

Philip became a bridge to the Samaritans

Acts 8:4-6

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”

Philip was among those scattered from Jerusalem

Philip went to a city of Samaria and preached Christ

Philip found a group of people who were very open

Other believers became a bridge in Antioch

Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

**The believers spoke only to the Jews at first
The believers included men from Cyprus and Cyrene
These believers spoke to the Hellenists
The Lord gave a great harvest among the Hellenists**

V.

Practical ways to build relationships in our Samaria

We have seen the Biblical principles for sharing the gospel in our Samaria. In this last section we would like to focus on some practical things we can do to put these principles into practice. Some of these ideas may not work in your situation but others may prove very effective.

Since all that we do will only be effective as we yield to the Holy Spirit, we will discuss some of the ways that the Holy Spirit can work through each one of us as we yield to Him. One of the key things in evangelism is to learn to work with the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-11 tells us that the Holy Spirit does three things in the the lives of those who are not Christians. In those verses we see that:

The Holy Spirit convicts of three things

John 16:8-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

**The Holy Spirit convicts of sin
because they do not believe in Me**

**The Holy Spirit convicts of righteousness
because I go to My Father and you see Me no more**

**The Holy Spirit convicts of judgment
because the ruler of this world is judged.**

In addition, we will conclude this section by sharing ways to incorporate those who become Christians into your church. This will include some thoughts on building personal cross cultural relationships, spiritual family relationships and building new Christians to the body.

**New Christians need spiritual parents
New Christians need a spiritual family
New Christians need the care of the body**

A. Places to lift up our eyes and look

Practical ways to begin to know what other cultures are around us

Observation

**Go to the grocery stores or the mall on the weekends
and observe what ethnic groups are shopping**

Go to the fast food places on weekends and observe

**Go to the parks and other places of public
gathering on weekends and observe**

**Take a daily walk through your neighborhood
(do this at various times on different days)**

Statistics

**Go to the local school districts and find out the ethnic
breakdown of the schools in your area**

**Go to the local library or the internet and check the ethnic
breakdown for all census tracts within three miles of your church**

Local Reactions

**Talk to teachers in your local schools to find out what
cultures and ethnic groups are growing in their schools
(this will tell you what they are feeling and not just statistics)**

**Talk to local sports coaches to find out what they are doing
to involve the various ethnic groups in their sports**

**Talk to leaders in surrounding churches to find out
what they are doing to reach out to other ethnic groups
(you may find that nothing is being done by anyone)**

**Talk to local business leaders to find out how ethnic
changes are affecting what they stock in their stores**

B. Building bridges to our Samaria

The first priority in making contacts is prayer

**Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers
Pray that the Lord will lead us to people of other cultures
Pray that the Lord will lead us to people who are bridges to other cultures
Pray that the Lord will show us how to make contacts
Pray that the Lord will give us opportunities to serve other cultures
Pray that the Lord will lead them to respond to these contacts**

Determine what bridges we already have to other cultures and ethnic groups

Family
Are any of our extended family members married to individuals of other cultures
Friends
Do we already have friends who are from other cultures?
(possibly through schools, sports, other community contacts, etc.)
Do we have contacts through friends with individuals of other cultures?
Co-workers
Do we work with people from other cultures?
Do members of our family work with people from other cultures?
Do we have friends who work with people from other cultures?
Neighbors
Are we taking time to get to know the people of our neighborhood?

Other sources for building bridges

Volunteer as a tutor at the local schools
Get involved with sports teams at the local schools
Get involved with PTA meetings at the local schools
Get involved in children's sports leagues at the local parks
Attend local cultural events (Cinco de Mayo celebrations, etc.)
Visit local ethnic restaurants and get acquainted with the staff
Offer classes at your church to teach English as a second language
Discover other specific needs of the surrounding ethnic community
Have ministry teams from ethnic schools minister in your church
Meet other cultures where they live, work and spend their free time

C. Making contacts in our Samaria

Basic principles when making contacts

**Pray that the Lord will help you to initiate the contact
(we must go to people and not wait for them to come to us)**

**Be prepared for initial suspicion or rejection
(accept the fact that fear motivates people to be suspicious)**

**Focus on learning more about the other person
(this shows an interest in them as a person)**

**Focus on learning about their family and country of origin
(this shows an interest in their people and culture)**

**Find out what religious background their family has
(this shows an interest in their beliefs)**

**Find out if there are any specific things you can pray for them
(this shows an interest in their needs and concerns)**

Things to keep in mind about their children as you talk

Most other cultures have a great interest in their children

Most other cultures have different ways to discipline children

Many cultures will watch how you accept their children

Effective ways to develop your ministry to contacts

**Begin with adults with whom you already have a bridge
(Family, friends, co-workers and neighbors are the best starting bridges)
(School and sports contacts can also be very effective)**

Visit contacts in their home

Invite contacts to your home

Discern their felt needs

(learn English, problems with children, etc.)

Discern how the felt needs point to spiritual needs

D. Sharing the Gospel in our Samaria

1. The Holy Spirit opens doors through sharing common interests

Interest in their family

Christ showed an interest in their children

Luke 18:15-17

**Tutoring children may give opportunities to share Christ with parents
Concern for teenagers in trouble provides opportunities to share Christ
Concern for the elderly parents provides opportunities to share Christ**

Interest in their needs

Peter and John showed an interest in a man's physical needs

Acts 3:1-11

**Common forms of needs that cause people to become open
(death, serious illness, trauma, first time in jail, etc.)**

Needs provide opportunities to be a good listener

**Needs may provide opportunities for support groups
(grieving, single parents, cancer or other illnesses, etc.)**

Philip showed an interest in helping a man understand

Acts 8:30-35

Many people are looking for answers to basic questions like:

Where did I come from?

Why am I here on this earth?

Where will I go when I die?

Interest in their beliefs

Paul showed an interest in their beliefs

Acts 17:16-34

Many people have beliefs that cause fear

Many people have beliefs that do not provide answers

Most people do not understand:

Why they believe what they believe

(the presuppositions always determine the conclusions)

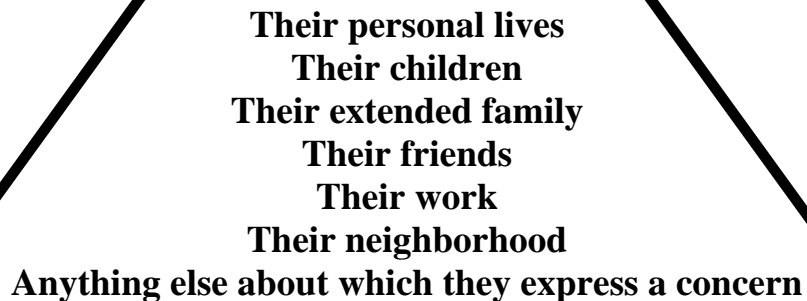
Why they do what they do

2. The Holy Spirit opens doors as we pray for their requests

**Regardless of what people believe or do not believe,
most cultures believe in prayer to something or someone**

**As a result, nearly all individuals of other cultures will respond positively
if you ask them if there are specific things for which you can pray for them**

As you talk with a person, listen for specific things that they mention as concerns



**Their personal lives
Their children
Their extended family
Their friends
Their work
Their neighborhood
Anything else about which they express a concern**

**As your conversation draws to a close,
ask if you can pray for them and their concerns**



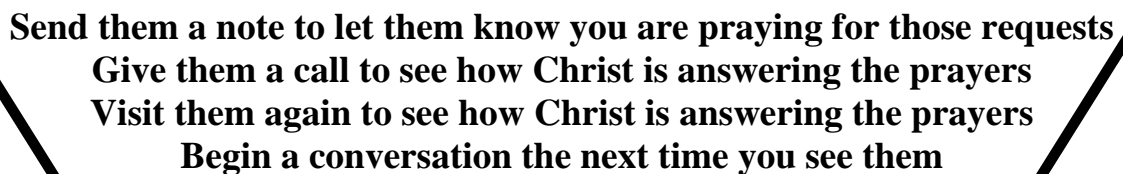
Even many who claim to be atheists will let you pray for them!

**After praying for the person, ask if you can make a list of things they would like
you to remember as you pray for them until you see them again**



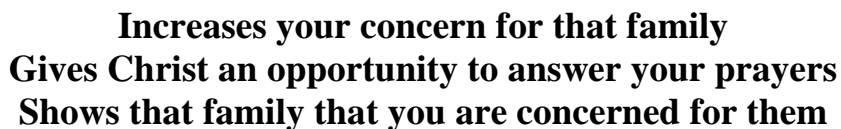
Be sure and pray regularly for them!

Those prayer requests also give you an opportunity to:



**Send them a note to let them know you are praying for those requests
Give them a call to see how Christ is answering the prayers
Visit them again to see how Christ is answering the prayers
Begin a conversation the next time you see them**

The fact that you are praying regularly for that family



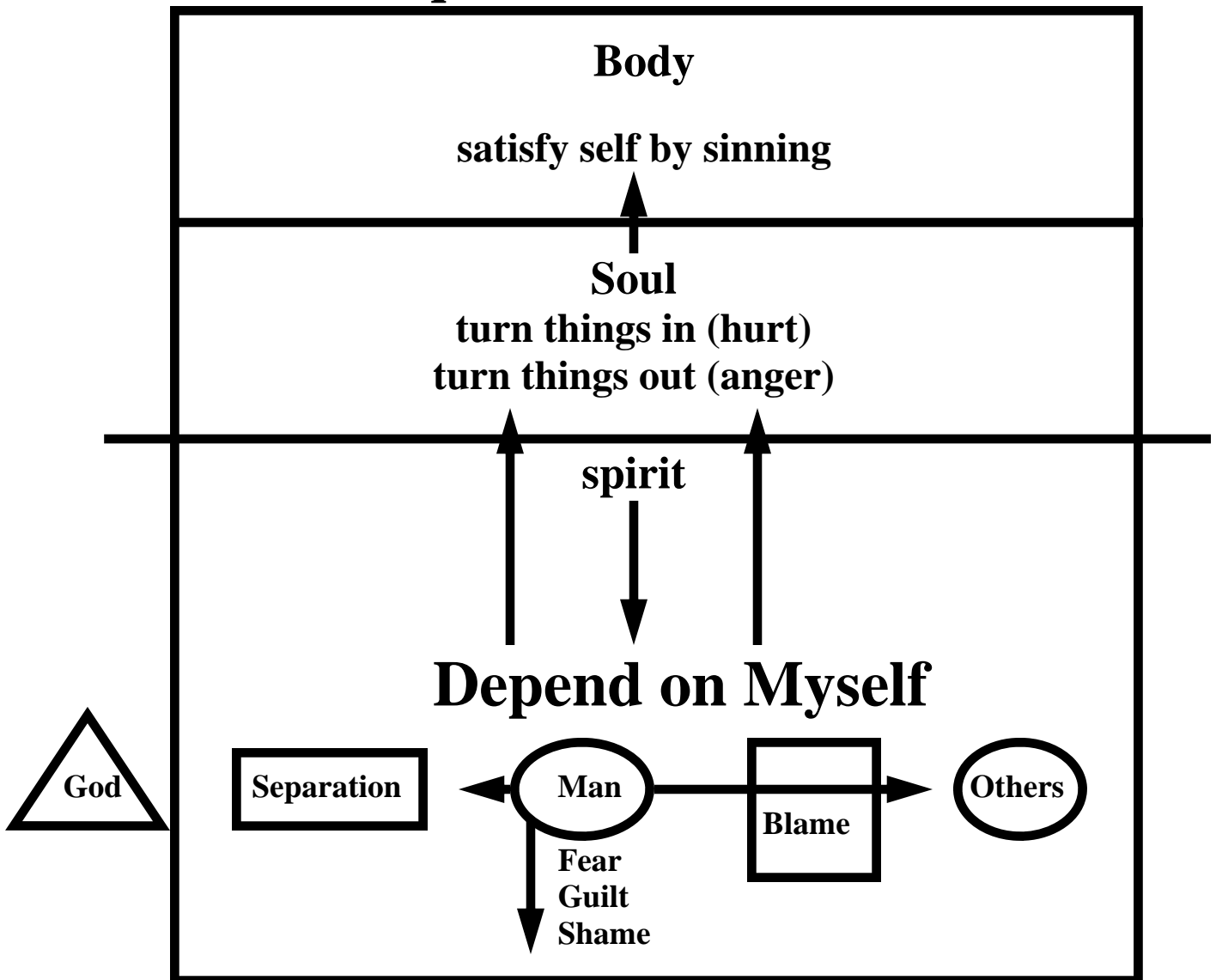
**Increases your concern for that family
Gives Christ an opportunity to answer your prayers
Shows that family that you are concerned for them**

3. The Holy Spirit opens doors as we begin with the results of sin

People without Christ can only depend on self
As a result, they are experiencing:
Separation from God
Fear, Guilt and Shame within
Blame towards others

Explain how these are the things that motivate every person
Then ask the person to whom you are talking if they struggle with these things
Offer to help the person find answers to these things through a Bible study

The Consequences of Sin - Genesis 3:7-13



Man was changed in his relationship to God, to himself and to others!

4. The Holy Spirit opens doors as we work with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit convinces all unbelievers of three things

John 16:8-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

The Holy Spirit convinces the world of sin

**We work with the Holy Spirit as we help people
to understand the difference between Sin and sins**

**Sins are the things that we do wrong
Sin is failing to believe in Christ**

The Holy Spirit convinces the world of righteousness

**He convinces the world that Christ is the Righteous One
This is necessary because Christ is now in heaven
This is necessary because the world cannot see Christ today**

The Holy Spirit convinces the world of judgment

**He convinces the world that the death and resurrection
of Christ sealed the judgment of Satan**

**He convinces the world that those who continue to follow in sin
will share in the judgment of Satan**

We work with the Holy Spirit as we share the Word of God in love

Ephesians 4:15

“Speaking the truth in love”

We work with the Holy Spirit as we distinguish between Sin and sins

We work with the Holy Spirit as we teach about the Righteousness of Christ

We work with the Holy Spirit as we teach about the judgment of Satan

E. Follow-up of new Christians in our Samaria - spiritual parenting

The church has many mentors but few spiritual parents

I Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

First generation Christians have no understanding of Biblical love

First generation Christians are often told to come to church

First generation Christians usually lack spiritual parents

First generation Christians need someone to imitate

The Lord gives us examples of how to be spiritual parents

I Thessalonians 2:7-12

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

We have an example of the gentle care of a nursing mother

We have an example of what it means to share our lives

We have an example of being available night and day

We have an example of how to provide a godly example

We have an example of how to encourage new Christians

We have an example of how to encourage a worthy walk

We will be effective spiritual parents as we follow the examples of Paul, Silas and Timothy!

F. Building new Christians to a spiritual family

The early church provided spiritual families to help new Christians grow

Acts 2:42, 46

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,”

The early church met in groups for Bible study

The early church met in groups for fellowship

The early church met in groups to break bread

The early church met in groups for prayer

The early church met in groups daily

The early church met in groups in the temple

The early church met in groups from house to house

The early church met to eat together

Paul had taken the leaders at Ephesus with him from house to house

Acts 20:20-21

“how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul shared all that was helpful with the leaders

Paul shared his teaching in public meetings with the leaders

Paul showed the leaders how to teach from house to house

Paul showed the leaders how to minister cross-culturally

Paul showed the leaders how to teach repentance

Paul showed the leaders how to teach faith

Paul modeled ministry to the whole church

Paul modeled ministry to family groups

G. Building new Christians to the body

We are one body in Christ

I Corinthians 12:12-13

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

We are to model the unity of the body

We are to model the diversity of the body

We are to model the fact we all have the same Spirit

We are to model the fact that the Spirit breaks down racial barriers

We are to model the fact that the Spirit breaks down social barriers

We are to develop local church leadership that models our diversity

Acts 13:1

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord...Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

The church at Antioch reached various cultural groups

The church at Antioch developed leadership from the various cultural groups

We are to develop outreach teams that are multicultural

Acts 20:4

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

This team was multicultural

This team was multiethnic

This team was multilingual