

Sharing Life-Changing Stories and Experiences

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- A. I will share my testimony and other faith-building stories with people who are not Christians.
- B. I will invite someone of another religion to experience God's love, power, and teaching through various activities, prayers, studies, etc. to help him or her grow.

TEAM CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (20 Minutes)

1. Tell us about your experience visiting a place of worship and interviewing someone of another religion.
2. Tell us about any experiences you have had in following up on your international contacts. (Keep using and referring to your *Contact Log*).
3. What did you learn from study #6 in *My Favorite Missionary*?
4. What needs or challenges are you facing that we can pray for?
5. Pray together, especially for each other and the friends from other cultures whom you have met.

PRESENTATION (12:58 Minutes)

Watch: *Sharing Life-Changing Testimonies and Experiences*. Take notes using the following outline.

1. Four steps for witnessing to people of other religions:
 - 1) (a)_____.
 - 2) Affirm (b)_____.
 - 3) Share (c)_____ through (d)_____.
 - 4) Invite to (e)_____.
2. "But without a (a)_____ He did not speak to them" (Mark 4:33-34).

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3. “Go home to your (a)_____ and tell them what
(b)_____
(c)_____ the Lord has done for you, and how He has had
(d)_____ on you” (Mark 5:19).
4. “Our (a)_____ of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most (b)_____ is the (c)_____ of our own experience.... These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an (d)_____ power that works for the salvation of souls” (*The Desire of Ages* 347).
5. “The secret of our success and power will be found in making
(a)_____ (b)_____ appeals to those who are interested, having unwavering (c)_____ upon the Most High” (*Pamphlet* 118 2).

DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION (40 Minutes)

1. The third step is *Share Differences through Stories*. Like the demoniac who simply told what God had done for him, we can impact many as we share our testimony of His love and power in our lives.

In groups of two, share a short story from your own life. These questions may help you think of something:

- What do you feel is the most important or special thing that God has done for you?

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- How has reading the Bible helped your health, your family, your finances, or some other area of your life?
2. Go back to the scenarios in the previous lesson. Review the one you chose, reflecting especially on his or her needs. Think of a testimony you have or someone else's story that you think would help this person understand the truth in a way that is very relevant to him or her. Write it below.

The Need from the Scenario

Short Description of Your Story

3. Tell the story to your partner. Try to talk to him or her as if your partner is the person in the scenario.
4. The fourth step is *Invite to Experience*. Every bit of God's truth is helpful. Biblical doctrines and beliefs should be shared not just in sermons and Bible studies, but also in everyday experiences. It is our privilege to give our international friends an opportunity to experience the various blessings from God. This can be done in small steps that lead to a full decision for Christ.

Read the following examples of inviting someone to try something with the belief in parenthesis:

- "May I pray for your financial situation?" (God's love and power; stewardship)
- "Every morning I go jogging and then fix myself a delicious fruit smoothie. Would you like to go with me tomorrow?" (Healthful living)
- "You said you are really struggling with impatience. I have this powerful scripture that I carry in my pocket and read every time I'm frustrated with someone. Would you like to try it?" (The Word of God; victory)
- "We're going to the park this Saturday afternoon to spend time as a family. Would you like to join us and experience a special stress-reliever we call "Sabbath Rest?" (The Sabbath)
- "Before you go to bed, ask God to protect you and your family from anything dangerous, including spirits and see if that helps you go to sleep like it's helped me." (The Great Controversy).

Which one of these would match the need of the person in your scenario? Write it here and/or write your own sentence for a belief you think would be helpful:

6. Read Ephesians 6:13-19. What do you find in this passage that can help you as you share biblical truths with people of other religions?

ASSIGNMENTS (5 Minutes)

1. What have you learned today and how will you use it this week?
2. What do you plan to do to follow up on any of the friendships you have developed?
3. Use the four steps to share your faith with at least one of your friends from another culture, using and completing *Field Report #7*.
4. Begin to fill out *Field Activity #7-Collection of Stories and Experiences*, adding at least one item to each box. Keep it handy so you can continue to add more to it and use it in your witnessing opportunities.
5. Mobilize and Multiply. Share with a friend or family member what you learned about sharing stories and inviting people to experience something new. Encourage him or her to do this with someone who is not a Christian this week.
6. Watch the following video clips (check online for updates):
 - Elder Dan Serns describes how to share ones testimony effectively; Elder Dean Coridan shows the power of prayer in dealing with ghosts; Ms. Anna Coridan challenges to seek God’s courage to witness
7. Complete study #7 in *My Favorite Missionary* and focus your prayers on those who are “Muslims” in *Praying for the World Next Door*.

TEAM PRAYER (10 Minutes)

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Pray together for the internationals you are trying to reach believing that God will work miracles in their behalf; ask God for both boldness and loving tact; for the people to understand and respond to your testimonies and invitations.

Promises to Claim:

- *Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God (Psalm 86:8-10).*
- *“Call to Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).*
- *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 (Acts 4:31).*
- *“It is said that at one time an infidel came to argue the question of his unbelief with Mr. Moody. The evangelist said to the unbeliever, “Let us pray before we talk of these matters;” and they bowed down, and while Mr. Moody prayed, God changed the man’s heart. It was God that wrought where argument would have failed. Let us work upon this plan, and pray for one another, bringing one another right into the presence of God by living faith. The Lord knows all the thoughts and feelings of the heart; and how easily He can melt us, how His spirit, like a fire, can subdue the flinty heart, and, like a hammer, can break the rock into pieces! (Review and Herald, August 28, 1888).*