

## SCRIPTURES FOR 4/23/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

---

### **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### **Galatians 6:2, 9-10**

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

### **Matthew 11:28-29**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

### **Proverbs 10:19**

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

### **Proverbs 18:13**

He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.

### **James 1:19**

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

### **Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

### **James 2:14-19**

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed



2006: THE YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION - *BUILDING BLOCK #4: EVANGELISM*  
**LESSON #4: THE WITNESSING BLUEPRINT**

---

**NOTE TO LEADERS:** All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

**INTRODUCTION:**

---

This week, Jeff spoke about a blueprint or a plan by which we can intentionally witness to others.

Jesus called the apostles to be witnesses and by association we must follow suit. This was a crazy new idea for the Judaism, because Jews were not expected to evangelize; before Jesus came on the scene, Yahweh was for the Jews, not the Gentiles. Also, the church was always tied to the temple and the priesthood. Now we were called to become a priesthood of all believers and to disperse.

*Have someone read Acts 1:8.*

**BE INTENTIONAL**

---

What's the last great CD you listened to or excellent movie you saw? What made it great and why should I care?

Talking about our relationship with Jesus shouldn't be any more difficult than talking about our favorite band or sports team or even than talking about how great our kids are. But, it is. Part of the reason is because if we share Jesus with someone and they respond, they have to change the way they look at things, restructure their priorities, and make sacrifices.

What is the most disgusting thing you have seen someone eat on *Fear Factor*?

They did that for a CHANCE at \$50,000! What do we do as Christians that would be harder than eating that? And isn't our prize worth more the \$50K? If people will do something so vile for so little, why are we so scared to talk to people about Jesus? Or how about submitting yourself to the coarse judgment of Simon Cowell for five minutes of screen time on *American Idol*?

People are willing to sacrifice for something they believe in but you have to be intentional and work up the courage to ask. Jeff suggested that we need to look for opportunities to move people from the foyer, to the living room, to the kitchen in order to

earn the privilege to invite them. While there may be exceptions to this idea, this is especially true in today's culture. We need to be a not-so-secret agent.

What are some ways you can get someone to the foyer?

**BE AVAILABLE**

---

What is the number one enemy of availability? Busy-ness. If we are constantly running from place to place, we will be perpetually unavailable. But the scripture tells us to spend our time doing good and doing God's will, especially in meeting the needs of the Body. Only then does He promise to lighten our load.

*Have someone read Galatians 6:2, 9-10, and Matthew 11:28-29.*

Have you ever felt like you were overburdened or overextended?

What keeps you from simplifying your life?

**BE ATTENTIVE**

---

In order to recognize an opening to get someone into the foyer, we need to pay attention. We need to listen.

*Have someone read Proverbs 10:19, 18:13, and James 1:19.*

Are you a good listener? What can you do to work on it?

**BE PRACTICAL**

---

*Have someone read Matthew 5:16, James 2:14-19.*

We are His ambassadors; we do not need to wrestle people into the church, we need to love them into the arms of Jesus Christ; if they come to church as a result, great. We need to look for opportunities and take advantage of them. We need to "pray like everything depends on God and work like everything depends on us."

**CONCLUSION**

---

Go!