

"LIFE"

A Call to Life Style Evangelism

OVERVIEW

The entire life of Jesus can be summed up in his first and last publically spoken words. His first public words spoken reveal the CALLING of his Father. Luke 4:18 reveals his first words.

Luke 4:17-21

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to **preach good news** to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim freedom** for the prisoners and **recovery of sight** for the blind, to **release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**" Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The calling of Jesus' life was plainly set before him. This CALLING would become his identity. This "identity" would determine his "life style". This life style would forever be about "others". Therefore everything that Jesus did and everywhere that Jesus went reflected his CALLING to live for others.

The last words of Jesus are recorded by Matthew in the last moments of His earthly life. Matthew 28:19-20: Then Jesus came to them and said,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The last words of Jesus reveal the COMMAND of his life. And the COMMAND of his life would forever be his "purpose". It would not be based upon a gift or a talent, but a firm understanding of who God his Father had CALLED him to BE and what his Father had COMMANDED him to "DO". This same CALLING and COMMAND is ours today. God's CALLING and COMMAND is for every born again believer who claims to be a child of God. It is a CALLING and a COMMAND to "evangelize" a lost and dying world. (Acts 2:42-47) It is a CALLING and a COMMAND to live a life style "worthy of the calling." (Ephesians 4:1) It is a CALLING and a COMMAND to bring "hope" to those in darkness. (Col. 1:27) It is a CALLING and a COMMAND to "reconcile" the world to Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-20)

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

LIFE STYLE EVANGELISM occurs when a Christian, in response to the Holy Spirit, puts into practice the CALLING and COMMAND of Jesus. It is our CALLING and COMMAND to be a witness to the resurrected power of Christ on many levels of relationships.

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."

Our lifestyle of evangelism begins with those that are in our immediate family (Jerusalem) and then to our neighbors, those we work with or encounter on a daily basis (Judea and Samaria) and then to those with whom we have never met (ends of the earth). We are CALLED and

COMMANDED to impact our world with the reality of Jesus Christ. This will at times demand effort, thought, risk and even possible rejection. But it will always result in reward. We believe that the first and last purpose of Sunday School is evangelism. It was initially created as an evangelistic outreach tool, not merely a safe place for Christians to come and "fellowship". Our Sunday School can be the most powerful "evangelistic tool" of our church if its primary purpose is understood by its leadership. The power of evangelism in Sunday School is when a lost person is brought into the presence of many "lifestyles" that reflect the identity and purpose of Jesus.

LIFE is an acrostic that is comprised of four interrelated sessions:

L - Live the Life

I - Identify "Them"

F - Form Relationships

E - Evangelize "Them"

L...Live the Life (Session one)

1. What is life style evangelism? Life style evangelism occurs when a Christian, in response to the Holy Spirit, puts into practice the teachings of Jesus (life style) including the teaching about establishing relationships with the unsaved in order to lead them to Christ (evangelism). Jesus went out of His way to cultivate those relationships, and if we are serious about following Him we must do the same thing. Making a place in your life for non-Christian neighbors demands effort, thought, and at times risk. Bridges are harder to construct than walls. But that doesn't alter this reality: Outsiders to faith are first drawn to Christians and then to Christ.

2. God gave us His plan of evangelism in Matthew 28:19-20.

a. The first "teach" relates to sharing the Gospel. It is impossible to make disciples of people who are not disciples. We must learn how to share the Gospel with the unsaved. This is one of the purposes of these sessions.

b. The first example of fulfilling the first part of the Great Commission can be found in Acts 2:37-41. Jesus told the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. This is what they were doing. While waiting, they began to preach the Gospel to the people. The people were convicted of the need for forgiveness and were saved and baptized. Thus, the first response to the first part of the Great Commission.

c. In Acts 2:47b we read the words, "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." What took place between v. 41 and this verse? The second part of the Great Commission was fulfilled through the caring fellowships (koinonia).

3. Life style- It is the purpose of Sunday School to help Christians develop and maintain a life style through ongoing discipleship. Jesus said, "Teaching them to obey all things" which means putting them into practice. A study of Acts 2:42-47 will help us better understand the importance and purpose of the Sunday School (koinonia or caring fellowship).

a. What is a caring fellowship? (A caring fellowship comes from spirit filled Christians who study the Bible and pray together in an awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in their midst.)

b. What are the characteristics of a caring fellowship? (These are found in vv. 44-47a.)

(1) They met together regularly.

(2) They were organized in such a way that everyone had as much in common as possible.

(3) They met the ministry needs of the group.

(4) They went to the temple for worship.

(5) They had fellowship in their homes.

(6) They were unified in purpose and spirit.

c. This is a good description of what a Sunday School class should be.

4. Evangelism- Everything in these verses up to v. 47b can be used to describe a "click". But clicks don't grow. "And the Lord added daily to the church those who were being saved" gives us the evangelistic directive for the Sunday School. It should be a natural result of the discipleship process. If the ultimate goal of our discipleship is goodness we will struggle with legalism. If it is holiness in order to become a more effective witness then we are accepting our CALLING and our COMMAND. As long as a man simply tells another ABOUT Jesus, he is a witness. But the moment he tries to get that person to DO SOMETHING with Christ, he shifts over to the role of the soul winner.

5. The New Testament Passion- "The joy of anything, from a blade of grass upward, is to fulfill its created purpose (Eph. 1:12). We are not here to win souls, to do good to others. That is the natural outcome but it is not our aim, and this is where so many of us cease to be followers. We will follow God as long as He makes us a blessing to others, but when He does not, we will not follow. If our Lord had measured His life by its actual results, He would have been full of misery. We get switched off when instead of following God we follow Christian work and workers. We are much more concerned over the passion for souls than the passion for Christ...The passion for souls is not a New Testament idea at all, but religious commercialism. When we are taken up with this passion, the joy of the Lord is never ours but only an excitable joy which always leaves a snare behind."

6. What made Christ such an effective model of life style evangelism?

- a. He lived the life.
- b. His compassion for people.
- c. He met people where they were.
- d. He put the needs of people above any man made barrier.

7. Questions-

a. Think back to your childhood. What individuals were most influential in your life and why? (List characteristics on the board.) Guide them to an understanding of the power of INFLUENCE.

b. Social scientists say that even the most introverted person in the world will influence at least 10,000 people in their lifetime. Therefore, everyday of your life you are either influencing someone or being influenced by someone. How does that statement make you feel? In spiritual terms, everyday we are either leading someone towards the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ or away from this knowledge. Everyday you are sharing what you believe to be true about Jesus whether you realize it or not.

c. Have you ever thought about your "spiritual" genealogy? Who influenced the person who influenced you to become a Christian and then who do you think influenced them? Guide them to understand the potential and power of changing the course and direction of generations yet to come simply because of our witness today.

Story: One of the great disasters of history took place in 1271. In 1271 Nickelo and Matteo Polo (the father and uncle of Marco) were visiting the Kubla Kahn. Kubla Kahn at that time was a world ruler. For he ruled all China, all India and all of the East. He was attracted to the story of Christianity as Nickelo and Matteo told it to him. And he said to them: "You shall go to your high priest and tell him on my behalf to send me 100 men skilled in your religion and I shall be baptized, and when I am baptized all my Barons and great men will be baptized and their subjects will receive baptism too and so there will be more Christians here than there are in your parts." Nothing was done. Nothing was done for about 30 years and then three missionaries were sent. Too few and too late. It baffles the imagination to think what a difference to the world it would have made if in the 13th century China had become fully Christian. If in the 13th century India had become fully Christian. If in the 13th century the East had been given to Christ. In that, we have seen man frustrating God's purpose in history.

d. What are the characteristics of a life style that reflects the CALLING and COMMANDS of Christ? Lead the class to discover the CALLING and COMMANDS as found in Ephesians 4:17-5:2.

- e. Close by asking which verses impacted them the most and why?

CLOSING ILLUSTRATION

A man was watching his 80 year old neighbor planting a small peach tree. He inquired of him as follows: "You don't expect to eat peaches from that tree, do you?" The old man rested on his spade. He said, "No, at my age I know I won't. But all my life I've enjoyed peaches...never from one tree I planted myself. I'm just trying to pay the other fellows who planted the trees for me."

I...Identify "Them" (Session Two)

1. As the following portion of the Great Commission is read listen for what you consider to be the most important word in this verse: "...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."

All of these words are important but a significant word that is usually overlooked is the word, "them". Believe it or not "they" (them) were a big question when Jesus began his teaching ministry. The "thems" were mainly comprised of Gentiles which were any people who were not Jews. The question was so important that Luke retells the parable of the Good Samaritan that Jesus told to specifically deal with "Who is my neighbor?" Or who is "them"? Read Luke 10:25-37 and substitute "neighbor" with the word "them".

2. Ask members to think of examples where Jesus is focusing on the "thems" of His day. They should be able to think of many. For example; the sick man by the pool, Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, the adulterous woman, the demoniac, etc. In fact, we have more written about what Jesus did on the way to meetings than we have about what he said during the meetings. It is significant that Christ modeled the Great Commission by placing the emphasis of His life upon the "thems" of His day. Let's examine three of these examples.

a. Woman at the well- Jesus went out of His way to go where she would be. He met her at the point of her felt need which was? (Isolation- she was rejected by her society.) Jesus began the relationship by identifying with her need as He said, "Give me a drink". She was so shocked that someone would care about her. She became teachable because of Jesus' genuine concern.

b. Mary Magdalene- Jesus went to where she was and met her at the point of her felt need which was? (Control- her life was out of control.) After casting the seven demons out of her life Mary then looked for every opportunity to express her love for Christ.

c. Peter- Jesus went to find Peter and invited him to begin a long term relationship. What was Peter's felt need? (Must have been looking for a purpose in his life. Also, Jesus may have been the one with the felt need in this case. He was looking for disciples.)

3. These represent three different kinds of relationships. We have these same opportunities for relationships today. Distribute the sheet from "Concentric Circles of Concern" to help members identify examples of these relationships. If time allows you may want to share the basic premise from this book which is that we should have meaningful relationships with those at the center of the circle before we move outward to the other relationships. In other words, you don't have to have the "life style" to witness to strangers but you do in order to witness to those who know you best.

a. One time encounters- Woman at the well. Can you think of others in the life of Jesus? What was His approach to these relationships? He always met them at the point of their felt need and then ministered to their spiritual needs. What are examples of one time encounters in your life? Our first responsibility is to notice them and then see them as Jesus saw them. Share the following illustration entitled "Froghood":

"Ever feel like a frog? Frogs feel slow, low, ugly, puffy, drooped, pooped. I know. One told me. The frog feeling comes when you want to be bright but feel dull. You want to share but are selfish. You want to be thankful but feel resentment. You want to be big but are small. You want to care but are indifferent. Yes, at one time or another each of us has found himself on the lily pad floating down the river of life. Frightened and disgusted, but too froggish to budge.

A Fairy Tale: Once upon a time there was a frog. But he wasn't really a frog. He was a prince who looked and felt like a frog. A wicked witch had cast a spell on him. Only the kiss of a beautiful

young maiden could save him. But since when do cute chicks kiss frogs? So there he sat- un-kissed prince in frog form. But miracles do happen. One day a beautiful maiden grabbed him up and gave him a big smack. Crash-boom-zap! There he was- a handsome prince. And you know the rest. They lived happily ever after.

Sermonic observation- So what is the task of the church? To kiss frogs, of course!

Our prayer should be that we would see people through the eyes of Jesus. He saw people, not as they were but what they could become with God's transforming power applied to their lives. We need to see people, not as they are, but what they can become with the kiss of the Savior applied through our lives.

b. Occasional relationships- Mary Magdalene. Can you think of others in the life of Jesus? What was His approach to these people? He met them at the point of their felt need and then led them to consider their spiritual needs. What are some examples of occasional relationships in your life? Our prayer should be that God will help us see them as He sees them so that we might determine a ministry area where we can change this relationship from human to spiritual.

c. Long term relationships- Peter. Can you think of others in the life of Jesus? What was his approach to these people? He did not share as much as quickly with these. He disciplined them over a longer period of time. What are some examples of long term relationships in your life? We should first notice them and then really see them. They are already in our lives. We need to determine how we can turn this into a spiritual relationship.

4. Once you have identified them you can either judge them or see them through Christ's eyes. Study the example in John 9 to help members understand the difference. The disciples saw the blind beggar and focused on who could be blamed for this problem. Jesus saw him and focused on how the glory of God could be revealed in his life.

5. God has called us to identify with those who are not saved. Look closely at Ephesians 2:1-13. What is Paul asking us to remember? What is so important about remembering "who we once were?" Answer: It is our first point of connection or identifying with who they are.

An assignment: Ask everyone to identify at least one "them" in their lives in each of these areas this week. This will include specific individuals from one time encounters, occasional relationships, and long term relationships. Be prepared to share these at the beginning of the next session.

...Form Relationships (Session Three)

1. Allow members to share examples from their lives related to the three types of relationships discussed in the previous session. It is important that they be able to keep these specific people in mind as we discuss how to form relationships. Their understanding of this material and effective application will be enhanced as they make specific preparation for forming relationships with actual people in their lives.

2. Write this question on the board: What are the greatest struggles of man?

a. Isolation- to be disconnected, separated from something or someone they love.

b. Control- the need for order, to know and predict the outcome, desire for boundaries and structure. We only fear that which we cannot control.

3. The power of sin in our lives is in it's ability to isolate us from God and replace God's love with fear. Jesus said in John 15:5,9 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains (stays connected to) in me and I (stay connected to) to him, he will bear much fruit. Apart (disconnected) from me, you can do nothing. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you, now remain (stay connected to) in my love."

Jesus met people at the point of their felt need (review this from the previous session.) So must we. We must discover the nonbeliever's problems and needs for which the gospel will prove to be good news. As stated earlier, "Every basic human need or motive is matched by some facet of the gospel." We can then either identify with our "thems" or classify (judge) them. Ephesians

2:1-13 challenges us to remember who we were before we judge others.

4. Ask, "What factors make forming relationships so difficult in our day?"

a. Too many people- excessive relational demands have crippled our relational capacities.

b. The pace of life is too fast and complicated.

c. Separation or segregation- The majority of Christians have lost their ability to relate significantly to non-Christians. By no stretch of the imagination can the Christian community be called the "salt of the earth". There is no impact without contact, and yet, after knowing the Lord two years, the average Christian has no significant relationships with non-Christians. Spirituality is viewed as separation from the unsaved.

d. Bridging the credibility gap- Christians are to be good news (live the life) before they share the good news. We must become candidates for God's blessing, begin to incarnate His beauty in our relationships, and open these relationship to the non-Christian.

5. Three kinds of relationships:

a. One time encounters- Many of our one time encounters will remain exactly that. We will have no opportunity to develop a relationship with these people. If this is the case then we ask the Holy Spirit to help us remain sensitive to an opportunity to turn the conversation toward spiritual matters and, hopefully, we will be able to share the Gospel with them (next session). If it is possible, however, to cultivate a relationship the following procedure is suggested:

(1) Awareness- We must first make these people aware of our concern for them. Several years ago our church conducted a market scan in Tyler to determine how many unchurched people lived in our area. Keep in mind that we are one of 36 Southern Baptist churches in Smith County and there are many other kinds of churches in our area. In fact, according to the SBC our association is the second most highly churched association per capita in the United States. One out of eight people in Tyler belong to Green Acres Baptist Church. And yet, we found 15,000 people in Tyler who said they had not been in a church in Tyler in the last ten years for any reason other than a funeral or wedding. Furthermore, most of them said they could not see any reason for this to change in the next ten years. These people were asked, however, if they could ever imagine themselves needing a church in their future. Seventy-five percent of them said yes, if someone could convince them that they were genuinely interested in them as a person and not just as another number to add to their membership rolls. The key is to find a way to convince people that we are willing to do whatever it takes to earn their trust. How did Jesus do this? He met them at the point of their felt need and ministered to that need. What are some examples of how we can do that today? (a) begin to pray for them; (b) find areas of common interest and cultivate these areas; (c) remain sensitive to times of difficulty that may come into this person's life; (d) remain sensitive to opportunities to share in their good experiences. Intentional living is needed. Intentional living begins with an awareness and ends with a purpose. It is intentionally developing relationships in order to share the love of Jesus Christ. It is building a "relational platform" of trust to stand upon.

(2) Receiving- Once people are aware of us and have accepted our attempts at establishing a relationship we can say they are at the receiving level. This means they will accept our continued ministry to them and will begin to consider if our interest is genuine. We can add such areas as the following to our cultivation process: (a) become a giver of books; (b) make holidays count; (c) continued ministry to the area of greatest need in their lives.

(3) Responding- After an acceptable time of cultivation (varies with different people) it is possible that these people will be ready to respond to your invitations. For example: (a) invite them to your home for a meal; (b) invite them to your home to have fellowship with your Christian friends; (c) invite them to an activity involving spiritual matters; (d) invite them to Sunday School and church. These people will ultimately become responsive enough to allow you or someone else to share a personal witness with them (next session). Remember that the Great Commission includes a responsibility for people after they have accepted the Gospel. Even if a person accepts Christ they need to be led to become responsive (i.e. attend Sunday School) so that the discipleship process can be implemented.

b. Occasional relationships- As explained previously some of your one time encounters may become occasional relationships. For those occasional relationships that you already have

you will have to use the same process as above in order to change this from a natural to a spiritual relationship. They are already aware of your interest in their lives but they are not aware of your genuine interest in their spiritual welfare. They will not receive your ministry to their felt need unless you show them with your life style that this is important to you. They will never respond to your invitations to spiritual endeavors unless they understand this to be important in your life. They will not be interested in hearing your personal testimony unless it becomes a natural part of your life style.

c. Long term relationships- The same process must take place in these relationships as previously discussed for occasional relationships. "Concentric Circles of Concern" suggests that we begin with our long term relationships before moving to occasional and one time encounters. The approach taken by "Life" is to allow the Holy Spirit to give leadership in this process. We are asking that you pray each day that God will lead people into your life or make you aware of opportunities with people you already know to begin this process. Also, as you become involved in the area of ministry for which you have been gifted allow God to lead people into your life that need a cultivation evangelistic process.

6. In summary, we must understand our non-Christian neighbor and be willing to build bridges to him in spite of some of the great differences of belief and value. The areas of common interest do not have to be religious. Fishing, tennis, etc. You can become an oil man for a day and that man may become a Christian for a life time. The easiest person for you and me to reach has three characteristics. He has a similar cultural background. (It's generally true that the more shared educationally, ethnically, vocationally, economically, and socially with a nonbeliever, the easier he will be to reach.) He will also know the essentials of the gospel (seeds planted in childhood). Also, they have a healthy social relationship with you, the evangelist.

7. The visitation ministry of the Sunday School focuses on two types of prospects:

- Those who have visited us (responsive). We simply return the favor by visiting them.
- Those who are unchurched and have no interest in our church (unresponsive). These are the people we are trying to reach through life style evangelism. Once they visit us they become responsive and everyone in the class can get involved in the evangelistic process by reaching out to them.

Evangelize "Them" (Session Four)

I. Hurdles for the Witness

- Personal relationship with Christ
 - Unconfessed and unrepented sin- 1 John 1:9
 - Lack of discipline (live the life)
- Fear of perfection ("I will witness if I am ever good enough!"- Romans 7:14-25)
- Fear of rejection ("What if they reject my witness?"- 1 John 4:18)

II. Helps for the Witness

- Remember the three kinds of relationships.
 - One time encounters- Someone has "received" your concern for their felt need. They have become "responsive" which allows you to speak of spiritual things.
 - Occasional relationships- Someone has been "responsive" to your various invitations and has expressed interest in hearing more about the Lord.
 - Long term relationships- Someone has allowed your relationship to include spiritual matters and you are able to talk to them about the Gospel.
- The first step is to share your personal testimony. (God's Word combined with your testimony will be your most powerful tool of evangelism. Every testimony carries with it the authority of experience. John 1:14)
 - 20/20/60 Outline
 - 20%...Your life before Christ.
 - 20%...How you realized your need for Christ and how you became a Christian.
 - 60%...What Christ has done and IS doing for you in your life.
 - Share about how God has changed your...

- ...values
- ...identity
- ...purpose
- (3) Keep it short!
- (4) Emphasize Jesus more than yourself.
- (5) Avoid "Christianise".
- (6) Practice sharing your testimony with a friend.
- (7) Share your testimony with a larger group.
- c. Then share a tract. (Study it carefully enough to be able to personalize the tract and speak through it clearly.)
 - (1) Personal Commitment Guide
 - (2) Eternal Life
 - (3) Guess Who Loves You Most?
 - (4) Life or Death
 - (5) Heart Talk
- d. Or share your own Gospel presentation such as:
 - (1) Four Spiritual Laws
 - John 3:16
 - John 10:10
 - Romans 3:23
 - Romans 6:23
 - Romans 5:8
 - John 14:5
 - Eph. 2:8-9
 - Rev. 3:20
 - John 1:12
 - Romans 10:13
 - 1 John 5:12-13
 - (2) Roman Road
 - 3:10-12
 - 3:23
 - 5:8
 - 6:23
 - 10:9-14
 - (3) ABC Salvation
 - ...All have sinned (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
 - ...Believe (John 3:23; Acts 16:31)
 - ...Confess (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32; Acts 4:12)
- e. If using your own method remember the following:
 - (1) Select a plan to follow. The actual plan doesn't matter but you should feel comfortable with what you choose.
 - (2) Read and mark the verses in your Bible in such a way that you understand and can follow them easily. Write the next step and page number of your Bible on the pages so you can follow quickly.
 - (3) Read, pray about, and memorize your method. Memorization and meditation on the Scripture will help it become a part of your habit-of-thought so you may be able to recall it as a reflex action.
- f. Share a Bible
 - (1) Celebrate Jesus Bible, Steps to Peace with God (NIV)
 - (2) Here's Hope New Testament, Roman Road Edition
 - (3) The Message
 - (4) New Living Bible

III. Highlights for the Witness

- a. The Holy Spirit goes ahead of us to prepare the lost person to receive our witness (John 16:8). Remember to pray each day that the Holy Spirit will make you aware of the people in your

life that need a witness.

b. The Holy Spirit guides us in what to say and do as we witness (Acts 1:8; Luke 12:11-12).

c. The Holy Spirit keeps our witness alive in the minds and souls of those who heard it (John 15:26).

d. What we are talking about does not exclude Christian ministry to Christian friends. We are trying to add a new dimension to our lives- evangelism of the unsaved and the spiritually inactive. A similar approach can be used for the unsaved and for those who need continued evangelism (discipleship).

IV. Summary of "Life"

a. Life style evangelism occurs when a Christian, in response to the Holy Spirit, puts into practice the teachings of Jesus (life style) including the teaching about establishing relationships with the unsaved in order to lead them to Christ (evangelism). Jesus went out of His way to cultivate those relationships, and if we are serious about following Him we must do the same. It is the role of the Sunday School to help us with our life style and encourage evangelism.

b. Some of those relationships will be one time encounters. We need to see these people as Jesus saw them. We need to meet them at the point of their felt need and, hopefully, have the opportunity to form a more lasting relationship and share the Gospel.

c. We must also allow our occasional relationships to turn toward the spiritual. We must earn the right to begin an evangelistic process with these people who are already in our lives.

d. Long term relationships must also be included in our evangelistic life style. We will remain sensitive to opportunities to turn these relationships toward spiritual matters.

e. We must make people aware of our interest in them as a person; begin an intentional process of leading this person to receive our efforts to help them with their spiritual needs; and invite them to respond to our invitations to participate in discipleship activities such as Sunday School. This allows the Sunday School to fulfill its evangelistic purpose.

(1) As unsaved people and people with spiritual needs become involved in Sunday School, the entire class can become part of the discipleship (evangelistic) process.

(2) Our visitation ministry through the Sunday School will then be dictated by the needs of the prospect (responsive or unresponsive).

(3) The teaching ministry of the Sunday School will continue to strive to teach ownership of life style evangelism for every member.

f. Every Christian needs to be prepared to share their faith through personal testimony and a specific Gospel presentation. Most one time encounters will require such a presentation. The occasional and long term relationships will include this presentation as part of the relationship evangelism process.

Jesus said; "Go therefore and 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.

...God gave us His plan for evangelism.

...Jesus Christ modeled this plan.

...The Holy Spirit implemented this plan through the church and Sunday School.

This plan is the driving force behind "Life". There have many evangelistic strategies through the years but none more successful than the Sunday School for literally and completely fulfilling the Great Commission. This is because the Sunday School is prepared to accept responsibility for continuing the evangelistic process after conversion. Evangelism is a dynamic, life long process which includes more than mere "conversionism". We are as responsible for what happens to people after they have become a Christian as we are for introducing them to Him in the first place. May God bless you as you become involved in the Great Commission. Fellowship with God and fulfilling the Great Commission is what "Life" is all about.