

LESSON FIVE

HOW TO REACH YOUR BLOCK FOR CHRIST

Focus: The New Testament demonstrates a strong pattern of house-to-house evangelism.

Objectives: At the conclusion of the lesson the learner should be able to:

Identify key passages where evangelism occurs house-to-house.

Discuss principles relevant to a house-to-house evangelistic strategy.

Make a plan to reach each house on your block.

OUTLINE

CONTENT

TEACHING METHOD

Involve: Neighborhood map

Explore:

I. How the church began

A. Acts Mini-lecture w/hand-out

II. Discuss principles relevant to a house-to-house evangelistic strategy.

A. Personal life Discussion and Role Play

B. Bible says about reaching others

c. Know your neighbors

D. Show interest/survey your block

E. How to follow up with neighbors through WCTC.

Apply: Survey your block.

TEACHER'S PLAN FOR LESSON FIVE

HOW TO REACH YOUR BLOCK FOR CHRIST

Involve: Neighborhood map - draw a map of your neighborhood block

Explore:

(10 min.) Step 1.

I. How the church began

Prepare a short lecture based on the information supplied and other resources like a Bible commentary. A chart/hand-out on the time line for the beginning of the church will give a context for present day believers.

(20 min.) Step 2.

II. Discuss principles relevant to a house-to-house evangelistic strategy.

- A. Go back to the lesson on personal preparation. Review briefly. Break into small groups and discuss point B - What the Bible says about reaching others. Discuss ideas, in addition to those listed for being known as a friend. Think of ways to be involved in community affairs. Look up Appendix B. Read through the survey. Choose a partner and practice using the survey with one another until its use becomes comfortable.

Part E. As the instructor finishes with a short lecture to acquaint each worker with what to do after the block survey has occurred. There are three parts, be sure to cover each.

Apply: Each person will survey their block.

TEACHER'S OUTLINE FOR LESSON FIVE

HOW TO REACH YOUR BLOCK FOR CHRIST

Involve: Neighborhood map

Explore:

I. How the church began

II. Principles relevant to house-to-house evangelistic strategy.

- A. Be sure your personal life is right before God (review Lesson 3).
Caution: Don't fall into the devil's trap of taking a lifetime to prepare to witness or expecting to be perfect before God can use you.
- B. Know what the Bible says about reaching others.
 - 1. Read the commissions we are given
Matthew 28:18-20 Matthew 4:19
 - 2. Realize God has placed you in your block for a purpose - to witness. (Acts 1:8) (Your Jerusalem)
- C. Know your neighbors
 - 1. When you move, hold open house, inviting neighbors in for refreshments and get acquainted.
 - 2. When new neighbors move in, arrange for an open house for them as a welcome.
 - 3. Be known as the friend in your block who really cares in time of need.
 - a. Don't be known as the bad neighbor either by condemning, by being a busybody, unloving or religious fanatic.
 - b. Help in time of sickness, car trouble; look after their home when they are gone, or other needs.
 - 4. Make opportunities to meet neighbors by offering assistance to them.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

- D. Show interest in community affairs by participating.
 - 1. Red Cross, United Fund and other door-to-door fund drives help you meet people if you help solicit in your block.

2. P.T.A., political groups and others are not only service, but opportunities to witness for Christ.
3. Assume leadership when offered and use it as an opportunity to exalt Christian ideals.

Survey your block.

1. Use form supplied by WCTC. See Appendix "B". Never survey when it is inconvenient for your neighbor. You can go back later. Complete your entire block.
 2. Make a copy of each house surveyed and turn in to the Center **at once**.
 3. Primary purpose of survey is to know your neighbors, their need, or their knowledge of Christ. See Acts 10:9-22 for the New Testament house-to-house plan and the reaching of your "Asia."
- E. Know what to do after the block survey has helped you know your neighbors.
1. Call together the Christians you have located.
 - a. Share with your group the results of the survey (the number of Christians or non-Christians).
 - b. Tell the Christians about the WCTC and the teaching opportunity for them.
 - c. Discuss what you can do to lead the non-Christians in your block to Christ.
 - d. Pray for specific unsaved persons in your block. **Call the Center whenever someone receives Christ.**
 - e. Pray earnestly for leadership of the Holy Spirit. We can't predict what happens from here. Let Him lead. Perhaps it will be a prayer group, home Bible study or???
 2. As a block worker after graduation, you will be asked to:
 - a. Accept telephone referrals from the Center on a new believer near you.
 - b. Go to the new believer the same day.
 - c. Express your joy and gratitude for the decision he has made.
 - d. Acquaint him with other believers living nearby.
 - e. Invite him to any prayer fellowship or home Bible study group nearby.

- f. Urge him to become related to an evangelical church. Explain what this is.
 - g. Find out the spiritual condition of the rest of the family.
 - h. Report all results back to the Center at once.
3. As a block worker after graduation, **you are also part of the trained nucleus in your church** and will be asked to:
- a. Accept referrals from the Center on any new believer. not live hear you. (He may have expressed interest church or your church may be nearest to him.)
 - b. As a representative of your church, go to the new believer before the next Lord's Day.
 - c. Invite and if possible, take the new Christian to your church and introduce him to the pastor and many of the people.

Apply: Survey your block within one week and turn in copies to WCTC.

TEACHER'S RESOURCE FOR LESSON FIVE

ACTS

The book of Acts covers a period of some 30 years, from the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost to the close of Paul's imprisonment at Rome. It describes the spread of Christianity around the northern Mediterranean--through present-day Syria, Turkey and Greece, to the heart of the Roman Empire. The 'acts' related are mainly those of the apostles Peter and Paul, though the book might well be called 'the acts of the Holy Spirit'. It is under His direction that the new-born church bursts through the national frontiers of Israel to become an international, world-wide movement.

Who wrote it: All the evidence, from earliest times, points to Paul's I dear friend Luke, the doctor'. He wrote Acts as a sequel to his earlier volume, the third Gospel. Luke is the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament. He came from Antioch, or possibly Philippi. Although we have few facts about his life, his writings prove him a fine and reliable historian. We know, from the way he changes from 'they' to 'we' in Acts (16:10; 20:5; 27:1), that he was present at many of the events he describes. He was with Paul at Philippi. He made the fateful journey with him to Jerusalem, stuck by him during the two years at Caesarea, and shared the voyage and shipwreck on the way to Rome. He had plenty of opportunity to obtain his other information first-hand - from Paul and Barnabas and others in the church at Antioch; from James, the Lord's brother, among others at Jerusalem; and from Philip and his daughters at Caesarea. And we know from Luke 1:1-4 just how concerned he was to get at the facts.

Time-chart

There are not enough fixed points to be exact, but the dates below are accurate within a year or two either way.

AD 30	The founding of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 1 - 2)
32/35	Paul's conversion (Acts 9)
34/37	Paul's first visit to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26ff.)
45 or 46	Famine relief sent to Jerusalem from Antioch (Acts 11:27ff.) Death of James
46 or 47	First missionary journey (Acts 13 - 14)
48	Apostolic Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15)
48-51	Second missionary journey (Acts 15:36 - 18:22)
50	Paul reaches Corinth (Acts 18)
53	Third missionary journey begins (Acts 18:23)
54-57	Paul's stay in Ephesus (Acts 19)
57-58	Paul in Greece (Acts 20)
58 (June)	Paul reaches Jerusalem (Acts 21)
58-60	Imprisonment at Caesarea (Acts 24-26)
60-61	Appeal to Caesar and voyage to Rome (Acts 27)
61-63	Imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:30)

Why did he write? It was in order to give the Roman Theophilus an accurate record of the true facts about Christianity (Luke 1:1-4). There were plenty of strange and distorted rumors flying about. This explains Luke's emphasis on the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles, who, unlike many Jews, were eager to hear (28:28). He is also concerned to account for the disturbances which so often followed the

preaching. In every place the troubles are fomented either by Jewish jealousy, or vested interest. Time and again he relates how the Roman authorities cleared the Christians of all charges of subversion and sometimes protected them from the fury of the mob.

When was Acts written? Most probably at the close of Paul's two-year imprisonment in Rome, in the early or mid-sixties. There is no hint of Nero's persecutions, or the Jewish revolt (AD 66-70), or Paul's death (about AD 67). On the contrary, the book ends on an optimistic note. It must have been written after the Gospel, which some date later than AD 70. But the evidence points to a date about AD 60, which makes 63 or thereabouts a likely date for Acts.

1 - 8:1a THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH: JERUSALEM

1:1-14 Introduction; the 40 days from resurrection to ascension

Luke's 'first book' (his Gospel) is an account of all that Jesus 'began to do and teach' during his life on earth. Acts continues the story of his work after the ascension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the apostles. It shows how the promise in verse 8 was fulfilled: in Jerusalem (2: 1 - 8: 1a), Judea and Samaria (8:1b - 11:18) and way beyond (11:19 to the end).

A cloud (9): all that human eyes could see of the glory of God's presence (compare also Exodus 40:34 and Luke 9:34-35).

Sabbath day's journey (12): the law limited travel on the sabbath to 2,000 cubits - about two-thirds of a mile.

Mary ... and his brothers (14): this is the last time Jesus' mother is mentioned in the New Testament, and the first time his brothers are associated with the disciples. We know at least one of them - James - had seen the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7).

1:15-26 A twelfth apostle is chosen: As far as we know, this is the last time the apostles use the time-honored method of casting lots. It is not just a 'lucky dip' - the decision is made after much prayer. The twelfth man had to have been with Christ throughout His earthly ministry, and to have seen Him after the resurrection.

**STUDENT'S STRUCTURED NOTES FOR LESSON FIVE
TO REACH YOUR BLOCK FOR CHRIST**

Involvement: Neighborhood map

Explore:

I. How the church began.

II. Principles relevant to a house-to-house evangelistic strategy.

- A. Personal life.
- B. What the Bible says about reaching others.
- C. Ideas for getting to know your neighbors.
- D. Showing interest towards others.
- E. How to follow up with neighbors through WCTC.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Apply: Survey your block.