

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2015
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 13

Introduction: *Engage your group members by allowing them to share their story.*

Ask your group about the people who shared Christ with them. Give your group members the opportunity to tell their stories of those who shared the gospel with them and how they came to know Christ as their Savior. This is also a good exercise to find out where your group is spiritually. If your groups might be made up of some non-Christians, consider explaining the gospel in clear terms and how we should respond to it before going further into the this session.

Part 1: *Connect your group with the character of God.*

In order to share the message of the gospel, we must be aware of God's character. Have your group read the passage found in Acts 17:16-27. On a tear sheet or poster board, draw two columns. One column that says **"God"** and another column that says **"Idols/False Gods."** Then after reading the passage, write down what we know about God from Scripture.

If there is time to look up additional passages about the character of God, do so and write down other observations about His character under the appropriate column.

- Jeremiah 10:12
- Isaiah 40:13-14
- Romans 11:33-36
- Isaiah 6:3
- 1 John 1:5
- Psalm 103:8
- 1 John 4:8
- Lamentations 3:22-23
- Psalm 140:12

- Psalm 7:11

In the **Idols/False Gods** column, ask the group to recall idols in the Bible and modern-day idols that are worshiped. Point out how temporary and short-lived an idol is and the difference between an idol and the eternal character of God.

Part 2: *Lead the group to contemplate the need for repentance.*

Read Acts 17:28-30 and then have your group consider the sinful human condition. After thinking about the false gods/idols, lead the group to repent from areas they might have placed above the character of God. If it is true that “For in Him we live and move and exist...” then ask the questions “Do we live like this is true?” “Is that true for you?” Then say, “If it is not true of us, then in order to get things right with God, we must repent.” Ask a prayer of repentance for the group.

Following the prayer of repentance, pass out 3-by-5-inch cards and instruct your group to write one word or symbol as a commitment code that they are going to live a “new existence” in Christ. Pray over the group and afterwards ask if anyone is willing to share how he or she thinks God is at work in his or her life.

Part 3: *Check for understanding the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

The main precept we focus on in this section is the centrality, meaning, and necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The discussion question for this point asks, “How has the cross of Christ and His resurrection affected your emotions and actions?” (leader p. 147; personal study guide p. 118). Play the video clip [“I Am With You”](#) for your group. The video is available at WingClips (3 minutes, 30 seconds).

As your group members watch the video, ask them to **think** for 30 second about the discussion question noted above. Now have them discuss their thoughts in

pairs with a person on their left or right who is not their spouse. (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 4: *Engage your group through personalizing a subject.*

Ask for a volunteer from your group to share a story of the last time he or she presented the gospel to someone or shared about his or her faith in Christ. Ask the group member to share how he or she concluded the conversation/presentation:

- Was the person interested in responding to the gospel?
- Did you lead the person in a response to the gospel?
- Did you sense that the person was disinterested in verbalizing any sort of decision?
- Why is leading a person to respond such a difficult thing to do?

Sometimes we do not share because we do not feel comfortable sharing our faith. Consider offering your group the following piece of advice: “As you seek to share the gospel with people, keep multiple tracts with you so that you can leave people with information about the gospel to review that includes how we must respond to Christ’s claim on our lives with repentance and faith if we are to be saved.” This will give your group examples of how to wrap up the dialogue with a non-Christian.

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Lead the group to pray about those friends and family members whom they know are without Christ. Ask the people in your group to consider one person with whom they each want to share the good news, and if appropriate, ask them to disclose the name of this person. (Depending on the situation, it might be best to use only first names for this activity.) Then have each group member write the name of one lost person on a post-it note and stick it on a poster board marked “**Mission Field.**” Invite one group member to pray over the poster board as you

conclude the lesson. Leave the poster up in hopes of hearing praise reports of people coming to faith in the weeks to come.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Your group will only go as far as you are going in the area of sharing their faith. Begin to share your faith more and share the stories with your group of those who mocked, of those who wanted to hear more, and of those who believed. This will increase their faith and desire to share with others.