

Lutheran Women in Mission

BIBLE STUDY

Outreach Made Easy by W. Leroy and Marie Biesenthal

Opening

Sing "How Shall they Hear, Who Have Not Heard" (*Hymnal Supplement 98 - # 868*) or read verse 4 as a prayer:

"Lord, here am I": Your fire impart
To this poor cold self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
And make a world for Christ my goal.

Share

What does the message of salvation mean to you?

God wants us to share that message with others so they, too, will have the blessings of life here on earth and in heaven with Jesus Christ. For motivation, read these well-known passages one more time and discuss what they say to believers: **Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:16-17.**



Talk about a time when you did reach out to someone. What was the outcome?

Sharing our faith rarely becomes all that *easy*. Satan sees to that! Perhaps attention to some of the following concepts may make outreach *a little easier*.

Develop Your Message

It's always best to know what we are talking about. Develop your message by digging into God's Word daily, participating in Bible classes and worship services, and memorizing a few key Scriptures verses to use when appropriate. Start with the following (read them aloud now):

Ephesians. 2:8-10, John 14:6, Romans 3:23, 24, Acts 4:12, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 3:11 and Romans 3:28. (*You might try writing them on note cards. Then carry the cards with you and review them whenever you have a spare moment.*)

Let the Spirit Speak Through You

Often we get hung up about sharing the message of Jesus with others because we may not say the right words or are afraid of the response. Let go, and let God speak through you! What encouragement do you find in the following passages?

- **Matthew 10:16-20**
- **2 Chronicles 24:20**
- **Numbers 23:5**
- **Jeremiah 1:2, 4**
- **2 Samuel 23:2**
- **1 Kings 22:14**

Let the Results be Up to God

We sow the seed; God gives the increase! Let's not get all hung up about the results of our witness. What reassurance do you find in the following verses?

- **John 4:35**
- **Galatians 6:9**
- **Matthew 17:20, 21**
- **Matthew 9:37, 38**
- **Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23**

Start with Family, Friends, Acquaintances

As you become comfortable sharing your faith, do it first with family members, friends and acquaintances. How do the following verses support that approach?

- **John 4:39-42**
- **John 9:8-11**
- **Mark 5:18-20**

Spread the Fragrance

Read **2 Corinthians 2:14-15**. Talk about ways you can let people catch the aroma of your relationship with Christ. How can you show your relationship to Christ in/by the following:

Daily conversation
Wearing a cross, butterfly, angel
Sending greeting cards with a spiritual message
Making telephone calls
Think of other opportunities. Then do it!

Offer Love, Care, Support

Think of ways to offer love, care and support not only to family members and friends who do not know Jesus but also to the thousands of immigrants and refugees who have settled in the United States. Learn some significant ways to reach out to people of all cultures by checking the many resources offered by the Pentecost 2000+ effort on the Web site, www.pentecost2000.com.

Pray

Pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities.

Pray that God will give you spiritual strength to accept opportunities.

Pray that God will give you the words and actions for sharing your faith.

Pray that you can leave the results in God's hands.

Pray for **ABLAZE**, an effort by our Synod to reach 100 million people with the message of Jesus Christ by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Pray and do!

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, we praise Your name for all the gifts and blessings You have bestowed on us. Most especially do we thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May our response to His love be an ever-increasing love for others. Make us aware of opportunities to share that love by reaching out to those who do not profess Jesus as Lord and Savior. In His name, Amen.

Rev. Biesenthal, retired, was Synod's Associate Director for Evangelism. He and Marie have traveled overseas to several countries, spending a few months in each to help pastors in their outreach efforts. Both remain active in various ministries.
