

Sample (Session Three) from *Leading With Outreach*

This sample session is taken from the Learner's Guide, which every learner is required to obtain. The Instructor's Guide has the exact same content but also includes PowerPoint Slides, Exams, Leader's Notes and Instructor Tips for teaching each session.

Look For These Unique Design Features In This Session:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Session Outline | – Listed on the first page to provide a brief overview. |
| Objectives | – A primary educational objective, plus detailed supporting objectives for each main concept. |
| Main Diagram | – Each module has a main diagram to provide a “You Are Here” visual for the learner. |
| Diagrams & Boxes | – Many diagrams and visuals to enhance and support the teaching concepts. |
| Bolded Key Points | – The key points are bolded in a concise way for the Instructor and Learner to easily grasp the essential concepts. |
| Outline Format | – All sessions use an easy-to-follow outline format to make the lesson easy to teach and easy to learn. |
| Point to Ponder | – Summary or climactic thoughts placed in a shaded oval area to provide emphasis or interaction. |
| Group Application | – Every session has a Group Application at the end for small group activity, interaction, and assessment. |
| Discussion Questions | – Further questions for discussion and reflection. |
| Appendices | – Added material to study the topic further or provide assessments and resource tools. |

Leading With Outreach

Contains Seven Sessions

Teaching Sessions

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There are seven sessions in *Leading with Outreach* module. The circled session shown above is printed in this book to provide a sample for you.

SESSION OUTLINE

A. Few Evangelists vs. Many Witnesses.

1. Few Christians are called as Evangelists.
2. All Christians are called to witness for Christ.

B. Six Common Witnessing Styles.

1. Confronting Style.
2. Intellectual Style.
3. Invitational Style.
4. Serving Style.
5. Testimonial Style.
6. Relational Style.

C. Sharing Your Personal Testimony.

1. Testimony of those who met Christ at a young age.
2. Testimony of those who met Christ after childhood.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

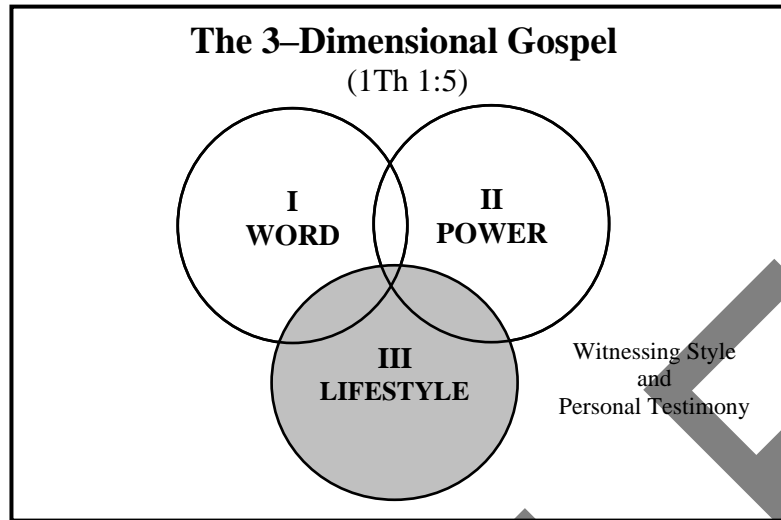
Primary Objective:

To discover how an individual's unique traits can best be used to effectively witness for Christ so that participants can identify and utilize their own style and testimony.

Supporting Objectives:

- A. Participants will be able to identify the two distinctions between being called as an evangelist and the call to witness for Christ.
- B. Participants will examine and compare the six primary witnessing styles.
- C. Participants will be able to explain the two general types of testimonies and how to effectively share your testimony.

SAMPLE



A. Few Evangelists vs. Many Witnesses.

1. Few Christians are called as evangelists.

a. An evangelist has a gift to lead people to receive Christ.

This is a special anointing and calling that only about one in fifteen Christians possess.

b. An evangelist equips other Christians for evangelism.

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Eph 4:11,12).

- Evangelists need to be able to teach and train others how to witness and function in evangelistic outreach.
- Evangelists need to be effective role models, so others can learn evangelism by doing it along with them.
- Evangelists should raise up and reproduce other evangelists. Evangelists should be looking to mentor others who are also called to be evangelists.

c. An evangelist is an encourager to the Christian body.

The evangelist stirs up the body and motivates Christians to get involved in evangelism. They are encouraging and inspiring people to be around.

Point to Ponder

Typically, only 1 in 15 Christians are called and gifted to be an evangelist.

2. All Christians are called to be witnesses.

a. All Christians must be willing to testify about Christ.

How can they call on the one they have not believed in? How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? How can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Ro 10:14). All Christians are called to be witnesses and to be willing to testify about Christ in their lives (Jn 4:39, Ro 10:13-15).

b. We should be compelled by God's love for a lost world.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Mt 9:36). (Mt 22:37-39, Mt 9:36, 2Co 5:14-15).

c. We should be unashamed of the Gospel.

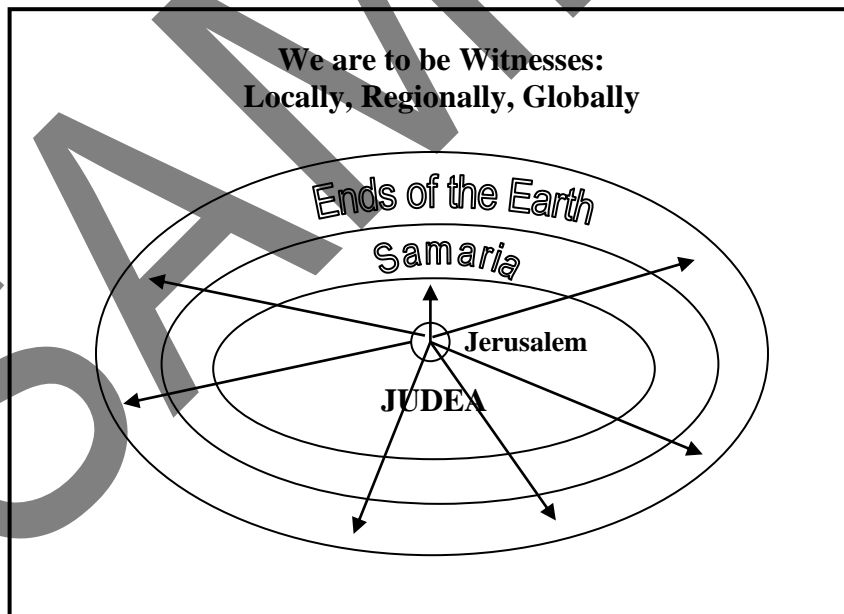
"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven (Mt 10:32). (Ro 1:16, 2Ti 1:8a, Mt 10:32,33, Lk 9:26).

d. We are to live a life that reflects Christ.

Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do (1Pe 1:15). Our words and deeds should be a witness (1Co 4:16, 1Th 1:6, 1Pe 1:15,16, Mt. 5:16, 2Pe 3:11).

e. We are empowered for the purpose of being witnesses.

Jesus said, You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Ac 1:8).



B. Six Common Witnessing Styles.¹

1. **Confronting Style.**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38).

- People who use the Confronting Style are able to boldly challenge people with the Gospel.
- People with this style are typically called as an evangelist or have prophetic gifting.

2. **Intellectual Style.**

Explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ, he said (Ac 17:3).

- People who use the Intellectual Style are able to debate doctrine, discuss philosophy, science, and other analytical issues. They are able to witness from an intellectual perspective.
- This style is greatly needed among professionals, highly educated people, and within university settings.

3. **Invitational Style.**

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world (Jn 4:42).

- People who use the Invitational Style simply invite others and take them to places where someone is sharing Christ (Jn 4:39-42).
- This style reflects how the diverse styles can work together in a team capacity. Each person plays a different role.

4. **Serving Style.**

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas) who was always doing good and helping the poor (Ac 9:36).

- People who use a Serving Style are able to provide acts of service that help with an evangelistic effort in a support role. They help create an atmosphere of opportunity that allows the gospel to be presented (Ac 9:10-19, 26-27).
- This style could also include acts of kindness toward non-Christians that show the character and love of Christ in a way that draws them toward Jesus. Often these acts lead to an opportunity for openly sharing Christ.

Point to Ponder

When you discover your preferred witnessing style, you become free to let God use you the way He made you! You will be more effective this way!

¹Adapted from *Honest to God?* by Bill Hybels. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

5. **Testimonial Style.**

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see (Jn 9:25).

- People who use the Testimonial Style are able to share how God has worked in their lives in a way that often leads to sharing the gospel (Jn 9:1-11).
- All Christians should be able to share their testimonies. Sharing our testimonies is the key to relational outreach.

6. **Relational Style.**

Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you (Mk 5:19).

- People who use the Relational Style are able to develop relationships quite easily, and they are able to minister to people within their circles of relationships.
- This style is very freeing because we are not forced to witness to strangers, but we focus on the relationships that God gives to us.

Group Application

What is Your Witnessing Style?

Have the group take the Witnessing Style Assessment on Appendix 3A. Then survey your group to see the diverse styles represented. You may choose to have the group discussion without completing the formal assessment.

Style	Example	Our Group
Confronting	Challenge with gospel Peter - Acts 2:38	_____
Intellectual	Appeal to reason Paul - Acts 17:3	_____
Invitational	Invite others Samaritan Woman - John 4	_____
Serving	Help and serve Dorcas - Acts 9	_____
Testimonial	Share how God helped you Blind Man - John 9	_____
Relational	Form many relationships Tormented Man - Mark 5:19	_____

C. The Components of a Personal Testimony.

Everyone has a different background and came to a deeper faith in Christ in a unique way. However, when sharing your faith, it is best to identify your testimony in one of two general groups.

1. Testimony of those who met Christ at a young age.

a. Can you describe when you first accepted Christ?

- People who have been raised in a Christian home and have not experienced any great sin or rebellion can relate how God works in a person's life at an early age.
- God will connect you with specific people who will benefit from your testimony.
- Describe how and when you first prayed to accept Christ. Give details if possible.

b. How and when did your relationship with Christ deepen?

- Everyone comes to a place where their faith as a child must mature into a deeper relationship and walk with God.
- Describe the events that caused you to become more yielded to Christ or when you had an encounter that allowed Christ to more fully live through you.
- You might describe how your relationship with the Lord faded or you fell away and then later made a recommitment or had a deeper encounter.

c. What is your life with Christ like now?

- This should communicate how Christ is working in your life now. Share how Christ is bringing growth, changes, joy, new insights, etc.
- Be genuine and honest. Avoid speaking as if you have no problems. Rather, share how Christ helps you to face and overcome your problems.

[See Appendix 3B]

Point to Ponder

Every Christian has a personal testimony. It is the story of our personal experience with God. Our testimony is the single most effective tool we have for witnessing. By preparing our testimony now, we will be ready to share it when the opportunity comes.

Using Your Own Style and Testimony

The LTI Curriculum Sample Collection

2. Testimony of those who met Christ after childhood.

a. What was your life like before Christ?

- This communicates your need for Christ. It should relate the events, feelings, and personal situations that prepared you to receive the gospel.
- God has given you a personal testimony to be able to reach specific people. There will, undoubtedly, be someone out there in the world who will be ministered to by your particular situation.

b. How did you meet Christ?

- Share the specifics of how you met Christ. This will help clarify to non-Christians what it means to be a Christian and how it can happen to them.
- Try to keep this part very focused and clear, so the point does not get misunderstood.
- Some people have fallen away and later recommit their lives to Christ. You should tell your story just the way it happened. God will use it.

c. What is your life like with Christ now?

- This should communicate how Christ is working in your life now. Tell of the changes, victory, hope, peace, joy, and new life that Christ has brought you.
- Be genuine and honest. Avoid speaking as if you have no problems. Rather, tell how Christ gives you strength to face your problems.

[See Appendix 3C]

Guidelines for Sharing your Testimony

1. Keep it brief (two minutes) or non-Christians will lose interest.
2. Remove church or religious terms (non Christians do not relate).
3. Avoid unneeded details that distract from the main points.
4. Do not explain your deepest sins in great detail.
5. Share your true feelings and thoughts to connect with non-Christians.
6. Explain how Jesus touched you and changed your life.
7. Practice until you can easily tell it by memory.

For Examples of Testimonies: [See Appendix 3D]

Group Application

Discussion on Personal Testimonies

Have each person in your group write down their testimony on page 3-14 or 3-15 and then share it with the group.

Have the group provide feedback to each person as to:

- The positive aspects of sharing their testimony.
- The ways to improve based on the tips in this session.

Discussion Questions for Session 3

1. Do you sense that God has gifted you as an evangelist? How do you know?
2. Once you see your witnessing style, do you feel freer to be who you are and participate in evangelism? How can you get started in your particular style?
3. How often have you shared your testimony with someone who does not know Christ? Will this session's training help you to share more often?
4. In your own testimony, is there a clean distinction between your life before Christ, meeting Christ, and your life with Christ? Do you need to make it clearer? Or did you grow up meeting Christ at a young age? How will you let that be a positive element of sharing your testimony?

Using Your Own Style and Testimony

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APPENDIX 3A

Witnessing Style Assessment ²

Situation	Always 4	Often 3	Sometimes 2	Rarely 1	Never 0
1. I enjoy meeting new people.					
2. I like to research and discover answers to complex and difficult issues.					
3. I enjoy sharing my life story, particularly how I became a Christian.					
4. I prefer small gatherings of people as opposed to large groups.					
5. I enjoy inviting and bringing people to church.					
6. I enjoy doing things that require me to use my hands.					
7. I like being in situations where I am outside my normal comfort zone.					
8. I enjoy talking with people on a variety of subjects.					
9. I have shared how Jesus changed my life and from my sharing, it impacted the person or people listening.					
10. I enjoy being the host or hostess of events or parties.					
11. God has used me to invite people to various church activities.					
12. I prefer to participate in behind the scenes events.					
13. I enjoy striking up spiritual conversations with someone I have never met before.					
14. I do well at presenting a rational argument.					
15. I enjoy sharing events from my life with other people.					
16. I enjoy introducing my non-Christian friends to my Christian friends.					
17. I would prefer to invite someone to a Christian gathering rather than trying to share my faith.					
18. I am happiest when I am helping other people.					
19. If given the choice, I would rather meet new people than be around people I know really well.					
20. I like to think and find answers to questions regarding God, creation, and life issues.					

² This assessment tool was created by Rev. John Absher. Used by permission.

Using Your Own Style and Testimony

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APPENDIX 3A (Continued)

Witnessing Style Assessment ²

Situation	Always 4	Often 3	Sometimes 2	Rarely 1	Never 0
21. I feel comfortable talking about myself if what I share will help someone else.					
22. I find that sometimes I am challenged in expressing my Christian faith.					
23. I am very comfortable with meeting new people.					
24. I like to do things for people to make their lives a little better.					
25. I am a very outgoing person.					
26. I enjoy debating with others.					
27. When asked to speak about spiritual issues I tend to speak about my personal experience.					
28. I enjoy gathering a group of friends together and having spiritual discussions.					
29. When a church event is announced, I often think, who can I bring?					
30. I do things for the sake of accomplishment and the joy it gives others, not for my own recognition.					
31. I am outspoken about issues, regardless of whom it may offend.					
32. I like to give a defense of what I believe.					
33. When I talk about spiritual matters, I tend to share mostly about what God has done in my life.					
34. I prefer a relaxed and informal setting, rather than an organized and formal setting.					
35. I think the church needs to have more events so I can invite my unchurched friends to attend.					
36. I would rather mow my neighbor's yard than talk to a stranger about their relationship with God.					
37. I am very determined.					
38. I enjoy having my faith challenged and questioned based on logical arguments.					
39. When others share a similar experience, I am able to share how God worked in my life regarding that issue.					
40. I would enjoy using my home as a place to reach out to people who do not know Jesus.					

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Using Your Own Style and Testimony

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APPENDIX 3A (Continued)

Witnessing Style Assessment ²

Situation	Always 4	Often 3	Sometimes 2	Rarely 1	Never 0
41. I like to make people feel included.					
42. Whenever new people move into our area, I am one of the first people to try and help them feel welcome.					
43. I enjoy crowds and am comfortable in large groups.					
44. I enjoy reading material that helps me better answer people's questions regarding my faith.					
45. If asked to speak in church, I prefer to share my personal experience, not a sermon.					
46. People comment on how welcome and relaxed they feel around my home and me.					
47. I like to give out tracks to people and recommend Christian books to unchurched people.					
48. I enjoy doing things for other people because in so doing, I demonstrate God's love for them.					
49. I like being on the stage. I enjoy being the upfront person.					
50. I view complex issues as a challenge and opportunity to grow.					
51. Typically when someone is sharing, I think about how that impacts my life.					
52. I do not mind if people drop by my house unannounced.					
53. I enjoy introducing new people at church or events to my friends or a group of acquaintances.					
54. If given the option to speak to a group or to clean up after an event, I would choose the cleaning job.					
55. I am a talkative person.					
56. If given the choice, I would prefer to read a book rather than participate in other leisure activities.					
57. When people ask me how I have handled situations, I share how Jesus impacted my ability to handle them.					
58. Christians who do not know me tend to ask if I am a Christian without me mentioning my faith.					
59. I tend to have tons of acquaintances rather than a few close friends.					
60. I like doing small favors, odd jobs, or kind acts as a means to witness to people.					

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Using Your Own Style and Testimony

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APPENDIX 3A (Continued)

Witnessing Style Assessment ²

Tabulation Chart										Total	Style
1.	7.	13.	19.	25.	31.	37.	43.	49.	55.		Confrontational
2.	8.	14.	20.	26.	32.	38.	44.	50.	56.		Intellectual
3.	9.	15.	21.	27.	33.	39.	45.	51.	57.		Testimonial
4.	10.	16.	22.	28.	34.	40.	46.	52.	58.		Relational
5.	11.	17.	23.	29.	35.	41.	47.	53.	59.		Invitational
6.	12.	18.	24.	30.	36.	42.	48.	54.	60.		Serving

The high score reveals your witnessing style strength.

²This assessment tool was created by Rev. John Absher. Used by permission.

APPENDIX 3B

Writing Your Testimony.

(For those who accepted Christ at a young age.)

1. **Can I describe when I first accepted Christ?**

2. **How and when did my relationship with Christ deepen?**

3. **What is my life like with Christ now?**

SAMPLE

APPENDIX 3C

Writing Your Testimony.

(For those who accepted Christ after childhood.)

1. What was my life like before Christ?

2. How did I meet Christ?

3. What is my life like with Christ?

SAMPLE

APPENDIX 3D

Examples of Personal Testimonies

Testimony of a middle-aged man (length 1:30).

1. **My Life Before Christ.**

I spent many years trying to find fulfillment by proving myself to everyone around me. My insecurity caused me to keep striving for more popularity and greater status. I needed to be seen as a “success” by the people I thought were important. I felt constant pressure to perform well at work, sports, financially, socially, and with women. I was trapped. I couldn’t relax. I had to live up to my reputation. I became totally frustrated and miserable, I was the life of many parties, but was empty inside.

2. **How I met Christ.**

I first heard about Jesus through complete strangers and casual acquaintances. Several times, people unexpectedly came across my path and told me about Christ, how he would bring the peace I was searching for. I usually laughed in their face or ignored them. However, late one night while alone in my apartment, I cried out to God for help. I committed my life to Jesus and was finally set free. I realized He truly does hold the meaning to life.

3. **My Life with Christ.**

Now I live for Christ. He has brought me fulfillment and security. I have experienced great freedom since I have been forgiven by Christ and forgiven the people I was bitter toward. I now have a beautiful wife and family, as well as many good friends. My “success” is in Christ, not the expectations of others. Most of all, I have been able to share this good news with other people. Maybe somebody like you.

Testimony of a young adult woman (length 2:00).

1. **My Life Before Christ.**

I was raised in a “good” family that went to church, gave 10%, and taught Sunday School. I felt no need for God until high school. I was in many activities like drama, music, and ballet. I did well, but it was costly. I slept only four hours a night. I got a blood disorder from the stress and was forced to slow down. My self-worth was in my accomplishments, so I was crushed.

Then, my family fell apart. My parents divorced, which shocked us, since they seldom argued and seemed happy. They said it wasn’t our fault, but I felt guilty, insecure, and unlovable. I was helpless.

2. **How I met Christ.**

I cried out to God for answers and searched the Bible for help. A friend invited me to a meeting where they spoke of God as personal, having changed their lives! This interested me, but I waited six months, not willing to make a rash decision. Then, I decided I needed Jesus too, so I asked him into my life as Lord and Savior.

3. **My Life With Christ.**

That was the best decision of my life. My problems didn’t disappear, but God helped me through them. I forgave my father, have improved relations with my family, and found new self-worth, centered in Christ. Overall, I’ve found security and love in Jesus.

APPENDIX 3D (Continued)

Examples of Personal Testimonies

Example of a Poor Personal Testimony. (length 3 Min).

1. My Life Before Christ.

I was raised in a small town in Idaho with my mom, three brothers, two sisters, a horse, a couple of dogs, and a bunch of cats. I didn't like school, but I had to go anyway. After a while, school wasn't so bad. After I finished elementary school, I went on to junior high, then later senior high. With a lot of hard work, I graduated at age 22.

My family went to church all the time at St. Bernard's Cathedral. I did not like church because I thought Pastor Bob D. Jirk was a hypocrite. A lot of things he said bothered me but he really made me mad when I wanted to get baptized. He said I should get dunked or sprinkled, but I really wanted to be hosed down. So I left my church and looked around. I tried the Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Pentecostal, and Presbyterian churches but decided they were all messed up.

I was so upset that I went on a mugging spree. I mugged 97 little old ladies during the next two months. Then I remembered how much I hated cats growing up, so I cut off the tails of 97 cats and put them in those ladies mailboxes. But I did not feel any better.

2. How I Met Christ.

I was walking down the street and saw a sign for a "revival" meeting. I went to the revival and heard a preacher named Billy Graham Cracker. He told me I needed to be "born-again" or I would die and go straight to hell. I got "saved" that night, praise the Lord, Hallelujah, glory to God, Amen!

3. My Life with Christ.

My life is perfect now, praise God. I keep getting fired from my job because of my temper, but I think it's because I'm righteous and they are evil. I don't go to church because if you have Jesus, that doesn't matter. I am so happy I am born-again, and now I love to find sinners and tell them they must repent or go to hell!

Problems

- Rambling.
- Unnecessary details.
- Name of specific church and pastor.
- Polarizing doctrinal issues.
- Offensive toward other churches.
- Points out weaknesses of Christians.
- Unhelpful detail about sin.

- Use of "trigger" words (revival, saved, born-again).
- Names visible leaders.

- Unrealistic expectations.
- Very condemning.

— *Notes* —

SAMPLE