

ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MISSION



reach the unreached.

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TRAINING UNIT 13 (44.02 MINUTES)

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2nd Commandment of sending: Preach VI: You will be my witnesses

To be a witness means.....

➔ *Part II: Application*

My personal testimony

➔ *Part III: Outreach*

Training Unit 13



P-R-E-A-C-H

2nd Commandment of sending: Preach VI: You will be my witnesses

Jesus gave us some very specific instructions for the ministry of sending. We summarized these into the 10 commandments of sending:

1st Commandment of sending: GO

- **Go** by faith
- **Go** 2 by 2 or as a team

2nd Commandment: Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom:

- This is a crucial part of sending
- It is very important for discipleship that people experience a clear and healthy biblical new birth

→ That's why we have 6 parts within this important topic

Part I) Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom: proclaim

- Jesus as SAVIOR (the Gospel)
- Jesus as Lord and King (God's Kingdom)

Part II) Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom

- «From Creation to Salvation» = 10 steps of the way of salvation

Part III) Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom

- FAITH, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit

Part IV) Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom

- The call to repentance into following Christ

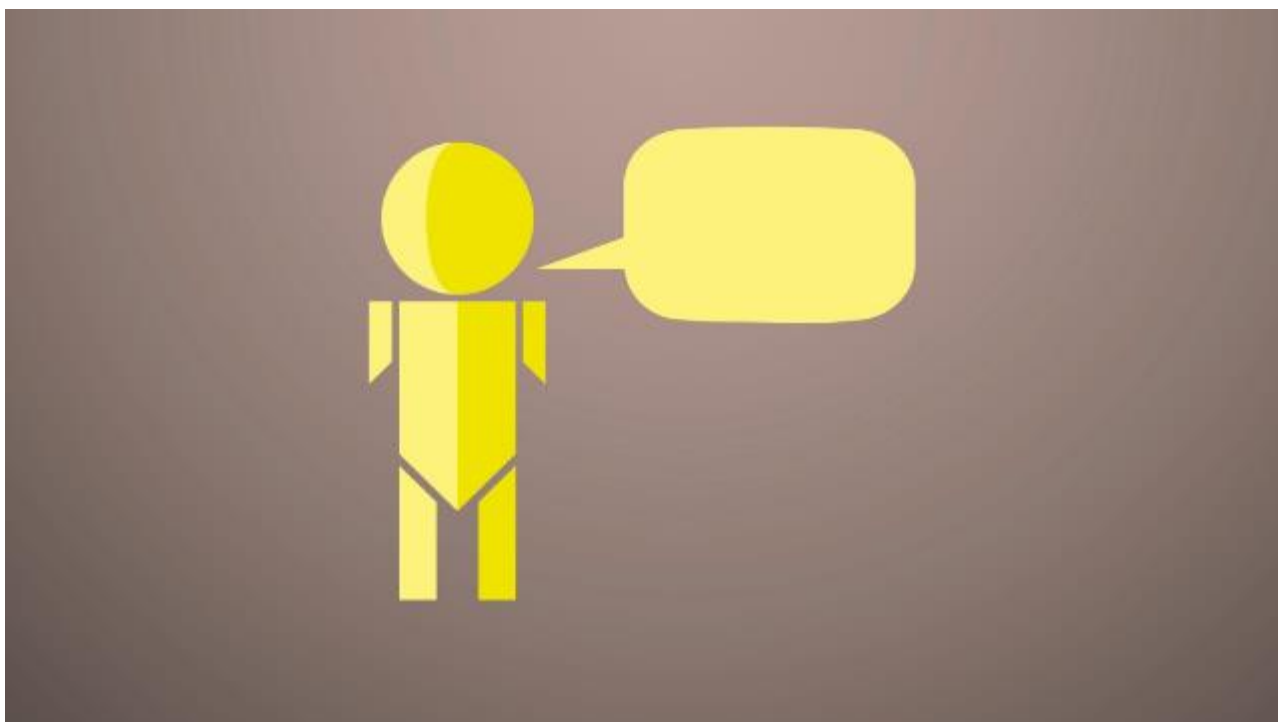
A) The call to 4 specific steps:

1. Faith
2. Repentance
3. Baptism
4. Obvious reception/baptism of the Holy Spirit

- B) The call to a learning life, mission and ministry fellowship with Jesus and with disciples as well
- C) The call into a kingdom where Jesus reigns as Lord and King

Part V) Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom

- the EVANGELISTIC Bible study DBS
- i. Now we get to part VI: Preach the Gospel of God's Kingdom
 - You will be my WITNESSES



- To share our personal testimony of our new birth is a strong way to proclaim the Gospel because we have personally experienced it.
- Nobody can reject our personal testimony because we are EYE, EAR and LIFE witnesses – like witnesses at a court session.

Comparison: The use of the word of God to proclaim the Gospel is like the use of a **sword**:
The sword of the Spirit is the word of God > Ephesians 6

The use of a **personal testimony** as we proclaim the Gospel is like the use of a **knife**.

The Lord Jesus himself instructs us to be witnesses:

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."

Three other clear Scripture passages concerning this topic:

Acts 4:17-20

But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:32-33

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

- ➔ The personal testimony of our new birth is very important and a great help when we proclaim the Gospel

To be a witness means

1. We tell people who don’t know Jesus yet **how we found Jesus** and how **he saved and redeemed us (turning to God – new birth)**.
2. We share about how **Jesus moves** in our lives: how we **precisely experience him in our daily lives** and what we have **seen or heard from Him personally**.
3. We share what we **got to know about his character and his heart**.
4. We share about **the ways in which he led us**.
5. We share how he **changed our lives**.
6. We share how **we trust his promises and believe them to be true**.
7. We share how he has blessed us since our decision to **follow him and trust his word**.
8. We share about **joy, peace, love and favor** we experience as believers of Jesus Christ.

- ➔ Our testimony must come from the heart and go to the hearts of the people directly
- ➔ Our words as witnesses will convince them that we found a treasure/ a precious pearl

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- ➔ We as followers of Jesus are **priests, even high priests**, which means we are mediators that connect other people with Christ
- ➔ We shall declare the mighty, wonderful works of God, meaning how he accomplished salvation and redemption for us and who God really is
- ➔ Especially God’s character of perfect love and compassion must be shared with people

The apostle Peter challenges us:

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

→ We shall be able to tell people why we have eternal hope **from the start**. To better understand this, we can look at the story about Jesus and the demon possessed man:

Share and explain faith from the start

Mark 5:14-20

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So, the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

- ⇒ When Jesus healed the demon possessed, this man desired **to stay with Jesus**.
- ⇒ But Jesus **didn't allow him to and instead gave him the instruction** to go and **share** what he had experienced with him, Jesus, with his relatives in his village.
- ⇒ Why is that? The healed man certainly would have learned a lot staying around Jesus, but he would have become a **consuming** disciple.
- ⇒ Instead, Jesus instructed him to become a **witness and co-worker** in his Kingdom.
- ⇒ For his relatives, the man was clearly the **most impressive witness**.
- ⇒ The **message was shared where Jesus himself couldn't minister** because the inhabitants of this gentile area had asked him (Mark 5) to leave their territory.
- ⇒ Because of the healed man's testimony, many **people became very curious about Jesus**: when Jesus returned to this area 6 months later (Mark 7 & 8), around 4000 people gathered to come and listen to Jesus.

A very similar story can be found in John 4:

John 4:28-29 and 39

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”

By being witnesses for Jesus, we ourselves are blessed and our spiritual growth increases more than through anything else.

The testimony of the Apostle Paul is an example of sharing a personal testimony:

We find two examples of how Paul witnessed for Jesus in **Acts 22:1-22 and 26:1-29**. Both have the same structure and are normative for a powerful testimony:

Acts 22:1-22

“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.” When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said: “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of

this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished. "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' "Who are you, Lord?' I asked. "'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. "What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. "'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking to me. 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.' 'Lord,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' " The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He is not fit to live!"

The Apostle Paul's salvation story in different parts

- Crucial information from his life before he turned to God: his origin, his education and his persecution of the Church (Acts 22:3-5).
 - How Paul encountered Jesus Christ: his experience with Christ on the way to Damascus, healing of his blindness (Acts 22:6-13).
 - The impact this powerful encounter with Jesus had on his life: God's instruction, his baptism and his ministry for Christ (Acts 22:14-18; 26:19-23).
- ⇒ Paul phrases it differently in Acts 22 and 26
 - ⇒ He left out details (e.g. Ananias)
 - ⇒ But used the same structure
 - ⇒ We can learn how to give our own life transforming testimony with Jesus from Paul as a chosen witness of Jesus (Acts 22:15; 26:16)

➔ In structuring our testimony, we look at Paul's example.

The three main parts of my personal testimony of turning to Jesus:

1. My attitudes, actions, emotions or relationships **before** I got to know Jesus and gave him my life, as well as the incidents and experiences that made me consider Jesus as the answer to my needs or problems.
2. How I became a **child of God and a follower of Christ**; what led me to give all my life to Jesus and how I practically received him into my life.
3. How Christ **changed** me and what he means to me today.

→ There we should share what has changed in our lives compared to before we met Jesus. We can name the effects in our lives addressing problems and issues that might be important for the people we minister/talk to.

Hints to prepare a life transforming testimony

1. **Different versions** of our testimony:
 - Short (2-5 minutes)
 - Medium (5-15 minutes)
 - Longer (15-30 minutes)
2. It is helpful, **to write down our testimony once**, so we and others can check our phrases and correct them if necessary:
 - Are the words understandable for **non-believers**?
 - Do the words mention the crucial content? Is it too long or too short?
3. We must make sure that our testimony follows a **red thread**. **Leave out unnecessary details**.
4. We must **know** our testimony and be able to **share it always and everywhere**.
5. If we **pray in the morning for opportunities** and for courage and open eyes and ears to love people, Jesus will definitely use us to be his witnesses!
6. Place **Jesus Christ**, his actions and your personal experience with him at the center of your testimony.
7. When you got to know Jesus through your parents, share **what faith means to you** and how you came to the convictions to follow Jesus passionately.
8. **The main truths**
 - 1) Forgiveness of sins
 - 2) Eternal life
 - 3) Love of God
 - 4) Peace

→ Permanent joy is as important or even more important than spectacular experiences with Jesus!
9. Share your sins before you turned to God **not** in details. But share about wrong directions in life, problems, guilt, captivity, bad habits, disillusion, etc. in a way so others can relate to somehow.
10. Emphasize **the life Jesus has given you freely** and what he means to you today.

Part II: Application

- a) Someone from the group summarizes this teaching in his own words. If anything is missing, the others can add to the summary.
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b) Group discussion.

c) Write down personal revelations from the teaching.

→ Task:

Write down one version of your personal testimony (how you encountered Jesus) and share it with your group.

→ Ask the group to add adjustments, corrections, other ideas and clarifications for your testimony.

My personal testimony

1. **Describe with one word**, how your life looked like before you seriously started following Jesus. Then write down 5-10 phrases that explain what you mean by this one word.

2. When and why did I decide to follow Jesus?
What happened after I had decided to follow Jesus?

Answer these questions in 5-10 phrases. You can e.g. use phrases like «I realized that I need to ask Jesus for forgiveness form my sins and to become King of my life». Name a few details of what you've experienced (where, when, why).

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Regular practice of **GOING** (2-3 times a week, 6-9 hours in total) to the unreached of the ethnic group God put on your heart. This should be accompanied by 2-3 prayer walks (4-6 hours) each week.

1. PRAYER – Prayer walks with the team/a partner ☐
2. GO – (2:2 or as a team) to the unreached God put on your heart ☐
3. PREACH – the gospel of the Kingdom of God ☐
4. SHARE – the way of salvation ☐
5. EVANGELISTIC DBS with people of peace ☐
6. Share your personal testimony with at least 5 people. ☐
7. CALL to repentance and into FOLLOWING Jesus ☐
8. FAITH, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit ☐

BEsent is a training - without practice it is almost useless!