

FACILITATOR
GUIDE **1**

FAITH EVANGELISM™

Bobby H. Welch *and* **Doug Williams**
As Developed with **David Apple**

Revised by **G. Dwayne McCrary**

Foreword by **Thom Rainer**

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THE AUTHORS

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Bobby Welch and Doug Williams, with David Apple, set a new direction for and focus on evangelism with the FAITH strategy and materials released in 1999.



BOBBY WELCH served America in the military, leaving the army with the rank of captain. As a platoon leader in Vietnam, he was shot and given up for dead, at which time God miraculously intervened in a life-changing way that resulted in Welch's call to the ministry.

Welch served as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Florida, from 1974 until he retired in August 2006. First Baptist originated the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy, merging evangelism with Sunday School.

Welch is the author of numerous books, including *Evangelism Through the Sunday School*, which introduced first-generation FAITH. He was also a

major contributor to the original FAITH training materials.

Welch has served the Southern Baptist Convention in numerous leadership roles, including president (June 2004 to June 2006). In his first eight months as president, he spoke in all 50 states and Canada. The slogan "Everyone Can ... and I'm It" quickly surfaced as a reminder that everyone has a role in and responsibility for personal evangelism. In March 2007 Welch was appointed the first strategist for global evangelical relations with the assignment of growing, maintaining, and nurturing Baptist cooperation on a global scale.



DOUG WILLIAMS has served as the national FAITH consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources since 1997 to the present and as the associate pastor/minister of education and evangelism at First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Florida, from 1982 to 1997. With Pastor Welch, Williams led First Baptist to combine Sunday School with evangelism training, an approach that became the forerunner of the first-generation FAITH strategy.

Williams teaches FAITH clinics throughout the United States and in other countries. His wife, Rachel, accompanies him to most clinics and is also active in FAITH. Together they have been involved in more than 65 consecutive 16-

week semesters of evangelistic training. The couple resides in Oneonta, Alabama, where they are active in First Baptist Church and its FAITH ministry. They have three grown children.

DAVID APPLE is an adult ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, where he helps churches develop approaches for reaching the diversity of adults in their communities. A frequent writer, he is active in his Nashville church and especially enjoys assisting churches who are without a pastor during that transitional time. Apple worked with Bobby Welch and Doug Williams in developing the first-generation FAITH resources and strategy. He and his wife, Karen, have two grown children.

FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

Dwayne McCrary played a key role in responding to research about church practices in evangelism training and in revising and updating FAITH resources for a new generation of users.

G. DWAYNE MCCRARY is the minister of education at First Baptist Church in Nederland, Texas. Prior to that, he was the minister of young adults and discipleship at First Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, a FAITH originator church. An experienced writer for LifeWay Christian Resources, McCrary was on the team that developed Student FAITH Advanced and *FAITH Discipleship: Sharing a Living Faith*.

McCrary grew up in the home of a Baptist deacon and a church secretary. At the age of 16, he committed his life to Christ. He is married to Lisa, and they have two children, Bethany and Joshua. McCrary is currently working on his doctorate at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Participating in the FAITH process has been a breath of fresh air for McCrary, with the Opinion Poll holding particular significance. Like many people, he had fears that grew from bad experiences in his past. The Opinion Poll helped McCrary overcome those fears and reintroduced him to the joy of visitation.

Pointing to 1 John 1:4, McCrary reminds us that we share Jesus to complete our joy, remembering the grace God has shown us. Dwayne, Lisa, and Bethany are trained in FAITH, and Dwayne looks forward to using these next-generation FAITH materials to train his son in the future.

FOREWORD

You are on this earth for two reasons: to glorify God and to make His name known among the nations. This is the mandate God gave to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 when He called Abraham out from the land of Haran. If you look closely at those verses, you'll see that God withholds no blessing from Abraham, but in the last half of verse 3 God tells him, "All the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you."

Think about it: how are all the peoples of the world blessed? Is it through material wealth, advancements in technology, or germ-free societies? All of these are blessings, but the most significant blessing anyone can receive, the only lasting blessing, is to be restored to a right relationship with the God of creation. If you look at a map of the world at the time of Abraham, the land God promised the Israelites sat exactly in the middle of all the trade routes of the day. As merchants passed through the land, God's plan was for His chosen people to proclaim His name among the nations.

God's plan has not changed. Jesus reiterated this call in His Great Commission (see Matt. 28:19-20). God's expectation was, and still is, that He be glorified and that we lead others to live as He intended—in a right relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

That is the purpose of FAITH Evangelism. My desire is that through this resource you'll develop the skill of proclaiming God's name among the nations. No, I don't mean everyone should become missionaries in other cultures. Many should, and I pray that it happens; but God intends for us to start right where we are: with our next-door neighbors, family members, fellow students, coworkers—everywhere!

There is no greater time in history to share the message of saving faith through Christ. Research estimates that 160 million unchurched people live in America. Of those, 17 million will accept Christ if presented with the gospel. Even more compelling, another 43 million unchurched Americans are receptive to the gospel and to church. These numbers are staggering and exciting: 60 million unchurched people whom Jesus would classify as an abundant harvest (see Matt. 9:37).

Unfortunately, as Jesus lamented, the workers are few (see Matt. 9:37). Ironically, while people in America are more receptive to the gospel than ever before, research shows that Christians are becoming increasingly apathetic in their efforts to evangelize the lost. Jesus requested that we "pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:38).

EVANGELISM MATTERS

Your willingness to recognize the opportunity and step forward in commitment means that you are obeying Christ's command. You are among thousands who are pressing forward into the spiritual darkness to rescue precious lives from eternal separation with God. You are an answer to Jesus' prayer in Matthew 9:38.

My favorite verse of Scripture comes from Acts 4. Peter and John have just healed the man at the temple gates who had been crippled from birth. The people were amazed! The temple authorities were enraged. They dragged the disciples into court for an inquisition, then commanding them to stop preaching in the name of Jesus. Peter and John, with great boldness, responded, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

That's my life verse, my passion. I never want to stop speaking about what I've seen and heard. Jesus has made too great a difference in my life for me to be silent. Think about the story: God wants to save sinners, but because of our sin and

rebellion, we rightly deserve His punishment. For Him to be a just God, He has to punish us (see Prov. 17:15). How does God reconcile His desire to save sinners with His unwavering commitment to His standard of holiness? I'll let the Bible answer: "God, who is abundant in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. By grace you are saved! He also raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6). What a story! What great news! As the old hymn says,

*Jesus paid it all.
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain.
He washed it white as snow.¹*

As you work through this invaluable training and move out into a hostile culture, go in confidence. The field is ready for harvest. God wants to save sinners. Jesus paid it all. I commission you with the words of Paul: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' " (Rom. 10:14-15, NIV).

I pray that the desperately lost will see your feet as beautiful as you glorify God by making His name known among the nations.

A GREAT PASTOR LEADS OUT

Never underestimate the influence of a great pastor. That statement summarizes a study LifeWay Research completed in January 2007 on what separates evangelistic churches from those that are not reaching their communities for Christ. Much talk in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) centers on evangelism and our effectiveness in following Jesus' command to reach people with the gospel. Our denomination and other denominations are seeing declining church memberships and a general ineffectiveness in reaching people for Christ. Basically, we have been charged with a job, and we are not getting the job done.

But as this research revealed, there are bright spots. Twenty-two churches in the SBC met specified criteria for what constitutes evangelistically effective churches. Nineteen of those churches agreed to participate in a one-to-one interview survey to explore reasons they are effective. Research teams found that the most common element in these churches is how strongly the senior pastor sets the tone for an emphasis on evangelism. He makes it a passion and a priority.

What is equally evident is the humility with which these men lead their churches to reach lost souls. Humility is the point at which we must all begin if we are to exponentially improve our effectiveness in seeing people come to Christ.

It is easy to become isolated and to see our churches as a refuge where we get away from the increasing rawness of our culture. Church was never meant to be a retreat center but a triage center and a critical-care unit for the spiritually ill. A great pastor with a passion for practicing emergency care can guide church members to look outward. Not only does he turn their eyes to the fields, he also leads them into the harvest. Never underestimate a great pastor's influence to infuse the congregation with a passion for the lost.²

THOM RAINER

President and CEO, LifeWay Christian Resources

1. Elvina M. Hall, "Jesus Paid It All." *The Baptist Hymnal* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1991), 134.

2. Adapted from Thom Rainer, "The Passionate Pastor," *Facts & Trends*, May-June 2007.

ENGAGING A NEEDY WORLD IN FAITH

In an ever-changing, increasingly complex world, the gospel of Jesus Christ remains the same. People's need for salvation does not and will not change. FAITH Evangelism is all about Christians and churches engaging their part of the world with the message and the Savior people so desperately need—and doing so with courage, sensitivity, and intentionality.

For this reason FAITH Evangelism training begins and ends with the gospel—with Christ's Great Commission—inviting believers to experience the joy of knowing Him in a more personal way as they commit to share His good news with others. The 12 sessions in this resource are your starting point for expressing this commitment.

By prayerfully accepting the important role of FAITH facilitator, you are demonstrating your compassion for the lost and a heart for evangelism. These qualities will be important as you teach these sessions and actively model sharing your faith with others. If you are the pastor, leading as a FAITH facilitator will speak volumes about your priority on personal evangelism.

Dependence on the Holy Spirit is never more necessary than when Christians actively share their faith. FAITH teams can expect spiritual warfare as they begin training and start reaching out to their circle of friends and acquaintances.

As you bathe FAITH Evangelism in prayer, you can anticipate that God will work in significant ways in the lives of your FAITH learners. You can expect to see your FAITH learners change and develop in the following ways.

- Learners will grow as devoted followers of Christ.
- Learners will begin to model evangelism as a lifestyle and as a way of thinking. As they study, practice, and watch their team leader carry out evangelism and ministry, they will be better able to carry out evangelism and ministry themselves.
- Learners will gain competence in initiating spiritual dialogue and moving into a presentation of the gospel as they experience a variety of visitation settings.
- Learners will develop as leaders, increasingly willing and able to take on more responsibility within the body of Christ.

If your church does its primary outreach through Sunday School, you will find that FAITH training can strengthen and streamline the ministry of these open Bible study groups. If your church does ministry primarily through small groups, you will find that FAITH is flexible, allowing for training to be done in a small-group setting—or even by one team leader personally mentoring two learners through this training process. No matter how you choose to do FAITH training, this resource follows this weekly schedule:

- *Team Time*—15 minutes of learning the gospel presentation and discussing home-study assignments
- *Teaching Time*—45 minutes of classroom training
- *Visitation Time*—approximately 1½ hours of intentional visits by teams
- *Celebration Time*—30 minutes of celebration when teams return from visits

The following statement by one FAITH learner named Kathy sums up the goals and possibilities of FAITH training.

FAITH training has given me the confidence to share Christ with anyone at any time. The training enabled me to be prepared at a moment's notice. I would never have been that bold, even though I wanted to be. The Lord has demonstrated time and time again that if I'm prepared and willing to obey, He will go before me.

TOOLS FOR YOUR JOURNEY

Congratulations! You have set God-sized goals—to give evangelism priority in your church, to equip and motivate leaders and members to penetrate their communities with the gospel, to equip members to be authentic ministers on a day-by-day basis, and to grow in personal faith in Christ. The following tools are available to help you achieve these goals as you place yourself under the Holy Spirit’s direction and your church’s leadership.

- *FAITH Evangelism 1 Facilitator Guide* with enhanced CD
- *FAITH Evangelism 1 Journal* for FAITH participants
- *FAITH Evangelism 1 Leader Kit* (includes journal, facilitator guide, Prayer Partner Commitment Card, FAITH Outline Card, *A Step of Faith* leaflet, *Next Steps in Following Jesus* leaflet, training DVD, and *FAITH Evangelism Implementation Guide* CD-ROM)

The **enhanced CD** provided at the back of your facilitator guide provides additional content for selected sessions, supplemental articles on reaching the lost, FAITH forms and tools, and a PowerPoint® presentation for 12 sessions of group study. The teaching plan and handouts for Team Leader Orientation, which needs to precede each new semester, are also on this CD. A list of CD content may be found on page 190 of this facilitator guide.

While participants will learn a specific **gospel presentation** (see pp. 10–11), they will also receive guidance for adapting and using it in different situations. Conversation starters are suggested throughout the semester to help learners personalize FAITH. Well before the semester begins, learn the FAITH gospel presentation so that you can share it naturally with your group.

Notice that an **audio version** of the outline is included on the CD. You have permission to burn this file to CDs for your team members. Also, three **songs** written especially for FAITH can motivate, add variety, and help participants learn.

Video segments are available on DVD to support most sessions. As the leader, you have options for when and how to use video. You can choose the DVD dramatic vignettes or show parts of the presentation to teach F-A-I-T-H (including the Invitation). The dramatic vignettes follow two FAITH teams in continuing story lines as lives and FAITH experiences intersect. Adjust your schedule as needed to include the video segments, remembering that the primary goal of training is to get teams outside the walls into actual visits.

As you teach, you and your learners will literally be on the same page. Content for both the facilitator guide and the journal is the same, with **teaching plans** for each 45-minute session in the side columns of your facilitator guide. Be sure to handle the actions that need to be taken in advance of each session.

Encourage learners to take their FAITH journey deeper each week through five home-study assignments called **“My FAITH Journey.” “My FAITH Connections” checklist** helps learners stay on track with their personal goals during the week.

Two leaflets represent an important part of every team’s visitation folder—***A Step of Faith*** and ***Next Steps in Following Jesus***. Teams will use these in visits to share the gospel and follow up on new believers. This course provides training on how to use these tools in visits.

Prayer Partner Commitment Card helps ground FAITH in prayer, and **FAITH Outline Card** can be kept in a purse or pocket to use as witnessing opportunities arise.

Selected articles in the **Implementation Guide** may be of interest and help to you as a facilitator of *FAITH Evangelism 1*.

FAITH GOSPEL PRESENTATION

In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to get to heaven and have eternal life?

F IS FOR FORGIVENESS

Everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

God's forgiveness is in Jesus only.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

Ephesians 1:7

A IS FOR AVAILABLE

God's forgiveness is available for all.

"God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

God's forgiveness is available but not automatic.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 7:21

I IS FOR IMPOSSIBLE

According to the Bible, it is impossible to get to heaven on our own.

"By grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

So how can a sinful person have eternal life and enter heaven?

T IS FOR TURN

If you were going down the road and someone asked you to turn, what would he or she be asking you to do? (*Change direction*)

Turn means repent.

Turn away from sin and self.

“Unless you repent, you will all perish as well!”
Luke 13:3

Turn to Jesus alone as your Savior and Lord.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
John 14:6

Here is the greatest news of all.

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation.”
Romans 10:9-10

What happens if a person is willing to repent of their sins and confess Christ?

H IS FOR HEAVEN

Heaven is a place where we will live with God forever.

“If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.”
John 14:3

Eternal life begins now with Jesus.

“I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.”
John 10:10

H can also stand for *how*.

How can a person have God’s forgiveness, eternal life, and heaven?
By trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

INVITATION

Inquire

Understanding what we have shared, would you like to receive this forgiveness by trusting in Christ as your personal Savior and Lord?

Invite

Insure

EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT



I commit myself to FAITH Evangelism training in my church.

I recognize FAITH training as a way to help my church,
to grow as a Great Commission Christian, and to obey
God's command to be an active witness.

Signed _____

I will faithfully attend and participate in this semester of FAITH training

as a team leader team learner

My team members _____

My Sunday School department, class, or small group _____

Dates of my FAITH Evangelism training _____

SESSION 1

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

SESSION GOALS

You will—

- discover what it means to be a disciple maker;
- realize the need our world has for Christ;
- identify key elements of the Great Commission Christ gave us;
- describe goals and benefits of FAITH training;
- outline a process for enlisting prayer partners;
- look with expectancy toward the changes God will bring through obedience to Him.



IN ADVANCE

- Overview Teaching Time content.
- Preview teaching suggestions and prepare key points. Prepare to use the PowerPoint® presentation for session 1. If you are teaching in a nontraditional setting, print the PowerPoint slides to create a flipchart or show the slides on your laptop.
- Prepare to show the DVD segment “FAITH Presentation” (see step 2).
- Decide whether you will use the optional information from the CD (see steps 3–4, 8).
- Have available copies of “Praying with Your Prayer Partners” from the CD and Prayer Partner Commitment Card (item 005107669) for all participants (see step 6).
- Be prepared to overview the items in the visitation packet (see step 7) or ask the FAITH director to do so.
- Prepare the room for teaching.
- Pray for participants and teams as they prepare for their first home visits.



TEAM TIME (15 min.)

For suggestions see “Team Time Agendas and Team Leader E-mails” on the CD.



TEACHING TIME (90 min.)

If enlistment is complete and teams are formed, you may want to schedule a brief time for visits, perhaps Sunday School ministry visits. Do all the necessary preparation so that whenever visitation begins, teams have a wonderful first experience!

This teaching plan assumes team leaders have been trained in advance and team enlistment is complete. If that has not occurred and you need a full orientation to take place during this session—

- extend your study schedule by one week;
- use this content plus “Team Leader Orientation” on the CD;
- finalize team enlistment so that visitation can begin next week.

Step 1 (15 min.)

Greet learners as they arrive. Distribute journals. Direct learners to read the first paragraph on this page and to respond to the question in the first activity. After a minute invite volunteers to share what they recorded. Ask: *How could these same words be used to describe the relationship God wants to have with us?*

Have you ever wondered what it might have been like to be one of the sailors on the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria as they left the port with Columbus in 1492? Their purpose was simple: to prove they could gain access to Asia by sea and thus open a new route for trading with Asia. No priests, soldiers, or settlers were on any of the ships; all were either sailors or government officials ready to explore and discover. The sailors were simply to go, get proof that they had been to the new land, return, and tell everyone about their discoveries. Theirs was the ultimate adventure.

When you think about adventure, what comes to your mind? _____

God is inviting you to go on a great adventure with Him. This invitation includes:

- Being a disciple maker: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).
- Being a fisher of men: “‘Follow Me,’ He told them, ‘and I will make you fish for people!’ ” (Matt. 4:19).
- Being salt and light: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden” (Matt. 5:13-14).
- Being an ambassador: “We are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God’ ” (2 Cor. 5:20).

These roles involve more than attending church and tithing. Discipleship is about developing a lifelong—really an eternal—relationship with God (see Rev. 3:20). He wants to reveal Himself to us, letting us know His heart, His character, and His love for us.

Some of your answers in the previous activity most likely describe the adventure God wants us to have with Him. In what ways could the words you used to describe adventure also characterize the relationship God wants to have with you?

As we come to know God more intimately, we learn that His desire is for us to tell others what we have found. Being salt, light, and ambassadors all include the idea of sharing with others. John declared it this way:

What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have observed,
and have touched with our hands,
concerning the Word of life—
that life was revealed,
and we have seen it
and we testify and declare to you
the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us—
what we have seen and heard
we also declare to you,
so that you may have fellowship along with us;
and indeed our fellowship is with the Father
and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:1-3

John reminded his readers that he was simply telling what he had seen and experienced for himself.

In the same way, John reminds us that we don't have to know all the hows and whats to share Jesus with others. We are not responsible for explaining what we haven't discovered yet. All we are asked to do is tell what we know and have personally discovered.

The story is told of a college professor who taught philosophy. The final exam was a one-question test—a question that had not been discussed or covered in class or in the textbook. The professor had done this to observe his students' reactions. Most students got up and walked out, not knowing how to respond. One student read the question and began to write feverishly. He wrote until no time was left.

The professor picked up the paper and began to read: "I don't know, nor have I ever considered the issues related to this question. It would be a practice in futility for me to respond to something I have not truly studied or analyzed. However, there are some things I do know." From that point on, the student presented a summary of his class notes and the insights he had gained through the class experiences. The professor looked at the student, commended him, wrote an A across the top of the paper, and left the room.

In his Gospel John introduced us to a man born blind (see John 9). Jesus' healing caused a stir in the city. Everyone was filled with questions, even the religious leaders. All kinds of accusations were made. The religious leaders even declared Jesus to be a sinner because He had performed this miracle on the Sabbath. When confronted by these religious leaders, the man who had been healed responded by saying, "Whether or not He's a sinner, I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!" (John 9:25). Likewise, we can find comfort in realizing that we are to tell what we know and what we have seen. That is what being a witness is all about.

Instruct learners to begin memorizing the main points of the outline, focusing on everything except the Scripture verses at this time. Suggest tips for memorization, such as repeatedly writing the outline, using memory cards, and listening to the audio version of the presentation. (The audio is on your facilitator guide CD; you have permission to duplicate and distribute for FAITH training.) Remind learners that their team leaders will model the presentation in visits and will support them as they learn.

Lead in prayer, thanking God for the forgiveness He provides and the invitation to join Him on this great adventure.

Step 3 (10 min.)

Define the crisis faced by eastern Europe in Columbus's day. Direct learners to list news stories from the past week that point to needs in our world. Record responses on a marker board or chalkboard. Circle the stories or needs that have spiritual implications.



Using PowerPoint, discuss our world's need for the Savior.

Optional: Present additional information and statistics provided on the CD. See Session Supplements/"Southern Baptist Congregations and Worshipers"; Session Supplements/"Conversion and Witnessing Among Southern Baptists."



Overview pages 14–15, using the PowerPoint presentation for session 1 on the CD. Ask learners to fill in the blanks in their journals as you present the material.

Read aloud 1 John 1:1-3 as learners follow in their Bibles.

Direct learners to underline the last two sentences on page 15: “We can find comfort in realizing that we are to tell what we know and what we have seen. That is what being a witness is all about.”

Step 2 (10 min.)

Guide learners to locate the FAITH gospel presentation on pages 10–11. State: *This is what we know.* Briefly review the gospel presentation.



Show the DVD segment “FAITH Presentation” and encourage learners to follow along in their journals. Explain that during the next 12 weeks learners will gain a more complete understanding of these truths and will learn how to share them with others.

THE NEED

The sailors with Columbus were trying to address a crisis their country faced. The Ottoman Empire, which had already conquered much of southeastern Europe, had captured the city of Constantinople in 1453, closing an important trade route from Europe to the east. European merchants could still buy Asian goods, but now they had to go through a new middleman. They were unable to purchase the products directly. Their economic future depended on finding a new way to trade directly with Asian merchants.

Think about the various crises our world faces today. List some news stories from the past week that point to needs our world faces today.

As you look at your list, circle the issues arising from spiritual needs.

The ultimate need of our world is a relationship with its Creator. The majority of people in our world have no idea about their need for God or how to deal with the sin that separates them from God. Jesus responded to the need by leaving the glory of heaven, taking on the form of a human, and sacrificing Himself in the cruelest of ways so that we could have forgiveness of our sin. During FAITH training we will examine why Jesus had to sacrifice Himself for us, gaining a better understanding of our need for salvation. Jesus understood the need.

In our world today people live and die without hope. In the United States alone 2.5 million people die annually. It is estimated that 75 percent of the current U.S. population is lost without Christ.¹ If you do the math, that means every hour in the United States, 214 people die without Christ.² This doesn’t even address the need in other countries. We must respond to humanity’s need for Christ, following His example.

How would you describe our world’s need for Christ? _____

What kind of difference do you think it would make if more people were followers of Jesus?

THE GOOD NEWS

The exciting news is that people are seeking to discover the truth about spiritual things. Research done by Thom Rainer and his staff revealed that 82 percent of the unchurched were somewhat likely to attend church if invited. If only half of that 82 percent actually came, that would represent 80 million people in the United States alone!³ This same research showed that the overwhelming majority of the unchurched would like to develop a sincere relationship with a Christian. Their concern for their children is one factor driving this desire, but so is the desire to dialogue about spiritual matters.

The unchurched are not as concerned about being preached to as they are about being invited to go along on our journey of faith. They want to know what we are discovering, how God makes a difference in our lives, and how they can discover Him as well.

Jesus gave us the charge to engage with the unchurched as He was about to return to heaven after His crucifixion. He told His followers, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus’ words, which we know as the Great Commission, serve as our marching orders as Christians.

The Great Commission tells us what we are to do with what we have seen. Making disciples — going, baptizing, and teaching — is the backbone of our mission as a church and as individual believers. *Baptize* and *teach* define what it means to be salt, light, and an ambassador for Christ.

When you became a Christian, you were baptized as a public declaration of your faith in Jesus. Other believers came alongside you and taught you how to live the Christian life and build a relationship with God. In a way, being a part of FAITH training is another part of your discipleship training. The assignment Jesus gave was for each of us to seek to share Jesus with others; to see them make a commitment to Him; and then to walk alongside them, showing them the ropes of the Christian life.

These descriptions of our task are sandwiched between two important promises:

1. We will have His power. Jesus began the Great Commission by declaring His power and rule (see Matt. 28:18). Power and authority were given to Him as a result of His death on the cross, for through His death He paid the penalty for sin and thus defeated the power of sin and death (see Eph. 1:7). In His commission Jesus reminded us that He has the power to defend us when we go. He will help us face tests and dangers. Even if going costs us our lives, He has the power to give us eternal life (see Luke 9:24). All Columbus and his sailors had was a

Step 5 (10 min.)

Briefly suggest reasons believers may have for failing to share Jesus and point out ways these reasons evolve from fears. (Don’t get bogged down here; your goal is to acknowledge fears and to show how FAITH can help.)



Using PowerPoint, present “Power over Our Fears.”

Highlight characteristics and benefits of being on a FAITH team:

- Team leader
- Three-member teams
- At least one female and one male
- Represent Christ, your church, and your Sunday School or small group
- Develop as disciple makers

Ask: How do these elements address our fears about witnessing?

Ask for learner responses to the questions in the activity at the end of this section.

Step 4 (10 min.)



Using PowerPoint, present the content in “The Good News.”

Direct learners to highlight in their journals the key words used in the Great Commission (*making disciples, going, baptizing, teaching*) and the two promises made in the Great Commission (His power, His presence). Emphasize how the two promises make it possible for believers to fulfill the words that describe the Great Commission.

- proclamation from the Spanish monarchy. The One who has the power to overcome death and give life offers us His full power when we go in His name.
2. We will have His presence (see Matt. 28:20). Jesus promised not only to give us His power but also to be with us as we go. Paul reminded Timothy, “God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Tim. 1:7). During the week leading to His crucifixion, Jesus was honest with His followers about what was about to happen. They understood that He was about to die and would not be with them anymore (see John 16:28). They had given Him three years of their lives and had left everything to follow Him. You can imagine the fears and anxiety these followers must have felt as they wrestled with this reality. However, Jesus promised that He would not leave them alone, but another One just like Him would come (see John 14:15-18). This other One is the Holy Spirit. He does many things, including live within each believer. The followers of Jesus would never need to worry about being alone again.

POWER OVER OUR FEARS

A number of things can keep us from sharing with another person about Jesus. List some of those things.

Review your list and circle all the reasons that relate to fear.

If we are honest, we must admit that we have some fears about witnessing. Sometimes we may get a little nervous about sharing with another person. We may be nervous about answering questions, fumbling over our words, or forgetting a Bible passage. Or maybe we are afraid of the response we might receive. We cannot let these fears dominate our lives. One purpose of FAITH is to help you know what words to share and to gain confidence in God so that you can overcome your fears about witnessing.

Some fear is good because it reminds us of the importance of what we are about to do and forces us to depend on God. We are not capable of changing this world; only Jesus can do that. Our responsibility is to introduce others to Him and to let them decide for themselves what they will do with Jesus.

The Holy Spirit will use you to help bring about conviction of a person’s need for Jesus (see John 16:8). Apart from Him we are powerless. As you go out on visits and as you cultivate relationships each day, you will discover people who have been asking God to send someone to them for spiritual help. If we make ourselves available, He will use us in ways we never could have imagined.

FAITH training includes both going out as part of a team of three persons and taking every opportunity to share Jesus with others in our daily lives. Each team has a team leader who has completed at least one semester of FAITH training; he or she will mentor you. You will go out each week to represent Christ, your church, and your Sunday School class or small group. Although not everyone you visit or meet would attend your Sunday School class, he or she would likely be open to attending another class or small group in your church. As a result, you serve as a link between your Sunday School and your community. That link also supports you as you go.

The ultimate goal of FAITH is to help Christians become disciple makers, equipped to introduce others to Christ and then help them begin to mature as Christians and ultimately become disciple makers themselves.

What goals do you have for sharing Jesus? Describe what you hope to accomplish by being involved in FAITH training.

THE SOURCE OF POWER

One element essential to success in witnessing is prayer. God's promised power and presence are functions of prayer. When we go to share with others about Jesus, we place ourselves on the frontlines of spiritual battle.

In Exodus 17 we learn that Moses stood with his hands raised on top of the hill overlooking the battle between Israel and the Amalekites. As long as Moses' hands were raised, Israel prevailed. When Moses' arms became weary and his hands came down, the Amalekites would prevail. So Moses sat on a stone, and Aaron and Hur stood on each side of him and held up his arms. Israel prevailed, and the Amalekites were defeated.

We need partners who will be our Aaron and Hur as we go into battle. These persons are our prayer partners. Here is what we need to do to help and receive help from our prayer partners.

1. Recruit at least two prayer partners. Potential prayer partners are all around you:

- *Your Sunday School class or other small group.* Try to enlist at least one prayer partner from your class or Bible study group.
- *Your home.* One prayer partner could be a family member.
- *Church friends.* You may know someone you would like to enlist who is a member of your church but is not a family member or a member of your Sunday School class or small group.
- *New believers.* If you know friends who recently accepted Christ, invite them to pray with you. Being lost is fresh on their minds, and that memory can add urgency to their prayers.

Step 7 (15 min.)

Describe the items in each team's visitation packet. Overview how to use the journal, highlighting the following.

- Daily home-study assignments: "My FAITH Journey"
- Weekly progress report: "My FAITH Connections"
- Session content

Encourage everyone to complete "My FAITH Journey" and "My FAITH Connections" throughout the week. Explain that the daily assignments will guide learners to explore Scripture and to complete other activities that will deepen their walk of discipleship and sharpen their skills for witnessing and relating to the lost. Some assignments will help them review the previous session or prepare them for the next session.

Ask learners to quickly tell the others on their FAITH teams their dreams about sharing Jesus. Call attention to the activities in day 5 on page 28. Explain that during the week learners will consider in more detail the things they hope will result from FAITH training.

Step 6 (10 min.)

State: *Prayer partners are an essential element for every FAITH team.*



Using PowerPoint, discuss the process for enlisting prayer partners. Distribute copies of Prayer Partner Commitment Card, using them as appropriate during the discussion. Distribute copies of “Praying with Your Prayer Partners” from the CD. Quickly review the suggestions. Share a personal testimony of ways prayer partners have encouraged you and have been a source of spiritual power as you have sought to share Jesus with others.

2. Using the Prayer Partner Commitment Card, share expectations with your prayer partners. Explain that each week you will count on them to pray for you as you go out and as you are salt and light during the week. Help them understand that the purpose of this partnership is to band together to win your community for Christ. You may want to ask them to hold you accountable for sharing with people daily.
3. Set aside a regular time to pray with your prayer partners, perhaps for approximately 15 minutes each week. The focus of this time must be your FAITH ministry. You can meet with them separately or together, perhaps in conjunction with a regularly scheduled church activity.
4. Ask them to commit to pray for you, using the FAITH Prayer Partner Commitment Card. Record all contact information for each prayer partner, as well as the time and place you will meet. Ask each partner to sign the card. Give each one a copy of the card to keep. Highlight the prayer suggestions on the back of the card.
5. Ask if you can call your prayer partners before leaving the church for visits. Your prayer partners can pray by name for the person(s) your team is scheduled to visit. This gives your partner more of a personal connection and excitement when decisions are made public.
6. Look for opportunities to involve prayer partners in ways other than prayer. The most asked question at the end of a FAITH training session has to be “Where will I get my learners for the next semester?” The best place to locate future learners is the prayer-partner pool. These individuals have spent weeks praying for FAITH participants, praying for lost persons, and listening to accounts of answered prayer. Many of these prayer partners will ask you whether they can be learners next semester. Others will not think to ask but will be willing if you approach them.

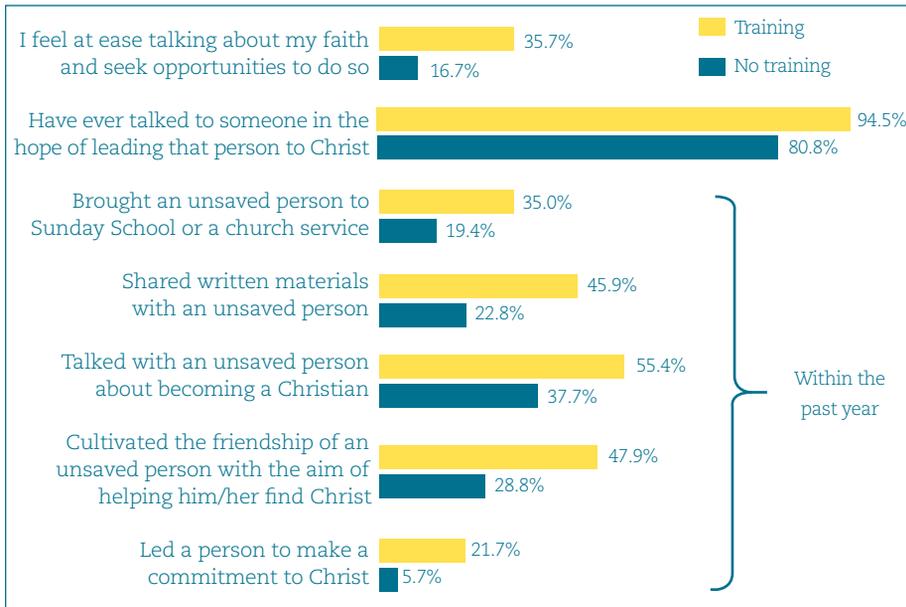
As you meet to share and pray with your partners, you will get to know these Christian brothers and sisters as you have never known them before. You will build relationships that will continue after FAITH training is complete. You will be encouraged to know that these prayer partners are supporting all of your training and witnessing efforts through prayer.⁴

JOIN THE CREW

The irony of Christopher Columbus’s adventure was that finding a crew was almost impossible. Because it was supported by the monarchy, the voyage received a great deal of attention. You would think this support and the thrill of adventure would be more than enough to entice sailors to go. But in reality willing sailors were so greatly needed that freedom was offered to criminals if they would sign up for the journey! Those who declined turned down the opportunity to make a significant difference in history. Proving that they could reach Asia by sea would begin an economic revolution. Everything would change, even geography and science textbooks.

Take a look at the graph on the following page, paying close attention to the last two items.

Southern Baptists who have received training in sharing their faith versus those without training



Notice that there is a big difference between the lives of those who have been trained to share their faith and those who have not. Research indicates a 50 percent possibility that you will develop a friendship this year with an unchurched person and engage him or her in an ongoing dialogue about spiritual things, including salvation.⁵

Greater than that, think about others in your church who are being trained or have been trained to share their faith in Jesus. Try to identify four such persons. You make the fifth person in that group. There is a high probability that one of the five of you will lead at least one person to Christ this year.

Only one hundred sailors were willing to sail with Columbus on that journey long ago. Because they were willing to go on the adventure, however, they had a part in changing the world as they knew it. Through your involvement in FAITH, you too have the same opportunity, but the difference you make will have eternal significance:

1. You will impact heaven by helping others find the way. Because of you, people will spend eternity with Jesus.
2. You will impact your world. This world needs help. The only lasting solutions are found in a relationship with God. As you help others discover the truth of the gospel, you make your world a better place.
3. You will make a difference in your church. New excitement will be created as people accept Christ. New Sunday School classes will be needed. Wouldn't it be exciting if every worship service included baptism?

Encourage learners to—

- begin memorizing the FAITH gospel presentation;
- complete each day's assignment in "My FAITH Journey";
- fill out this week's "My FAITH Connections" checklist;
- read session 1.

Optional: Distribute copies of "Beginning a Visit" from the CD. Review the ideas for making visits.

Close with prayer and commitments to share Jesus with as many people as possible.

Dismiss teams for visiting. Encourage learners to follow the lead of the team leader and to participate in the visits as their leaders suggest. Remind everyone to be back for Celebration Time reports.



VISITATION TIME (110 min.)



CELEBRATION TIME (30 min.)

Step 8 (10 min.)

Call attention to the graph. Note the difference between those who have received training to share Jesus and those who have not. Highlight the statistics about leading a person to Christ in a year's time. Note that for every five persons involved in FAITH training or other training in your church, one will likely lead a person to Christ this year. Challenge learners to be bold enough to ask God that they be one of the five.



Using PowerPoint, identify areas that will change as a result of being involved in FAITH training (heaven, world, church).

Call on a volunteer to read aloud Kathy's testimony on page 22. Explain that each person involved in FAITH training will also be changed. Briefly describe how FAITH training has changed you. Read the last sentence on page 22, challenging learners to enjoy the journey on which they are about to embark.

Lead learners to sign the FAITH Expression of Commitment on page 12.

At least one more person will be changed as a result of FAITH training: that person is you. Kathy discovered firsthand the difference FAITH can make. Read her testimony.

FAITH training has truly changed my life. First, it has given me the confidence to share Christ with anyone at any time. The training enabled me to be prepared at a moment's notice. I would never have been that bold, even though I wanted to be. The Lord has demonstrated time and time again that if I'm prepared and willing to obey, He will go before me. The results are between the Holy Spirit and the lost. God is faithful. When I obey, He gives me perfect peace.

The result of this perfect peace has strengthened my relationship with the Lord. God continues to stretch my faith, producing more growth and maturity in my life. In addition to my spiritual growth, God has given me new friends. Many of my closest relationships with other believers were formed as a result of being on the same FAITH team. These friends continue to be a source of love and encouragement. We have been through some spiritual battles together, and we have seen God use us as a team to make a difference. I know I have friends I can trust no matter what.

As you begin your adventure of FAITH, you are making a commitment to represent God to this world. You will be challenged to do new things, stretching your faith. You will see God use you to make a difference in someone's life. You will gain new friends you know you can trust. Enjoy the adventure and the new discoveries you will make about yourself, God, and His redemptive purpose for all the world.

1. LifeWay research report, 10 March 2006.
2. Ibid.
3. Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 24–25.
4. Adapted from Lawrence H. Phipps, *Praying in Faith Facilitator Guide* (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2002), 38–41. Out of print.
5. "U. S. Congregational Life Survey: Conversion and Witnessing Among Southern Baptists," *Research Report* (Alpharetta, GA: Research Services, North American Mission Board, SBC, Summer 2002).



MY FAITH CONNECTIONS

Visitation Summary

Attempts _____
Completed visits _____
Key Question asked _____

Record a synopsis of your team's visits. Include actions you may need to take on needs discovered. Whom should you tell about these needs? Prayer partners? Sunday School teacher? Minister?

Life-Witness Summary

Key Question asked _____

My Journey This Week

What has God taught you this week? Record insights you have gained about God and yourself.

MY FAITH JOURNEY

DAY 1

The stage was set, and everything was ready. For the first time in history, the king of England would make a radio address that would be heard not only by the people of England but also by the world. The radio broadcast would be sent by wire across the Atlantic Ocean to be heard live on CBS radio in the United States. Just as King George was about to give the opening address at the London Arms Conference, the unthinkable happened. One of the control-room staffers tripped over the wire and broke it. Seeing that the connection had been severed, Harold Vidian sprang into action, grabbing the two ends of the broken wire. Two hundred and fifty volts of electricity went through his arms, but he was able to hang on. Because of Harold, people in the United States tuned in to CBS radio that day and heard the king's message.¹

When you read this story, what thoughts come to your mind? _____

What do you think others thought when Harold took this action? _____

What do you think Harold thought? _____

How is Harold's action similar to being a witness for Jesus? _____

Harold knew that what he was about to do would be an adventure. It is not every day that you intentionally grab hold of 250 volts of electricity! He also knew that if he didn't act, people in the United States would not receive the message. Harold was the only fix available that would make possible the delivery of the message.

Similarly, the line between God and the world has been severed. God is looking for some Harold Vidians to grab hold of the severed line and make it possible for His message to be heard. That is God's invitation to be a disciple maker. The Bible tells us, "God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment" (2 Tim. 1:7).

That severed line between God and the world is sitting in front of you right now. By being a part of FAITH training, you are taking steps toward the severed wire. Ask God to help you take hold and be a conduit of His power so that His message can be heard.

1. John Jess, "The Chapel of the Air," radio message 1123.

DAY 2

Review “Power over Our Fears,” beginning on page 18. The Holy Spirit is actively involved in helping us share the gospel. Through His power that lives in us, we are able to go and share with others. No coach would send a team out to play a game without first preparing the players. Regardless of how much the coach teaches, ultimately, some things are up to the players. They have to listen to what the coach tells them and do their part.

When we go visit or otherwise engage ourselves in people’s lives, we have to do our part. We have to prepare ourselves to become authentic fishers of men in today’s world.

How do you need to prepare yourself to be used by the Holy Spirit? _____

What are you doing to place yourself in a position to hear from God? _____

When Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, He told the disciples what the Holy Spirit would do for them. Read John 14:15-18,25-26; 16:5-15 and list the things Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would do.

Put a check beside the action that excites you most. Why did you select that action?

Circle the actions that will help you be a witness. Explain how these actions of the Holy Spirit will help you witness.

Thank God for providing the Holy Spirit in your life and ask that He help you witness to one person in the next 24 hours.



DAY 3

Describe your life before you were a Christian. _____

Describe your life after you became a Christian. _____

We all have a story to tell. Most of us are more than ready to tell others about our lives. The most important part of our story is the difference Jesus makes in our lives. In the previous session we discovered a man whose sight Jesus restored (see John 9). He had a story to tell. The woman at the well met Jesus and then told her city about the encounter (see John 4). She had a story to tell. Paul was traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians when Jesus appeared (see Acts 22). He too had a story to tell.

Sharing our evangelistic story is a natural tool we have for initiating dialogue about spiritual things. On pages 34–35 you will find more information about your evangelistic story.

Using the headings found on pages 34–35, write your evangelistic story on a separate sheet of paper. Use the guidelines on pages 34–35 to assist you. Make sure you can share your story in three minutes or less.

You may want to ask one of your prayer partners to evaluate and respond to what you have written. Bring a copy of your evangelistic story with you to the next session.

DAY 4

Have you ever wished you could wear just one hat at a time? Wouldn't it be more enjoyable sometimes to be at a ball game at which a relative was playing and you could set your dad, mom, or sibling hat to the side and put on your fan hat? We can't do that because no matter what, we are still dad, mom, or sibling. We occupy that role 24 hours a day.

Some may think FAITH training is the preparation-for-organized-visitation hat. The fact is, although FAITH helps with organized visitation, the real goal of FAITH training is for each of us to become more like Christ as we relate to others in every part of our lives. FAITH is not something you do for three hours a week and then stop doing the rest of the week.

We learned in session 1 that going on a great adventure with God includes being an ambassador for Him. When writing to the Corinthian church, Paul stated, "We are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God' " (2 Cor. 5:20). Ambassadors represent their country all the time. Even when in another country, ambassadors are never excused from that duty.

The same is true of ambassadors for Christ. We are never off the clock. As long as we are away from our homeland (heaven), we must be busy representing the good news of Christ to this world.

Some people with whom you come in contact every day need to know about Jesus. Some of them are watching you and waiting for you to tell them about Him. As you go through this day, list the people with whom you come in contact.

Of those people identify at least three and begin to pray for them. Ask God to help you find a way to dialogue with them about spiritual things.

1.

2.

3.

Add the names to the prayer section of "My FAITH Connections" (p. 23) and ask your prayer partners to begin praying for them as well. (You may not want to share full names.)



DAY 5

The writer of Proverbs declared that

The plans of the diligent certainly lead to profit,
but anyone who is reckless only becomes poor (Prov. 21:5).

God wants to do important work in your life, your church, and your community. Some of these things can happen through your involvement in FAITH training.

In Yourself

At the end of session 1 we met Kathy, who explained the difference FAITH made in her life. Review her story on page 22. There have been and continue to be changes in Kathy's life as she continues to place herself in a position to be used by God.

During session 1 you were asked to dream about what you hope to gain by being involved in FAITH training (p. 19). By now you have had time to think more about it. Write three goals or changes you hope to see in yourself over the next 12 weeks.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In Your Church

You and others involved in FAITH training will make a difference in your church. Think about what it could mean for your church if every person on a FAITH team shared with at least one person about Jesus.

What would happen in your church if every week at least one person accepted Christ?

How would it change your worship? _____

As you think about your church, list three things you hope will happen as a result of FAITH training over the next 12 weeks.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In Your Community

Take time to drive around your community, including the area around your church. Take it all in. What did you observe?

What are three things you hope will happen in your community over the next 12 weeks?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ask God to bring about these nine changes. Thank Him in advance for the victories.