

SECTION 1

Why an Evangelism Prayer Study Guide?

Goal: *To teach and mobilize women and men around the world, across denominational and parachurch organizational lines, to pray for and reach people with the saving love of Jesus.*

At least two billion people in the world today have never heard a clear presentation of the Good News that Jesus Christ died to save them from their sins! What can Christians do about it? Should we be concerned enough to do anything? The mission of this Study Guide is to help women and men around the world answer these questions and go to work through prayer and evangelism to reach the world's billions who need to know Jesus.

I

Why should we tell the whole world about Jesus?

1. We must obey Jesus' command in His Great Commission that we should "go and make disciples of *all nations*" (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV; see also Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46,47).
2. Jesus' last instruction to His followers was that we should be His witnesses even to the *remotest part of the earth* (Acts 1:8).
3. God "desires *all* men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4; see 2 Peter 3:9; Titus 2:11).
4. Jesus made personal atonement not only for our sins but for the sins of the *whole world* (1 John 2:2).
5. *Jesus did His part on the cross; but He did not do what He left for us to do—reach the world with His saving message.* (He only reached one person, the dying thief, from the cross.)

6. Jesus is coming back, but He said the end cannot come until the gospel of the kingdom is preached in the *whole world*.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come”
(Matthew 24:14).

- a. Revelation 7:9,10 tells us the final victory scene in heaven will include people from *every* nation, tribe, people and tongue on earth (see Revelation 5:8,9).
- b. There must be no more barriers of understanding or acceptance of the gospel due to culture, language or geography that the Good News of Jesus has not crossed before the end can come.

II

Does the Bible really say that all people who have not accepted Jesus—even from other religions—need to be evangelized?

1. Everyone is *condemned* until they accept Jesus.
 - a. Jesus said in John 3:18 NIV that all are condemned already unless they believe in Him.
 - b. Through one transgression (Adam and Eve’s) there resulted condemnation to all people (see Romans 5:18).
2. All people need their *sins forgiven* through salvation.
 - a. All people on earth are still in the state of original sin in which they were born until they are saved (Romans 5:18,19; Luke 24:46,47).
 - b. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
3. There are only two spiritual kingdoms—Jesus’ and Satan’s, and all people on earth are in one or the other.
 - a. Satan’s is a kingdom of *darkness* and Jesus’ is a kingdom of *light* (see Colossians 1:13; Acts 26:18).
 - b. “We [*Christians*] know that we are of God, and the whole world [*outside of Jesus*] lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19).
4. Salvation transfers people out of Satan’s kingdom into Jesus’ kingdom.
“For He [the Father] delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13).

“I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness” (John 12:46).

- a. Jesus told Paul on the Damascus road that His purpose for calling him was “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and *from the dominion of Satan to God*” (see Acts 26:16-18).
- b. Evangelism is *spiritual warfare*. It is Christians getting involved with Jesus in the battle between the rulers of the two spiritual kingdoms of the universe for the souls of lost people on Planet Earth.
 - 1) Satan is trying to hang on to those he already owns because they were born condemned already into his kingdom of darkness.
 - 2) Jesus is calling us to help rescue those still captive in Satan’s kingdom—so God can transfer them into Jesus’ kingdom.

III
What will happen to those who do not accept Jesus?

1. All who do not believe on Jesus will spend eternity in hell.

“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).

2. What does the Bible say hell is?
 - a. Greek = *Gehenna*. Used by Jesus 11 of 12 times found in the New Testament (see Matthew 10:28).
 - b. Occupants of hell are in two categories of beings:
 - 1) The devil and his angels—supernatural beings (Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10).
 - 2) Accursed people—human beings (Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:15).
 - c. Descriptions of the eternal residence of the unsaved:
 - 1) Inescapable place (Matthew 23:33).
 - 2) Place of fire (Matthew 13:49,50).
 - 3) Place of torment (Matthew 13:50).
 - 4) Place of punishment, not reformation (2 Thessalonians 1:8).
 - 5) Place of banishment (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 7:23).
 - 6) Everlasting (Mark 9:47,48; Revelation 14:11). In Matthew 25:46, Jesus used the same word “eternal” for the duration of punishment as for believer’s eternal life.

IV
**What was God's provision for those
lost in Satan's kingdom?**

1. God loved people on earth enough to make the supreme sacrifice of His son, Jesus, for us.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

2. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
3. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
4. “He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
5. But Jesus triumphed over Satan on the cross of Calvary.

“And being found in appearance as a man, He [Jesus] humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the God the Father” (Philippians 2:8-11).

6. And Jesus said, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him” (John 3:36 NIV).

V
**What happens when a person accepts
Jesus as Savior and Lord?**

1. We are born again.

“Truly, truly, I [Jesus] say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

2. We are transferred out of Satan's kingdom into Jesus' kingdom.
 - a. "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13; see also Acts 26:14-18).
 - b. "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46).
3. Our sins are forgiven.
 - a. "Of Him [*Jesus*] all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).
 - b. "In Him we have redemption through His blood" (Rev. 1:5).
4. We are saved from wrath. "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him [*Christ*]" (Romans 5:9).
5. Believers are *in* Christ and Christ *in* them (John 14:20).
6. We are a new creation in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).
7. We have abundant life in Jesus. "I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10b).
8. We receive eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
9. We have an inheritance in heaven (1 Peter 1:3,4; Acts 26:18).
10. God gets all the glory for our salvation (Galations 1:3-5).

<p>VI</p> <p>What must a person do to accept Jesus?</p>

1. Believe Jesus who came preaching two requirements in Mark 1:15, "repent and believe."
2. Acknowledge he is a sinner (Romans 3:23 and Luke 13:3).
3. Believe in Jesus (John 3:16).

VII
**How will the world hear
if we don't tell them?**

1. Jesus did His part on the cross; but He did not evangelize the world *from* the cross.
2. Jesus left the reaching of the whole world with the message of His salvation to us.

“Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:13-15a).

For You To Do

First, examine your OWN heart. On what basis do you claim to be a Christian? Have you ever accepted Jesus by repenting of your sins and believing on Him, allowing God to transfer you from Satan's kingdom to His? *If not, do it now.* The rest of this manual will not apply to you *until you do.*

Next, check *each* excuse you have used for not praying for and helping people to accept Jesus:

- I did not know of the Bible's teaching that no one can know God until he or she believes on Jesus.
- I did not understand the reality and horror of hell for those not believing in Jesus.
- I have not accepted my personal responsibility to obey Jesus' command in His great commission to tell everyone of His love.
- I have been too busy keeping my own family and myself together to bother with other people's problems.
- My church and Christian organization see evangelism as a project—not rescuing souls from Satan's kingdom.
- I have been taught to believe that all religions lead to God and not to think of Jesus as the only way.
- Since God knows who will be saved anyway, why should I bother?
- I lack understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit to use and bless my seemingly feeble efforts.
- I am afraid I will fail.
- I am afraid of discussing spiritual matters.
- I would rather be liked by people than to push my religion on them.
- I just have not cared.

For You To Pray

1. Ask God to forgive you for each one of your excuses for not praying for and bringing people to Jesus.
2. Ask God to give you His burden for those still needing Jesus near you and around the world.
3. Promise God you will start to pray faithfully for them.
4. Promise God that you will obey as He directs you to tell them of Jesus.

For a more complete study of this subject, see *Battling the Prince of Darkness* by Evelyn Christenson.

