



## Leader's Guide

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[www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org)

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## Before You Begin

Thank you for choosing to teach *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied*. I pray that these principles will help you and your fellow disciples talk more about the most important thing in our lives – our relationship with Jesus Christ. This chapter introduces you to the study guide and to themes of the book.

### Schedule

The study guide is designed for eight one-hour meetings. However, meeting together for a longer period would allow more encouragement and follow-up. I have assumed that your groups will receive the books at the first meeting.

I have also provided suggested questions and comments. Feel free to modify and make this study guide your own. You do not have to ask every question. Nor do you have to make every comment I have included. This is a guide to help the busy leader with teaching ideas.

### Key Concepts

There are four key concepts to communicate to the group members.

- Key 1 – Tongue-tied Christians need to pray biblical evangelistic prayers (Chapter 2).
- Key 2 – Tongue-tied Christian need to build genuine relationships with unbelievers as they go about their day (Chapters 3 and 4).
- Key 3 – Tongue-tied Christians can learn to transition to spiritual things using questions (Primarily in Chapters 5 and 8, but also in 6 and 7).
- Key 4 – Tongue-tied Christians need to use a God-blessed resource to share about Jesus (Chapter 9).

### Weekly Overview

Each week has four sections:

- **Discuss** encourages people to talk and checks up on how they did with their assignment.
- **Study** is a time to look more deeply at the reading assignment and a passage of Scripture.
- **Act** creates some fun role-playing in the group and gives the next week's assignment.
- **Pray** sets aside time to engage the believer in prayer.

You and your co-leader need to pray regularly for: yourselves (the teacher should always learn more than the students), the class, and evangelistic opportunities. I would also like to support you in prayer. Please email me at [chap@tonguetied.org](mailto:chap@tonguetied.org) and tell me about your class so that I can pray for you.

### **Classroom Discussion**

An attitude of fun ought to pervade the class. Remember tongue-tied Christians are not the gifted evangelists. We are just “toddlers” trying to take small steps and learning from each encounter.

Although there is a place for expecting conversions, the focus of this class should be on *having conversations*. Every conversation is a cause for rejoicing. When people experience the joy of talking with others, they will be motivated to learn how to share their faith better. Be sure to focus on having fun, asking lots of questions, and enjoying conversations.

### **The Gifted Evangelist**

If you are a person who seems to be able to share your faith easily, I would encourage you to find a co-leader who is tongue-tied. Most resources on evangelism are written by evangelists for evangelists. *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied* is designed for the person without that gifting. You may find the suggestions simplistic. But for the tongue-tied Christian, these suggestions will be freeing. Your co-leader’s failures and frustrations will keep you from teaching beyond everyone’s abilities. God may have gifted you to coach others, but you need to have empathy with where the rest of us must begin this journey.

As a teacher, you also need to be ready for the student who is a gifted evangelist. The ease with which they talk to unbelievers can make the others feel inferior. The gifted evangelist can change the tone of your class. It will be helpful to identify their gifting early, encourage them to stay for what they can learn, but also tell them that this is a class for the non-evangelist. Items we cover will often seem simplistic to them. This class should be such a safe place that it is the gifted evangelist who feels out of place.

### **God Must Work in You!**

A key to teaching this material will be putting the principles into practice yourself. More is caught than taught. As you learn the principles, you can help others long after the eight sessions are over. Taking principles from a book and putting them into practice is a skill that you may have. Many do not have that gifting and will need your personal coaching. So as you go through the material, make sure that God is working in you as well.

### **Triads or Quads**

For the **Act** part of the class it will be helpful to break the class into smaller groups of threes or fours. These groups are the place for role-play during the class time. And the group members can pray for each other during the week.

Since there are four in each group, when one person is absent (which will happen), you will still have three. For this last reason, if they are willing, it is good to split up husbands and wives. Thus when the family is away, two groups are affected but one group is not decimated. Conversely, it seems better to put groups together where the people already know each other. This will give the group a chance of continuing after the eight weeks is concluded.

To make these groups most effective, they each should have a quad leader who could represent you and help coach the other three members. This “leadership group” will learn more because you interact with them before and after class. And they will learn more because they are articulating to three others what they are learning. This leadership team may be the core of your outreach team after the class is over.

### **How Do People Change?**

Essential to teaching others is not only an understanding of this material, but an overall understanding of how people change. To be an effective teacher, you need to be aware of both.

We know that people learn best by doing. When I began teaching the material, I asked the students to immediately put the principles into practice. I encouraged them to pray for open doors, be genuine with people, look for transitions, and share the gospel. But I found that this was not effective for everyone. Some would immediately apply the material. Others, however, did not start putting it into practice. They were afraid they would not know what to say in presenting the gospel. In other words, they wanted to know the final step before they would take the first step. Many students must be familiar with the specific tool they will use in the fourth step before they will begin to take the first step. Which tool will they use? Will they invite people to church? Will they just hand out a pamphlet? As their teacher you need to help them think concretely.

### **Different Plans for Presentation**

To accommodate this fear, I now think of presenting the material in two phases. Phase 1 is presenting the four key concepts for their understanding and giving the student confidence in the approach. Some will put the material into practice immediately. Others will wait to understand the whole plan. Phase 2 is accountability for putting the plan into practice. This will work best for a class that meets for thirteen weeks. If you plan to meet for eight weeks, then begin to think about meeting once a month after the class is over.

If you choose to meet for eight weeks, you could cover the material for meetings 1-7 and meet for encouragement and review for the last week. Then take those who are interested and covenant together to meet monthly for a set number of meetings such as three or five. At these monthly meetings you could pray for each other, share any answers to prayer, and report on any difficulties.

If you choose to present the material over thirteen weeks, you can circle through the material twice. The first time through the material would be in meetings 1 through 8. The goal would be to understand the bare bones of the four steps and giving the students confidence and perspective. The second time through the material in meetings 9 through 13 would involve putting the four steps into practice AND learning some extra material.

### **A Plea to Think Ahead**

Tongue-tied Christians need all the help we can get from tools that God has given the body of Christ. In lesson 3, I will be encouraging you to distribute an article on prayer and a bookmark that will be especially helpful. My suggestion is to print the bookmark on brightly colored cardstock at any office supply store and read through it. Download these at [www.tonguetied.org/page.php/id/145](http://www.tonguetied.org/page.php/id/145).

In addition, a pamphlet, a Bible and an appropriate book are particularly helpful in helping tongue-tied Christians talk about Jesus. Between lesson six and lesson seven, the student will be asked to purchase some of those materials at a local Christian bookstore. For one reason or another, many will not. As an alternative, you may want to purchase some of the materials in bulk at the beginning of class so that you can put them in the hands of your students in week six. Or you may wish to order several different recommended resources and make them available to peruse on a booktable throughout the next eight weeks. Visit [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org) for recommended evangelistic resources.

The website also has a growing articles section. Current articles include:

- Thirty-One Evangelistic Verses to Meditate On and Have Ready
- Twelve Questions to Deepen Your Evangelistic Conversation
- How to Host an Evangelistic Cookie Swap

Thank you for your trust in choosing this material. I would love to hear your stories of victories. Please send them to me. I am always looking for testimonials to add to the website. And I would love to hear your suggestions for improvement. If I can be of help, please contact me.

Your brother under grace,  
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## **Lesson 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Discuss**

Welcome to the first session. As we will do each week, let's begin our time by talking together.

What aspect of sharing your faith is hard? Easy?

What is the biggest fear you experience in trying to share your faith?

What have been some of your recent experiences in trying to share, your faith? What "bad" experience have you had in sharing your faith? What made it "bad?" What "good" experiences have you had sharing your faith? What made it "good?"

What are you hoping to receive from this class?

#### **Study**

(Handout the books.)

Open to the Table of Contents. Let's look at where we will be going in the next couple of weeks together.

Next week we will cover the Introduction and Chapter 1. We'll be exploring this whole idea of whether those without the gift of evangelism can even share their faith.

Chapter 2 will cover how to pray biblical evangelistic prayers. I think it will be different from what you have thought. Chap suggests that much of our problem comes from a wrong view of evangelistic prayer.

Chapter 3 and 4 will cover how to build genuine relationships with non-Christians around us.

Chapter 5 through 8 will teach us how to transition to the spiritual things. Our world is so secular that this is the hardest part for most people.

But we still need to talk about Jesus. Chapter 9 will help us talk to others about Jesus.

Have any of you ever tried to change a habit like losing weight or starting to exercise? What elements help you change? In Chapter 10, Chap identifies four elements that will help us change: information, time, others, reflection. We are going to be using all four parts in our time together.

For information, we will be studying the Bible, this book and the website that goes with it ([www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org)).

For time, we will be together 8 weeks and perhaps have an opportunity to get together for a monthly period afterwards.

The third element that leads to growth is reflection. Chap encourages you to start a prayer/conversation journal that records open doors and conversations. Note how they started, what each party said, what difficulties you had, and what stopped the conversation. Ask the Holy Spirit for insight. You can record that in a notebook or on a computer.

As for others to hold us accountable, we are going to break up into smaller action groups. These groups will have a time to talk together each week in this class. We would encourage you to talk to each other about what you are learning outside of the class as well. We are going to break people in groups of three or four who will be partners throughout the time. We would suggest you not be in a group with your spouse. Our reasoning is if your family is away one week, each group will miss one person.

### **Act**

Let's take some time to form our groups right now.

Your assignment for the week is:

1. Read Chapter 1 in *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied*.
2. Read Chapter 10 to think about what it will take for you to change over the next weeks together.
3. Buy a notebook for reflection or start a journal on your computer.
4. Visit [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org) and sign up for the newsletter.

### **Pray**

One of the premises of this book is that for us to become effective ambassadors of our faith, we must have God's help. Let's spend a significant bit of class time in prayer. (Either all together or in the new triads)

Let's commit these classes to the Lord. Ask for new insights, wisdom, a heart for the lost. Ask the Lord to show you any sin hindering your being a useful vessel.

## Lesson 2

### Help for the Tongue-Tied

#### **Discuss**

Let's begin by thinking about what God has used in the past to help someone become a Christian.

Who has become a Christian as an adult or teenager? Tell us what verbal factors led to your becoming a Christian. Tell us what you were thinking. For the rest of us, listen to these stories as a student for what was helpful in becoming a Christian. (As a teacher, listen for God using tongue-tied people along the way. If someone just tells about becoming a Christian at a rally, ask why he or she went to that rally.)

Let's summarize some of the human factors that led to conversion.

#### **Study**

Let's look at Moses in Exodus 4:10-12 and remember the story of Moses.

Where had Moses been before this? (Egypt)

Why did he have to leave? (Feared for his life) Why? (He had killed an Egyptian.)

Why did he kill the Egyptian? (Many will say to stop the beating but have them look at Acts 7:25) (He tried to deliver Egypt in his own strength)

What was the result of acting in his own strength and timing? (Good idea but failed execution)

Where did God send Moses? (Desert) For how long? (Forty years) What part of Moses character do you think God was working on? (Pride, Reliance on God, etc.)

Now, in Exodus 4:10-12 what was God calling Moses to do? (Deliver his people)

What was Moses response? (I can't)

What was God's response? (You can with my help)

I wonder if you have been like Moses and have you tried to lead others to spiritual deliverance in your own strength? Like Moses, has God given you a desert experience to increase your dependence on him? Like Moses, is God calling you back to speak in *His strength*?

How does this passage give you courage? Literally in the Hebrew, God says, "I will be with your mouth."

Let's review Chapter 1 of *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied*

Which one of the three characters at the beginning of Chapter 1 do you most identify with? Why?

Chap says he is a tongue-tied Christian. What problems does he have in speaking? With which can you identify?

What are the three myths about evangelism? Review them with me. What are they? Which one was most helpful for you to think about? Why?

What are the four key elements that Chap wants us to learn? Over the next seven weeks we are going to learn about these elements and seek to put them into practice.

But we believe that people learn best by doing. So we are going to encourage you to immediately put what you are learning into practice. Some of you can. Others will want to wait until you know what you will say. Either way we are here to support you.

### **Act**

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Read Chapter 2 in *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied*.
2. Buy a notebook for reflection or start a journal on your computer if you have not done so already.
3. Visit [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org) and sign up for the newsletter if you have not done so already.

### **Pray**

Again, let's take significant time to pray. After today, the material will start to press us for time. So let's pray in this session. Commit these classes to the Lord. Ask for new insights, wisdom, and a heart for the lost. Ask the Lord to show you any sin hindering your being a useful vessel.

## Lesson 3

### Praying Biblical Prayers

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4:2-4*

#### **Discuss**

How do you think most people pray evangelistically? What kind of results do we see?

#### **Study**

Let's look at Colossians 4:2-4.

What does Paul ask prayer for in v.3? (Diagram out the three-stage process)

What must the Colossians do first? (Pray for open doors)

What will God do next? (Open the door)

What does that mean? (Provide opportunities to speak about Jesus)

What will Paul do next? (Proclaim the mystery of Christ)

What does Paul ask prayer for in v.4? (Speak clearly)

At the same time Paul wrote Colossians, he also wrote Ephesians.

Read Ephesians 6:19-20.

What does Paul ask prayer for here? (Speak boldly, words will be given him.)

What does that suggest about how we should pray for ourselves?

How do you think praying these different ways would change you? Can God answer these prayers apart from the response of the person?

What does Paul command in v.2? (Devote ourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful)

Watchful and thankful for what? (Answers to prayer!!)

What implication is there that Paul asks others to pray for him? (We should ask others to pray for us.)

Pass out the *Twelve Prayers* handout and bookmarks (My suggestion is to print the bookmark on brightly colored cardstock at any office supply store) and read through it. Download these at [www.tonguetied.org/page.php/id/145](http://www.tonguetied.org/page.php/id/145).

We do not want to neglect praying for specific people. It is great to pray for specific people. But we also want to pray: God will open a door with them, God will make you bold with them, and God will make you clear with them.

#### **Act**

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Pray for open doors this week. If you are hesitant to pray this way because you are concerned that you will not know what to say, then remember that you don't have to say

anything. You are just beginning. We are not the evangelists. For this week, just tune into topics of conversation. Be bold if you want to, but don't feel any compulsion to speak at this time; just pray.

One way you can take action this week is to be sensitive to hurting individuals. If you come across someone who is hurting, why don't you say something like this, "Would it be ok if I prayed for your situation?" or "I pray with a group of people weekly. Could I bring this situation up with them to pray for?"

2. Read Chapters 3 and 4.

**Pray**

Close your time having your triads praying these prayers from Colossians 4:2-6 and the *Twelve Prayers* sheet.

## **Lesson 4**

### **Building Genuine Relationships**

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders...Let your conversation be always full of grace. Colossians 4:5, 6*

#### **Discuss**

Did you sense answers to prayer for open doors this week? (As a leader, you should model reading from your journal of answers to prayer or conversations you had and how they ended.)

#### **Study**

Chap suggests that the second element to sharing our faith is to build genuine relationships as we go about our day.

What is a genuine relationship? What is it not? (Not phony but not necessarily a friendship)

Many resources encourage us to build friendships with unbelievers before we share. What is the positive and negative result of this emphasis?

On the other hand, some training is technique oriented. Have you taken any evangelism training that taught you a technique that felt foreign or superficial to you? Did it bother your conscience? Why? Did you use it very long?

Read John 4:4-14

What do you notice about how Jesus built the relationship with the woman at the well? Was he her long-time friend? Was he genuine with her?

What five ways does the book suggest that we can build genuine relationship with people? (Greet, Accept them, Ask questions, Listen for answers, Give appropriate gifts) Which of these elements did Jesus use with the Samaritan women? (The first four) Which do you struggle with the most? Why?

What is the Great Commission? (Matthew 28:18-20) Why, according to the book, do we ignore it? How does Chap suggest we should apply the Great Commission? (Make disciples as we go) Do you agree? How would that change how you look at your day?

What are two special places or times that God seems to bless? (Work and Trials) Have you been able to share at work or during trials? How?

If we are being genuine, God may give us opportunities with people we know well and people we don't know well. Let's brainstorm together about where you go during the week where you might have a divine appointment.

**Act**

Stop and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people in your life who are on your heart. Make a list of them now. (People in family, work/school, neighborhood, errands) Which of these people seem spiritually open? Apathetic?

Turn your bookmark over and list four or five people the Lord places on your heart. In a minute and during the week, I would encourage you to pray the *Twelve Prayers* for them. In other words, pray for open doors *with them*, pray for boldness *with them*, etc.

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Read Chapters 5 and 8 this week. You can also read Chapters 6 and 7 but these may or may not be covered given time constraints of the class.
2. Pray the *Twelve Prayers* for specific people you will meet and specific places you will go.
3. Keep track of your prayers, thoughts and conversations in your journal.

**Pray**

Let's spend the rest of the time praying that the Lord might open doors, make you bold with these specific people or at these specific places.

## Lesson 5

### Transitioning to Spiritual Things with Questions

*Make the most of every opportunity...Let your conversation be...seasoned with salt.  
Colossians 4:5-6*

#### **Discuss**

Did you sense any open doors this week? What types?

Did you take the initiative in building relationships this week? How?

In what other ways has God been helping you grow as an ambassador?

(As a leader, model reading from your journal of answers to prayer/ conversations you have had. Remember to rejoice at any small step forward.)

#### **Study**

Now we begin the hard part, actually bringing up spiritual things. Most people have no problem praying and acting lovingly towards others. But when it comes to speaking about Jesus, then our palms begin to sweat, our tongues begin to stick to the roof of the mouth, and our words seem to stop.

Why is it so hard to bring up spiritual things at work or with your neighbors?

Our book suggests there are five levels of conversation. What are they? (Cliché, Information, Opinion, Feeling, Transparency) At what level is the gospel? What causes conversations to move deeper naturally?

Let's look at Philip. Acts 8:26-40

What led Philip to the eunuch? V.26, 29 (The Spirit)

Was this man spiritually interested? How do you know? (He had been to Jerusalem and he was reading from the Scriptures)

How did Philip start the conversation? V.30 (Asking a question)

How did the conversation progress? V.31-35

We need to be careful that we do not expect every conversation to end in conversion like this story, but there are several elements we can learn from this story. Philip was Spirit-led. Philip asked questions. The conversation progressed naturally.

Let's think about our day and culture. What are the questions that Chap says will unlock spiritual conversations?

Why will they work? (People like to talk about themselves; spiritual is a safe word; you are not preaching at them; you are asking their opinion) Remember, the questions are not magic in and of themselves. This is not the evangelistic technique that will unlock all the doors. Rather, it is a skill to be used in conjunction with prayers for open doors, boldness, and clarity. Prayer must come first.

Why is asking questions so important? How is that different than what we normally think of evangelism as?

When does Chap suggest that God will give the opportunity to ask these questions? Do you talk freely with unbelievers about your religious activities or do you downplay them? Why?

What are some religious conversations you have had in the recent past? How did they start? Can you remember how they ended? Would the conversation have continued with a transition question?

What kind of responses can you expect? How does Chap encourage you to respond to them?

### **Act**

#### *Leader's Role-Play 1*

(As the leader, role-play a conversation in front of the class that your students might have at work.)

Person 1: "What did you do this weekend?"

Person 2: "I did \_\_\_\_\_ at my church this weekend. You know, John, I don't really know what you believe. What are your spiritual beliefs?"

Person 1: Responds

Person 2: "I'd love to tell you what I believe sometime." Or "I really love my church, I'd love to have you visit sometime."

(Encourage your students that this type of conversation is not difficult to have.)

#### *Leader's Role-Play 2*

(Next, role-play the assignment you are going to give everyone this week.)

Person 1: "Joe, I am taking a class at my church and this week I have to ask someone a question and report back on their answer. Would you be my guinea pig? Yes? What are your spiritual beliefs?"

Person 2: Responds

Person 1: Asks follow-up question.

Person 2: Responds.

(Continue asking appropriate questions. You want to model an inquiring, friendly, fun atmosphere without feeling the need to talk about Jesus yet.)

#### *Student Exercise*

Get in your triads and role-play these two scenarios in class right now.

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Pray for an opportunity and boldness to ask a friend or coworker about their beliefs. Use the class as your reason for asking if you need to "blame" it on something. Pray for open doors to ask these questions. Don't feel like you have to say anything back. Just ask lots of questions. Seek to be a student of the person's heart. If you are ready you can

respond but don't have to feel pressure. Remember this is fun. We are becoming a student of what people believe.

2. Pray for another open door to ask the transition question. If you are fearful about how to respond, just listen and ask lots of questions.
3. Read Chapter 9.
4. Continue to pray for open doors and keep a journal of opportunities you had.

### **Pray**

Pray for each other that the Lord would open doors, that we would see the open doors, that we would be bold enough to ask the questions and that we would really listen to the answers.

Tim Zulker of the Philip Center ([www.thephilipcenter.org](http://www.thephilipcenter.org)) also suggests these questions for spiritual discussions:

1. What's your honest opinion about Christianity?
2. Who do you think Jesus was?
3. Do you consider yourself spiritual?
4. Do you feel uncomfortable with my religious "stuff?"
5. Would you like to go to ... with me?
6. What do you think about your church? How do you feel about your family's religious heritage?
7. How would you summarize the basic point of Christianity?
8. You seem totally sick of religion, so much so that I haven't wanted to bring it up, but I am pretty curious about why you feel so strongly.
9. I've spent a lot of time thinking about my own beliefs, but we've never talked about your personal beliefs. Would you mind telling me about your religious beliefs?
10. I'm usually so worried about offending people by talking about my faith, but I'm also really interested in what you said the other day about....

## Lesson 6

### Using a God-Blessed Resource to Share the Gospel

*...so that you may know how to answer everyone. Col 4:6*

#### **Discuss**

Did you ask someone the question this week? What kind of answers did you receive?

How does that help you understand this person better?

For the rest of you, what barriers kept you from asking the question? How do you plan to overcome those barriers this week?

#### **Study**

St. Francis of Assisi is quoted often as saying, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." How would you evaluate that idea? Is it necessary to use words?

Compare that idea with Romans 10:14-17, James 1:18, 1 Peter 3:15. (Have everyone look up one of these verses.) What does God's word say about using words?

So we must use words to speak to people but how? Chap suggests that you and I need to add different tools to our evangelism toolbox. He says, "For the man with only a hammer, everything looks like a nail." What does he mean by that? (If you only have one tool you want to use it all the time even when circumstances are not right.)

What are the different tools he suggests? Which ones were you familiar with? Which ones have you used before?

(This is the part of the instruction where personal preference is most important. The students will pick up your preferences. Feel free to highlight the resources you are most comfortable with. Don't throw so many at them that they will not use any of them.)

There are some tools that require no other meeting together with the person.

- Invite them to our church.

- Give them a gospel pamphlet (Four Laws, Bridge to Life, Peace with God)

- Give them a church business card.

- Give them a Bible. (Gospel of John, NT or whole Bible)

- Invite them to read the gospel of John for 30 days as an experiment.

- Invite them to visit your church website.

There are some tools that suggest a greater degree of interest and trust.

- Use a gospel pamphlet to explain the gospel in one sitting.

- Use a New Testament to explain the gospel in one sitting.

- Use a three-week Bible study to teach the gospel.

- Invite them to read through a gospel with you on a weekly basis.

There are some tools that show even greater love:

- Invite them to a meal with your family.

Write a follow-up note. Make sure it is handwritten.

Give them another resource that deals with questions or problems they have. The following work well: *Daily Bread*, *More Than a Carpenter*, *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, *One Minute After You Die*, *Anchor for the Soul* (See [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org) for recommendations).

Which ones of these do you feel comfortable using? Which would you like to use? What do you think will stop you from using these?

### **Act**

Role-play, offering to go through a pamphlet with a person.

Person 1: "I have a little pamphlet that explains what I believe. I would love to take a minute to go through it with you, if you are interested."

Role-play in triads having them offer a pamphlet to GIVE to someone.

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Go to a Christian bookstore and order some of these materials. Come next week ready to report on it. What you liked and who you would recommend it for. (Alternatively, as the leader, have your church give two gospel pamphlets and one outreach book to each student.)

1. (Alternative if you hand a pamphlet). Hand out the pamphlet to someone this week.

2. Be sure to check out [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org) for recommendations.

3. If you are going to work on stories have them read Chapter 6.

4. Continue to pray for open doors and keep a journal of opportunities you had.

### **Pray**

Pray for each other for opportunities, boldness, etc. Pray for an opportunity to hand out or read through the pamphlet with someone.

## Lesson 7 Unleashing Your Stories

*“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19-20*

### **Discuss**

Did you have any open doors this week? Did you have any chances to ask the questions? Any open doors? Any chances to give out a pamphlet or read through a pamphlet? Did you read any material that you could recommend to the rest of us to give to an unbeliever?

### **Study**

Let's look at the story of the demon-possessed man in Mark 5:18-20.

*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 family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man when away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.*

In this story, Jesus refuses an offer from a willing disciple. Why? What is the man to do? What did he do?

Jesus had more important plans for him. He was to tell his story to the Gentile land of the Decapolis. Jesus' call to Israel prevents him from having more than a cursory time in that area. But just because Jesus cannot go does not mean there will be no witness.

(Before the class plant a person in the class to come up front and pretend to be this man. Have him tell you his story in wild, original, dramatic, and excited language. But keep it short.)

How much theology do you think the formerly demon-possessed man knew? Had he ever finished *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied* training? He didn't know much about Jesus. He probably knew even less theology. But his life had been changed. And he could tell others his story. The news of Jesus was brought to the area through one man who was dramatically delivered. Evidently the demon-possessed man did his job well, because the next time Jesus ventured into the Decapolis he was met by crowds to be healed and taught (Mark 7:31-8:10).

Why are stories of Jesus' work in our lives so powerful? What different reasons does the book say (People love stories, they cannot be argued with, etc)? Do you agree?

What types of stories does the author suggest that you have? (Conversion, Convincing and Coping) What does he mean by each? What are similarities in each type? What are the differences between them? Which ones do you have?

How should we end the stories? (What are your spiritual beliefs?) Why? What will happen if we do? (The conversation will continue.) What will happen if we don't?

Do you think the formerly demon-possessed man was asked questions to which he did not know the answer? What do you think he said?

Part of what stops us from talking about Jesus is fear of being asked a question to which we don't know the answer. Here is the one super powerful answer for hard questions. It is probably the answer that the formerly demon-possessed man used. Ready? Here it is. *"That's a good question. I don't know the answer to that. But I will find out and get back to you."* It works every time and is guaranteed to save hours of labor. When asked a question you don't know, give them that answer and then go look it up. Ask your pastor. Look online.

This is a more powerful way to learn than a seminar that gives you all the answers. In that case, you will probably forget 99% of what you learned. But when a specific person asks you a specific question, then you are forced to research it and articulate it to them. And you will remember it for next time.

### **Act**

Discuss the following questions as a class or in triads.

For those with an adult conversion: How many of you were converted as adults or teens? Why did you come to Christ? How has Jesus changed you?

For those with an adult convincing: How many of you grew up in Christian homes and received Christ as a child? Did you have a time of questioning (even if you were still attending church)? You can wander on the inside without wandering on the outside. What convinced you to come back? Where would you be now if Jesus had not saved you?

For those with adult coping: How has the Lord helped you cope with problems in the past?

For everyone: How is Jesus changing you now? What is going on in your life?

Tell someone in your triad right now. Perhaps you don't have stories of God at work right now. Perhaps you are dry. That needs to be addressed first. We cannot give something that we don't have.

(Handout the testimony worksheet from [www.tonguetied.org](http://www.tonguetied.org).)

Look over the introduction. What qualities do we need to keep in mind? Encourage them to jot down a few thoughts or circle the items that relate to them. Then have them tell it to others in their triad.

(As the leader, offer to meet with them to help compose their story. It has become my conviction over the years that many people need help from a Christian leader to help them polish their stories so that they know the details to leave in and the details to take out.)

Your assignment for this week is:

1. Work on your stories. Write out your talking points.
2. Re-read Chapter 10.
3. Consider putting your stories into a pamphlet. Ask if anyone in the class has graphic design experience.
4. Continue to pray for open doors and continue to record in your journal.

### **Pray**

Spend time in prayer thanking the Lord for working and changing our hearts. Thank him for times he has helped us cope with life's problems. Ask him for help in imitating the demon-possessed man in telling others our story. Pray for boldness and excitement in telling our stories over and over again.

## Lesson 8 Staying On Track

### Discuss

How did your stories go? Who would be willing to share their rough draft and let us critique it?

### Study

Today is a time to talk about how to keep these changes in your life going. What have you learned that you did not know? What are the four key elements to sharing our faith? What have you done that you had never done before? What answers to prayer have we seen?

Now let's be realistic. How are we going to keep this going? How many of you have tried to change a habit? Lose weight? Read the Bible regularly? What God-ordained means were helpful?

What kind of forces will cause us to drop away from the things we have learned and begun to practice?

What different items does Chap suggest in Chapter 10. (Real change takes others, time, reflection and training.)

To keep this going, let's think about some more suggestions:

1. Keep Praying. As you pray for open doors, boldness and clarity, you may find God's Spirit doing a surprising work in *your* heart. If you are a shy person, you will find yourself more talkative and interested in other people. People who you never noticed before will suddenly become important.

We will be more likely to initiate conversations. We can more easily shrug off the person who does not return our greeting. We will be more sympathetic to the person who annoys or persecutes us.

All this will happen as we pray for open doors. Why? Because a prayer for open doors presumes that these other people are hell-bound and needing the gospel. And compared with the eternal fires of hell, every other annoyance is trivial. The prayer for open doors pulls us from our natural self-centeredness. As we continue to pray, continue to pray as a group as well. Paul asked the *church* at Colossae to pray for him.

2. Stick together. If you are serious about real, lasting life-change, then you must find at least one or two others to join with you. We need each other to stay on track. You will not be able to do it alone. Jesus taught the principle of teamwork. He sent his disciples out two-by-two for mutual support. Paul understood his need for others, taking Barnabas and Mark on his first journey and Silas and Timothy on his second.

Look up and read these verses aloud Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:12. What implications do these have for evangelism?

We need others to sharpen us and to encourage us. “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”(Proverbs 27:17). We all have blind spots and need the exhortation and challenge of others. Ministry partners can also encourage us. Just as dangerous as ignorance is discouragement. “A cord of three strands is not easily broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Many things vie for our attention. The only way we can progress in this area is by joining with other like-minded individuals. Many times when we speak for Christ, we will experience rejection. Friends can help us persevere.

As you find others to meet with you, establish an “Ambassador’s Fellowship.” This group can be as informal or as formal as you like. You can choose to meet monthly or weekly. [Contact Chap or Tim Zulker at [www.thephilipcenter.org](http://www.thephilipcenter.org) for help in establishing and maintaining a healthy “Ambassador’s Fellowship.”]

3. Don’t give up. In addition, any lasting change must be processed over time. It has been said that it takes three weeks to form a habit and another three weeks to make that habit part of your life. To produce real change, make a commitment to meet weekly for a short time like three months. Rejoice and report what the Lord has done through you.

Good intentions are just that—good intentions—until we put some accountability behind it. Everyone needs that accountability.

Remember, your job is to speak about Jesus. His job is to bring conversion. Most people need to hear the gospel many times from many different sources before they are ready to receive him. If you were able to speak for him, rejoice in that fact alone.

4. Keep a notebook. Another way to continue learning is to record each spiritual conversation in a notebook. Write down the factors that led you into the conversation and the flow of the conversation. What did you say, and what did the other person say? What were the key questions that started the conversation? What were the key questions that turned the conversation to spiritual things? How did you do in talking about Jesus? What will you do differently next time?

(You might ask your class if they are interested in forming an Ambassador’s Fellowship that will meet once a month for the next few months.)

### **Act**

If *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied* has helped you speak to others about Jesus or lead someone to Christ, please send your story to Chap using the contact form or at [chap@tonguetied.org](mailto:chap@tonguetied.org).

But most of all, go out and gossip about Jesus. Tell what he has done in your life. Ask lots of good questions. And relax and have fun.

**Pray**

Close your time with a time of thanksgiving that you can be co-workers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9). Spend some time asking him once more for individuals on your hearts and mind



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