

Introduction

This supplement has grown out of a need for more specific material than what is in the companion volume, *Evangelism Toolbox*. Many people have benefited from that booklet but have asked for lesson outlines that could actually be used by teachers in a class situation. The lessons in the previous work were mostly in narrative form and were somewhat suggestive. What follows here is more comprehensive and user-friendly.

These outlines are intended to be used with the Biblical text in evangelistic work. They are specifically designed to build faith in unbelievers, or to repair the defective faith of those who have embraced religious error. The original plan grew out of a Luke-Acts reading program in which every verse of every chapter was read. Over time, I have defaulted to my favorite (and, perhaps, most effective) life-changing paragraphs. This has enabled me to streamline the studies, focus only on certain key sections, and have my students read the portions not covered in class between sessions.

For roughly two decades, I have used Ecclesiastes to generate the initial interest, Luke to build faith, and Acts to show people what to do with that faith. It is an approach that has led to scads of baptisms (I stopped counting long ago). **Warning:** use this approach only if you are committing to converting a lot of people to Christ!

Here are a few preliminary suggestions for teachers:

- This material is intended to supplement the ideas found in *Evangelism Toolbox*. For helpful ideas on how to proceed, I encourage you to obtain a copy of that booklet.
- If you are teaching these outlines in a group context, encourage participation on the part of all. Don't lecture! Allow people to discover truth for themselves, with a little "help" from you.
- At the beginning of each class, spend some time talking, smiling, and putting people at ease. Be genuine in your love for people.
- When you begin the study, have students read the paragraphs with you. In group studies, I usually ask people to read a verse apiece, unless they want to "pass" to the next person.
- The best way to generate discussion in a group setting is to ask leading questions after reading a text: *What does this statement mean? Why does Jesus do that? Etc.*
- If the ideas wander too far off the beaten path, step in and reign in the discussion with material from the outlines.
- Be sympathetic but firm in your convictions. Others need to see people who are passionate about their faith in God's Word.

There are many lessons in this supplemental guide. Should you cover them all?

- That depends on the student's needs, as well as your familiarity with the material. I like to adapt the approach slightly to the needs of the folks with whom I'm

studying. A Roman Catholic, a Southern Baptist, and an agnostic have different needs. Personalize your approach somewhat.

- If you can “skip” a few lessons, and make the same amount of progress, feel free to do so.

The two most important suggestions:

- Use the outlines, but don’t over-use them. The best approach is to read the text, ask the right questions, and let the Text itself do the converting.
- Always remember that winning people to Christ involves building faith in people (Rom. 10:17). Use the sword of the Spirit to penetrate people’s hearts. Every Biblical paragraph highlighted in this material has the power to build at least one of the three subcomponents of faith:
 - Evidence to build **Conviction**
 - A trustworthy Savior to build **Trust**
 - Clear-cut directions which lead to **Surrender**

How will you know if you are making progress?

- You will see hardened hearts beginning to bend, in some cases.
- People’s interest will start to rise.
- Some will start asking all the right questions.
- Others will even demand an accelerated pathway to their own conversions.

One thing I know for sure: **Ecclesiastes, Luke, and Acts are powerful, God-given tools for converting the lost!** The gospel has lost none of its power (Rom. 1:16). If this material can help you present it, use it to God’s glory!