

## **The Godly Man as a Disciple**

### *The Wheel – Horizontal Spokes*

In last week's lesson we studied the vertical spokes of the Wheel, having to do with our relationship with God. In this week's study we consider the horizontal spokes, which have to do with our relationship with people. For many Christians both of these areas of fellowship and witnessing are very weak or lacking altogether.

Ask God to use this Bible Study and the class discussion to show each one what his individual needs are in these areas and that he would take steps now to correct them, in obedience to God.

Playing the audio “Link in the Chain” (Audio BSU170) mentioned in The Godly Man, would be an excellent way to begin, or end, this class. It is brief and very powerfully shows the effect of a faithful witness.

#### **A. Object Of The Lesson**

1. To help your group realize the importance of Christian fellowship and sharing their faith.
2. To motivate them to seek to strengthen fellowship and to witness effectively.

#### **B. Discussion Questions On Fellowship**

1. What do you understand the four things listed in Acts 2:42 to mean?
2. How did you answer question 5 in your study (*Horizontal Spokes*)? (Colossians 2:18,19 Living Bible; Ephesians 4:16 in the 20th Century New Testament says: “For from him the whole Body, closely joined and knit together by the contact of every part with the source of its life, derives its power to grow, in proportion to the vigor of each individual part; and so is being built up in a spirit of love.”)
3. What are some results of “sharing the common life”?
4. What are some special times when fellowship can be nurtured and built up and strengthened? (during a time of illness, or death, or some other time of need.)
5. Why do you feel fellowship is important? (a) for mutual support - Ecclesiastes 4:9,10; Hebrews 3:13 (b) for increased prayer effectiveness. Matthew 18:19,20 (c) for increased ministry effectiveness. Leviticus 26:8; (d) for mutual edification Proverbs 27:17; (e) for motivation Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9,10; (f) precious to God. Malachi 3:16; (g) fulfills Jesus' prayer for unity. John 17.
6. Could someone share an experience where you were helped by Christian fellowship - or where you were hindered due to the lack of any Christian fellowship?
7. According to Colossians 3:14-16 what are some ingredients of godly fellowship?

## Questions On Witnessing

1. What are you doing now in the way of consistent personal evangelism?
2. Define the word “witness” (one who tells what he has seen, heard, or experienced.)
3. What qualifications do you consider important for an effective Christian witness? (must know Christ personally yourself, be willing to share what Christ has done for you and what He wants to do for others, be available to Him.)
4. Read your testimony as you wrote it for question 7 (*Witnessing*). (Have the class members comment on whether each one included the three basic elements mentioned, whether it was clear, etc.)
5. Pair up and practice sharing “Steps to Peace with God.”

## C. Suggestions For Conclusion

Now that we've studied each part of the Wheel, Let's think in closing, about the Wheel as a whole.

1. How important is balance in the Christian life as represented by the Wheel? What if the hub is not in the center of the wheel? (Wheel out of balance and useless)
2. What if one spoke is longer or shorter than the others - or one spoke is missing altogether? (The Wheel is lopsided, out of balance, cannot function properly)
3. Draw a picture of what you think the Wheel of your life looks like at this point.
4. What will you do this week to bring it into balance?

## D. Additional Scriptures

II Timothy 2:2; Colossians 1:28,29; Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 12:18 (LB); Revelation 12:11; I Peter 3:15; Romans 1:11,12; I Corinthians 9:16; Acts 20:24; Colossians 4:3-6 (LB); Matthew 4:19; Proverbs 11:30; I Thessalonians 2:4; John 15:8; Ephesians 3:8 (LB); Romans 1:16; Jude 23, Isaiah 8:16 (LB)

## E. Possible Projects

1. Write out your testimony and share it with someone not in your family. Keep it 3-5 minutes long.
2. Learn your testimony by memory, and if it is not suitable for sharing with another, re-work it until it is.
3. Share the “Steps to Peace with God” with someone this week.
4. Get together with another Christian man this week for prayer.

5. Listen to audio #600, by Paul Little, on “Witnessing.” Use his approach on one person this week.

6. This week make specific plans for encouraging and strengthening fellowship with someone you don't know well or don't see very often. Invite them to your home for a meal, have lunch together, invite them to a Bible study, plan something recreational together, etc.

#### **F. Extra Helps**

Hudson Taylor's Life - God's Man in China *by Mr. And Mrs. Howard Taylor*

How to Give Away your Faith *by Paul Little*

The Art of Personal Witnessing *by Lorne Sanny*

Master Plan of Evangelism *by Coleman*

Soul Winning Made Easy *by C. S. Lovett*

Audio 234 - “Witnessing”

Audio 780 - “Open Nerve Evangelism”

\* Note: The next lesson is on the Devotional Life. The booklets and audios listed under “Suggestions for Further Study” are excellent. Perhaps you would like to assign various ones to read one of these booklets, or listen to a audio and report on it in class as you study The Devotional Life.