

Evangelism Lesson #1

Basics:

- (1) Your audience: The **LOST**, those outside of Christ
- (2) Why start the campaign series with this lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:11 (“*Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*”)
- (3) “**Talking Points**”: Whether you use these illustrations or your own, whether you chose to include personal applications or not, the “Talking Points” you are to make are indicated with the faces (☺ or ☹).

“From Hell’s House to Heaven’s Palace”

- I. **Introduction: “Fear is the beginning of knowledge,” says Proverbs 1:7.**
 - A. (Goal: “It’s amazing what you will do when you are properly motivated!” Use the following illustration or one of your own): A soldier named Robert Sichta tells how in Viet Nam he and three other GIs were riding down the road in a jeep when, all of a sudden, they came upon a Viet Cong ambush. They knew they couldn’t keep driving. The road was too narrow for them to turn around in it. They couldn’t back up quick enough. So, almost without planning it, they each jumped out, each grabbed a corner of it, they lifted up the jeep, turned it around, set it down, jumped back in and took off in the opposite direction. Of course, when they got back to their company they had to tell that amazing feat. And their buddies jeered, “You couldn’t do that?” Could they? They went back out to the jeep, each got on their corners of it and tried to lift it. No, they couldn’t do it. Not then? ... **MOTIVATION!** It’s amazing what you can do when you are properly motivated!
 - B. (Goal: Pain or threat of pain wakes us up! Use the following illustration or one of your own): When the Civil War broke out, a young man from Kentucky was enticed to join the Rebel army. But after a few weeks he deserted and came home. When he arrived, he learned the Union army had taken over his old Kentucky home, and the Union officer had him arrested and court marshaled as a Rebel spy. He was found guilty and was sentenced to be hanged. Well, a mutual friend of this young man and President Lincoln went to Lincoln to beg for his life. When Lincoln heard the story, here is what he said, “If a man had more than one life to live, I think a little hangin’ wouldn’t hurt this one. But,” he said, “once a man be hanged, we cannot bring him back, no matter how sorry we are.” And he pardoned him. “A little hangin’.” I find it interesting that he said a little hangin’ wouldn’t hurt him.

- C. (☺ Goal: Bring the two together. Therefore, in this lesson we will experience “**pain**” to “**motivate**” a closer look at Jesus. To bring the previous two illustrations together, possibly say:) “I cannot help but to believe that if we took a little trip to the house of hell and raised the window and peeked inside ... and in the process experience a little hangin’ ... we would be ... motivated ... to do some necessary changing in our lives! Don’t you think?”

II. Read the Description of the house of Hell ... The Rich Man and Lazarus (☹ Luke 16:19-31)

- A. Why is it a place of torment? That is because of Satan.
1. Satan will be there (Revelation 20:10)
 2. Who is Satan? Where did he come from? Describe Satan (☹ Read Ezekiel 28: 12b-17)
 - a. ☹ Show him (to be at least these things):
 1. To be an angel. (Not eternal, Col. 1:16)
 2. To have had a place of special significance in Heaven
 3. To have had a special assignment in Eden
 4. To have sinned against God
 5. To have been cast down to earth. (Also, Rev. 12; Luke 10:18)
 6. To have become a horror (verse 19)!
 - b. Show how Satan is stronger in power than man (2 Peter 2:11)
 - c. In Hell, therefore, it will be “the law of the jungle.” And next is why being at his mercy is so bad.
 3. Satan hates God with a passion no words can describe
 - a. God is good, righteous, holy (Ps. 92:15; Ps. 97:10)
 - b. Satan is evil, the father of lies, unholy against God (John 8:44)
 - c. ☹ And there is a power struggle going on between them
 1. Read Luke 4:1-13
 2. And we are caught in the “middle,” we are the battle zone, and battle zones always get hurt (Romans 6:23, 8:2; James 1:15).
 3. ☺ But, for the Christian, “He (God) who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (Satan)” (I John 4:4), motivating us to WANT to become a Christian.

4. ☹ It would appear that Satan would be satisfied if he could get man to sin just one time, for he knows God will not allow even one sin in His presence (Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin," not sins, just one).
 - a. But he wants to pile sin on top of sin on man
 - b. He wants you not only to lust, he wants you to commit the act.
 - c. Then, he wants you to pay the consequence of sin; he wants you pregnant; he wants next in digression for you to have an abortion; or he wants you suffering from a venereal disease. (It is the same with alcohol, drunk, alcoholic, loose family, job, health; or with recreational drugs.)
 - d. ☹ That is because it is a power struggle between good and evil, between God and Satan.
 1. God wants to control you for good (Phil. 2:13)
 2. Satan wants to control you for evil. (I John 3:8; Romans 1)
 - e. The power Satan seeks to wield his power to pile one sin on top of another, so much so that one day, hopefully, you are in a whirlpool of sin and its consequences, so miserable you think there is no way out.
 1. And in the mire you will then lift your fist and blame God for what Satan has been doing in you all the time.
 2. Satan would destroy God if he could, but he cannot.
 3. He can destroy you; and in-so-doing, he can at least hurt God.
 4. Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?
 5. Has it happened by someone whom you love deeply?
 6. Though he cannot destroy God, he can hurt Him severely!
 7. It is a power struggle!

- B. ☹ One day Jesus will come with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance.
 1. When He does, He will turn His back on those who do not know God and who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. When He turns His back, those not in Christ will be cast away from Him (Hebrews 9:27).
 3. That means they will be cast into the place prepared actually for the devil and his angels.
 4. And hell is worse than Satan's control in this life.

III. Hell. ☹ Where is that?

A. It is an address. What is the house of Hell? (Remember “How long you live has nothing to do with how long you’re dead.”)

1. God uses words to describe it.
 - a. Sometimes words are difficult to describe the reality.
 - b. Possible illustration:
 1. It may be like the trouble the first-grade Bible teacher ran into one Sunday morning.
 2. “Today,” she said to the children, “I’m going to review what we learned in last Sunday’s class.”
 3. Not realizing she quickly ran her words together, she asked the class, “Who slew his brother?”
 4. The class sat silent.
 5. She repeated it just as swiftly, “Come on now, children, you know the answer. We studied it just last Sunday. Who ... slew his brother?”
 6. Finally, one little boy shrugged his shoulders and asked innocently, “Who’s Sluey?”
 - c. Now, before you answer with, “Oh, well, he had three brothers: Huey, Dewey and Louie,” let me remind you that God may have the same trouble with us!
2. ☹ The only way God can describe for us a new truth is for Him to use words, terminologies, suited to our present-day experiences.
 - a. For example, we have five senses: “Seeing”, “Hearing”, “Feeling”, etc.
 - b. Three of those are major; two are minor (Smelling and Tasting)
3. God describes Hell, using every one of our major senses:
 - a. ☹ Seeing
 1. (Jude 13) Blackness of darkness (Possibly illustrate Carlsbad Caverns)
 2. (2 Pet.2:4) He draws it tighter, “Chains of darkness.” (A prison)
 3. (Matt. 8:12; Matt. 22:16) He draws it tighter still, “Outer darkness,” outside anyone else’s care, the opposite of Heaven!
 - b. ☹ Feeling
 1. (Matt. 5:22) Fire (Possibly illustrate getting burned on a hot stove)
 2. (Matt. 13) Furnace of fire) (Possibly illustrate a steel plant)
 3. (Luke 16:24) “I am tormented in this flame! (The only thing the rich man mentioned as the source of his torment!)
 4. (Matt. 25) Eternal fire (Possibly illustrate with the little boy describing eternity as having a peppermint stick with only one end on it; actually, it is more like a peppermint stick having neither end on it.)
 5. (Mark 9) Unquenchable fire (Ever try to blow out birthday candles made to keep burning when one blows on them?)
 6. (Rev. 20) Lake of fire
 7. (Rev. 21) A lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Brimstone applying to one of those minor senses, smelling)

8. Possible illustration: Willie Tolison tells of a highway patrolman telling him of his being called to the scene of an accident. A Volkswagen had run under the rear end of a gasoline tanker and the two passengers had been penned inside. They were not hurt but the patrolman could not pull the car away from the trailer. So, he called for a tow truck. While waiting the gasoline on the ground caught fire and the people inside began to scream, "Shoot me! Please just shoot me!"
- c. ☹ Hearing: What will people be doing there for others to hear?
 1. (Matt. 13:42, Matt.22:13) Weeping and gnashing of teeth
 2. (Matt. 13:50) Wailing and gnashing of teeth
 - a. Possible illustration: An ER technician we know said, "I have seen people admitted here, having heart attacks, in so much pain they are biting so hard their teeth have literally shot across the room.
 - b. Possible illustration: A lady working in a mental hospital once told us that in the ward housing their most severely ill patients, you can hear it: they are grinding their teeth against each other. She says, "It is the most hideous sound you will ever hear."
 3. Imagine being thrown into the house of Hell.
 - a. And the reality hits you.
 - b. It is a real address.
 - c. And you really are there.
 - d. The blackness of darkness floods you with its cover.
 - e. The fire and brimstone smacks you in the face and burns like Hell.
 - f. And the screaming of others deafens your ears.
 - g. Remember, it is one thing to be thrown in a dungeon, but its horror his own anger and hate and begins to mutilate you!
 - h. You will want to run!
 - i. But you are trapped inside the prison, chained in darkness.
 - j. You will scream in terror.
 - k. You will try to find a safe place, but there is none!
 - l. And after a while, you too will gnash your teeth.
 - l. "Oh, God, no! Not me! Not me!"

IV. ☺ We must not end the lesson here! Oh, Lord, give me "Abraham's Bosom."

- A. (Luke 16:22) Heaven....not torment.
 1. The place for a prepared people (Matt. 25:34)
 2. There will be no death or mourning, pain, or crying
 3. God will be there to hold you and sing to you (Zeph.3:12)
- B. God Will be there (Rev. 21:3), a home prepared by God (Matt. 25:34)
 1. If there were no Hell (and there IS) I still want to Go to Heaven and be with God!
 2. I don't care if it's streets of "coal," I want God!

V. Closing

- A. Satan hates God and always tries to destroy His work of salvation in Christ.
- B. But the only way we're going to get off this planet alive is in Christ (Rom. 8:1)
- C. ☺ There is Good News!
 - 1. Jesus died to take away your guilt.
 - 2. Jesus rose from the grave to take away your death.
 - 3. You can have Heaven.
 - 4. You must surrender to His Lordship,
 - 5. Turn away from walking with Satan (repent),
 - 6. Confess His name,
 - 7. And obey the Gospel to get that forgiveness and life!
- D. Hell is not a good death!
 - 1. The answer is to live the good life.
 - 2. And the only good life there is, is found IN Jesus!
- E. Come to Jesus tonight!