

The Four Priorities Chapter 23

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Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 23: The Need for Evangelism

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Some potential responses to the questions in this guide are written in **green** and are only intended to aid the discussion. You may consider other ideas beyond the ones provided.

Open
(10 min.)

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

Recap
(5 min.)

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week. We discussed:

- The impacts on our lives that a biblical worldview can have.
- The flaws in other worldviews and seeing truth as relative, rather than absolute.

Ask: Did you encounter anyone with a differing worldview this past week? Explain.

Opening –
(30 min. – 1 hr.)

Ask: Have you ever been lost before? If so, describe the feeling.

Ask: According to the passages mentioned in the book, who exactly was lost?

- Matthew 10:5-6 (the people of Israel)
- Matthew 15:21-28 (the people of Israel, but Jesus also granted the Gentile woman healing)
- Matthew 18:1-14 (read the full section for the context. Become humble like a child. Do not cause one who *trusts in Jesus* to fall into sin. In this context, a lost sheep is one who trusts in Jesus but is led into sin. What blessings await those who bring them back! - see **James 5:19-20**)

Say: The unfortunate thing is, unbelievers do not recognize they are even lost or on the road to destruction, but they *might* recognize something is missing.



Continued.

Say: The author begins on page 222 saying, “Everyone is born lost.” In your own words, explain why this is true. (*Facilitator:* Guide your disciple through this. They should learn to understand the Gospel message and to be able to explain it.)

(All of humanity is born into Adam’s sin from Genesis 3. Because of this, we are born *separated* from God and in need of reconciliation.)

Do: Read Romans 3:21-30.

Ask: What are your observations of this passage? (We all fall short of God’s standard (of perfection); 7 times, we are told how to be “made right” with God *by believing/trusting* in Jesus for eternal life.)

Say: The author mentions three reasons the world stays lost:

1. The world is dark
2. The world is fallen
3. The world is hurting

Challenge: At the bottom of page 222, the author mentions that “dead people *can’t* respond.” However, we **are** all dead in our sins, and the meaning of 'dead' is *separation*. As mentioned in the provided passage of Ephesians 4:18, we are alienated or estranged (*apēllotriōmenoi*) from God. We need Christ to bridge that gap of separation – a Savior.

Read the following passages to understand what is happening in the process of salvation.

- John 6:44 (The father must draw them)
- Luke 18:17 (we must *receive* it like a child)
- John 5:39-40 (some *receive*, others *reject* – this is a choice)
- Romans 4:16 (the free promised gift is *received*/responded to by faith)
- Romans 5:17 (*receive* this gift)
- Galatians 3:2, 22 (simply believing. Synonyms: trust and receive)
- John 3:16 (Whoever *believes* in His Son will have everlasting life).

Note: This is just to clarify that God does not give us Justification (life) without our *belief*. From Ephesians 2:8-9, **salvation** is the free gift, and belief/trust is non-meritorious. We must respond through belief (trust) in Christ Jesus for eternal life.

God's Plan for the Lost
(30 min.)

Do: Discuss your findings from this section.

God's Will: Look up and discuss the following passages about God's will for mankind to believe.

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 - God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to **repentance** (*metánoia* – literally, "a change of mind").
- John 3:16 - God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son for everyone's salvation *who believes* in Christ Jesus.
- Ezekiel 18:23 - God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked; He desires that they turn from their ways and live.
- Romans 10:13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Bad News: Unbelief leads to:

- Loss of Peace: Unbelievers miss out on the peace that comes from faith (Philippians 4:6-7).
- Limited Blessings: Unbelief can hinder God's blessings and miracles (Matthew 13:58).
- Lack of Salvation: Those who do not believe are not saved (John 3:18).
- Judgment: Unbelief results in death, judgment, and condemnation (Romans 6:23, Mark 16:16, and John 3:18-21).
- Eternal Consequences: Unbelief leads to eternal separation from God and promises eternal suffering (Revelation 13:8, 20:10-15).

Take Action
(15-30 min.)

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

Close
(5 min.)

Homework:

Read Chapter 24 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.