

Witnessing has been caricatured as salesmanship. Witnessing, an act of worship, hardly fits such an unfortunate description.

John, the apostle, in his first letter defines witnessing accurately, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us" (1 John 1:1-2). Jesus' disciples described what He was like. God's witnesses testify to God—who He is and what He has done. God has granted us the noble task of re-envisioning Him for others.

The purpose of this module is to inspire churchgoers to become witnesses, reflecting God in their community.

The objectives for this module are to:

- Dispel stereotypes about witnessing.
- Identify the Biblical imperative for representing Christ through our lives and actions.
- Learn about Christ-like ways to witness.
- Acknowledge the power of the Spirit in showing God to the world.

Lecture

Fill in the blanks below as you follow along with the lecture.

I. Embodying Light

- A. John the Baptist _____ his role as paving the way for the Lord, stating that he was worthy only to announce Christ's presence.
- B. John the Baptist's witness _____ to "[t]he true light that gives light to every man. . . ." noting God's inclusive nature and His desire for all to know Him.
- C. The Baptist's introduction of Jesus _____ us with its clarity and significance in John 1:29-34.
- D. God still uses witnesses to _____ on His behalf so people will know who He is and what He wants.

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II. Empowered Acts

- A. Service: Jesus spoke forcefully of how we were to live and _____ as God's witness when He said, ". . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).
- B. Mercy: Jesus performed miracles because they expressed His concern, involvement, and attentiveness to human predicaments. He _____ deeply.
- C. Evangelism: Witnessing successfully _____ God's purposes when we employ words, deeds and His signs.

III. Exemplary Representatives

- A. God _____ us with the ambassadorial work of representing Him in the world.
- B. We _____ from this charge because we confuse the persuasion that changes people's opinions about God with conflict and debate.
- C. Conversions take place through _____ which allow us to try out ideas, take in differing perspectives and come to conclusions helpful to our spiritual journey.
- D. Ambassadors _____ the one who sends them. We picture God for unbelievers.

IV. Sanctified and Sent

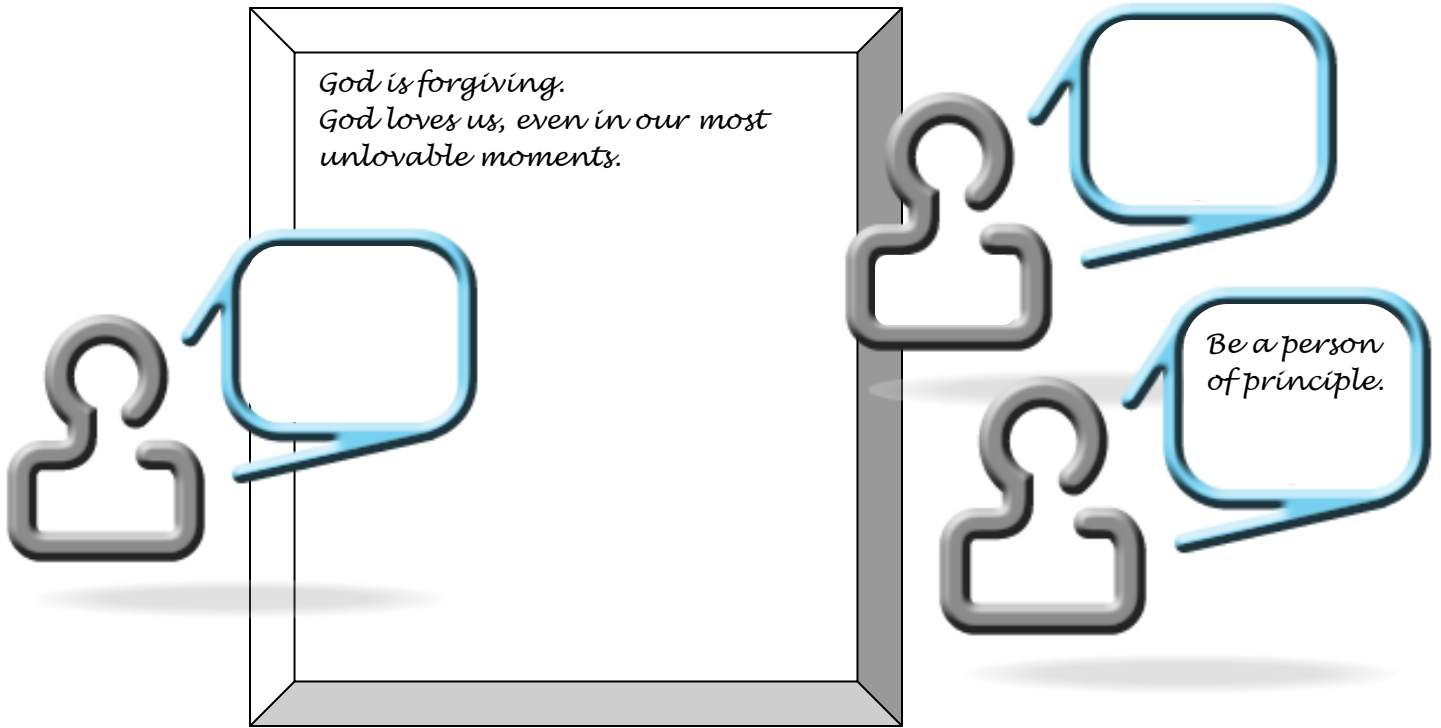
- A. Jesus prayed for his disciples to be _____, sanctified and sent into the world at the end of his earthly ministry.
- B. Holiness is _____ in acting as God acts.
- C. Unity among the people of God _____ the true nature of God to the world.
- D. Christians act like God when we take the _____ to start friendships with unbelievers.

V. Depending upon the Spirit's Guidance

- A. Jesus _____ the Holy Spirit as a guide.
- B. Our testimony coupled with the Spirit's power _____ the hearts of people outside God's forgiveness. As we, the people of God, extend God's offer of forgiveness, we build a vision for seekers of a concerned and caring God.

Small Group Exercise

Work together to fill the mirror illustration with words and phrases that you can use to describe God to unbelievers. Then, consider the most effective witness strategies for representing God in your community. Write words or phrases in the human figures that illustrate how our words and actions make us effective ambassadors for God. A few examples are shown below.



Action Planning

As God's ambassador, who are the people you encounter every day who will benefit from seeing God in your life and hearing about Him? Use the table below to make a plan for how you will take action as a witness.

Who I feel compelled to talk to about God	How I can initiate a conversation	Ways to re-envision God for this person

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