

Lesson 13: Giving witness

Aims for each learner:

- Want to tell others about Christ.
- Be wise in knowing whom to tell, and when.
- Be able to explain what Jesus Christ has done for us.
- Memorize 1 Peter 3:18.

Cultural clues:

- Muslims and witness (Shahada)
- Boldness or caution?
- The 'Bridge' diagram

Prepare: Optional video clip for q.13

Opening

Review the practical task: Were you able to solve a dispute with someone, or are you still praying for the right opportunity? What happened?

Praise God for what he has done for us, then pray for this lesson.

Lesson 13 home study review:

Question 1: a) frightened; b) prepared; c) gentleness, respect

Question 2: a) prepared, answer; b) gentleness, respect **Question 3:** see q.10 (1 Peter 3:18)

Introduce today's topic: Who told you about new life in Christ? *Ask each person to share.*

We have new life because someone told us about it. In the same way we need to share about our new life and tell others where to find it. Giving witness (*shahada*) is a duty for all Christ's followers.

Discussion

Giving witness for Christ (Question 1)

Read 1 Peter 3:14-18



- What three important guidelines for witness did we learn from 1 Peter 3:14-15? *'do not be frightened', 'be prepared to give an answer', 'speak with gentleness and respect'.*

Do not be frightened (Questions 2-7)

Question 5: Read the question.

- Which of your Muslim family members yet know you are Christ's follower?
- Do you usually pray more like the man in this picture or like the lady?



Question 6: Read the question. What answer did you write here?

- Have you yet faced the 'time of testing' when your Muslim relatives find out you are Christ's follower? If so, what happened and what was the result? *An important discussion, don't rush it.*
- If you have not yet faced this, can you choose when you tell others or might it happen outside your control? *We should be prepared in case it happens at an unexpected time.*

Be prepared to give an answer (Questions 8-13)

Question 8: Ask learners to share what they might say for A, B and C. *Possible answers:*

A. The son shows the father's authority and character. We use 'son of' as a metaphor, not literally. e.g. in Arabic 'son of the road' means a traveller, and in Farsi 'son of Kabul' means a person from Kabul.

B. We love our ancestors and tribe and family. I follow Jesus Christ who was an Easterner not a Westerner. For the first thousand years most Christians in the world were not westerners, and the same is true again today!

C. It is not true that the Christians changed the Bible. In the world's museums today are thousands of old manuscripts of the Bible. By comparing them we can have great confidence about the original text of the Bible.

Question 9: Read the speech bubble. What answer would you give this lady?

Question 10: Read the question and practice the memory verse.

Practice: Telling people our good news



Question 13: Divide everyone in pairs.

- The first person takes three minutes to explain what Jesus Christ did for humans. He/she should use the answer they wrote for Q.13. They may also use Supplement 2 if they wish.
- Then swap around, and the second person takes three minutes for their explanation.
- Come together again. Did this exercise help you 'be prepared to give an answer'?
- Did you find 1 Peter 3:18 helpful in explaining what the Lord Jesus has done for humans?

Telling our story from the prophets :

- We need not start straight away with Jesus and the New Testament. How could you use the Old Testament prophets as a journey to lead us towards Jesus the Messiah?

Our Muslim friends are very familiar with prophets such as Adam, Noah (Nuh), Abraham (Ibrahim), Joseph (Yusuf), Moses (Musa) and David (Daud). But the Qur'an does not give much detail about them. We can tell our friends that there is much interesting information in the Tawrat about these prophets. Then, using these stories we can show how they point us towards Christ the perfect sacrifice and the solution for Adam's curse.



If time allows, watch the beginning of the [Jesus film](#) (the version which starts at creation), or '[the prophets' story](#)' on youtube. Both are about 8 mins and available in many languages.

With gentleness and respect (Questions 14-18)

Questions 16-17: Read the questions.

- In question 17, what would you do in each of those difficult situations? *The first two situations might change over time, but the third is more serious because it has permanent consequences.*
- In a situation where you have to refuse your Muslim relatives for Christ's sake, how can you do it 'with gentleness and respect'? *Speak with respect, not in anger. Support the family in lots of practical ways and show you love them. Do not do things to embarrass them. Choose the right time.*

The bread of life (Questions 19-20)

Question 19:

- Why is our task like 'one beggar telling another beggar how to find bread'?

Mehdi Dibaj at his trial made the same point with a Persian proverb. He said, "They object to my evangelizing. But 'if you find a blind person near a well and keep silent then you have sinned'." Six months later he was martyred. His courageous witness cost him his life. The witness (shahid) became a martyr (shaheed).

- Was it worth it? What do you think?

Question 20: Read the story and the question.

- How can we find a balance between rushing to tell our family about Jesus Christ before they are ready and waiting too long?

Advice from experienced believers includes the following:

- ▶ Let your life show positive changes to your family;
- ▶ Don't harshly criticize your family's religion;
- ▶ Don't say immediately that you have 'become a Christian';
- ▶ Gradually hint that you find helpful teaching in the Bible;
- ▶ If your family directly asks if you are Christ's follower, do not deny it;
- ▶ Pray a lot for God to prepare their hearts;
- ▶ Tell a more sympathetic family member first;
- ▶ Your family might hear you are Christ's follower before you planned to tell them, but God is in control of the situation and it will work for good;

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- What difference will this lesson make in your life?
- **Read together the practical task.** What will you share with the person you want to tell about Jesus?

Pray together: Ask learners to share in pairs about who knows about their faith, and then pray for each other wisdom and strength to be good witnesses, especially in our families.