

# INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STUDY

This study is formatted in 12 lessons that can be experienced in various ways such as a 12-week Bible Study, a monthly study/devotional, or a Sunday School class. You may copy and distribute for use in your local church. For a leader's guide to go along with this study, go to [www.alliancewomen.org/leadershiplink](http://www.alliancewomen.org/leadershiplink).

## Key Verse

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men." – Matt. 5:13*

## Bible Study Guide by Shari McRae

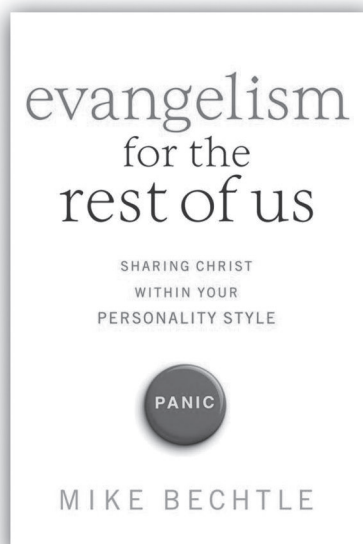
The book we have chosen to study this year, *Evangelism for the Rest of Us* by Mike Bechtle, is a wonderful tool to renew your motivation to effectively lead others to faith in Christ. Mike's enjoyable and often humorous writing is practical and realistic, giving hope to "the rest of us" who struggle with evangelism. Whether you are an introvert or an extrovert or somewhere in between, you will find in this book helpful tips and

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The 12-week Bible Study written as a guide for the book—to encourage an in-depth time of study and reflection on this subject as well as to provide a format small group discussion. When used as a small group study, a copy of the book should be purchased for each participant (books can be ordered online at [www.bakerbooks.com](http://www.bakerbooks.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). This Bible Study insert can be removed, copied in its entirety, and given to each participant in booklet form. Prior to each lesson, group members should be expected read one chapter in the book and complete the study questions.

It is my prayer that God will use this material to teach us how to "pass the salt" in a more flavorful way.



# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

## Chapter 1

**A**s believers, we all want those around us to share in the joy of knowing Jesus. We know in our hearts that we “should” be telling people the good news, and often live under a cloud of guilt when we fall short of that goal. Why is it so hard?

Read Chapter 1, “Why Is It So Hard?”

1. Have you ever “given up” on evangelism? If so, why?
2. How has guilt been a factor in motivating you to witness?
3. Read Matthew 9:37 and 28:18-20. What are the specific tasks we have been given as believers?
4. How did you come to faith in Christ? What “method” of evangelism played a role in your spiritual birth?
5. Read the story on page 18 about the author’s friend’s “research project” and the analogy to Christian logic about evangelism. Do you agree or disagree? What kind of results have you observed from popular methods of evangelism?

# LESSON I

## *Why Is It So Hard?*

6. Read Colossians 4:5-6. What does it mean to “make the most of every opportunity”?
7. Is it more difficult for you to share Christ with family members, friends, or strangers? Why?
8. Look at the list of questions on page 19. Which question best describes what you want to learn during this study? Write out a prayer to God, expressing to Him the desire of your heart and asking for His help in this area.

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**Key Ingredient:** “...the same approaches that work for you won’t work for everyone, because we’re all unique” (p. 19).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

## Chapter 2

Everything in God's creation has its unique place and purpose, designed with special care by the Master. What is His unique place and purpose for you?

Read Chapter 2, "Looking for a Simpler Solution."

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. According to this verse, what is God's view of you?
2. Do you consider yourself to be an introvert or an extrovert? Why?
3. Read I Corinthians 12:17-18. How do you think this Scripture relates to evangelism?
4. Describe a time you experienced dread or frustration in a job or ministry situation. Was it because it was foreign to how you are "wired"?
5. Have you ever thought that God might have a "customized" plan of evangelism for you? How does that make you feel?
6. The author says that "Western culture seems to value extroversion" (p. 26). Do you agree or disagree with that statement, and why?

# LESSON II

## *Looking for a Simpler Solution*

7. Read I Corinthians 3:5-9. How does this Scripture illustrate the value of different personalities? Do you see your personality type as something to be celebrated?
8. Read the five statements listed on pp. 26-27. Which best applies to how you feel about evangelism, and why?

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**Key Ingredient:** "We'll find our greatest fulfillment and joy in doing the things God designed us to do and the greatest frustration when we work outside our unique, God-given design" (p. 25).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON III

## *Innies and Outies*

### Chapter 3

**R**ead Chapter 3, “Innies and Outies.”

1. Review the story on p. 32 of the scene in the restaurant. Do you tend to view this type of experience through the “lens” of the author, his friend, or through a different “lens” altogether?
2. Take the test on pp. 36-37. How did you score? Did the results give you any new insights into your personality?
3. Read Psalm 139. God fashioned the personalities of each one of us. Write a one-sentence statement that summarizes how God views you, based on the truth of this psalm.
4. Have you ever been discontented with your personality type? What have you wished was different?
5. How do you “re-fuel”?
6. Read Acts 9:32-42. Compare and contrast the ministry and evangelism techniques of Peter and Dorcas based on this passage.
7. Both introverts and extroverts have unique advantages when it comes to evangelism. What are some of the implications in this area for introverts? for extroverts?

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**Key Ingredient:** “God made extroverts and introverts and everything in between because society can’t function without multiple personality styles” (p. 46).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON IV

## *Which Method Is Best?*

### Chapter 4

**O**n page 50 the author states, “According to Scripture, God has a real passion for people. He wants us to be godly people, but he also wants us to intentionally influence others toward faith.”

Read Chapter 4, “Which Method Is Best?”

1. Look up I John 4:9-10 and John 3:16. How do these Scriptures support the statement that God has a “passion for people”?

2. Think of a person or a group of people that you will encounter this week who does not know Christ. What are some possible ways you might “intentionally influence” them?

3. Beginning on page 52, the author lists seven misconceptions about evangelism. Using the Scripture references for insight, write a statement explaining why each of these thoughts are false or misleading:

*You haven't really witnessed to someone till you've taken that person through the plan of salvation (Acts 17:16-32).*

*Even when you share the gospel with someone, you're not successful until that person prays to receive Christ (I Corinthians 3:6-7).*

*If you don't share the gospel with someone, and an hour later he or she is killed in a car accident, it's your fault that he or she will spend eternity in hell (Ezekiel 3:16-19, Titus 3:4-7).*

*It's important to witness to as many people as possible (Matthew 9:37-38).*

*I have to be bold in my witness (Acts 4:29).*

*“You shall be my witnesses” is a command (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19).*

*God is happy with us if we witness and upset with us if we don't (Romans 5:8, 8:38, Ephesians 3:16-18).*

4. Read the following Scriptures and list five things the Bible teaches about evangelism (p. 59):

a. I Corinthians 12:12-31

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b. John 17:15-18

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c. John 12:32

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d. Ephesians 2:10

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e. II Corinthians 11:14

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**Key Ingredient:** “The biblical model of evangelism is primarily a process, not an event” (p. 53).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON V

## *Form vs. Function*

### Chapter 5

**R**ead Chapter 5, “Form vs. Function.”

1. What is the “function” of evangelism? (p. 69)
2. Name some “forms” of evangelism with which you are familiar.
3. Read Philippians 1:14-17. Was Paul’s main concern “form” or “function”?
4. Read Romans 14:1-4 and 9-13. What does Paul have to say about judging others?
5. Are there any situations in which we are called to judge other believers (I Corinthians 5:11-13)?
6. What is the danger of judging another believer on “disputable matters”?
7. Read page 74. Which method of “fishing” best describes your efforts (or the efforts of your local church)?
8. What particular “forms” of evangelism do you think may be most effective in your community or circle of friends?

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**Key Ingredient:** “We build relationships because we genuinely care about people, not just as a method to get them saved” (p. 75).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON VI

## *The Fear Factor*

### Chapter 6

**R**ead Chapter 6, “The Fear Factor.”

1. What is the most common characteristic in most of our fears about evangelism (p. 77)?
2. Read the list under “What Are We Afraid Of?” on page 78. With which of these fears do you most identify?
3. Read Ephesians 6:19-20. “Praying for boldness doesn’t mean doing things we’re not wired to do” (p. 82). What does it mean? What do you think it meant for Paul?
4. The author talks about “fear” vs. “creative tension.” What is the basic difference between these two concepts as it relates to evangelism (pp. 77-81)?
5. Read Psalm 34:4 and 118:6. What do these Scriptures have to say to us about fear?
6. Write out the three guidelines that make up the “three-legged stool” (p. 88). Which “leg” is most in need of strengthening in your life?
7. Write out the “Four Keys to Confident Sharing” (p. 88) on an index card and carry it with you as a reminder this week.

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**Key Ingredient:** “Fear is the opposite of trust” (p. 78).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON VII

## *The Graceful Witness*

### Chapter 7

**R**ead Chapter 7, “The Graceful Witness.”

1. Effective evangelism is based on grace, not guilt. A speaker quoted on p. 90 said, “We don’t need more courage to witness to people; we need more love.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. Read II Corinthians 12:9. How might this verse be applied to our efforts in evangelism?
3. Describe an example of either a “guilt-based” or “grace-based” evangelism encounter that you personally observed or experienced.
4. Read I Timothy 1:13-17. In this passage Paul pours out thanks for the grace of God which transformed his life. Write a paragraph about how God’s grace has transformed your life.
5. Read Colossians 4:6. The author talks about becoming a “bilingual Christian.” How does this verse apply to learning the language of unbelievers?
6. Write the name of one individual with whom you are working on building a relationship. Pray for that person and ask God to continue giving you opportunities to show love and grace.

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**Key Ingredient:** “Grace allows us to relax and let God work through us in his way, in his time, and in his strength” (p.96).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON VIII

## *What Would Jesus Do?*

### Chapter 8

**R**ead Chapter 8, “What Would Jesus Do?”

1. Jesus ministered to people He encountered while going about His daily life (p. 101). Read Mark 1:21-26, 40, and 3:1-5. How can we be prepared to minister in that same way?
2. Jesus met people where they were and moved them one step closer to God (p. 103). Read Mark 12:28-34. What attitudes and/or actions do we need to exhibit in order to be like Jesus in this way?
3. Read Mark 1:35 and 6:46. What did Jesus’ prayer life look like?

*Try an experiment this week and keep track of how many minutes you actually spend in prayer each day!*

4. Read James 1:19. How does listening to someone open doors of opportunity to build relationship?
5. The author notes, “People aren’t used to being listened to” and “Most people listen only in order to respond” (p. 105). Evaluate yourself as you engage in conversations this week. Are you doing more listening or talking?

*How has this exercise increased your self-awareness?*

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**Key Ingredient:** “Whether encountering his disciples or the general public, Jesus’ goal was the same—to love people and move them a step closer to knowing God” (p.100).

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# EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US

# LESSON XI

## *Techniques That Are Personal*

### Chapter 11

**R**ead Chapter 11, “Techniques That Are Personal.”

1. Read Jeremiah 1:5. God knows each of us intimately and made us with unique personalities and temperaments. Who has been a role model to you in the faith? In what ways is your temperament different from that person’s?
2. Each of us plays an important role on the team. Read I Corinthians 12:17, 22-23. What part of the human body do you think best describes your role or your calling?
3. All of us have unique needs that must be met in order for us to be effective in ministry. What are your needs and the warning signals that let you know they require attention?
4. Read Mark 1:35-38. What lesson can this passage teach us about the value of setting boundaries?
5. God often stretches us by calling us to take steps outside of our comfort zone rather than allowing us to use our temperament as an excuse. Read through the list of suggestions on pp. 139-141. Write down three that you will begin to implement this week.

6. Write Colossians 4:6 on a card and memorize it.

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**Key Ingredient:** “Start by finding out who you are, how God wired you, and learning to accept and even celebrate that. Then learn how to use that wiring, taking baby steps outside your comfort zone” (p. 136).

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### Chapter 12

**R**ead Chapter 12, “Intentional Sharing.”

1. Read I Peter 3:15. “The Great Commission applies to all of us, no matter what our personality type, which means we need to be intentional about our efforts” (p. 146). On what two things should our evangelism efforts focus?

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2. “Preparation”  
Develop and write out a one-minute “elevator speech” that articulates your faith simply and concisely. Practice sharing it with your group.

3. What other things have you learned during this study that will help you to be prepared to share your faith?

4. “Relationship”  
Evaluate your daily activities and responsibilities. What opportunities do you have for involvement with non-Christians?

5. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Why does the writer of Hebrews urge us to fix our eyes on Jesus?

6. How does keeping our focus on God help to direct others to Him?

7. Reflect and Review  
What has been most meaningful or helpful to you in doing this study? What changes have you seen in your life or in your relationships as a result?

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**Key Ingredient:** “Give yourself grace in the process; God does” (p. 149).

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