



*Abiding Word Lutheran Church
August 8, 2009*

Session Three

What Do I Do With the Message?

UNDERSTANDING WEAKNESSES

What are some of the reasons you are attending this class?

Take a look at the following list. Do any of these apply to you? Why?

1. I'm not sure what to say.
2. I feel that this subject is too personal to talk about.
3. I'm just not very outgoing. It's hard for me to talk about things like this.
4. I'm not sure it would do any good.
5. I'm afraid people will discover what I'm really like.

Write down for yourself the issues that you think apply to you or any other issues that have come up.

Why do these issues come up in our minds? What is the best way to get these issues out of our minds?

Let's take a look at a few Scripture references that will help us when we are faced with apprehensions.

1. "Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." (Matthew 10:19-20)
2. "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear proclaim from the housetops." (Matthew 10:27)
3. "Who gave man his mouth? ... Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." (Exodus 4:11-12)
4. "My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it, (declares the Lord)" (Isaiah 55:11)
5. "It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Everyone who trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame.'" (Romans 10:10-11)

LEARNING TO LISTEN

Another issue for many people is that they are not good listeners. Is that an issue for you? Why?

People will naturally come to you with their problems. If they do, it is vitally important that you listen. Take a look at the resource section and find the page **Are You Listening**.

We all have our own personal apprehensions when it comes to talking to others about our faith. However, have you noticed that many of your secular friends tend to look to you to answers to some of life's hardest questions? They notice that there is something different about you and they, although they may not always admit it, want what you have. We're going to take a look at some real life situations that may come up. Analyze the situation. What is the person looking for? What should they be looking for? What's the real issue? What will you say to them?

Instance #1

Frank has been your best neighbor for years. You've talked to him about God before, but he doesn't seem receptive. One day, Frank stops by your house in tears. You've never seen him crying before. Barely able to understand what he's saying through the shortness of breath, you hear him say, "He's gone." Frank's son was killed in a car accident the night before.

Instance #2

Suzy is a friend from work. You've been working together for the last 6 months. Things are going well as you and Suzy seem to get along very well. You've managed to muster up the courage to talk about church with her, but that didn't seem very fruitful. She was raised Catholic although she doesn't really attend much. She says that she doesn't understand why God has so many regulations on her life. "Can't I just live my life without God getting in the way?"

Instance #3

Your brother Johnny rarely if ever goes to church. Your family was raised together in the faith, but it just seems that since he moved out of the house the only time he goes is if he's visiting mom. He claims, "I'll go to make mom happy, but it really doesn't do anything for me."

FOR SATURDAY, SEPT 19:

1. Be prepared to share your thoughts and activities from previous homework assignments:
 - a. Evangelism starts with building bridges and earning the right to speak up. As a first step in this process spend an entire day speaking only encouraging and complimentary words. How did people react? How did it make you feel? Do you need to make changes so this becomes your usual approach? What will help you make these changes?
 - b. One important time to share our faith is when people are going through difficult times. Spend 10 minutes each day thinking about and writing about different times in your life when you have needed comfort and either received or did not receive the comfort that you needed. What did people say to you? What did you want them to say to you? What didn't you want them to say to you?
 - c. Build a list of family, friends, co-workers or others who need to hear about their Savior. Pray for their souls each day and ask the Lord to help you plant or water the seeds of faith in their life. If you don't know anyone in this category, ask God to help you find lost souls. Think about putting the list on a post-it note and sticking it to your bathroom mirror. Maybe try praying out loud for these people.
2. Read the second half of Acts, chapters 13 - 28. Find examples of:
 - a. their source of motivation and courage to share the Gospel
 - b. pre-evangelism activities or discussions
 - c. proclamation of the Gospel, noting the techniques and the audience
 - d. how the missionaries handled rejection of their message

3. Continue with your daily personal Bible study. Is it a habit yet?
4. Be prepared to assist with invitations to the next Bible Information Class, to begin Thursday, September 17.