

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SEMINAR OF THE MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

What is the Christian Life Seminar (CLS)?

The CLS is an integrated course intended to lead seminar participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christians. It runs for a total of six (6) separate sessions, usually held once a week. Most sessions consist of three basic ingredients: a teaching, a group discussion, and a time for fellowship. Each session would normally last for about 2-1/2 hours. Alternatively, the CLS can be conducted over the weekend.

What are the goals of the CLS?

The CLS has two basic purposes: evangelization and spiritual renewal.

First, evangelization is to take the basic message of Christianity and proclaim it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to God in a way that will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

And second, spiritual renewal works in three ways:

- 1) For the individual, it brings a person into a stronger relationship with God by discovering and living more fully the power and gifts he/she received through the Holy Spirit;
- 2) For the family, it brings married couples and other family members to a renewed commitment to Christian family life and it starts to build a community of committed Christian families;
- 3) For the Church, it brings people within a particular parish to a fuller experience of life in the Spirit. Consequently it strengthens and revitalizes community life in the parish.

What is the content of the CLS?

The CLS runs for a total of six (6) consecutive sessions usually held weekly or even over the weekend. The topics of the six (6) sessions are as follows:

Session 1: Jesus, The Messiah

Session 2: Called to Witness

Session 3: Repentance and Faith

Session 4: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Session 5: Growing in the Spirit

Session 6: The Life and Mission of Missionary Families of Christ (MFC)

What is the content of each of the above teachings?

*Session 1: **Jesus, The Messiah*** speaks about God's wanting to bring us out of the confusion and disorder that is being experienced in the modern world, and to bring us all back to Himself, more specifically to His son, Jesus Christ, to restore our fellowship and intimacy with Him. There is something seriously wrong with the situation in the world today, and behind most of the disorder and evil is Satan. Only God can bring us out of this, and He has done it by sending His own Son Jesus into the world to suffer and die for us. In Jesus we have our salvation.

Since Jesus then is central to God's plan for us and since we as Christians carry his name, we need to understand what it means to live Christ as a living witness to Him. *Session 2* first dispels misconceptions or wrong notions about Christianity. What makes us Christians, being ***Called to Witness***, is our love for God with all our heart, mind, strength and soul, thereby having personal relationship with Him. This is the greatest commandment, followed by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

God loves us. God sent His own Son to die for us. God has gathered us unto Himself as His people. Christianity is something that God has initiated, unilaterally and unreservedly. In the light of all these, our proper response is in *Session 3: **Repentance and Faith***. This is a double-action response. Repentance and faith go together. Repentance involves a turning away from sin, wrongdoing and running our own lives, and a turning to a life of obedience to God. Faith, in turn, is belief in Jesus as our personal Savior.

Session 4 will help participants to commit their lives in a serious way to Jesus. First, this involves ***The Gift of the Holy Spirit***. This session is essentially a prayer session where the participants are prayed with for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Some would term this the "baptism in the Holy Spirit."

Then, recognizing that the baptism in the Spirit is only a beginning, there is a need to learn more about how to grow in the life of the Spirit. Thus the participants are taught the basic means of ***Growing in the Spirit*** in *Session 5*. The five basic tools to growth are prayer, study, service, fellowship and the sacraments.

Finally, as the *last session (Session 6)* of the CLS, we look to the need for banding together with other committed Christians for mutual support, and to carry out our Christian mission. So here we present ***The Life and Mission of Missionary Families of Christ***. Participants are encouraged to persevere in living out actively their new life in Christ. Though the CLS has come to an end, the new life is just beginning. In order to grow, much more is needed—to learn more about the Christian life, for strength and support of others, to have an environment where one can serve God. The participants are invited to continue their journey, this time with MFC.

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MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIS CLS TRAINING

SCHEDULE

30 minutes	Arrival and Fellowship
30 minutes	Worship
45 minutes	Talk No. 1: EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE
15 minutes	Break
45 minutes	Talk No. 2: WHAT IS A CLS?
30 minutes	Snack Break
45 minutes	Talk No. 3: HOW TO HANDLE A DISCUSSION GROUP
30 minutes	Open Forum
	Closing Prayers

RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Worship leader
2. Speakers
3. Senior (or at least a Unit Servant) for open forum
4. Guitarist
5. Service Team

RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. Attendance sheets
2. Sound system
3. Tape recorder and blank tapes
4. Hand-outs
 - a. Evangelization and Spiritual Warfare
 - b. The CLS of the MFC
 - c. CLS team manual
5. Snack

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST CLS TRAINING

TALK NO. 1: EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Expanded Outline

A. THE SITUATION IN THE WORLD TODAY

1. There are two kingdoms opposed to each other -- the kingdom of darkness under Satan and the kingdom of light under Jesus Christ. The world is in Satan's grip (1 Jn 5:19b). And his kingdom includes not only those who are evil, but also those who are uncommitted. By being such, they serve Satan's purpose.
2. Jesus has mounted a rescue operation, an attack against Satan's kingdom. It involves bringing people from darkness to light. It is taking territory from Satan. Satan does not stand still. His dominion and his power over people is threatened. He undertakes defensive action. This spiritual battle is continuing.
3. All people are born into this battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of men. More specifically, we in MFC, having joined God's kingdom, are in the thick of the fight. Because God uses us as instruments for other men's redemption, we become a direct threat to Satan's dominion. As we evangelize and reach out to other people, especially through a CLS, we actively enter into battle. Evangelization is spiritual warfare: Eph 6:12.
4. Being combatants, we need weapons and protection. We need means for offense and defense.

B. OUR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

2. Cor 10:3-5. We are waging God's battle.
God gives us the following offensive weapons:
 1. Commitment (to Christ's cause).
 - a. Leading us to lives of righteousness, purity, holiness. 2 Cor 6:7.
 - b. We don't need to be saints as yet, but just have a passion for God's righteousness and a hatred of evil.
 - c. Have purity of motives and desires.
 - serve for the glory of God, not our own.
 - guard against the danger of pride.
 - have humility, know that without Jesus' victory on the cross, we cannot succeed.
 - d. We will be ineffective if we are not righteous. Mt. 7:3-5.
 2. Zeal. Single-mindedness of purpose. Perseverance.

- a. Live totally for the Lord. 2 Cor 5:15.
 - b. Phil 3:7-8.
3. The Word of God.
- a. A sword! Eph 6:17b. Heb 4:12.
 - b. In the CLS, we speak God's word (in the talk and follow-up in the discussion group). God's word has power. 1 Thes 1:5.
4. Spiritual gifts.
- a. 1 Cor 12 and other passages.
 - b. Some applications:
 - Wisdom - to answer questions, to lead discussion.
 - Discernment - to know where a person is at.
 - c. Tongues and praise.

C. OUR PROTECTION

Eph 6:13-18. The armor of God.

It is God's provision alone which will give us adequate protection. Let us consider the points of attack by the devil, and how the armor of God can protect us.

1. Truth. Protection against lies and errors.
 - a. Satan is the father of lies.
 - b. He will try to make us doubt God's word (e.g. You're too sinful to serve), or falsely accuse us, or malign God's character (e.g. God is not a loving God; He does not love you).
 - c. Rest on the truths of God's love, and of God's power.
2. Justice, or righteousness. Protection against evil and sinful desires.
 - a. If Satan does not succeed by lies, he will try bombarding our minds with evil thoughts.
 - b. Resist these temptations.
 - Note: Temptations are not sin unless entertained.
3. Gospel of peace. Protection against an easy and lazy life.
 - a. If Satan cannot disturb us, then he will try to make us as comfortable and cozy as possible, so that we won't disturb him.
 - b. Beware of living a "carpet slipper Christianity," wherein one journeys to heaven in first-class comfort. Such persons have laid down their arms and are no longer concerned to attack and invade enemy-held territory.
 - c. We need to get our footgear on, leave the comforts of home, and go out after Satan's captives. Have zeal to propagate the gospel.
4. Faith. Protection against unbelief.
 - a. Doubt assails us. Fear of failure can cripple our action. The nagging question: Can I do it?

- b. We need to have faith in God's promises. Have faith that this is God's work. Heb 13:5b-6.
 - c. We need to realize that we are acting not by our own power but by God's.
5. Salvation. Protection against calamity and accident.
- a. The word used for salvation means both physical as well as spiritual well-being.
 - b. Satan will try to make you sick, make spouses fight, may even try to get you killed.
 - c. But we have God's protection.
 - d. Before leaving your home, pray. Put on the "crash helmet" of salvation.
6. Word of God.
- a. Both a weapon and protection.
 - b. For CLS participants, stress daily Scripture readings and recommended books.
7. Prayers.
- a. Pray at every opportunity.
 - b. Different kinds : Personal prayer
 - Group prayer (at various times during the CLS)
 - Intercessory prayer
 - Fasting.

D. CONCLUSION

Evangelization is spiritual warfare. Four points to stress:

1. Guard against two extremes: (1) the view that there is no devil, and (2) the view that all negative things or happenings are attributable to the devil.
2. Remember that Jesus has already won the victory in this fight against Satan. And the God who enlists us in his army also trains, equips, and leads us.
3. James 4:7. We have power to rout the devil, but such is premised on our submission to God.
 - * Importance of righteousness, faith, dependence on God.
4. 2 Tim 2:3. As good soldiers, we can expect hardships and difficulties. We are to bear them and overcome them.

When you accepted Jesus as Lord, you signed up for God's army. In this war, there are no non-combatants. Since the time you joined MFC, you have been in boot camp, being trained for the fight against Satan.

Now we are having a CLS. A major battle is on!

**MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST
CLS TRAINING**

TALK NO. 1 : EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Participant's Handout

A. The situation in the world today

1. There are two kingdoms opposed to each other -- the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light.
2. The whole world is under Satan's dominion, but Jesus has mounted an attack against Satan's kingdom.
3. All people are born into this battle. Specifically, we in the MFC are in the thick of the fight, as we evangelize and reach out to other couples.
4. Being combatants, we need weapons and protection. We need means for offense and defense.

B. Our Spiritual Weapons

2. Cor 10:3-5. We are waging God's battle.
1. Righteousness. Purity of life, holiness. 2 Cor 6:7.
2. Zeal. Single-mindedness of purpose. Perseverance. 2 Cor 5:15. Phil 3:7-8.
3. The word of God. Eph 6:17b. Heb 4:12. 1 Thes 1:5.
4. Spiritual gifts.

C. Our protection

Eph 6:13-18. The Armor of God.

1. Truth. Protection against lies and errors.
2. Justice or righteousness. Protection against evil and sinful desires.
3. Gospel of peace. Protection against an easy and cozy life.
4. Faith. Protection against unbelief.
5. Salvation. Protection against calamity and accidents.
6. Word of God.
7. Prayer.

EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Four Points to Stress:

1. Guard against two extremes: (1) that there is no evil; and (2) that all negative happenings are attributable to the devil.

2. Jesus has already won the victory in this fight against Satan.
3. James 4:7. We have the power to rout the devil, but such is premised on our righteousness and submission to God.
4. 2 Tim 2:3. As good soldier, we can expect hardships and difficulties.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST CLS TRAINING

TALK NO. 2: WHAT IS A CLS?

Expanded Outline

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. You're all familiar with the CLS, having gone through one. But now you are on the giving rather than receiving end.
- b. The CLS is the initiations course leading into a life in the Holy Spirit. More specifically, it is the entry point into MFC.

2. GOALS OF THE CLS

- a. The CLS is evangelization. It is proclamation of the gospel.
- b. Its goal is to draw participants into a renewed commitment to the Lord. Through it they experience the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- c. Renewal is on three levels: the individual, the family and the Church.

3. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

- a. The CLS runs for a total of six (6) weeks (or one whole weekend).
- b. Go over each of the six (6) talks and the one-to-one meetings. Describe the content and show the flow from one to the next.

4. DYNAMICS

- a. Format : Arrival and fellowship
Songs and prayer (describe different prayer styles per module)
Talks
Discussion
Fellowship
- b. The last three are the vital ingredients of a CLS. They are the proven formula for drawing participants to Christ.

5. ATTENDANCE

- a. The CLS is open to all Christians. They should have previously been exposed to personal evangelization from one of our brethren.
- b. Being an integrated course, with one talk building on another, participants should attend all sessions.

- c. If unavoidable, absences are allowed. Not more than one in the first module. Not more than 2 overall. There should be make-up sessions for absences.

6. THE TEAM

- a. The team leader, his wife, the assistant leader. Brief description of their roles.
- b. Discussion leaders and assistants. They are the ones basically responsible for drawing in the participants. Will be described more in the next talk.
- c. Servant and music ministry.

7. CONCLUSION

- a. We need both faith and faithfulness.
 - Faith, that we are doing God's work.
 - Faithfulness, to our own part in God's work.
 - study and prepare
 - be punctual
 - be a person who can be counted on
 - be dedicated to your service
 - have the heart of a servant
- b. We need to be living witnesses to our new life in the Holy Spirit. The participants are looking at us. It's a big effect on them to see selfless caring, wholehearted service, unrestricted love, and brotherly interaction.
- c. You too will grow and receive blessings. Expect the Lord to work powerfully in your life.

e.g. One praying over is the one who receives the gift of tongues. Pregnancies (long-awaited) during the CLS.
Ask the Lord for something!

Note: Reference material for the speaker is the CLS Team Manual.

Participant's Handout: The CLS of the MFC.

**MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST
CLS TRAINING**

TALK NO. 3: HOW TO HANDLE A DISCUSSION GROUP

Speaker's Outline

Note: The resource material for this talk is taken from the CLS Team Manual. The purpose of the talk is to familiarize the new discussion group leaders with their role and what to expect in the CLS. The speaker has the flexibility to arrange the material in a way he's comfortable with.

Following is the speaker's outline:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. Role of discussion group leaders | See Discussion Group Leader's Guide – B
(No. 4 of the Team Manual)) |
| B. Discussion groups | |
| Purpose | See Discussion Group Leader's Guide – A |
| Leading a Discussion Group | See Discussion Group Leader's Guide – C |
| Team meetings | See Discussion Group Leader's Guide – D |
| Guidelines for personal dialogues | See Discussion Group Leader's Guide – E |
| D. Closing exhortation | |
| "The Team" | See Roles and Responsibilities – A |

NOTE: **Participant's Handout** is the CLS Team Manual itself.

(PFO. 07 October, 2019)