

## BREAK OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

1. **At-Home Preparation:** Go back in your mind to your conversion experience, and try to recall the thoughts of that day. What do you think was your greatest sin? Was there a knowledge of future punishment? Think of what would have happened to you if you had died in your sins. Then write out a prayer expressing your gratitude to God for the cross.
2. **Real-World Application:** Perhaps you don't have an outgoing personality. If you prefer to keep to yourself, ask God to help you change that, for the sake of the lost. A firefighter may be the personality type that likes to stay alone in the comfort of a fire truck and read books, but if he wants to do what he knows he should, he must change that attitude. So, as a first step out of the "truck" make the effort this week to practice being friendly and greeting complete strangers each day until the next session. When you walk into the grocery store, the gas station, school, or work, give a friendly greeting to people you don't know. (Of course, be friendly with those you do know, too!) If you don't normally rub shoulders with strangers, go somewhere where you can.

It may seem difficult at first to greet a complete stranger, but force yourself to say, "Hi. How are you doing?" Try it and you will see that it really isn't difficult at all. In fact, it will almost certainly bring smiles to people's faces and make you feel good yourself. But remember that you will have to take the initiative. Strive to greet at least ten strangers before the next session. Although this may seem awkward, it's a very important step toward sharing your faith.

## FOR DEEPER STUDY

1. What is the biblical definition of sin (see 1 John 3:4)?
2. What is it that will cause a sinner's conscience to agree with what we preach? (See Romans 2:15, 21, 22.)
3. Charles Spurgeon warned, "I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law. The Law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel through a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the Law to make way for it."

Explain what a needle does for thread, and then what the Law does for the gospel (see Romans 5:20; 7:13).

4. In his book *Holiness*, J. C. Ryle wrote, "Let us expound and beat out the Ten Commandments, and show the length, and breadth, and depth, and height of their requirements. This is the way of our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. We cannot do better than follow His plan."

In Matthew 5:21-37, note where Jesus "beat out the Ten Commandments."

Study Matthew 15:19, 20 and identify each Commandment to which Jesus refers.

Do the same thing with Mark 10:17-22.

6. Read Romans 7:7. How did Paul gain an understanding of the true nature of sin?

Can you think of other ways by which people can know they have sinned against God?

Some people think that sinners have an inherent understanding of their sin and therefore don't need the Law. What do Ephesians 4:18 and Romans 3:11 tell us about the understanding of the lost?

7. Romans 3:23 says, “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God?*” To what standard do you think Paul was referring when he said “the glory of God”?

To understand the context of verse 23, read verses 19-31; what subject was Paul talking about?

8. In 2 Corinthians 3:7, what does Scripture call “glorious”?

What then is the standard from which we all fall short (“the glory of God”)?

When we use Romans 3:23 in witnessing, why should we be sure to specify that it is the Law from which we all fall short? What effect do you think this has on the lost when we fail to do so?

## **Memory Verse**

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’

<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**Matthew 5:27-28 (New King James Version)**