

DOK Evangelism Program Guide

The Sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit (see page 32-35 in the National Study Guide for additional references, guidance from scripture, and a prayer to the Holy Spirit):

THE GIFT OF TRUE GODLINESS makes us desire to seek first the Kingdom of God.

THE GIFT OF WISDOM enables us to use our understanding of God for the benefit of others. Wisdom is understanding with love.

THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING makes the meaning of what we learn about God clear to us so we understand what it means to put God first in our lives.

THE GIFT OF COUNSEL puts us in a two-way communication with God so He can guide us in our daily lives.

THE GIFT OF GODLY STRENGTH enables us to triumph over temptation and to persist.

THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE enables us to see that an understanding of God is the most important knowledge there is.

THE GIFT OF HOLY FEAR implants in us a reverence for God and His commandments. Holy fear is our awareness of God's presence in us and of His awareness of us, which makes us more likely to watch what we think, say, and do.

NOTES from The National Study Guide: Preparation for Admission into The Order of the Daughters of the King on Evangelism

Questions from the Study Guide:

Study One –

Q.1. What is a Christian? A Christian is a person on a journey with Jesus, a journey that begins with the gift of eternal life received in Baptism and lived out in a relationship of love and trust with Jesus, the Christ, who is acknowledged as one's personal Lord and Savior.

Q.2. Where, when, how did you begin your journey with Jesus? Would you say your journey was more like St. Peter's or St. Paul's? Does your journey reflect more of "Martha's" perspective and approach or "Mary's"?

Q.7. Is it hard to talk about your journey? Why is that? In the National Study Guide we begin in Study One by describing our Journey with Jesus. This is within what most of us would consider our "comfort zone." We are with DOK discernment leaders who are very supportive and encouraging of our story reflections and ensure that the story telling is within this comfort zone. Often though, we are reticent about stepping out of that zone to tell our story to broader audiences. One of the ways to expand our comfort zone is through both praying and practice.

Q.9. Is there more to being a Christian than service, prayer, corporate worship, and leading a moral life? If so, explain? Remembering that at the Service of Admission, Daughters reaffirm the promises of confirmation and pledge our lives to a lifelong program of prayer, service, and personal evangelism. Evangelism is of course the promise to spread Christ's kingdom and to strengthen the spiritual life of our parish or community.

Study Three

"Daughters seek to walk with God as their guide and to draw those with whom they come in contact into the church. They are women who try to spread Christ's Kingdom here on earth (pg. 11, Study Guide).

Study Four

Our Baptismal Covenant – To the question, "Will you proclaim by work and example the good news of God in Christ?" and we respond, "I will, with God's help" in our baptism and reaffirmed at our confirmation.

Study Five

What is the primary purpose of the Order? Evangelism

Q.1. What are some of the definitions of evangelism?

Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in such ways that persons may be led to believe in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord within the fellowship of the church (Episcopal General Convention, 1973).

Evangelism comes from the Greek word meaning "to proclaim the good news."

An Evangelist is a bearer of good tidings. To be a Christian Evangelist is to be a bearer of the best news this world has ever heard. It is a message of hope and joy in a world of cynicism and despair. It can be done at work, at parties, over the kitchen table or wherever two or three are gathered together.

Evangelism is the work of the whole church and of every member.

"One thing needs to be kept in mind as you prepare for the basic Christian task of evangelism. You cannot give someone else what you do not have yourself. As you share the good news of God in Christ with others, you must share that which comes from your own experience of God's grace as well as from your own knowledge of God's word in Scripture. People will hear the good news only if they are made aware of how you have been personally affected. Your own life experience can be the best example of the Gospel. Sharing the Christian story is difficult for many, but sharing the good news as we have experienced it, quietly and humbly, is a way to reach out and tell others of God's love. Often we hesitate to share with others because we fear rejection and failure. God calls us to be obedient and faithful in sharing His word. Success is in His hands. We may fail at times but failure has been a common

experience in the lives of the saints throughout the ages. Our Lord encountered many whose hearts, minds, and ears were closed to the good news. See Matthew 13: The sower's business is to scatter the seed as widely as possible. Some will sprout and some will not, according to the soil upon which it falls. The sower is not responsible for the results, only for the sowing the seed. The growth is God's (1 Corinthians 3:6), but He has committed the spreading of the good news to us and we cannot predict where the pockets of receptive soil will be. Spreading the good news of the Gospel – evangelism – should become the prime focus of each us in our daily lives. If we cannot love our neighbor whom we see everyday, how can we love our neighbor who is far away?" (Excerpts from page 17-18, National Study Guide).

Paraphrases from Rosalind Rinker's book – "Sharing God's Love:"

Our responsibility is to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we seek to share God's love.

God's responsibility is to strengthen us for His service.

Our responsibility is to believe that in Jesus Christ we have the answer all people seek.

God's responsibility is to lead the person to Jesus.

Our responsibility is to prepare ourselves to share God's love.

God's responsibility is to prepare the hearts of those with whom He leads us to share Jesus.

Our responsibility is to take the risk, to be willing to fail in trying to share God's love.

God's responsibility is to redeem our honest mistakes.

Additional Questions from Study Five:

Q.2. What would be a good example of evangelism? What would not be a good example?

Q.3. What does evangelism mean to you?

Q.4. When you think about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, how do you feel? Excited, Scared? Have your feelings changed over the years?

Q.5. Have you in word or action ever shared the Gospel with others? How did it go?

Q.6. Jesus' illustration of the parable of the sower is a biblical lesson in several aspects of evangelism. Read Matthew 9:37; Mark 16:15; Galatian 6:9; and 1 Peter 3:15-17. Look up some additional scripture on evangelism.

Q.7. How do you see the correlation between Matthew 28:18-20 and the prime objective of The Order?

For Your Enrichment (page 20, DOK National Study Guide)

EVANGELISM

“Each Daughter promises to make a conscientious and constant effort to live out the definition (of Evangelism as defined by the Episcopal Church) in her life, doing all she can through her words and deeds to bring others, especially women and girls, into relationship with Jesus Christ and into the fellowship of the church.” (National Handbook, page 3).

COMMUNITY

A Christian community exists to glorify God, to provide strength for each other along the Christian way and to serve others in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ (page 36, National Study Guide)

Give us true knowledge of others,
in their differences from us and in their likeness to us,
that we may deal with their real selves measuring their feelings by our own,
but patiently considering their varied lives and thoughts and circumstances.

Excerpt from *The Southwell Litany*

Prayers for Evangelism

Grant Us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom,

Forgiveness and new life,

And the stirring of your Spirit

So that we may share your vision,

Proclaim your love and

Change the world.

In the Name of Christ. AMEN.

Or

Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Make yourself known through me.

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,

Speak through me to others. AMEN.

Be a Witness? (Or do not hide your light under a bushel.)

If Christ's love has warmed your home, tell someone.

If in worship you have come close to God, declare it.

If prayer has shown you the power of God, say so.

If through Christ you have found forgiveness and the power to forgive, let someone know.

If the church (especially through the DOK) has given you a chance to serve the God you love, tell someone.

If God has worked a miracle in your life (or you have seen God work miracles in others' lives), say so.

Say so . . . in your business, to your friends, in your home, as you travel and while you play, through church, with your lips, by your life.

Whenever and wherever God gives you the chance, say so!

No one else can be as effective a good news teller, an evangelist, to your friends as you can.

With a genuine Christian you cannot tell where religion (FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE) stops and living begins or where living stops and religion (FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE) begins.

Anonymous

SONGS FOR EVANGELISM

"I Love to Tell the Story"

1. I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

- I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.
2. I love to tell the story;

more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.
(Refrain)

3. I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.
(Refrain)

4. I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
(Refrain)