

Into Act10n!

Overall Theme: *Sharing the Gospel in our everyday lives*

Week ONE Theme: *How to start a spiritual conversation*

Welcome

- Share an occasion when someone first shared the Gospel with you in a positive way.
- Share an occasion when a Christian embarrassed you by publically sharing about Jesus.

Worship

- **Read** 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- **Thank God in prayer for** *"Glorious gospel of the blessed God" (v11)*

Word

- **Read** John 4:1–18 "The Woman at The Well"
- **Big Idea:** With the woman at the well, Jesus took the initiative in bringing spiritual matters to the forefront, and he listened to her intently.
- V 1-3 Jesus avoids a religious conversation about numbers.
 - Who is Jesus avoiding and why?
 - KEY: Sharing should be mainly outside church
- V5-6 Jesus went to a well because he was thirsty - an ordinary situation. However the Samaritan* woman then came to the well and Jews do not normally associate with Samaritans or women privately.
 - Why did Jesus break the social taboo in this ordinary situation?
 - KEY: Jesus does not care about people's past sins or circumstances, he meets us where we are!
- V9-10 Ignoring the taboo, Jesus then took this conversation to engage in spiritual matters. Having taken the initiative to avoid spiritual conversation with religious people earlier, he now engages with someone usually avoided by Jews.
 - What does this tell us about who we should be taking the initiative to talk to?
 - KEY: Jesus' energy and life was about saving the lost NOT building "our churches"
- V15-16 Jesus listens to the woman and cares for her in her long-failed relationships pain. God meets people at the point of pain and brokenness not their point of holiness.
 - How can we listen better to people in our daily lives?
 - What is our barrier to sharing God's love and truth in people's lives?
 - What would inspire us to share our faith in an ordinary everyday way?
 - KEY: We need to listen to others first, then offer the person of Jesus to their situation

Witness

- This week with God's help aim to listen to everyone you are in contact with.
- This week try to have one spiritual conversation, having listened to those around you.

Prayer

- Pray specifically that God would help you first to be able to listen and hear those around you.
- Pray that God would help you take the initiative to start a relevant spiritual conversation with one person.

Reflection

When it comes to sharing our faith we must be ourselves and it is OK not to know the answer to someone's question. You can say "That is a good question. I don't know the answer but I will go and find out for you. Also remember the success or failure of our conversations belongs to God, we are only asked to be obedient to the Gospel"

*(The Jews hated the Samaritans, who remained in the promised land during the Babylonian invasion, because they claimed to have the true Israelite religion. The Jews on returning from exile believed the Samaritan bloodline to be polluted by the Babylonian invaders and their doctrine to be wrong.)

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Overall Theme: *Sharing the Gospel in our everyday lives*

Week TWO Theme: *How to overcome obstacles*

Welcome

- What things do you struggle with about Christianity? e.g. suffering, judgment

Worship

- **Read** Philippians 1:21-30
- **Thank God in prayer that** When Christianity is a real struggle we have progress and joy in the faith

Word

- **Read** John 4:12-25 “The Woman at The Well” (cont)
- **Big Idea:** Jesus overcame this woman's obstacles by answering her questions in a way that spoke to both her heart and her head.

Obstacle One *Is Jesus unique?*

- **v. 12** The woman asks "Are you greater than our father Jacob?" which is a question of identity and authority. Today that question is; “don’t all religions lead to God?” or “Isn’t Jesus just one of many good moral teachers!”
 - For anyone to come to faith, the Holy Spirit needs to bring people to a point of asking this question. Why is this the case?
 - KEY : Jesus claimed to be the way, truth & life and the ONLY way to Father (John 14:6) Was Jesus lying? Was he God? These questions cannot be avoided but should be encouraged to be asked!
- **v.13 -14** Jesus suggests she has a thirst, something missing in her life. Most people are searching for something more in life but are not sure what. Jesus then claims to have the secret leading to eternal life.
 - In what ways have you experienced people searching for meaning in life?
 - How is Jesus different than every other religious leader?
 - KEY : Start where people are in their search. Jesus (not Christians) claimed to be God and to be the only way to God. Other religious leaders claimed to show the way to God not to *be* the way.

Obstacle Two *What about other religions?*

- **v.20-24** Sees the woman bring up the differences between their religions. Today it sounds like this, “It is intolerant for Christians to claim to be right.”
 - How does Jesus deal with this question about other religions?
 - What does Jesus offer that her religion cannot?
 - Key : Jesus again starts with her question then moves on to what he offers. So even a Satanist who offers great power cannot answer the offer of eternal intimate love with a Father God.
- **v.23** Reveals it is the Father who seeks the lost. Our greatest fear is often rejection or failure.
 - If this is the Father’s work, and success and failure belong to God, how might this help our fear?

Witness

- This week with God’s help aim to listen to everyone you are in contact with.
- This week try to have one spiritual conversation, having listened to those around you.

Prayer

- Pray daily for a soft heart that loves people like Jesus does.
- Pray daily for opportunities to have spiritual conversations this week and for God’s love to drive out all fear.

Reflection

The answer to most people’s barriers is the love and person of Jesus Christ. Encourage people to seek ‘the truth’ not to ask if Christianity is right. Jesus is the truth and He promises to reveal himself to all who seek genuinely seek. If you have any doubts about Christianity yourself then address them. God can stand up to any questions anyone can ask!

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Overall Theme: *Sharing the Gospel in our everyday lives*

Week THREE Theme: *How to introduce people to Jesus*

Welcome

- Share about the people who were involved when you first came to know Jesus personally.

Worship

- **Read** John 1:35-42
- **Thank God in prayer that** When we meet Jesus it can become very natural to share him.

Word

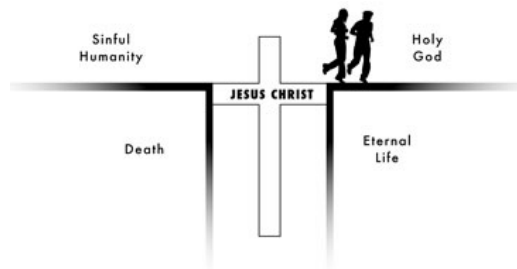
- **Read** John 4:25 -30 "The Woman at The Well" (cont)

Big Idea: When she laid open her desire for a Saviour, Jesus proclaimed the full truth to her.

- Jesus initiated a spiritual conversation in an ordinary place with an ordinary person. He listened intently to her, and addressed her objections by speaking to both her head and her heart.
- v.25 The woman takes the conversation deeper by expressing that she knows what she is looking for.
 - hat was the woman looking for, and do people today ever know what they are looking for?
- v.26 Jesus responds very directly by telling her who he is.
 - What would happen if we declared clearly the identity of Jesus and why do we often not do this?

Witness **Two useful tools for introducing someone to Jesus**

- Bridge Diagram: On a piece of paper, draw two cliffs with a chasm in between, and explain how humanity is on one side and God is on the other—our sin has made a gap & the consequence of this sin is death. Jesus makes a bridge between humanity and God through his death on the cross.



- "Sorry, Thank You, and Please": Explain a basic form of the "sinner's prayer" that a seeker can repeat after you: "I'm sorry for my sin. Thank you for Jesus rescuing me. Please come into my heart and lead my life."

Prayer

- Pray daily for a soft heart that loves people like Jesus does.
- Pray daily for opportunities to have spiritual conversations this week and God's love to drive out all your fear.
- If you are genuinely open, God may well bring someone to use the tools you have learnt.

Reflection

God created everyone (1 Tim 2:3-4) to know him personally and died for everybody. So if this is God's will, we, His church must act in response to his God's will. The issue should not be "how we think a person will respond to God", but rather the truth that God is calling everyone to himself - it's His work not ours. We just need to respond to his call in the Great Commission.

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Overall Theme: *Sharing the Gospel in our everyday lives*

Week FOUR Theme: How to see the harvest -When it comes to evangelism, our attitude is everything.

Welcome

- How do we honestly feel about sharing our faith with our friends and family?

Worship

- **Thank God in prayer that** We know Jesus and also for the people who shared the Good News with us.

Word

- **Read** John 4:27 -38 "The fields are ripe for harvest"

Big Idea: Using imagery from farming, Jesus shows us how our spiritual perspective affects our ability to evangelize.

- v.27 The disciples are surprised to find Jesus talking with the woman because they have forgotten the where, when, how, and why of spiritual conversations.
 - Do you believe there is ever an inappropriate occasion for sharing our faith?
- v.30-31 The Samaritans responded to the woman and came to find Jesus - this was His focus, not food.
 - Do you feel our church culture focuses more on introducing people to Jesus or more on practical issues? Why is this?
- v.36 Jesus introduces a sower and reaper working together with joy. There are different roles for in evangelism which reflect our character but we are all called to be evangelistic.
 - What practically does the sower and reaper do?
 - Which of the following roles best fits you, ask others! Accept you do not have all these skills!
 - INVITER Do you enjoy inviting people to church or Christian events?
 - FRIENDSHIP Do you have lots of friends and they just come with you to Christian events
 - DEBATER Do you enjoy discussing issues like suffering with people who have doubts
 - SERVER Do you enjoy serving people outside the church to practically to express your faith
 - CONFRONTER Do you enjoy challenging people about where they are with God?
- v.37-38 These verses show us that evangelism is a process. In other words when people commit to following Jesus they have taken an number of other steps of faith before committing. These may include experiencing loving Christians, and answering questions such as what about suffering, understanding sin and why Jesus died on a cross.
 - Two of the group share what steps towards God you took BEFORE you came to faith
- "Evangelism is cooperating with the Holy Spirit to bring a person one step closer to Christ." Lon Allison
 - How might you recognize when the Holy Spirit is moving and therefore how you might keep in step?
 - Do you feel like you have "done evangelism" if you move people towards Jesus but they do not 'come to faith'?

Witness

- Enjoy being part of God's plan to draw people to himself without actually 'closing the deal'!
- This week use your style of evangelism in your natural situations that you find yourself in

Prayer

- Pray that God would help you know and accept your God-given evangelism style.
- Pray that this week God would give you opportunities to use this aspect of your personality.

Reflection

We need to change our view on evangelism. We must not see evangelism as an activity in a separate box for special people but a lifestyle for all Christians. We need to give up our preconceived idea that evangelism is just Alpha or preaching on a street corner. God made us all different and our styles of evangelism will be different. We need to give up thinking evangelism is just when people become Christians. Lastly we need to understand that people's eternal destiny does depend on knowing and accepting their need for salvation by Jesus through his cross on the cross.