

Invest and Invite

John 4; Feb. 10, 2013

DAY 1

This week we'll look at how Jesus reached out to woman whose life was filled with heartache and chaos. Look for ways you can emulate Jesus Christ with the people He has placed around you!

To witness to your friends involved "investing" and "inviting."

- "Investing" - in the relationship, investing your heart, care, effort and conversation
- "Inviting" - inviting your friend to consider spiritual truth, as they are able.

John 4:7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

1. 2,000 years ago, in the middle east, the Jewish people looked down on the Samaritans as "half-breeds," "sell-outs" who intermarried with the pagan people around them. In addition, women were generally considered as "2nd class citizens." Jewish men did not talk to women in public. Thus, the Samaritan woman is stunned when Jesus talks with her. What reasons do you think He would talk with her?

2. Who initiates the conversation?

3. How does He initiate the conversation?

4. Jesus' answer in v.10 is intriguing! Place a check mark next to the things that strike you about it.

He suggests that God wants to give her a gift!

He works to create "spiritual curiosity."

He moves the conversation toward a spiritual direction, but only with a nudge.

He doesn't use the "dump truck" method with her, dumping on her a truck load of truth.

He assumes she may not know God, but hints that if she did, something good would happen.

He relates to her as personal equals and spiritual "equals."

He takes something very ordinary, "water," and uses it as a metaphor for what He can give.

He uses a vague term, "living water," to prompt a response from her.

Other: _____

5. Does this story prompt you to think about someone in your life?

6. Do any of items in question #4 give you an idea of your approach to that person? Which one?

7. Pray for your friend. Ask God to open their heart, and to give you an opportunity with him/her.

DAY 2

John 4:11 "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself...?"

1. Did the woman understand Jesus' reference to "living water?"

2. Her initial idea of Jesus is that he is just another man. But now, she compares Jesus to the great Jewish patriarch, Jacob. Why?

John 4:13 "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, [14] but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

3. Jesus compares "water" to the "water" He can give. Contrast the two "waters."

4. What do you think each of the following characteristics mean?

a. "water I give him..."

b. "spring of water welling up..."

c. "welling up to eternal life."

5. "Eternal life" is a phrase that has a quantitative *and* qualitative meaning to it. As to quantitative eternal life, Jesus refers to heaven. As to qualitative eternal life, He means "life to the full." Which of the following statements strike you about His words in 4:13-14?

With physical water, you can drink and drink but you will always still be thirsty.

What the world has to offer to slake your thirst will still leave you thirsty.

What I have to slake your *personal* thirst is the only thing that can slake your personal thirst.

What the world has to offer, from the *outside* cannot slake an *internal* thirst.

You are looking for something to meet the deep needs of the human heart. If you look to the world, you will never have that thirst slaked.

Your *internal* thirst can only be slaked by an *internal source*. That's where I come in!

You have a need for eternal life, both now and forever.

Jesus is still not using the "dump truck" method. He is creating more spiritual curiosity.

6. What strikes you most about today's study?

DAY 4

Jesus' approach is steeped in care. A Jew did not care about a Samaritan. A man did not care about a woman. Jesus takes the initiative to not only talk with her but to engage with her in conversation.

We pick up the conversation...

John 4:19-20 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. [20] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

1. How has this woman's view of Jesus changed from the beginning of this story to now?
2. The woman then changes the subject from Jesus to being "religious." Is she on track or moving in the wrong direction?
3. When we initially believe the world has what I need, and it doesn't, we "naturally" move to human-motivated religiosity. Do you think that is helpful?

John 4:21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."

4. What is the essence of Jesus' answer? Is religiosity the answer? Is it even "helpful," or does it miss the point? Jot down your thoughts...

5. Is Jesus being "pushy" or obnoxious, or is He just leading her little-by-little?

6. "Witnessing" is mostly about "sharing" in the context of "caring." The sharing is done in small snippets, seed ideas. There is time for feedback and questions, a dialogue. How does Jesus' approach give you insight as you engage with people? List the items that are pertinent to how you want your relationships with lost people to be:

John 4:22 "You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews."

7. Jesus starts to point toward Himself as the "living water." He "hints" at it, nudging her toward Himself. Why is the "nudging" important?

8. What is your biggest takeaway, today?

DAY 5

Jesus continues His sharing with the woman at the well...

John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. [24] God is Spirit and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth."

1. What does Jesus point to for the woman?

John 4:25 (woman) "I know that Messiah (Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

2. What is she starting to realize about the Man she is talking to?

3. Is her "solution" of religiosity cracking?

John 4:26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

4. What would have happened if He had started out the conversation with this truth? What do you think she would have done?

John 4:28-29 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, [29] "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

5. What does she realize about Jesus Christ?

6. What happened to her at the end of their conversation? What does she realize about herself?

"There are two revelations in Christianity; there is the revelation of God and the revelation of ourselves. No man ever really sees himself until he sees himself in the presence of Christ; and then he is appalled at the sight of himself....Christianity begins with the sudden realization that life as we are living it will not do. We awake to ourselves and we awake to our need of God." - William Barclay

7. Think about the entire story we studied this week. How has your view of "witnessing" changed this week?

8. Ask God to give you a heart for people.