



4 Keys to Evangelism
Women's Discipleship Class – October 9, 2019
Adam McCampbell

Verses Covered This Week

John 4:4 – 42

Good evening! Can everybody hear me? Alright, there we go. Let me introduce myself as people come in. My name's Adam McCampbell. I'm the Missions Minister here at Central. For those of you who don't know me, you greeted myself and my wife, Kendal McCampbell. And we appreciated that. We are so glad to get to be here at Central and Christ, being out of town this week, asked me to come here and speak to y'all. They wouldn't allow me to speak to the men; I don't know why. But they said I could come here. I'm excited to get to talk to you tonight. What I want to be able to do tonight, we're just going to look at John 4:4 – 42. It's the story of the Samaritan woman and we're going to talk about 4 keys to evangelism. This is something I really enjoy. I used to be a missionary in India. I started with the International Mission Board for about 2 ½ years as a journeyman. And so this is part of what I trained when I was over there. So I trained quite a bit, as much as I could, with a lot of other things. So I pulled this out for tonight. This is actually what we're going through right now on Sunday nights in one of our SNAC (Sunday Night After Church) classes called From Gospel Conversations to Disciple making. Looking at the Great Commission where Jesus says, "All authority under heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and behold, I'll be with you always, even to the end of the age." Our Great Commission. And so how do we live that out? We live that out through our weekly rhythm by getting used to doing that in and out each and every day, by being in God's word, by being in prayer, and faithfully living out God's call in our life. And so that class on Sunday night is to help us with that.

So this is an excerpt from that class I wanted to pull out and walk through it. You can see a quote there on the bottom. I'm not sure if you've ever read the book, *The Insanity of God*. It's written by one of our IMDB missionaries. Really good story. He actually served in Somalia. It's a movie back in 1995, I think, the *Black Hawk Incident* in Mogadishu, Somalia. Really, really bad situation. As a matter of fact, he was actually in Mogadishu, about a mile away from all the fighting. The fighting lasted all night long. But during that time he was there, he saw about 20/30 Christians or so in Somalia come to Christ. The Somalia government got really smart. They said, "We're going to follow the Americans that come into our country and everyone they talk to, we're

going to target when they leave.” And when they left, they went back in and killed all those people and all their families. So he began to ask the question; how do we live for Christ in the midst of great suffering? So he started doing a journey. Went to places like China, went to the Middle East, and spent a lot of time in the iron curtain countries of Russia and Russia itself. And this comes from a story of one guy and I’ll just read it because this was, you have to read the book to get the whole story, but the guy is Stoyan.

“Stoyan stared right back at me and said, “Son, that’s the debt of the cross!” He leaned forward and poked me in the chest with his finger as he continued, “Don’t steal my joy! I took great joy that I was suffering in my country, so that you could be free to witness in your country. “Then he raised his voice in a prophet-like challenge. That I knew would live with me forever. **“Don’t ever give up in freedom what we would never give up in persecution!** That is our witness to the power of the resurrection.” – Nik Ripken, *The Insanity of God*

So a great story to listen to some things and stories of men and women in these countries with great persecution that they stayed faithful to Christ. And they stayed faithful in such a way that they proclaimed Jesus every single day, even to the detriment of themselves and their family. Great, great book. But I just wanted to, I put these quotes each week as we come to class, we kind of see those things. Before we get started, I want to show you another book. This is called Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations. Written by a pastor out of Florida. Really, really good book. Actually walks through a gospel presentation called the Three Circles which we’re going to kind of go through tonight briefly. And so, really good book, if you’re ever wondering, “How do I learn to share the gospel a little better?” This book is really good at helping you segue, for having a conversation by saying things like, “You know, I haven’t dealt with that certain issue in my life, but I’ve dealt with something similar. Can I share with you a story that gives me great hope?” And be able to segue from any conversation to the gospel. Just saying something simple like that. So this kind of goes through the gospel. Breaks it down. And then each part of the three circles. And then it kind of just walks how we can do that in daily life. And then walking through discipleship stuff. So really good book. Simple and easy read. And so that’s a really good one I have. If you want more information, you can ask me about that. But I like to give good resources out as much as I can.

Well tonight, I want to make sure we get done. I’ve got a lot to cover so we’ll go ahead and get started. Let me open in a word of prayer and then we’ll begin.

God, I thank You for the night and who You are. And I just pray for Your word that tonight it will just penetrate and pierce our hearts. And that, God, we can know You more. So Father I ask You to reveal Yourself to us. Reveal Your call in our lives tonight that, God, we can know who You are. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

So we’re going to look at John 4, the Samaritan woman’s story. I’m not going to read it. I’m just going to tell the story to you, OK. So Jesus was heading from Judea to Galilee and He had to go through Samaria to get there. So as He goes through Samaria, He runs through this one town and it’s the middle part of the day, it’s really hot. He sits next to the well. The disciples leave. They’re going to go into town to get some food. And sure enough in the middle part of the day, this woman comes up to the well to draw some water. And as she’s drawing water, Jesus begins to speak to

her. He says, "Woman, give Me a drink." Asking her for a drink of water. The woman is really taken back by that. The fact that she says, "How are You asking me for a drink. I'm a Samaritan woman and you're a Jewish man." They didn't associate. She was taken aback by Him asking. And Jesus says, "If you knew who was asking you for water, you would have asked Me for water and I would have given you living water." She, not understanding this, she begins to wonder, "Is He greater than our Father, Jacob, the one who built this well?" And Jesus told her, "Whoever drinks from this water is going to thirst again. But whoever drinks from the water I give, they will never thirst again. As a matter of fact, it will become in them a well of water springing up to eternal life." And the woman, becoming excited, she says, "Give me some of this water. I want some." And Jesus said, "OK. First go and call your husband." The woman kind of paused and she said, "I have no husband." And Jesus said, "You have correctly said so. As a matter of fact, you've had 5 husbands and the man you're living with now is not your husband." And immediately the woman perceived Him as a prophet. So she begins to ask Him a spiritual question. She says, "You Jews say we should worship in Jerusalem. My people say we should worship here on this mountain. So where shall we worship?" And Jesus begins to tell her, "There's a time coming and the time has now come that true worshipers will worship in spirit and truth. Not on this mountain or in Jerusalem. But they're going to worship God because they're going to have a relationship with Him. And immediately she knows who He's talking about. She says, "The One called Messiah, He will come and explain all these things to us." And Jesus looks at the woman and says, "I who speak to you am He." Immediately, she leaves her water jar, she goes back to the village, she says, "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did." And she said, "Can this be the Christ?" So the people left and they're going to follow the woman back to Jesus. But during this time, the disciples have come back with food for Jesus. As a matter of fact, when they come back to Jesus, they see Him speaking with a woman. But no one dared asked Him why He's speaking with a woman. So they get there and begin to urge Him to eat and take some food. And Jesus kept refusing the food and then He finally said, "I have food you know nothing about. My food is to do the will of my Father." Then He says, "You save four months of the harvest, but I tell you, the harvest is now. And the fields are white for harvest." And the disciples don't understand what's happening. And the crowd comes to Jesus and they begin to talk to Him and they begin to ask Him to stay for a few more days. And as the time comes, those two days end, the people tell Him, "We not only believe because of the woman's testimony, 'Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.' But we now believe because we have seen and we have heard You. We know that You are the Savior of the world."

So this is our story we want to look at tonight. I want to kind of pull out some highlights from this story and ask about 4 keys to evangelism in this story. So the first question I have is, who is the evangelist in this story? The woman. What's her credentials for being an evangelist? We might not look at her for anything. We would kind of pass her by. You know, in India, we used to compare her to Billy Graham and write things up on the board and look at Billy Graham's credentials, one of the greatest evangelists in the world who ever lived. And we look at this woman; we compare them. The woman is not a righteous lady. She's unrighteous. She's first century world so most likely not educated. Doesn't know how to read or write. She's just not someone we're going to look at. Yet Jesus sees her and He's the one who loves her. And then He even tells her, "I'm the Messiah." We hardly ever see Jesus confessing to anyone that He's the Messiah. But yet, this woman, He does. But here's what's even more interesting to me. He doesn't use the disciples. He doesn't use Peter. He's the one who's going to lead 3,000 to Christ the day at Pentecost. He doesn't use John who writes this Gospel. He doesn't even use guys like

Doubting Thomas. And church history tells us he goes all the way to India with the Gospel. And all the other disciples are going to do amazing things for Christ. Not a single one of them does He use. As a matter of fact, we look at the story, it says, when they came back they saw Jesus speaking with a woman. That means they crossed paths with her. Most likely they could have crossed paths with her twice; on the way down the hill to the village and the way back. As a matter of fact, when you read the first four verses, the reason He's leaving Judea is because the Pharisees are hearing He's baptizing more than John. The Bible says it wasn't Jesus baptizing, His disciples were baptizing. Jesus is raising His disciples up to do His ministry. Yet they go down to Samaria and not a single one of them open their mouth and tell them, "Hey, Jesus, the Messiah, is out of your village and if you follow us, we're going to take you to Him so you can hear what He has for you." None of them do that because they have preconceived notions of who they are. They're Samaritans. They don't want to tell somebody about Jesus. One of those kind of things we pull from the story that I think about is how often do we set up preconceived notions about someone, or people, or cultures, and we think, "I can't ever talk to them. I don't know who they are. They're not going to listen to me. They're not going to listen to what I have to say." We set all these walls up. We create walls, right. There's barriers there, but we create our own walls instead of taking the Gospel to those. And the disciples don't do this. Later on, John and James are going to pretty much ask Jesus to call thunder down on the Samaritans later on in the Gospels. But none of them do anything. Yet this woman who's ashamed of anyone seeing her face, beginning of the story she comes in the middle part of the day. You just don't go and get water in the middle of the day. It's hot. You go in the morning when it's cool. She goes in the middle part of the day because she's afraid of other people seeing her. And notice at the end of the story she meets Christ, she meets Jesus and all of a sudden, she forgets about her shame and her guilt and immediately she's going to tell everybody in the village, "I've met the Christ." Completely changed in an instant because she met Christ. So that's what Christ wants to do with us. He wants to use us. He wants to embolden us to be courageous to share the Gospel. When we have Christ, we do that. So tonight we want to look at these four keys of evangelism. We see some highlights, but also talk about what are the four different keys.

Immediate Obedience

The first one we're going to look at is Immediate Obedience. There in verse 29 it says: immediately she left her water jar. She had a task she was trying to complete. She leaves her task and she goes back into the village. She wasn't asking Jesus to make His time schedule convenient for her. She was making herself convenient for God. She was stopping everything for Christ because she knew how important it was. I had some friends of mine back in Pine Bluff and we have a little college there and they love sharing the Gospel and we would walk across campus. We could never get to any appointments on time because as we walked, they would stop and see someone, they come up and say "hi" to them, and they're sharing the Gospel. We're there for 30 minutes. And then we'll get done with that conversation and then we'll move on, and then there will be someone else that comes across the way and they're sharing the Gospel again. And so we never got to our appointments on time at that college because they kept doing that over and over and over. And so they were willing to make themselves convenient for God's time rather than saying, "When I get free, I'll take care of what we need." But she was immediately obedient to what Christ had for her.

In India, one of my mentors, he and his wife were there and they lived in a city called Katmandu, Nepal. And they would travel by bus to the one location and hike for a while to get to the village

they were trying to reach. So every time they went back and forth to the village, there was this hillside, they were near the Himalayas, a hillside village. They'd pass it and he'd say, "He always felt a tug of the Holy Spirit that said, "Go tell the Gospel. Go to this village and speak to them about Me." But every time, him and his wife, they were trying to get to the village they were going to, their assignment, they were trying to get there. And when they'd get done with their assignment, they were so tired that they were trying to get back to Katmandu just for rest and relaxation before they went back out. This was going on for about two years. So at the end of their term, they were about to head back home, so he decided, "You know what, when I come back this time, I'm going to stop at this village and I'm going to tell them about Jesus." So on their way back to Katmandu, they see the village and he looks up on the side of the hill and he doesn't see it. So he asked a passerby. He says, "What happened to the village?" And they said, "Last night a landslide happened. Everyone in the village died." And so from that day on, he's always carried on his sleeve knowing he wasn't willing to be obedient immediately to what Christ called. And there's a time limit sometimes. And so he didn't know that. He doesn't know God's timetable, but he constantly, "Hey, I want you to go. I want you to go." And so he always would share that story to me and others. We have to be obedient immediately. It's one of those things.

We have to understand that conviction and obedience are two different things. She didn't just believe in Christ, she obeyed Him. Sometimes we feel as long as I feel convicted and I feel bad for not doing something, it's almost the same as obeying. But Christ says, "I want you to be obedient. I want you to go and do it." And so we have to understand conviction and obedience are two different things. The Holy Spirit comes and convicts us and then He calls us to be obedient to that conviction; obedience to God's word. And so our very first key to evangelism is we have to be immediately obedient and follow her example.

Personal Testimony

Number two, she shared her personal testimony. There in verse 30 she says:

³⁰"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did;"

Later on in verse 39, it says,

³⁹Many people from the village believed because of the woman's testimony. "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did."

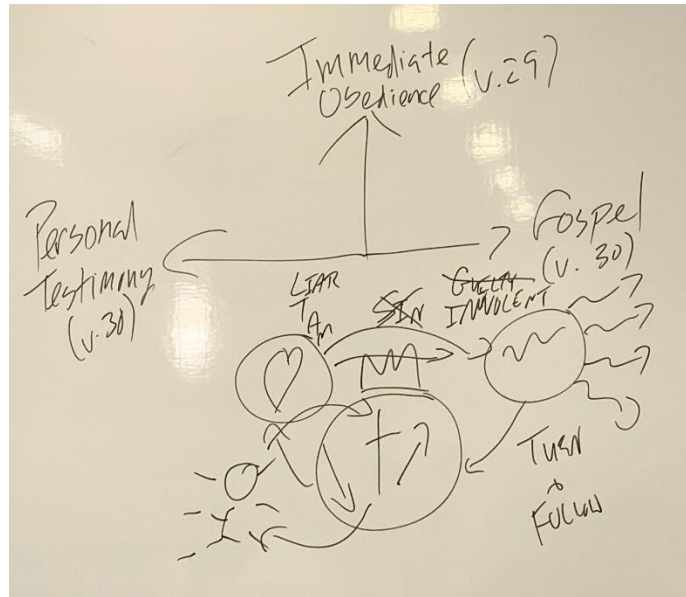
And so she's simply telling them, confessing almost that Christ knew everything in her life. She's willing to lay down her shame. She's willing to lay down her guilt in that way. And so all a testimony really is is telling someone else, "Hey, I'm just like you. I've messed up. I'm not perfect. I'm trying to do my best to live for Christ. But it doesn't mean I'm perfect." That's what a testimony does. One time in my life I was like this. But now I'm like this. And one of the things I teach is what I call a 15 Second Testimony. And it goes a little like this. So I say:

There was a time in my life when I was really anxious because I was trying to seek the approval of other people. But then I met King Jesus and He gave me His approval. He gave me new life after forgiving my sins. And now I have a new life and a new hope and my joy is in Him. Do you have a story like that?

And so something simple and quick I can share with someone because I found out most people in my life don't really listen to me for more than 20 seconds and they tune me out. We have that conversation, oh, they're ready to say something else. They're ready to interject into the conversation. So I always want to have something simple I can share to allow me to say, "Hey, let me tell you something really quick. You're either going to be interested in the conversation or you're not going to be interested in the conversation. But at least I'm able to talk without having to go back and forth. Not that a testimony of 3 minute, or 5 minute, or even an hour testimony is not bad. It's just sometimes I like to have something short and simple so I can tell someone else, "Hey, I was just like you. There was a time in my life when I was right here." Whatever that might be. I was broken. I was desperate. I have friends that tell me, "I was fatherless because my father left me. I was addicted because I was addicted to drugs or sex or whatever it was in their life. But Christ changed me for that. He's moved me from that. I was just like you. And I think even our life when we're following Christ, there's times in our life where we mess up. We might mess up really big. But when I go to God and say, "God forgive me." He restores us back in that fellowship; that perfect fellowship. And that moment we're ready to go tell somebody about Jesus. We don't have to get our life perfect again. I can share Christ right then and there. It doesn't mean our sin's not going to mess our testimony up, but we're still able to share Christ. We don't have to get our life perfect. We don't have to get our life straight to be able to tell somebody about Jesus. He gives us the Holy Spirit. He gives us that idea that we're not perfect, but I'm able to share with someone else who's not perfect as well.

Shared The Gospel

The third thing she did was share the Gospel. She said, "Can this be the Christ?" She was simply asking a question. At the end of that question, everyone in the village had to choose: yes, He is the Christ, or no, He is not the Christ. They had to make a decision. They had to choose, "I'm willing to listen to this more." Or I say, "No, I don't want to hear any more of this." But she led them to a decision. We had a young girl in India when we were doing a training. Her father was the head Buddhist in that village. And so she grew up with a Buddhist background. And so she had come to Christ a long time ago and she shared the Gospel many, many times to her family. Her family was very open to hear. And over and over she kept sharing and she came to me after the training and asked, "I've shared the gospel so many times to my family, but they won't ever come to Christ. What do I need to do?" And for some reason God just put on my heart that day just to tell her, "Have you ever asked them, 'Do you want to trust in Christ now? Do you want to follow Him with your life?'" And she said, "I've never done that before." I said, "Well I want you to go back. I want you to have them make a decision. Don't let them just hear the Gospel, lead them to that decision." So she goes that night and does that. And then several of her family members come to Christ. They'd never been asked that question. They didn't know. They wanted to, but she never asked that question. So the Gospel's about leading someone to a decision. We don't know what they're going to choose, but we're willing to lead them to that decision. So one thing I want to do tonight, I want to share with you the Gospel message a little way I share it. I wish we had time to practice and things like that, but we just don't have time in here for that. But if you ever want to know more, I'd love to sit down with anyone who wants to learn to share the Gospel better. So let me share with you, if I'm going out, how I'm going to share the Gospel with someone so we understand that. So this is what I share.



We look at the world today, the world's really broken. And this circle with the squiggly line represents that broken world. We've got broken families, broken marriages, broken finances, we have a broken political system, everywhere we look the world's broken. But when God made the world, He made it perfect. And so He made us to have a perfect relationship with Him and a perfect relationship with other people. We had our complete joy. We had our complete satisfaction in Him. We lacked nothing in God. We weren't scared. We weren't lonely. We weren't broken. We weren't anxious. We weren't stressed out. None of those things were there. But in that relationship God said, "I want to be the boss." First man and woman created said, "We don't want God to call the shots. We want to do things our own way." They rebelled against God and the Bible calls that sin. That sin led out of their perfect world and into this broken world. That's why we have things like natural disasters, hurricanes, tornadoes, all those things. The world became broken. But not just the world, we became broken. We started having depression and anxiety and stress. All these things come from sin. So when we look at this map and we say, "Am I here in God or am I broken?" We can ask, we can take what's called the good person test and ask a few questions to see where we're at. And so a few questions I always ask are, "Have you ever told a lie before?" Yeah, we all raise our hands. So if somebody tells a lie, what does that make them? A liar. What about, "Have you ever stolen anything?" Yeah, I had a dollar on my buddy's dresser one time when I was eleven years old. I took it and I was gone. So I've stolen something. So if someone steals something it makes them a thief, right. What about if we've committed adultery? We've not been married or maybe we have, but Jesus said, if you looked at someone lustfully in your heart, you've already committed adultery. Purity doesn't always just happen physically. Purity is a heart thing. It's a mind thing. So I've broken that purity. I've done that because we've done those things, right. So the Bible says we're an adulterer. What about, have you ever murdered someone? Maybe not, but Jesus says, if you hate someone in your heart, you've murdered them already. Or you just wish something really bad to happen to them. You know, that one person everything goes really well for. You say, "I really wish something bad would just happen to that person. I really wish they'd feel what I feel." I want something bad. I'm hating them. I'm murdering within my heart. We can kind of go on and on. We know the 10 Commandments, right. And when we've broken these things, right, it means we've broken God's law. Because we've broken God's law, we stand guilty before Him.

So imagine this. Imagine a man comes to your house, an assassin, kills your entire family. Every one of them. They're dead. The court finds them completely guilty, right. They are guilty. It comes the day of sentencing and the assassin comes and says, "Judge I just wanted you to know that I've got my GED. I've been trying to turn my life around. I help elderly people across the road. I do everything I can to be a good person. Don't give me what I deserve." So the judge says, "OK. I'll wipe it away. I'll forgive you. You don't have to go to prison." Is that a good judge or a bad judge? It's a bad judge. A judge is to be just, right. We have the case in Dallas with a lady, she goes into the apartment, wrong apartment, sad situation, but she's guilty, right. Immediately guilty. You broke the law. You don't mean to, but you broke the law. We're guilty. And so the same way, God has to punish our sin. He's a just, righteous God. And a just, righteous God must punish sin. That means we are separated from God and there's no way we can get back to Him. So because of that, we're going to always try to fix ourselves. One of the ways we do that is through money. If I can get the right education, if I can get the right job, I can make the money that I need. But we have guys like Heath Ledger commit suicide. Kate Spade, a famous designer, commit suicide. Doctors. Lawyers. People with the most money, they're still depressed, addicted to alcohol, addicted to drugs. The money didn't fix them. Because every time they get more money, they want more, more stuff and our money never fixes us. So we think money will fix it, before we know it, we're snap back into the brokenness. Or we try through relationships. I can date the right person, marry the right person, a lot of people think if I can just sleep with the right person they'll fix me. But the moment we have a fight, the moment we break up, whatever it is, we're snap back in because that person can't fix me. They're not perfect. I'm not perfect. Some of us we try to do it by being religious; by just going to church. We make promises to God. We say, "God if you do this for me, I will never do this again." One of two things happen. Number one, we break the promise which usually happens. And I feel worse after making the promise than before. Or we keep the promise for a little while, but we still look around, the world's still broken, we're still messed up, and we don't feel any better even though we kept a promise for one time because we can't make ourselves right. And a lot of times this brokenness becomes so great we want to turn to things like drugs, alcohol, pornography, whatever we can just to numb the pain. But the video goes off, the feeling leaves us, before we know it, we're right back to where we were before. And so all these are like bungee cords, right. We get so far out we think we fixed the problem, before we know it we're snap back in. We're stuck. We can't leave our brokenness. We can't fix ourselves.

So here's the good news. God knows that we're here. He doesn't want to leave us here to He had a plan. And that plan was to send Jesus in this world. He lived a perfect life. He never turned away from God, never disobeyed God, and because He was perfect, He could do something no one else could ever do. He died upon that cross and He paid for our sin. But He didn't stay dead because a dead man can't help us. So three days later He rose again from the grave and what He did, He did two things. He provided us a way out of our brokenness and back into God's design. But number two, He proved to us that He Himself was God. And so hearing the story is not enough. We have to do something. We have to turn away from our bungee cord. It's not about turning away from our consequences for a little bit, getting and feeling better, and running back to our bungee cords. It's about, I'm leaving them entirely. I'm giving it up. I'm going to turn completely from those things. And I'm going to follow after Jesus. Another way of saying that is we want to make Him the King, the Boss, of our life. We want to give Him full control. And when we do that, He forgives us of our sins and He restores us. He restores us back into God's

design where we know Him as our Father and we as His child. But number two, He takes that guilty verdict and He makes us innocent on all accounts. He looks at us and says, it's like we committed no sin, ever. Because at the cross what happens is, Jesus took all of our sin, every bit of it. And in return, He gives us His righteousness and perfection. We can stand before God as Jesus because Jesus stood before God as us. He took our place. That's what He did on the cross. So because He gave us His righteousness, because He made us innocent on all accounts, our life completely and radically changes where we want to pray, I want to read my Bible, we even want to go back into this broken world and we want to tell others about Jesus. That's what happens in our life.

So if this is a road map of your life, where would you find yourself: far from God or close to God. That's where I always end up at. Then I always ask the question, because most of them will say here. I say, "Where do you want to be?" "I want to be right here." Well the next question is, "How do you get there?" I want to hear that they understand the Gospel or not. Because most of them will say, "I need to go to church. I need to read my Bible more. Whatever it is, if someone says, "I need to turn and trust Jesus right now." That's the next indicate, "OK. Are you ready to do that?" Most people don't go there.

So here's the thing, what I do when I share the Gospel. It's not about getting them to say, yes, to follow Jesus. That's not the goal. The goal is, are you willing to have a Bible study with me. Romans 10:17

¹⁷Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the word of God.

If I can get the word of God in their life, I've got everything I need. And I promise you, it's a lot easier to have a Bible study, having a book open in front of you that you're reading and asking questions out of that, rather than trying to just argue with them, debate with them about why this is important, or apologetics and all those things. Not that those things are bad, but there's no one who is ever won to Christ by an argument. We just share the Gospel. Even in Athens, Paul shares the Gospel, a very argumentative Gospel, the very end we have three responses. Some mocked him, "I don't want to have anything to do with this." Some said, "I'll hear you more." And only like two or three actually believed. And so, my goal is to get them to a Bible study. And I promise you, when we think those ways, we think, "I don't have to get them to say, yes, to Jesus. Just say will you have a Bible study with me at my house, your house? We'll go out and grab some coffee." I've got a student right now at college we're doing that. We went on campus, we share the Gospel, we got done. I said, "You want to have a Bible study?" "Yeah, sure." So we started having coffee. I just buy his coffee. You buy people coffee or food, they'll come meet you pretty easily, you know. So that's all it is. Just getting into God's word. And as they get there, they want to hear more because they have questions. And it's a lot easier if you can just take a Bible in front of you and be able to read from that. And we don't have to know it perfectly. All you need to know is being abiding in God's word daily. And when you sit in that situation, God's already promised, "I'll give you the words you need." Those words only come though when we're abiding. The Holy Spirit doesn't fill us unless we're abiding in Christ, right. Because the fill of the Holy Spirit is not something that happens, it's a command. Because the Bible says, be filled with the Holy Spirit. We're commanded to be filled with the Spirit so I have to do something to fill myself. So that means I have to be in God's word. I need to be abiding. I need to be a part of a church that I'm serving in. I need to be part of a life group that's pouring into my life and I'm pouring

into them. I have to be obedient in these things. And as we are, we're going to be filled with the Spirit. And as we go out and faithfully obey, God will give us the words we need. That's how it works. It's hard to do, but it's the simplest thing to explain. But God does it through us. And so she shared the Gospel. Let me move on to the last little bit.

Introduce Them to Jesus

And the very last thing she did is she introduced them to Jesus. She introduced them to Jesus. They left the village to come find Jesus. And I think the woman leads them out to Jesus. And so they met Jesus. You know, and so, the way we meet people, if two people don't know each other, the way we do, we say, "Hey, Bob, this is Fred. Fred, this is Bob." They shake hands, now they've met one another, right. We introduce them. That's the same thing we're doing here. We might do it over a process by having a Bible. You don't know Jesus, my goal is to introduce you to Jesus, hear Jesus in the Bible to let you meet God and His word. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:9 that we're a royal priesthood. We've been called out of darkness into His marvelous light to declare the excellence of Him. We're a priest. A priest mediates between God and man. The same way we have in the Old Testament, right, the priest made the sacrifices on behalf of the people. Laid the hand on the scapegoat, sent them out in the desert, and said, "There go the sins of the people." He was mediating between God and man. He was the one in between. That's who we are. We're His royal priests. We're the top of the top. This is who God's called us to be. We're His ambassadors. 2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. We are ambassadors. We have that ministry and message of reconciliation. And so that's what we're called to do. We're representing Christ to the world. We're simply taking Jesus, who we know, and we're introducing Him to those who don't know Jesus. We simply share the Gospel in a simple way. They say I want to know more about this. Let's sit down and have a Bible study. It's not just getting them in the church and having them sit down. What I tell a lot of people is, if I invite someone to church so they can come hear about Jesus, that means it's all on them. They've got to be the ones that come through this door. But if I say, I'll come to you now, it's all on my shoulders. I guarantee, 100%, I can walk over to and talk to them. Guaranteed I can have a conversation. I'm not guaranteed they're going to come here. But if I go to them, if I will meet them somewhere, I promise you the chances of us getting to follow up, getting to share more, is going to go way out of the roof because I'm guaranteed, 100%, that I can make that effort to go. I'm not guaranteed they're going to come here. So we simply just go to where they are, buy them some food, buy them a coffee, just sit down and say, "Let's just read God's word. I want to introduce you to who Jesus is because I know Him. All it is, is I want you to ask the question you have, whatever questions you might have. I don't care what it is. And then I'm going to do my best to answer them." If I say, "I don't know", I'm going to go back and ask a minister, I'm going to ask my life group leader, I'll say, "I'll find the answer." And then I can go back. The best way to learn is to simply be obedient. Because in our obedience, we always have questions. We can ask those questions and people can answer the questions for us.

So as we share the Gospel, we have four responses. So in your paper, there on the back page, I'm going to skip the testimony and the Gospel section on the very back page. When we go share the Gospel, we have two types of responses. We have their response and our response. So what do we do? When we look at, there in Acts 17:32 – 34, Paul's in Athens. He preaches the Gospel and then we have in there; some mocked him, right. They said, "No, I don't want to hear you." Some said, "OK, Paul, I'll hear you a little bit more about this." They're like, "Oh, maybe." And finally,

you have the green. I'm ready to repent and I'm ready to believe right now. They say, "Yes." And that yes means repent and believe. They're not just saying yes, I want to know more about Jesus. They're saying yes, by turning a life from sin and following Jesus and saying, "I'm willing to learn more about what it means to follow Christ in my life." The fourth type of response we're going to meet is you're going to meet existing believers. Everywhere we go there's always going to be believers. We have a country in India. About one out of every four in India is a Bihari. It's a large, one of the larger states. Highly unreached. I think it's like less than a percent. But in the less than a percent, there's 50,000 believers in that state. 50,000. You can go find believers pretty easily there. And so a lot of part of the world that we think's unreached, it is, it might be less than a percent, but you're talking about billions of people. That's a lot of people. So there's always believers everywhere in the world. When we talk about reaching, it's like, "I can't imagine going to China or going here. How am I going to start?" Well, there's believers there. The key is I've just got to find them. They're not really hard to find. When we start going out and being faithful, God's faithful and God will bring. I remember in India we would, we started with about two or three national partners. And we'd just be praying and all of a sudden, God would bring along another national partner that's been doing it for about 10 years. We never met this guy before. He lives literally 2 miles from where we lived. We hadn't met him, but he's been doing it for about 10 years. As a matter of fact, he had 50 churches started in an area called Sikkim. And so we're like, OK, let's go up there and begin training these churches. Had no idea. Two miles. We just began praying and God brought them and we met them randomly. It's a random meet when you live in a town of 1.24 million people; you meet one person. That's not us or a me thing. That's a God thing, right. And that's what God does. So we're going to meet existing believers. So their response: no, maybe, yes – by repenting and believing, or an existing believer.

So what's our response? If it's a no, it means they're a red light, I'm done. Sometimes we have to move on. In Luke 10, Jesus sent the disciples out, the 72 out 10 by 10, to go village by village to declare the Gospel, heal, and those kind of things like that. And at the very end, Jesus said, "If they're not going to be receptive to you, shake the dust off your feet, and move on." Imagine your family, your whole family, had this horrible disease. So immediately you get the phone you dial the doctor's office and say, "Hey, I'm looking for Dr. So & So. Where's he at?" "Oh, he's out. He's on vacation." Your family's on the line you're going to begin begging and pleading, "Please just tell me." And then finally the secretary says, "OK. I'll tell you this. He's on vacation and he's in the area, and he loves coffee shops." So what are we going to do? We're probably going to go to every single coffee shop in the city until we meet him. But let's say we see a guy reading a doctor book. We go up to him and say, "Are you the doctor?" He says, "No." Do we begin to plead with him saying, "Well can you read this book enough, can you try enough, can you become the doctor I need you to?" No. That's crazy. We're going to go find the doctor. It's the same way. I can't make anyone believe. 1 Corinthians 3:16. Paul planted, Apollos watered, the Holy Spirit grew it. We can't make anyone do that. Sometimes we have to move on. There are stories I heard where if somebody went 49 places to a village way at the top of a hill and they finally said, "I'm never going again." And God said, "I want you to go one more time." We have to know right now, God's not saying, "yes". But later on, He might be working, right. John 6:44. No one will come to the Father unless the Spirit draws him first. The Holy Spirit has to be working in our life. The Holy Spirit sometimes works in life because we begin praying. I pray for them. Maybe I've got to pray for ten years, but if I'm faithful to praying, God is faithful to answer. And sometimes the Holy Spirit will work on our behalf. So sometimes we have to move on.

If it's a maybe, I call them stories of hope. Meaning I want to point them to stories of Jesus. That's all I want to do. I may pull out the book of Luke. Luke's a really great book for that. Mark's another good book. I like using Mark as well. A lot of people use John. John and Matthew are good, but I think sometimes they have a lot of Jewish references and it's really hard. I don't know it well enough. But it's good enough book to do it. But Mark and Luke are my two favorites to use to walk through. An Egyptian couple here in the church, they will take people through the book of Romans, Romans 1 – 8. The Gospel is just there. Pretty much you can set up all the values you want. Romans 2 just talks about if you set your own values, you're still going to break them. You can make your own standard of law and you're going to break your law every single day. Because we're sinners. We're going to run to sin every single time. We need Christ. Stories of hope.

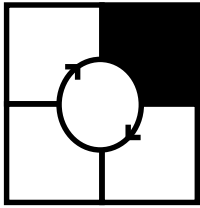
Green. I call it commands of Christ. It's a tool I use. It's about nine different stories coming from Acts 2:36 – 47. That teaches what it means to follow Christ. The very first nine commands I want to give to a believer. That could be in your life group. But I always encourage people, the Great Commission calls us to make disciples. It doesn't call us to outsource discipling. So many times when we start talking about life groups and things we do, we get in depth Bible studies. We dive into God's word. We talk about it in a way that new believers never heard before. Think about a new believer walking into a church who's never given an offering. The offering plate comes in front of them. They're going to be thinking this is kind of weird. Why in the world are you asking for my money? You told me that Jesus wanted to forgive my sins. You never told me He wanted to take my money. That's a weird thing. And so sometimes we have to explain those things and just coming to church doesn't answer those new believer questions. Sometimes outside church, and other extra time will answer those question. Because they're going to have them and their discipleship beginning is different than our disciple when we've been a believer for 10 years. Read through the books of Timothy and the book of Titus. Paul's writing to Titus. He's sending him to an isle called Crete. A new church had just started there. It was brand new because Paul passed through it. Those two letters are absolutely different the way he writes. Because one's brand new and one's been existing for 10 years. He has to write differently because these believers are on different levels.

And finally, we have existing believers. We kind of want to do the same thing: Commands of Christ. I always want to begin training them. I want to encourage them. If I'm out sharing the gospel, and I meet an existing believer, I might ask them, "Have you ever shared the gospel before? Do you know how to share the gospel?" I might take some time and train them how to do that. Because I want them to be equipped to do the same thing. And so I take my time. Why not? We want to bond with other churches. We want to have that community with other believers in Christ and be able to raise them up the same way we raised someone in our church up. Let me go back. So the woman was immediately obedient. She began, she heard Jesus, He was the Messiah, immediately she obeys. She goes to tell the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" And she begins to lead people back. We share our story, connect with them where we're at, and now where God has brought us to, we share the Gospel, use one of the tools best for you. I have tools that I can teach. And then we want to simply invite them, introduce them to Jesus. And the best way to do that is say, "Hey, let's get into God's word together. Do you want to read God's word and know what it means to follow Christ in your life?" And the best way to do it is just get into God's word together. Meet for coffee. I'll buy your coffee and we'll just read God's word together. \$10 bucks well spent every single time, right.

And so we just want to spend time with them reading God's word for a few weeks or however long it takes. Maybe they'll even come to church with you down the road. But we also want to look at their responses and know. If it's a harsh no, it might be time to move on. If it's a maybe, maybe there's some stories of Jesus I can lead them to. Because obviously they're interested in knowing Jesus so let's see what we can do. If there's a yes, I'm ready to repent and believe right now, I want to begin discipling them and taking them through what that means.

Gospel Conversations to Disciple Making

Week 4: GCP – Gospel



GCP Field 2: Gospel

2 Questions to ask here:

- 1) What do I say?
- 2) What do I do next?

Read John 4:4-42

What are some highlights in this story?

4 Keys to Evangelism

Immediate Obedience

“Conviction and obedience are two different things. She did not just believe, but she obeyed.”

vs. 29

Gospel

“The Gospel will always finish with a question that will lead them into a decision of saying, “yes he is” or “no he isn’t.”

vs. 30

vs. 31

Lead them to Jesus

“The Woman led them to Jesus. She never outsourced it.”

Personal Testimony

“This allows you to tell them that you are just like them, broken and in need of something greater than yourself.”

vs. 30

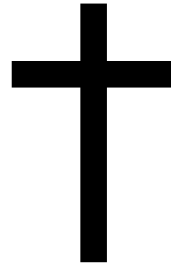
“I have two convictions that it is every believer’s responsibility to share the gospel and every believer can learn to share the gospel more effectively.” - Jeff Iorg, *Unscripted*

15-Second Testimony

Intro

There was a
time in my
life when

← Life Before Christ
2 Adjectives



Then I met King
Jesus and he
forgave my sins
and gave me a
new life

Life After Christ
→
2 Adjectives

Ask?

Do you have a story like that?

3 Circles

Ask?

If this was a Road Map of your life, where would you be? Far from God or Close to God?

Where would you want to be?

Would you like to learn how to follow Jesus in your life?

Would you like to meet me and study the Bible to learn that?

When? Where? Who Else?

Responses to the Gospel

Acts 17:28-30

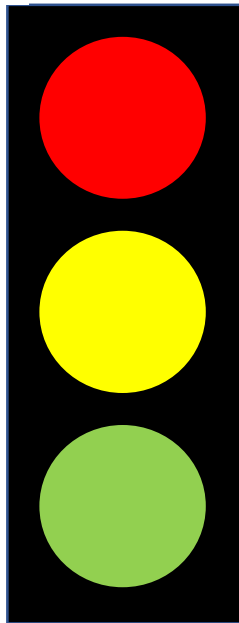
Their Response

"No"

"Maybe"

"Yes"

Existing Believer



Our Response

- Move On

- Stories about Jesus

- Commands of Christ
- Train them

- Commands of Christ
- Train them

Segways from Conversation to Gospel

- Everyday Conversation

"I have not gone through same thing, but I have gone through something similar. Can I share with you hope that got me through it?"

- From Prayer

"If God could do something significant in your life, what would it be?"

(After Prayer)

"Can I share with you a story that gives me hope?"

- From Testimony

"Do you have a story/experience like that?"

"Can I share with you how you can have a story like that?"

Go Plan

- 1) Identify through Relationship Map or Harvest Time
- 2) Pray for them
- 3) Share with them
- 4) Set up a follow up time

Share Plan

- 1) Begin a Conversation with those you identify with as far from God
- 2) Segway the Conversation with them to the Gospel
- 3) Share the Gospel with them
- 4) Check their response to the gospel and respond accordingly

HOMework

Read Mark 4:1-20 and Answer these questions

What are the 4 types of soils?

How does Jesus describe each type of soil?

What can we do for each soil to help lead it to be good soil?