

Developing an Evangelistic Heart

By Alicia Wong

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, students will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read John 4:4-14 and then read the comments related to John 4:4-6 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: How did Jesus begin the conversation (v.7)? What was so amazing about Jesus's talking to the Samaritan woman (see John 4:9, 27)?

Assignment Two

Read comments related to John 4:15-18 in the section **It's in the Book**. Also read Isaiah 53:6; Romans 6:23; and 1 Peter 3:18. Prepare to share with the group how these verses are related to how Jesus addressed the issue of the Samaritan woman's five husbands.

Assignment Three

Read John 4:25-26. Then read John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10; and 1 John 5:13. Prepare to share with the group how the final three passages are related to John 4:25-26.

Scripture to Memorize

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand that evangelism is about having conversations that focus on the gospel.

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It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

You are sitting around eating lunch with your friends. Some are believers and some are not. A tragic incident caused by a religious fanatic has just been reported on the news. Since they know you are a follower of Jesus, your friends want to know what you think about other religions. How would you respond, and how can you turn the conversation toward sharing the gospel?

Developing an Evangelistic Heart

Sharing the gospel may be difficult for some and easy for others. In Acts 1:8, we are told that we will receive power from the Holy Spirit and we will be witnesses for Jesus. What happens when we don't feel like it? How can we be disciplined to share Jesus with others? The best example of One who desired to share this great news of a Savior is Jesus Himself. He demonstrated that sharing the gospel can take place anytime and anywhere. In the following study, you will see how Jesus started conversations and then transitioned toward the gospel.

Read John 4:4-6 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 4. Samaria. The Jews looked down on the Samaritans and did not want any contact with them. Jews would often take a longer route just to avoid Samaria. Jesus, on the other hand, chose to travel through Samaria.

Verse 6. So Jesus . . . beside the well. Jesus, in His humanity, was tired from His journey. He sat by a well, a place where people commonly gathered, while His disciples went to buy food.

Discussion Questions

When Samaritans saw a Jew sitting by their well, what thoughts might have gone through their minds? If Jesus had been a typical Jew, what thoughts would have been going through His mind?

Starting a Conversation that Leads to the Gospel

Read John 4:7-15 out loud.

Assignment One Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on how Jesus started the conversation and why it surprised the Samaritan woman.

Studying the Passage

Verses 10, 14. given you living water . . . water welling up to eternal life. Jesus moved the topic from quenching a physical thirst to a spiritual thirst. Jesus was offering her eternal life in verses 10 and 14.

Verses 11-12, 15. the well is deep . . . Jacob . . . gave us the well . . . so I will not be thirsty. At first, the woman did not understand what Jesus was saying. For the moment, she was fixated on physical thirst and physical water.

On Your Own

In the space below, write about one situation when you were with non-Christians and you started a conversation about Christ with them. How did you move the conversation toward talking about the gospel? (If you have never had such a conversation, write an imaginary scenario involving you and friends who do not know Jesus.)

When everyone is finished, the group can share their answers with one another, looking for ways the conversations with friends were similar to the one Jesus had with the Samaritan woman.

Realizing the Need for a Savior

Read John 4:15-18 out loud.

Studying the Passage

The Samaritan woman thought Jesus was offering a solution to a physical problem, being thirsty and having to come to the well.

Verse 16. Go, call your husband. Instead, Jesus was offering a solution to a spiritual problem. Jesus moved the topic of conversation to her husbands.

Discussion Question

Why do you think Jesus would bring up this topic at this point in the conversation?

Assignment Two Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now report on the need to address sin in the Samaritan woman's life.

Religion to Relationship

Read John 4:19-26 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 19. I perceive that You are a prophet. The Samaritan woman admitted that what Jesus was saying about her immorality was true.

Verse 20. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. She quickly tried to change the subject. It is not easy to talk about sin in one's life, but it is necessary. People who want to have a relationship with Jesus must first recognize that they are sinners in need of a Savior. In verse 20, the Samaritan woman again was caught up in the physical aspects of life (i.e., the physical location of worship). In the same way, people today can get caught up in the external details of the Christian faith. Jesus always wants to keep the focus on Him and on the gospel.

Discussion Question

As you read John 4:21-26, where did Jesus want to keep the focus of the Samaritan woman?

Assignment Three Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now report on the need to share who Christ is and to allow for an opportunity for people to believe in their hearts He is the Savior.

Recognizing Jesus as Lord and Savior

Read John 4:27-30, 39-42 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 27. they marveled that He was talking. The disciples were amazed that Jesus took the time to talk to the woman. Today, for many reasons, we have a tendency not to stop and talk to people we don't know. Yet Jesus, exhausted from His journey, took time for a woman who was probably considered an outcast of society. Because He took the time, a miracle of grace happened in the woman's life.

Discussion Questions

After Jesus shared who He was in verse 26, how did the women react in verses 28-30? What role did the Samaritan woman have in people coming to Jesus in verse 39? How did the people react to Christ in verses 40-42?

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

Developing an evangelistic heart is not an easy task, but one that becomes more natural with practice. In John 4, Jesus was tired and exhausted from a journey, yet He took the time for what some may consider an insignificant woman. Jesus was able to gently address the Samaritan woman's sinfulness and correct her misunderstanding of what it means to have a relationship with God.

The woman, in her first hour as a new believer, could not help but share Jesus with others. She literally dropped everything and went to tell others. Many Samaritans came to know the Lord through her testimony.

Take the time to stop and have conversations with others about Jesus. The person you are sharing with may end up bringing more people to Christ. Begin to discipline yourself by having one gospel-centered conversation a week with one non-Christian, perhaps a neighbor or a friend. Think of ways to start a conversation and then direct the conversation to the gospel whenever possible. Remember that the Holy Spirit has given you the power to be a witness for Him (see Acts 1:8).

The goal is to help the lost move through the following process:

- A. ADMIT** that he or she is a sinner in need of salvation. See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; and Titus 3:5.
- B. BELIEVE** the facts of the gospel. See Romans 5:8; John 3:16, 36.
- C. CALL** upon the Lord. Ask Jesus to come into his or her heart. See Psalm 145:18; Romans 10:13.

Follow up Question

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, who do you think might be the next person with whom you will share the gospel?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.