

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • March 10, 2024

Series: *One Small Step* # 1

“When Hope Goes Viral” • John 4:39-42

The Big Idea: *You already have everything you need to reach people for Jesus.*

1. Small steps can have big results. V. 39

2. Your story can draw people to Jesus. Vv. 40-41

3. God's Word changes lives. V. 42

Digging Deeper

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of March 10, 2023.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. What are some things people you know hope and long for?

2. What ineffective ways do people typically try to find their fulfillment in life? What are some consequences of those?

3. Read Acts 17:16-34. What were the men at the Areopagus looking for? What was Paul’s solution?

4. Read John 4:7-26. What was the Samaritan woman looking for? What does her marital history reveal about her hopes?

5. Read Luke 10:1-10. How did Zacchaeus’ life change after his meeting with Jesus?

6. Do you remember Charles’ Dicken’s “A Christmas Carol?” How did Ebenezer Scrooge’s life change after the Ghost of Christmas future showed him his own grave?

7. Read Matthew 5:14-16. Of what relevance is this passage to the idea of evangelism?

8. Read Acts 1:8. Then trace Jesus' movements through the following passages: John 2:23, 3:22, 4:4. Do you observe any parallels between Jesus' leadership of his disciples and Acts 1:8? If so, describe them.

9. Read John 4:27-30. How did the Samaritan's woman conversation with Jesus at the well impact her and what did she do as a result?

→ After talking with Jesus, did the Samaritan woman still have doubt about Jesus? Why or why not?

→ What can we learn about faith and doubt from the Samaritan woman as it relates to sharing our faith with others?

10. Read John 4:40-41. What does the response of the people of Sychar reveal about their attitude toward Jesus?

11. What do you think it was about the testimony of the Samaritan woman that caused the townspeople to believe her?

12. What can we learn from her example about sharing our story of coming to trust in Jesus with others?

13. Take two minutes to tell another person in your group about how you came to trust in Jesus.

14. What did you share in your story (or hear in the story the other person shared with you,) that reveals how Jesus can change lives?

15. Read John 4:42. What does this verse indicate about the limitations of a personal testimony in bringing people to trust in Jesus? What does this verse reveal about the power of God's Word?

16. Read the following passages, noting what they teach about the unique power of God's Word:

- Hebrews 4:12
- Matthew 4:4
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- John 17:17
- Colossians 3:16

17. What is the significance of the Samaritan's conclusion about Jesus' identity in John 4:42?

How might the following verses help?

- 1 John 4:14
- 1 Timothy 4:10

→ Why is it surprising that the first people to say Jesus is the "Savior of the world" were Samaritans rather than Jews?

→ Does John 4:42 show the fulfillment of John 3:16-17? Why or why not?

18. Have you struggled with feeling inadequate/unqualified to share your faith with others? If so, why do you think this is? Compare your qualifications with those of the Samaritan woman. How are they similar? Different?

19. How did the Samaritan woman use her history of immorality in her testimony about Jesus? What does this teach us about the value of not hiding our past when sharing our personal faith story?

20. What are the names of two people you could share your faith story with, if an opportunity presented itself? Share these names with the group, praying that God would bring sharing opportunities.