

Lesson 4

Sharing My Faith: The Conversation Part 2

Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

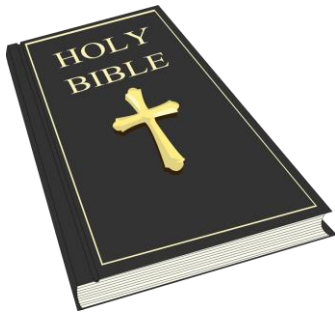


Lesson written by

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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: The following lesson is designed to revisit the issue of sharing our faith beginning at a person’s place of need. The previous lesson introduced students to the Woman at the Well who requested of Jesus “water where she would never thirst again.” As Jesus converses with her, he moves the conversation to address her spiritual struggle which was evidenced by her five husbands and current live-in boyfriend. Jesus did not shy away from her issue! As ambassadors for Christ, we too have the ability to meet people where they are and offer them Jesus as THE solution for all their longings.



Read
John 4: 1-25

I. I AM EMPTY—John 4: 16-18

Many of us can relate to the fact that we have tried to fulfill needs with place holders that do not fulfill our desires. These place holders are often detrimental to our lives physically as well as spiritually.

Can you name two or three objects, activities, or behaviors that you have used to meet your need for intimacy, comfort, relaxation, stress relief, companionship, or entertainment.

I used.....	What need did it meet?

The woman's use of men was serving her need for fulfillment. She was dealing with an emptiness that she thought men could fill.

➤ How do we know this was not working?

Often, people (including ourselves) recognize they have needs, but do not know how to fill their emptiness. One of the great weaknesses of the Church is that we strongly teach Jesus as ultimate savior but are weak in teaching Jesus as supplier and savior on a daily basis. Jesus saves us from any need we may have, which includes our daily needs. Remember John 15: 5-6 teaches that he is our source of everything. If we remain in Him we will not want for anything (See Psalms 23: 1). The Woman at the Well comes to understand her need could be met in Jesus. When Jesus reveals to her that He is the Messiah, she accepts and has a new fulfillment in life.

Notice a few verses below regarding The Lord's ability to supply our needs.

Need	Scripture for filling the need
Joy	Romans 15: 13
Peace	Philippians 4: 6-7
Love	Jeremiah 31:3
Intimacy	Isaiah 49: 15
Companionship	1 John 1: 3

At the end of verse 15, the woman indicates she wants to try what Jesus has to offer. Then Jesus zeroes in on her area of pain. In verses 16-18, Jesus ask her about her intimate relationships with men. While you and I may not have the same level of knowledge about people, we are given access to people's thoughts. How? They tell you! In fact, if you ask someone how they are doing, you may get more information than you want!

Think about a recent time when someone told you:

1. Family issues
2. Personal addictions or poor behavior
3. Sickness
4. Confusion
5. Lack of hope



These conversations are an opportunity for you. The person is telling you explicitly about their NEED!!!! Remember, Jesus meets people's biggest need which is salvation. He also wants to remove those barriers in our lives which cause us to struggle to live as His people.

Look for opportunities from God to begin a conversation with others about their needs!

II. I AM FREE (But it's a process) —John 4: 17-18; 39-42

The Woman of this particular scripture had a need that had her trapped in a cycle of failure. Five failed marriages is an indication of a problem that had her bound. She was not free until she met Jesus. Once she accepts Christ she is no longer under the penalty of sin. But, what about her everyday life? We cannot forget that freedom is also a process!



➤ Think of an issue where you have struggled to be free. How long has it been an issue for you?

➤ How long have you been a Christian?

Don't ever forget....Freedom from sin is a daily process.

It is inaccurate to tell people that accepting Christ will fix everything in their life. Scripture does not support this idea (See John 16: 33). Also, it sets people up for disappointment and concern for whether their faith is in the right place. Reality teaches that our desires for negative lifestyles will continue to be attractive and seductive.

We must teach the true Gospel message. By accepting Christ, people are free, but they are also being freed from those things which “so easily entangles us” (Hebrews 12: 1 NIV).

HOW? Discipleship is the answer. Matthew 28: 19-20 gives the answer.

TEST TIME: What is a disciple? _____ and _____ of Jesus.

Helping people to change and become more like Christ is a process that occurs as discipleship occurs. Each of us is becoming more like Christ if we truly desire to grow and live our purpose in Him.

Our salvation frees us from the penalty of sin. Then we must begin a process of following Christ daily. Luke 9: 23 is a scripture which lays out the process.

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

1. What indication do we see that the Woman has become a disciple? She accepts Christ and then she _____!

* But when she went home, she still had to deal with _____!

2. How would you explain “denying yourself and taking up your cross” to someone who is a new Christian?

3. How would you tie this to their fulfillment in Christ?

The story of the woman ends with others coming to Christ as a result of her testimony about Jesus. Imagine the impact that you could have if you stood in the role of Jesus

and told people about “water that will fulfill them.” Who has God placed in your sphere of influence who is currently sitting at “the well” waiting for you to introduce them to Jesus?

Conclusion: As you consider the Great Commission from Matthew 28, think about the role you and I must play in the lives of others. We are not commanded to give scattershot evangelistic messages which may or may not be heard. We are commanded to teach and disciple others. In order to share effectively, we must have a clear view of what people face. Just like us, they have problems and challenges that have them bound. The good news is that Jesus makes us free. You carry that good news! Share it with everyone!