

Closing the Spiritual Gap

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 February 27, 2022
“Come and See”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for all the people who have invested in the lives of others and then invited them to come and see. We pray that you would help each of us to understand who to invite, when to invite and why we should invite in our time with you today. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

John 4:7, 9, 16-17, 27-29, 39-42 (NIV)

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”... 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)... ¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” ¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband... ²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ 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 Messiah?”... ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

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INTRODUCTION

When Jesus' earliest followers invited people to come and see him, they weren't trying to explain something. They were inviting others to experience someone. A living example is better than a lengthy explanation. If people don't like what they see in us, they won't come and see with us. But how do we know who, when, and why to offer an invitation?

How do you know when to invite someone to church? Follow the cues. Sometimes things aren't going well in someone's life. That's a good time for him or her to come and see Jesus. Sometimes a person isn't prepared for the season he or she is living. That's a good time to offer an invitation to come and see. But an invitation doesn't have to be about solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation. Sometimes a person just needs to come and see Jesus. Follow the cues.

QUESTIONS

1. Did your church experience begin with an invitation from someone? If so, how do you feel about that person?
2. When you returned to church or began going for the first time, what was going on in your life? Were your circumstances good or bad? How did they influence your willingness to come and see?
3. Have you ever invited someone to come and see Jesus? Was it worth the risk? What happened?
4. Read John 4:4-26. What stands out to you about the way Jesus interacts with the woman at the well? Why does it stand out to you?
5. What are some things that stand in the way of you inviting someone to come and see? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?

FINAL APPLICATION

Who came to mind as you listened to the message? What is your best next step with that person. Do you need to begin to invest in a relationship with him or her? Do you need to offer an invitation to come and see?