

Life Group Leader's Guide

For the week of March 4th, 2018

Quick Review

What resonated with you from Pastor Mark's sermon on evangelism?

My Story

Share with your group one or two people who God has used to impact your spiritual journey. How specifically did they influence you?

Digging Deeper

In his sermon, Pastor Mark cited three "keys" to sharing your life in regard to evangelism:

- 1) Be spiritually prepared
- 2) Be wise toward outsiders
- 3) Be gracious in conversation

As a group, read John 4 and Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well.

- 1) How did Jesus model for us the keys Pastor Mark mentioned in his sermon? (Some additional cultural background: During Jesus' time, Jews looked down on Samaritans because of their mixed ancestry and religious practices. Jewish rabbis would have avoided conversations with Samaritans, particularly a Samaritan woman. The fact that the woman came to draw water at noon, in the heat of the day, and not early in the morning as was typical, indicates she may have been ostracized by the other women because of her background. Jesus' love for all people, regardless of status or class or lifestyle is a model for us as believers.)
- 2) How did Jesus turn the woman's focus on her physical needs onto her greater spiritual needs? In our interactions and conversations with those God brings into our lives, how might we turn conversations from the physical to the spiritual? (Leaders, as Mark mentioned in his sermon, God often gives us opportunities to speak of Him when others share with us a financial need, broken relationship, health crisis, job stressors, etc. How could we use those opportunities to speak to others about Jesus?)

- 3) After her encounter with Jesus, what did the Samaritan woman do? What effect did her simple testimony have on her community? If you have ever thought or felt like you just didn't know enough about the Bible to be able to speak truth to someone, how does the Samaritan woman's life encourage you?

Leaders, for additional study read Acts 17:16-34 and Paul's ministry in Athens. How is Paul's testimony similar to and different from the Samaritan woman's. What was the result of Paul's testimony?

Taking it Home

Read John 6:44; 14:25, 26; 15:26, 27; and 16:7-15.

- 1) What is God's part in evangelism? What role does the Holy Spirit play? Practically speaking, how can/does the Holy Spirit help us in sharing about Jesus?

Read I Peter 3:15, 16 and II Timothy 2:24-26.

- 2) What is the difference between the positive side of spiritual persuasion and being argumentative or heavy-handed in sharing the gospel? Can you share a personal experience of positive or negative persuasion?
- 3) What opportunities has God given you recently to speak about Him? How often do you pray for opportunities to share the gospel? What is one thing from either Pastor Mark's sermon or this discussion that God wants you to apply to your life? (Leaders, encourage your group members who share personal applications by praying for them as a group before you close)

For additional study: as a wrap-up to our study of Colossians, [theBibleproject.com](https://thebibleproject.com) has a 9 minute Read Scripture video which gives an overview of the book.

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/colossians>

