

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

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The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

GRACE STORIES – ADVENTURES IN SHARING YOUR FAITH

The Woman at the Well

Sermon by Bob Ross

March 19, 2017

Last week Bob, Calvin and Trent kicked off our new series about grace stories with a team teaching. Trent shared that Scripture exhorts us to tell our story! Those who know Christ have a story to tell and we should tell it. Bob reminded us that Jesus' final words were to tell us that His Spirit would empower us SO THAT we could share. Calvin then showed how Peter says that we should ALWAYS be prepared to tell our stories. Over the next few weeks, we will look at stories from the New Testament of illustrate how to share our story!

Today's message focused on John 4. Pastor Bob shared that the encounter that the woman at the well had with Jesus led to a very simple grace story: "... come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" He pointed out that once we understand the "grace" in our own personal story, we will want to share it with everyone. Additionally, as we share our story, God will use it to bring people to Jesus.

But first, Bob used the conversation between Jesus and the woman to illustrate how we can see the "grace" in our story through the eyes of Jesus. He covered four aspects of grace that can be seen in this exchange. First of all, Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman. Samaritans were despised by the Jews, and on top of that she was a woman. The point here is that God's grace is available to all who seek Him. We should all be thankful for that part of our grace story. Next Pastor Bob showed that in His grace, God satisfies our deepest thirst. Augustine said that "our heart is unquiet until it rests in you." Just as Jesus told the woman that He offered living water, so He has given it to those of us who have received Him. A huge part of our grace story is remembering how unsatisfied we were and then sharing how Jesus met our deepest thirst. The final two points are that Jesus covers our sin in His grace, and offers a personal relationship. These are the key components to our grace stories. If we did not need to be saved from the penalty of our sin, why would we need Jesus? But since we did, this part of the story makes all the difference!

Bob finished the sermon by pointing out that in John 4:35 Jesus tells His disciples to "lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest." He said this as the people from the town were all coming to see Jesus based on the testimony of the woman. The fields are still white and ready – are you willing to share your story?

E-CHECK: EXTENDING YOUR GRACE STORY

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read John 4:7-42. Consider your grace story in light of the 4 points that Bob made in his sermon.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Spend some time writing out your own grace story. Use the following questions as a guide:

1. What was your life like before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
 - What were your attitudes, needs and/or problems?
 - What did your life revolve around? What was most important to you?
 - Where did you look for security, peace of mind and happiness?
2. How did you come to accept Christ and give Him complete control of your life?
 - When did you first hear the gospel? When were you first exposed to dynamic Christianity?
 - What were your initial reactions to Jesus Christ?
 - What was the turning point in your attitude?
 - What feelings did you struggle with right before your decision?
3. What happened after you trusted Christ?
 - What changes did you see in your life? In your attitudes? In your actions?
 - How long did it take before you noticed any changes?
 - What does Jesus Christ mean to you now?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

1. Find someone in your family or your small group to practice your grace story on.
2. Pray that God gives you an opportunity this week to share your grace story with someone who does not know Jesus.

KEY POINT:

The more we understand the “grace” in our own personal story, the more compelled we will be to share it!

RESOURCES:

Witnessing Without Fear, Bill Bright

“Sharing Your Grace Story” (Article), <http://destinyweb.org/2014/10/sharing-your-grace-story/>

