

Doing Life Together

1. Each one in the group take a moment and think about how God is working in your life. Think about how things were before God was part of your life and how they are now. Now share with the group a recent moment/situation where you saw God's influence.

Leader: You should think of a moment/situation that you would like to share with your group, this will get the ball rolling.

2. Remember how simple the women at the well's conversation was with those in her community. What makes 'sharing what God is doing in our lives with those who do not know him' feel complicated for us?

Leader: The complications that are perceived when we try to share what God is doing in our lives is fear of not being accepted and thinking that we need to have elaborate testimonies to wow people. There are more reasons people are afraid to share but remember the important part is 'just do it' (the Nike logo).

3. If you've lost the excitement of discovery like the Woman at the Well had where she could hardly wait to share it, what can we do (as a small group) to help one another re-discover that excitement and passion?

Prayer Requests



Daryl & Molly Porter – EFCCM – Ukraine

Pray for:

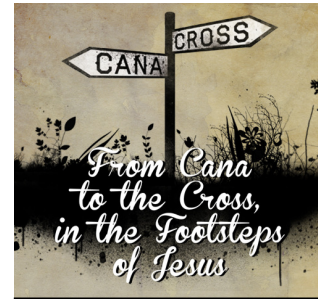
- Encouragement and progress in language study – classes are 4 times per week
- Praise for Anya living with them and helping them with language practice
- Daryl's meetings in Dnepro Feb 7-8
- Daryl with his responsibilities in his EFCCM Director's job as well as Europe Area Director's job



Service Opportunities

Newcomers Ministry Meeting

For all present and interested volunteers. Potluck lunch following 2nd service on Feb 5th. Contact Jen or the church office for further details.



January 29, 2012

Sermon Notes

John 4:1-43

The joy of God's Redemptive Work

God's redemptive work is happening all around us

1. The Samaritan woman Experienced it

v.1-26

2. The Disciples Missed it

v.27,31-35

3. The Townspeople were Attracted by it

v.28-30,36-43

We must Identify and Remove any Barriers to experiencing the joy of God's redemptive work

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

Home Bible Fellowship Study Questions

Thinking Things Through

1. Do you have any questions from Sunday's sermon? What were they?
2. Which of the three did you most relate to on Sunday – the woman (trying to avoid spiritual conversations); the disciples (missing God at work), the townspeople (seeking to find out more about Jesus)? Why?
3. From v.36, Pastor George pointed out that the woman was the sower and Jesus was the reaper in this statement. How have you experienced the joy of being part of God's work in someone's spiritual transformation – his harvest? Jesus said they were 'glad together'.

Digging Deeper

Read John 4:28-29

1. Look at the simplicity of what the woman at the well told the people of her village. Why do you think John quoted what she said, instead of simply saying that she urged them to come and meet Jesus or the Messiah?

Leader: Recording her words reveals two things. 1. She was amazed by Jesus. He had revealed something about her only God could have told him. It reinforced her question, could this be the Christ?

And, 2. It also shows how simple our story can be when we tell others. We don't have to know everything, only what happened to us. We can invite them to check it out for themselves.

2. What is the significance of her leaving behind her water jars?

Leader: Her leaving the water jars behind demonstrates the urgency she felt to tell them about Jesus.

Follow up question: The fact that she came at noon, avoiding the gathering of women from the town, makes it interesting that her first reaction is to go and tell the good news to the very people she had been avoiding. Why would she do that?

They were still her closest family and relationships. She wanted to share with people she knew. That's the first people we go to when we have something exciting to tell – our friends and family.

Do you ever have that level of excitement? Tell us about it. If not, why do you think that is?

Leader: Answers will vary. It is important for us as followers, to develop a relationship where we feel free to discuss even the awkward moments/times in our lives. This is how we can build relationships and develop a better understanding of how God works in our lives.

Read John 4:39-42

3. In verse 39 the woman's testimony is repeated by those who came to meet Jesus. What else is revealed by this repetition of her words?

Leader: It was by her testimony (even though it was short and simple) that many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus. This is the kind of spiritual impact that our words can have. Even the simplest telling of God's work in our lives can have amazing positive results.

4. Remember, this was the middle of the day, but the townspeople drop what they're doing and go to meet Jesus. Why would they do that?

Leader: They were also looking for the Messiah to come and explain everything – clear up the spiritual differences and debates (like the woman in v.25). So, they wanted to see for themselves if this was him. Obviously, she had passed on her excitement (planting of the seed) and they too wanted to find out more.

The same thing happens today. When people believe in Jesus as Savior (Messiah), they want to find out more about him. Their appetite for the Word will be ignited.

5. Verse 42 reveals a necessary 'next step' for people who hear our stories of what God has done in our lives. What is it?

Leader: They heard Jesus' testimony for themselves and believed. People have to personally respond to the question of 'Who is Jesus?' They can not believe in 'us' (our testimony). They must believe in Jesus. It has to be their personal belief.

6. Read Matthew 16:13-17. Who gives this insight into who Jesus is?

Leader: The Father. The whole story of the Woman at the Well is a story of God at work redemptively in our world (Pastor George's sermon). He is setting up situations so we can share in the joy of his redemptive work in us and in others.