

Feb 24 & 25, 2024

RUN IT BACK

DR. ED NEWTON



Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: Feb 25, 2024

Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Be Good News

Text: John 4:39-42

Target: Don't keep Jesus your personal Savior. Let your world know!

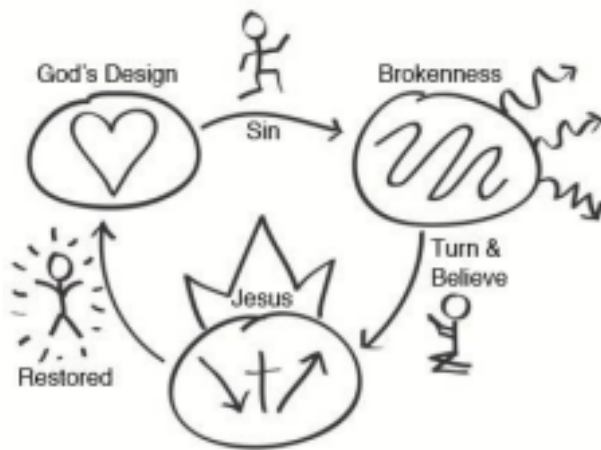
- I. **The Power of a Testimony:** "Many Samaritans from that town **believed** in him **because** of the **woman's testimony**, "He told me all that I ever did." (4:39)
 - A. **You are the Extension:** "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us..." (2 Cor. 5:20)
 - B. **You are the Evidence:** "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15)
 1. **Before Knowing Christ:** What was your life marked by?
 2. **How you met Christ:** How did the message of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection impact you?
 3. **After you met Christ:** What has been the outcome of living for Jesus?

Question #1: Why do you think our personal testimony is such a powerful tool for reaching others around us? What other verses or examples from scripture come to mind regarding the power of a personal story to touch other's lives?

Question #2: How can we develop our ability and confidence to share our testimonies effectively? At the bottom of the page are additional resources that will help you prepare your testimony. One helpful suggestion is to structure your testimony around three points: your life before encountering Christ, how you met Him, and your life since then. By following this model, what would your 1-2-minute testimony be? (encourage a few voices to share)

II. The Presentation of the Gospel: "And many more **believed because of his word.**" (4:41)

- A. Priority of Observation:** "Look, I tell you, lift your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" (4:35)
1. **Interests:** Specific Indicators
 2. **Commonality:** Similar Passions
 3. **Events:** Shared Experiences
- B. Purpose of a Question:** Transition **surface** level conversation to **spiritual** conversation.
1. **What do you think it takes to go to heaven?**
 2. **Do you mind if I tell you how the Bible answers that question?**
- C. Picture of Salvation:** 3 Circles (Key Verses: Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10,13)



Question #3: What do you believe are the biggest obstacles holding us back from sharing the gospel with confidence? What truths have given you confidence in gospel conversations? Do you believe it's necessary or helpful to consider the perception of the person you are sharing with or anticipate any barriers to them responding in faith? Give examples to support your thoughts.

Discussion Opportunity #4: Within your group, break out into partners and practice sharing the Gospel following the 3 Circles above and the verses attached to each of them. Aim to cover all three in about 5-7 minutes. Discuss your experience as a group, including points you may have stumbled on.

III. The Profession of Salvation: "They said to the woman, "It is no longer **because of what**

you said that **we believe**, for we have heard for ourselves, and **we know** that this is **indeed the Savior of the world.**" (4:42)

A. Personal Confession: "We Believe"

B. Public Confession: "Savior of the World" (2x in the N.T. 1 John 4:14) **1. Not**

Just for Me, but for All: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

2. Not Ashamed: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

Takeaway: Who's your One? Will you be the One?

Question #5: *Where in your life do you feel most comfortable initiating or steering conversations to discuss the Gospe (work, gym, public, etc.)? Is there someone in particular on your heart that you want to reach with the Gospel this week? How do you plan to identify the right opportunity to share the Gospel with them?*

Additional Resources:

6 Principles for Sharing Your Testimony - The Gospel Coalition

Search Google or type in:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/sharing-your-testimony/>

Share Your Faith 101 - Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Search Google or type in:

<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>