

Lesson #6 -The One That Got Away

Opening Prayer: Let's begin our prayer by reciting John 3:16-17 together.

Holy Spirit, we know you are here with us to lead us in new paths of service. Help us to be faithful, available, and teachable as you lead us to share your love story with others who need to hear it. Open our minds, our hearts, our whole lives to receive your word to us this day and strengthen us to obey you in all things. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen

Welcome- any experiences to share for last or prior weeks? Are you feeling less nervous about sharing Jesus conversationally? Any other thoughts to share?

Review: last week we examined the fact that Christians often make Christianity sound complicated. As a result, we sometimes keep non-believers from hearing and understanding the simple message of Christ. Christianity can be summed up in four words from John 3:16: loved, gave, believe, have. (Please refer to Gospel summaries for fuller message)

We are believers because someone told us the message of Jesus Christ. Andy says that the Gospel is not intuitive; it revolves around an event in history that people need to know about and how that event effects their life. We are to talk about Jesus because our Savior compels us to. We often get caught up in soaking up the benefits of our lives in Christ and we forget about those who have yet to hear about Jesus.

This last lesson discusses why it is so important for us to be fishers—if we don't talk about Jesus, some may never know about Him!

Watch the video. (16 minutes)

Are we keeping our riches for ourselves? Will we continue to live within our comfort zones and forget to go back for those we have left behind? It is not that we don't care. We just are comfortable IN church and have forgotten to BE the church. Read 2 Kings 7:9 "Then they said to each other, "What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace.""

The word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

Some practical ideas to help us move forward in answer to God's commission:

- Invite different people to lunch or coffee or dinner
- Ask your restaurant server if you may pray for them when you say grace
- Consider inviting different people over for dinner in your home
- Who could you send a Christian book or CD to instead of cookies, candy, etc
- Who could you invite to church
- How can you revise your calendar to include new friends, new activities, new opportunities to share the Gospel message

- Who will you pray for tenaciously to come to know Christ

Read 1 John 4:9-10. Remember, we were all fish once. Let's make a decision to follow Jesus and become fishers of men.

"The FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS"

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for you.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Homework: Outline your plan to share the good news with others. Determine to become intentional about starting this initiative to share the Gospel with those you are praying for. Can you make this part of your lifestyle? Don't forget the last steps: invite them to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and when they do, remind them that Jesus says for them to tell someone!

Closing Prayer: Lord, we know that You will make us fishers of men as we listen and learn. Lead us as we consider who our mission field is at this moment, as we learn how to pray for them, pray for ourselves, and pray to have your heart for those who are still far from You. Help us not to forget to go back for those we have left behind nor to step away from those you place in our lives who need to hear about Your love and Your promises. I thank you for the rich relationship that I have with You. Help me to share it with others.

In your precious name we pray. Amen.

Halverson Benediction:

"You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there, He has a purpose in you being there. Christ who indwells you, has something He wants to do through you, wherever you are."

(Handout: Exercises, Resource List, Church business cards, transition opportunities, potential objections/responses, pamphlets/tracts)

(Leaders: be sure to review the contents of the resource list, identify space in church library to find resources, encourage use of church business cards for follow-up with "strangers", and

make the commitment to stay connected to your class for support, questions, new needs, PRAYER, follow-up, etc.)