



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT THE VILLAGES

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First Baptist Church At The Villages

The Gospel/Who's Your One?

Bringing Others to Jesus

John 1:35-42

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MAIN POINT

We are to live out a life demonstrating the power of the gospel as opportunities are presented to us.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How nervous do you get when thinking about sharing your faith?

Why do believers struggle with sharing their faith? What is the greatest challenge for you in sharing your faith?

Why do believers need to share their faith if it is Jesus who empowers and calls people to Himself?

Evangelism is about sharing what Jesus has done for us. And it is Jesus who empowers and calls people to Himself. We may not all have the spiritual gift of evangelism, but we all have the power of the Holy Spirit to share. Believers are empowered by Jesus Christ because He has redeemed them and set them on the path of righteousness. Yet it is also Jesus who does the work in the lost person's heart—we can't fail if we are obedient witnesses and share what Jesus has done in our lives, demonstrating the power of the gospel as opportunities are presented to us.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Ask a volunteer to read John 1:35-42.

How did the disciples of John respond to Jesus passing by when John pointed Him out?

Why is it necessary to follow Jesus before we can know Him more intimately?

At John's exclamation, the two disciples turned from John and followed Jesus. Just as the first two disciples were propelled by John the Baptist to go and investigate the claims which he was making about Jesus, so also should we invite people to investigate the Savior.

What did Andrew first say to his brother after finding Jesus?

What was the outcome of Andrew and Philip following Jesus? Who did Andrew and Philip share their faith with?

Are we more likely to share Christ with someone we love? Why or why not? Who does God call us to love?

The life-changing experience of welcoming Jesus into your life usually begins with a person telling you about Christ and what He has done for them. Andrew's time with Jesus changed him dramatically from the inside out. We see in Andrew's testimony that the hours spent with Jesus convinced him that Jesus was the answer to the Jewish hope of the coming Messiah. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus. Once Christ changes our lives, we are compelled to live for opportunities to demonstrate the power of the gospel, pointing others to Jesus.

Reaching the world is one of the last commands that Jesus left for the church and Christians to do. We work to make Him known to others in light of who He is and what He did for us. This is the news that is worth everyone hearing. Jesus gave His disciples the command to go and tell everyone the good news, in their community, in their country, and all over the world.

What stands out to you about Jesus in this passage? What stands out about those who followed Him?

What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Why is this so important?

In what ways can you live out the gospel in the context of your family? work? our community?

How should our desire to demonstrate the power of the gospel drive us to be more intentional in our words and actions? What impact might it have on those around us?

What was God's purpose in sending Jesus?

When did you first believe in Jesus? Who played a role in reaching you with this message?

God paid a huge price by sending His only Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life for those who believe. Eternal life is first and foremost about a relationship with Him. This good news of the gospel and message about Christ is the message that we take to others because in Him alone can they find eternal life.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Because God is a missionary God, He sends His people out to spread the message of redemption that comes through His Son. God does not need us for this mission, but He wants us to experience the overwhelming joy that comes through partnering with Him. As the church, we will accomplish the mission of God when the love of Christ so fully engulfs our hearts that sharing the gospel and loving others as Christ loved us become the natural expressions of our relationship with God.

Share from the "Who's Your One" prayer guide, and discuss the individuals Christ has given each of you a burden to see come to Him.

Throughout your time praying for this individual what are some of the obstacles you see standing between them and Christ?

What are some steps that can be taken to overcome these obstacles?

PRAYER

Close in prayer, specifically praying for concerns of your group related to sharing the gospel with their "one." Ask God to encourage you to spread His message this week. Praise God for sending His Son to die for us so that we now have a message of hope to share with the world.

COMMENTARY

John 1:35-42

1:35. On the next day John used the message of verse 29 again, but this time in the company of two of his disciples, Andrew (see v. 40) and probably John (who would become the apostle John). They had met John the Baptist, been impressed with him and his message, and joined his group of disciples. John the Baptist was not jealous of their interest in Jesus, for this was the purpose of his ministry. He told people that Jesus was far greater than he (1:15,27,30). One of the impressive things about John the Baptist was his total devotion to his mission to magnify Jesus.

John the Baptist was a prophet-preacher who delivered the same message to large numbers of people and could go one-on-one with anyone who would listen. Some who proclaim the gospel are courageous before large groups, but they are unwilling to witness to small groups or individuals.

1:36-39. After John the Baptist pointed Andrew and John to Jesus, they began to follow Jesus about. Jesus confronted them and asked what they were seeking. They asked Him where He was staying. Jesus invited them to go with Him. He said, Come and see. They went with Him. It was about the tenth hour. If John was using the Roman method of

counting time, which begins a new day at midnight, this “was about 10 in the morning” (HCSB). If he was using the Jewish method, which begins the day at dawn it was “about four o’clock in the afternoon”(CEV). In either case, they abode with him that day. If they arrived at 4 p.m., they may have talked into the night and ended up there all night. Later in Jesus’ teachings He called for people to abide in Him. We are not aware of the content of their talk on that first day of literally abiding with Him. They may have asked Him to tell them about how He would be the Lamb of God. When He later tried to prepare the disciples for His death and resurrection, they had trouble understanding. But now in light of the resurrection we see how Jesus acted as Lamb of God, dying for our sins.

On that first day Andrew and John followed Jesus to where He was staying. Later they became followers in a deeper sense. They accompanied Jesus on His journeys, but they also followed Him in faith and obedience.

We need to take John the Baptist as an example of a witness for Jesus. John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets. He was privileged to see that Jesus was the Lamb of God, but he did not live to witness how He did this. Like many prophets, John the Baptist spoke of something he did not fully understand; but God led him to make this proclamation of what Jesus’ followers saw later in His death and resurrection. We know that Jesus is our Paschal Lamb who died for our sins and rose victorious over sin and death. We—like John the Baptist—need to call people to look to Jesus; and we need to tell what He did.

1:40. Andrew’s name is mentioned for the first time in verse 40. He had been a disciple of John the Baptist. Now he followed Jesus. The two mentioned in these verses were among the first to follow Jesus in discipleship and service. Following Jesus means more than walking with Him down the road. It means commitment and obedience.

1:41-42. Andrew is introduced to readers of the first century as Simon Peter’s brother. Peter’s name was more well-known than Andrew’s by the time the Gospels were written, so this reference would help identify both men. Andrew first findeth his own brother. First shows the importance and urgency of sharing this discovery with his brother. To do this, he had to seek his brother. And when he found Simon, he brought him to Jesus. He didn’t force him, but he did bring him. He brought him with his testimony about Jesus, and Simon went with him.

Many Christians have a brother or another close relative who has not followed Jesus. We can seek to bring them to Jesus. Later in the story of Jesus we find Andrew again leading people to Jesus. John the Gospel writer was showing his readers that this was what Andrew did best. He began with his brother, but he was also the disciple who brought to Jesus the boy whose lunch was multiplied to feed 5,000 men and their families (6:8-9). Andrew also brought to Jesus a group of inquiring Greeks (12:20-22). Andrew was one of the Twelve, but he was not as well known as Simon Peter. However, Andrew had one talent much to be desired—he brought people to Jesus.

Andrew’s witness to Simon Peter was straightforward, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. John, in writing the Gospel, knew that many Gentiles would be reading this, so he explained that Messiah meant the Christ or

“Anointed One” (HCSB). We are not told of Peter’s immediate response when he met Jesus, perhaps because of what Jesus said to him: Thou art Simon the son of John: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. Both the Aramaic word Cephas and the Greek word Peter mean Rock. Peter did not quickly become a rock, but eventually he did. Jesus’ words to Simon illustrate His ability to see us not as we are, but as we can become by His transforming power. We also are not told what Simon said when Jesus spoke to him.