



CHAPTER THREE

SIT AND TALK

JESUS

John chapter 4

Jesus demonstrates more perfectly than anyone how we are to be involved in outreach. This study examines some principles Jesus used as recorded in John chapter 4.

LIFESTYLE

Outreach needs to be more than planned events and organized meetings; ideally it should be a spontaneous part of our day to day living.

Read **John 4v1-6**

1. How do you think Jesus felt as He sat down by Jacob’s well?

2. How often do you find yourself talking on a spiritual level to the unchurched in an unplanned, even inconvenient situation?

3. What do you think it means to live a lifestyle of evangelism? Give examples.

4. Why should outreach become a lifestyle?

LOVE

It is as we express the love of God in outreach that people feel accepted and valued. As a result, non-Christians are much more willing to hear what you have to say about Christ.

Read **John 4v7-9**

5. **Put aside reputation** – How was Jesus putting His reputation on the line by speaking to a woman in a public place?

6. **Put aside judgement** – Shouldn't have Jesus rebuked the woman for her sin? Why? See **1 Peter 4v8**

7. **Put aside prejudice** – How was asking for a drink of water a creative way of showing the lady that He was not prejudiced towards her?

8. Can you think of any occasions when a concern for your reputation or prejudice may have prevented you from reaching out to an individual? Try to give an example.

Read **Matthew 11v19**.

9. Why do you think Jesus was despised by many religious leaders for being a friend of tax collectors and sinners?

LISTENING SKILLS

Evangelism involves listening skills. We must listen to the unchurched person and to the Holy Spirit.

10. Why is it important to engage in dialogue with a person before sharing spiritual truths with them?

Read John 4v16-19.

11. How can listening to the Holy Spirit give you insight which may open the person's heart to receiving spiritual truth?

LANGUAGE SKILLS

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” **Romans 10v17.**

What you say and how you say it, is ultimately why that friend or stranger comes to faith in Christ.

12. Read John 4v20-24. How does Jesus creatively direct the conversation and keep to the heart of the issue when asked a controversial question?

13. Read John 4v25-26. Why didn't Jesus reveal Himself as the Messiah at the beginning of the conversation?

Observe the Ingles scale on the following page (the journey people take before coming to saving faith in Jesus).

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord

Acknowledge personal sin

Approval of the scriptures

Affirmation of Jesus

Awareness of God

Agnostic

Atheist

Antagonistic

(start at the bottom)

14. How does knowing where a person is at on their spiritual journey influence what you will share with them? For instance, will you share the same truths with a person who is an atheist as with a person who acknowledges their personal sin?

CONCLUSION

Engage in some discussion about the unchurched people you listed during week one of the series. Where do you think your friends are in their journey up the Ingles scale? What type of spiritual conversation or scriptural truths will be relevant for them at this time?

Pray for each other and ask the Lord for wisdom in how you might lead each person further along the Ingles scale toward faith in Jesus.

I would like to pray for: _____
