



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Guide-rails - We Don't Maintain, We Multiply, 1/28/24 - This is the eighth of our ten guiding principles, because we know just maintaining is the platform for decline. But when we seek growth, personally and spiritually, we thrive. The approach doesn't require obtaining a degree or memorizing the right scripture. It's actually really simple. When we earnestly seek God, the excitement of what He's doing in us speaks for itself. (*Passages: John 4, Psalm 55:22, Isaiah 41:10, John 10:10*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Do you struggle to share your faith? How does our own relationship with God impact our ability to share? Are you thriving spiritually, or maintaining? What holds you back from growing?

Read John 4:27-42. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

Kudos to the Samaritan woman; her response to Jesus' words allowed transformation in her heart and her life. Before this encounter, she squeaked by, day to day in her own strength. Since, her life was transformed; she had hope. And her story opened the hearts of so many in her community too. Acknowledging and accepting Jesus changed everything. What if she had reacted with offense and anger? How can we have the right heart so we respond well to Jesus' invitation? Should knowing Him affect our interaction with others? How?

Here are some practical takeaways on sharing what Jesus has done for us:

1. Be quick - don't overthink it, just share what God has done in your story.
2. Uncomplicated - keeping it simple makes a bigger impact than rehearsed speeches.
3. Unweird - we're just sharing what we've experienced, it shouldn't be weird!
4. Changed lives change lives - a story of brokenness to victory is so powerful.
5. Arrange the encounter with Jesus - the Samaritan women "set the table" by sharing her experience. Be open to talking about it in every day situations.
6. God does the work.

Trust God to redeem your story, and then trust him to use it to help others. The freedom of knowing Jesus is for everyone, so let's share it!

Weekly Challenge: Pray for the church to grow in confidence and boldness to share it's stories.