



# Evangelism

## *Module 1 - Task 3*

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR JESUS' MODEL OF EVANGELISM**

---

One of the key takeaways from this story in John 4 is Jesus' willingness, in spite of his weariness from His journey (John 4:6), to find common ground with this Samaritan woman, begin a conversation with her, and relationally engage the story of her life. Surely Jesus had important things to do, places to preach, people to heal. Yet Jesus was clear that His mission, His reason for being here on earth (as it is ultimately for all of us) was "to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). So, he practices what He later preaches to His disciples, "lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest" (John 4:35).

So Jesus lifts up His weary eyes, sees the Samaritan woman at the well where he rested, and enters into conversation with her--a conversation that will lead ultimately, redemptively to the Samaritan woman herself becoming an evangelist to her own people (see John 4:28-30, 39-42). And this transformation begins in the willingness of a tired, road-worn traveler to say a few words, ask a few questions, and see where the conversation carries them.

Jesus, of course, preaches to large crowds throughout the gospels, but the secret sauce to His mission is His love for the people He encountered--from Nicodemus, to the blind, deaf, and poor He healed, to his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, to his own disciples. Remember, Jesus came into this world because "God so loved" it (John 3:16). Jesus models to us that our evangelistic mission, first and foremost, is to love the people that God places on our path enough to enter into conversations and relationships that open the way for the good news of the gospel.

Jesus comes to the Samaritan woman through a shared social space (the well) and is willing to socially engage her--even though she is from a different culture that was hated by the Jews. This willingness to enter into social engagement in a shared, public place opens the door for Jesus to address spiritual issues in the Samaritan woman's life.



# Evangelism

What can we learn from Jesus' technique of engaging the Samaritan woman in this shared, public social space of Jacob's well?

Where are the shared social spaces within your community and workplace--the public places where people gather together and engage in conversation?

What are some ways you can be intentional about engaging others in these shared, public social spaces in your community and workplace?

One of the best ways to find opportunities to open conversations and offer friendship to others is to pray for these opportunities. Watch Dr. Evans' video response to the following question: "What is the best first step to take to begin sharing my faith with others?"



# Evangelism

Who are some people you already know that you can begin praying for opportunities to have good conversations that lead to an open door for the gospel?

In their book *The Art of Neighboring*, Jay Pathak and David Runyon describe the impact you can have simply by getting to know your neighbors and praying for them regularly. Often it will open the most natural doors for you to share the gospel. These authors recommend beginning with a simple exercise: drawing a tic-tac-toe diagram with your house or apartment in the middle block of the diagram and filling in the other blocks with the names of your neighbors. Try this out.

Are you able to fill in first and last names for the other blocks surrounding your home or apartment? Do you know who your neighbors are and do they know you? Then, ask yourself a follow-up question: do your neighbors know you are a Christian?

One of the clearest ways that Jesus built relationships with others is His habit of eating and fellowshiping with others at a table (see Luke 7:36-50; 11:37-44; 14:1-35). Though Jesus did not have His own home or table, He practiced hospitality by eating with others and opening up life-changing conversations with the people who joined Him at the table. Read this brief article on what the author calls “The Key to Evangelism in the 21st century”.



# Evangelism

How does the author's presentation of the key to evangelism challenge common ideas of what evangelism is?

What are some practical ways that you can begin to offer hospitality and friendship to people in your neighborhood or workplace?