

the Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

MAY 2023

Happy MOTHER'S DAY

Bags of Hope

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus says "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....." Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"

So many families in our community are in need of food. We are starting back this critical ministry to help get much needed food to these families. In providing food and prayer, we can minister to them in the name of Jesus, and offer them hope and the knowledge

that they are not alone. We can let them know that someone cares about them. Please consider volunteering and/or donating to the Bags of Hope Fund to support this ministry. To volunteer, nominate a family in need or donate online, visit fbcshallotte.org/hope.

Church Directory Pictures

Visit fbcshallotte.org/directory to schedule your family/individual pictures for the new church directory. You can also stop by the table at the back of the sanctuary after service on Sunday for help from our volunteers to get signed up. Picture week will be May 22-27, 2023.

Church Events

- **May 4th - National Day of Prayer**
Church Open 6a-6p
- **May 7th - Called Conference**
Following Worship Search Committee Vote
- **May 8th at 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting** Dinner Provided
- **May 9th at 6:30p-8:30p - Mens' Ministry Meeting** Dinner Provided; Guest Speaker Matthew Ward
- **May 14th - Mother's Day & Parent Child Dedication**
Sign Up at fbcshallotte.org/dedication
- **May 15th at 6p - ASL Training Interest Meeting**
- **May 22nd-27th - Directory Pictures Week**
Sign Up at fbcshallotte.org/directory
- **May 29th - Church Office Closed**

Who's Your One? How to Have a Gospel Conversation

In the April newsletter I focused on the importance of prayer for our gospel conversations. So, next I want to give you some practical pointers for having a gospel conversation.

For that, we look to the Master Himself.

Jesus goes through Samaria

John 4 records Jesus and His disciples passing through the region of Samaria. He insisted on a brief stopover. He sent the disciples into town for provisions while He rested by Jacob's Well, a well-known historical location and a point of contention between the Jews and the Samaritans.

To introduce this scene, John writes that Jesus "had to travel through Samaria" (John 4:4-6).

The whole story hinges on that one phrase, "he had to travel through Samaria." The phrase doesn't mean that traveling through Samaria was the only route for His journey home. It's not about direction. It's about intention.

The Samaritans and Jews shared a long history of animosity. It ran so deep that the Jews would normally travel an extra day if necessary to avoid going through Samaria.

But here we learn that Jesus "had to" go through Samaria. He was compelled to do so. Sure, He could have gone around, but He chose not to.

First and foremost, a gospel conversation is always intentional. To join God in changing someone's life, believe that He is at work in the heart of your One, and then intentionally initiate a gospel conversation when He opens that door.

It's a conversation

But remember, it is a conversation, not a presentation.

Conversations flow. For instance, if I call you to talk about the Panthers upcoming season, the conversation might drift to your favorite player, or the weather, or your family, or your golf swing.

But spiritual conversations tend to flow in a particular direction. God leads it that way. So, as we reflect on Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, we can identify four typical stages of a gospel conversation.

Four stages of a gospel conversation

• Prepare for the conversation.

Since Jesus intentionally engages this woman in a conversation, He was ready to do it. Readiness and intentionality go together.

Become accustomed to talking about the gospel and about your relationship with Jesus. Then trust God to provide an opportunity to talk to your One about the gospel.

That doesn't mean that you need to memorize a bunch of information. But it means that you should have ownership of what you believe, be able to explain it, and be able to address objections (1 Peter 3:15). Preparation builds confidence. And when God opens the door for a conversation, you will be ready.



So, get familiar with tools such as the 3 Circles, or The Best News card, or our fbcs.info web page. These tools help you prepare for a gospel conversation.

• Initiate the conversation.

The main reason most of us never have gospel conversations is that we don't start the conversation in the first place. And excuses abound.

Jesus had plenty of excuses not to engage in a conversation. He was "worn out" from traveling (4:6). He was thirsty and hungry. And then there were the social and racial barriers. In Jesus' day, rabbis didn't initiate conversations with women, and Jews didn't talk to Samaritans (4:9).

But Jesus didn't see these as reasons to avoid a conversation. He knew that God was about to do something great, and He was ready to participate in the great kingdom work of the Father. He was always looking for where God was working so He could join the Father in His work (John 5:19).

If you are praying for your One, assume that your prayers will be answered, and that God is at work in the life of your One. Assume that your interaction is by God's design, not by accident. And assume that God has orchestrated this conversation because He is at work in the life of your One.

How do you start the conversation? Jesus connected on a personal level and in a very practical way. He needed water, and she had water (4:7).

So, it is helpful to listen for a point of contact. Maybe it is practical. Do you share a hobby? Are you both parents of toddlers? Maybe it is more personal. Does the person reveal hurts, fears or struggles? Does God bring something to mind in the conversation? Or just ask them, are you actively involved in a church?

So, when you recognize God working, start a gospel conversation, or steer the conversation you are having toward the gospel.

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog:
BOBWEATHERS.NET



.....Who's Your One? How to Have a Gospel Conversation continued

• Guide the conversation.

Jesus saw the opportunity to raise a spiritual issue (4:10). Like the woman at the well, sometimes people reveal something significant that helps you point out the obvious and steer the conversation toward the gospel.

Listen for opportunities. God will show you how to guide the conversation. It may be a brief chat, or a lengthy discussion. But if you are faithful and intentional, He will use it for His purposes.

But avoid diversions. Even good things can get in the way of the main thing. The woman at the well tried to distract Jesus with a theological conversation about Jacob's Well (4:19). Jesus respectfully acknowledged the issue, but He did not let it distract from what mattered most—the gospel (4:21-24).

A gospel conversation is not about being Republican or Democrat, about morality or immorality, about Baptists or Methodists. A gospel conversation is about Jesus.

• Close the conversation.

A gospel conversation with your One may be a few minutes when you can engage them in their issues. It may be an hour of discussing their objections. It may take several exchanges over coffee as they wrestle with their doubts or problems, hurts or heartaches.

But however God guides the conversation, and however short or long it might be, always close in a specific and intentional way. And at some point, that means asking your One if they are ready to make a decision.

Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman shows that there are three parts to a spiritual decision.

• Conviction.

Conviction is the realization that sin is the problem. At some point your One will voice a realization that they need to make a change. Guide them to understanding that Christ is the one who can change them (4:15-18).

• Clarity.

When the time came for her to trust Him, "Jesus told her, 'I, the one speaking to you, am he'" (4:26). Clarify that there are no substitutes. If we do not know Christ, that is the problem that must be solved.

• Commitment.

Finally, once the truth is clear, ask your One to make a decision. No pressure, but don't be squeamish about asking your One to trust Christ. Clarity and commitment come together in this question: "You can trust Christ right now. Will you do that today?"

The end result of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman is that the gospel came to Samaria (4:27-38)! Imagine what God can do through you when you are faithful to follow Him into a gospel conversation!

In His Grace,
Pastor Bob

Progress to New Associate Pastor

- ☒ With prayer and input from ministry sources, Pastor Bob drafts a new job description
- ☒ The Personnel Committee and the Deacons review the job description
- ☒ The Personnel Committee reviews a second draft of the job description
- ☒ The church adopts the job description in the April Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- ☒ The Nominating Committee activates a Search Committee in a called business conference on May 7 following morning worship
- ☐ The Search Committee begins the process of searching for a new Associate Pastor
- ☐ The Search Committee brings a candidate to the church in a called business conference
- ☐ The new Associate Pastor begins service at FBCS!

Deacon of the Week



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Apr 30th-May 6th

May 7th-13th

May 14th-20th

May 21st-27th

TWISTS & TURNS™

VBS

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME PSALM 25:4

June 25th-29th

6:30-8:30pm

volunteers and participants
preregister at FBCSHallotte.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am

Worship—11:00am



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THE WORD OF GOD IN A YEAR

O send out thy light and thy truth! Let them lead me.

READ WITH FAMILY		DAY	READ IN SECRET		READ WITH FAMILY		DAY	READ IN SECRET	
Numbers 8	Psalms 44	1st	Song of Solomon 6	Hebrews 6	Numbers 26	Psalms 69	17th	Isaiah 16	1 Peter 4
Numbers 9	Psalms 45	2nd	Song of Solomon 7	Hebrews 7	Numbers 27	Psalms 70-71	18th	Isaiah 17-18	1 Peter 5
Numbers 10	Psalms 46-47	3rd	Song of Solomon 8	Hebrews 8	Numbers 28	Psalms 72	19th	Isaiah 19-20	2 Peter 1
Numbers 11	Psalms 48	4th	Isaiah 1	Hebrews 9	Numbers 29	Psalms 73	20th	Isaiah 21	2 Peter 2
Numbers 12-13	Psalms 49	5th	Isaiah 2	Hebrews 10	Numbers 30	Psalms 74	21st	Isaiah 22	2 Peter 3
Numbers 14	Psalms 50	6th	Isaiah 3-4	Hebrews 11	Numbers 31	Psalms 75-76	22nd	Isaiah 23	1 John 1
Numbers 15	Psalms 51	7th	Isaiah 5	Hebrews 12	Numbers 32	Psalms 77	23rd	Isaiah 24	1 John 2
Numbers 16	Psalms 52-54	8th	Isaiah 6	Hebrews 13	Numbers 33	Psalms 78:1-37	24th	Isaiah 25	1 John 3
Numbers 17-18	Psalms 55	9th	Isaiah 7	James 1	Numbers 34	Psalms 78:38	25th	Isaiah 26	1 John 4
Numbers 19	Psalms 56-57	10th	Isaiah 8-9:7	James 2	Numbers 35	Psalms 79	26th	Isaiah 27	1 John 5
Numbers 20	Psalms 58-59	11th	Isaiah 9:8-10:4	James 3	Numbers 36	Psalms 80	27th	Isaiah 28	2 John
Numbers 21	Psalms 60-61	12th	Isaiah 10:5	James 4	Deuteronomy 1	Psalms 81-82	28th	Isaiah 29	3 John
Numbers 22	Psalms 62-63	13th	Isaiah 11-12	James 5	Deuteronomy 2	Psalms 83-84	29th	Isaiah 30	Jude
Numbers 23	Psalms 64-65	14th	Isaiah 13	1 Peter 1	Deuteronomy 3	Psalms 85	30th	Isaiah 31	Revelation 1
Numbers 24	Psalms 66-67	15th	Isaiah 14	1 Peter 2	Deuteronomy 4	Psalms 86-87	31st	Isaiah 32	Revelation 2
Numbers 25	Psalms 68	16th	Isaiah 15	1 Peter 3					