

# Small Group Curriculum

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*Week of May 5, 2013*

1. Have your group members take a piece of paper and write “Strengths, Assets, and Interests.” Give them three minutes to write down as many things about themselves that fits one of those three labels.
2. Remind your small group of the purpose of “The Big Give” month. We’ll be exploring 2 Corinthians 9:6 but emphasizing what a life looks like that gives generously in every aspect of their life. Have them refer to their lists. “Which of those things would be easiest to share with others? Which would be most difficult?”
3. Read Matthew 16:15 and Matthew 28:19-20. How would introducing your friends and family to Jesus benefit them? What are some misguided promises that Christians sometimes make when talking about the importance of following Jesus?
4. If you were to ask fifty people at the mall what they thought of Jesus, what types of responses might you get? Now if you asked those same fifty people what they thought of Christianity what would you hear?
5. What are some of the offenses Christians have historically committed that those outside the faith typically point to? How could pointing people to Jesus instead of defending Christianity create new opportunities to share your faith?
6. Pastor Derek mentioned that we often “witness” by sharing systems about Jesus instead of our relationship with Jesus. What examples have you see of this happening?
7. Read John 4. Pastor Derek talked about the history of conflict between the Jews and the Samaritans, as well as the rules of decorum between men and women. What rules did Jesus break in the act of befriending this woman? What’s surprising about Jesus engaging an immoral person in a theological conversation?
8. At the beginning of the passage Jesus is having a conversation with one person. By the end of the chapter he’s talking with the bulk of the village. What happened to increase people’s interest in Jesus?
9. This woman had one short conversation with Jesus. She didn’t know much, so what did she share? How can her example take pressure off you as you share your faith?
10. Pastor Larry recommended that we start enjoying our hobbies with people outside of faith. What interests do you have that you could do with anyone? What’s the advantage of making a hobby a connecting point with someone else?
11. Why is building mutual relationships with non-believers important? How do you feel when you’re around someone who pretends to have it all together?
12. Pastor Larry talked about trading in the idea of “The Faith Talk” for a long ongoing conversation that includes occasional talk about Jesus. Would that approach fit your personality or not? Why?