

**TITLE: Eight lessons about being a witness** (Equipping Message)

[From the Samaritan woman at the well Adapted from part of a study by Francis Dixon as at <http://www.wordsoflife.co.uk/BibleStudy/Series15/Study4.htm>]

**TEXT:** John 4:1-30 and 39-42.

**OBJECTIVE:** A 'general' message related to evangelism that seeks to encourage believers to tell their story when in conversation with non-believers about Christianity.

**Introduction:**

Who loves a good story? (Share a memory of a great story from when you were a child). Stories are (1) both interesting, which is what makes them memorable. Stories are powerful because (2) they can touch our hearts. Israel was instructed by God to tell the stories of their history - because (3) stories can teach us things! We each have a faith-story. When we share it, it can do these things for others.

Read verses 28 and 29 of the story found in John 4:1-30 and 39-42.

*V28 Why had she come to the well? Why did she leave the well? What had changed?*

**1. Her priority turned from the temporary to the eternal**

Lesson: She turned from taking care of personal thirst to taking care of other peoples spiritual thirst! Note what Andrew did in John 1:41? – *'The first thing Andrew did...'* As we comprehend what we have in Christ, we appreciate it more – and then telling others about it can come more naturally!

*V29 Do you get the impression her appeal was casual or earnest?*

**2. She was earnest about her topic (know it's importance she was passionate)**

Lesson: There is no topic more worthy of importance than faith in Jesus!

*V28 Did the people come to the Samaritan woman, or did she go to them?*

**3. She took the effort to go to the people she loved**

Lesson: We need to go (Matthew 28:19; Acts 8.29)

*V28 How did she invite them?*

**4. She told what had happened with her mouth.**

Lesson: Many Christians say, "I can't speak!" But it's not true! We can all share an experience. We can all invite. (Jeremiah 1:6-9 – we are called to be bold, and God can help us find the words as we try, and to be effective).

*V29 Who did she make look good with her words – Jesus or herself?*

**5. She pointed people toward Jesus, not herself.**

Lesson: In telling our story, the goal should be the same. (E.g. Consider John the Baptists attitude as in John 3:30).

*V29 Did she ask the people to come and see – or tell them to come?*

**6. She was bold in her approach (from enthusiasm)**

Lesson: A little boldness comes naturally when we're genuinely enthusiastic, and are motivated by love. (Remember, she drew water at midday to hide from these people – but now she sought them out!)

V29 Did she tell people who Jesus was?

## 7. She invited people to investigate for themselves

Lesson: Which is to say, there was humility in her approach. Having conviction is fine, but people don't want to be told what to believe. In our culture, confrontation does not often work well. A gentle - yet *clear* - approach is wise.

Why do you think they came?

## 8. She sparked their interest

Lesson: This is what we can learn to do also. People are interested in spiritual things. The question is how we engage that interest.

**The results:** Read verse 39 – What were the immediate results?

- Many believed *purely on the basis of her testimony*.
- Regarding our testimonies, it's hard to argue with experiences – and especially a genuinely changed life. Our stories can help inspire faith in others.

Read verses 40-42 – What were the end results?

They met and believed in Jesus for themselves – and we pray this is what will happen for those we love and encourage also.

**Application:** We all have a story. Telling it isn't difficult.

- Have someone tell their story.
- Encourage your members to consider telling their story to others as Christmas draws near. What does Christmas mean to them? Why is it important to them? These are natural things to talk about in the Christmas season – though with gentleness and respect.
- And after sharing – invite your friend to our Christmas service, at which the pastor will share the Christian message clearly, so those who visit have an opportunity to understand it, and to know how to respond should they be ready for this.

**NO MATCHING STUDY FOR SMALL GROUP**