



The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Conrad Bess | 4.7.19

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Who is the most influential person in your life and why?

SHARE

This week we had an opportunity to hear from a few of our Campus Pastors at each campus. We always look forward to hearing what God has been placing on the hearts of our pastors. We hope that you enjoyed this awesome opportunity to hear from a few of them!

Before we get started, we want to give a few of you an opportunity to share your story with the group. Every person has a unique journey they have been on that has led them to this point. Taking the time to share your story is a fantastic exercise for you and everyone listening!

Are there two or more people in your group who are willing to share their story? Here are a few questions again in case you need a guide as you go. Try to keep it under five minutes each in you can to use the time wisely. *(In the future life group meetings, consider having one person share their whole testimony at the beginning of each group, after a whole semester, everyone can get a chance to share their story)*

1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?
2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.
3. How has God changed you most in the last few years?

G R O W

Read John 4:7-10

What is your biggest takeaway from this story and why?

John 4 reveals that at this point in Jesus' public ministry, the Pharisees, who were the religious Jewish leaders of the day, had found themselves at odds with Jesus, to say it lightly. Jesus left Judea and headed toward Galilee where in verse four says he had to pass through Samaria. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus was wearied from his journey (verse 6) so we made his way to Jacobs well to sit and refresh.

Are there things in your life that you are trying to "quench" a thirst that only Jesus Himself can fill?

The woman at the well was going to the well at the hottest part of the day, most likely to avoid people due to pain in her life. In what ways might you be similar to the woman and why?

With all the "coincidences," all the "who would have thoughts," and the "I would have never chosen this way" realities in our lives, what if all the "stuff" in our lives have lead us to this moment, this divine appointment with the Creator of the universe?

Jesus just so happened to be passing through Samaria in the middle of the day, about noon, in the heat of the day, and He just so happened to pass by a well, where there just so happened to be a woman who was going to meet Jesus or better yet, be found by Jesus, right when she needed Him most. Coincidence, right?

Nope.

Divine invitation.

Jesus' Divine Detour leaving Judea on His way to Galilee, has brought Him to Jacobs well in Samaria in the heat of the day, at noon, where no one, culturally should have been at the well. It was too hot, too early at midday, no one goes to the well at that time, except one unnamed woman on this particular day, the same day that Jesus just so happened to be there too. Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't detour around your story?

We find out that this woman has had five husbands and is currently in a new relationship. She has been named; She is a Samaritan, a cultural half breed rejected by the Jews. An adulterer, wearing her judgment and shame daily, shown her place in society. A nobody, a pariah of her community, who just so happens to not be alone at the well this day, and the man who sits there waiting just so happens to be Jesus. He waits for her because He knows her and can bring her complete restoration and the fullness of life.

We see this woman leaves Jesus after this Divine encounter with Him and went throughout her city sharing her story. Imagine her running and telling everyone she came in contact with that she met JESUS!

Remember who she was known to be: a social misfit; one on the margins; "that woman." And now because she had this divine encounter with God, she is NEW!!! He fully restored her, quenching this thirst she had been trying to fill for so long with everything but the things of Jesus. This is the beauty of God's grace, is that it speaks for itself. It is scandalous. Just as many of us, we can only explain this transformation with two words: Only God.

In your own story, do you see a moment or a situation where Jesus intervened in your life that you distinctly remember or that you might consider a 'divine appointment'?

Where in your life do you need God to continue to restore you?

M O V E

Read John 4:15

I wonder, have we forgotten where Jesus found us? It's a great question to reflect on this

week. It is easy to get lost in our pain, our struggle, our failures, or even our successes. It is a great question to reflect on this week.

There is such an incredible power in our story. This is why we began this time together in Life Group encouraging a few of you share your own stories. This is a powerful invitation to hear how God transforms people's lives around us.

God continues to wait for us at the well, whatever that might be for each of us. He waits for that family member, friend, that one neighbor that we may think hope has been lost. If only they knew the true gift that God is and brings when encountered with Him.

We must first remember the scandalous gift we were given. The supernatural gift that interrupted our loneliness, shame, and brokenness! Shawn said a few weeks ago that there is "power in remembering." This is it! When we remember where God had met us, wouldn't we want that for everyone else?

As Conrad reminded us this week, that "colliding with Christ was never to contain you, but to compel you!" There is the power of story, in testimony. It is what compels us to reach out to others who haven't met Jesus.

As you enter this week, who are the people in your life that need a direct encounter with God? Maybe it's you? Or a spouse? A child? A neighbor or friend?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for breakthrough for each other. Pick one person in your group and pray for the breakthrough they are asking God for!

If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

John 4:35

“...look I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest...”

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