



## Week of October 20, 2019: One Step Closer to Jesus

### Discussion Questions Set #1

In sermon, we talked about the prevailing understanding of evangelism as a Billy Graham crusade type exposition of the good news of Jesus - a full-blown gospel presentation that begins by explaining the human problem of sin and culminating in an invitation for one to receive Christ.

- 1) In your experience (prior to this week's message), how have you understood the goal, means and practice of evangelism?
- 2) Share an evangelism "horror story" or an evangelism "victory story".
- 3) Have you ever felt pressured to evangelize? Discuss this experience.
- 4) Have you ever used the "I don't know what to say" excuse to avoid evangelism? Discuss how feeling ill equipped might influence our readiness to engage in evangelism.

### Discussion Questions Set #2

*"Evangelism is the activity in which the entire church prayerfully and intentionally relies on God in sharing gospel love and truth, in order to bring people one step closer to Jesus Christ". (Chris Castaldo)*

- 1) What are your thoughts about this definition of evangelism? How is it different than other definitions of evangelism you might have been exposed to? What excites you about this definition?
- 2) Discuss how the following aspects of this definition might influence one's understanding – and practice – of evangelism:
  - a) The goal is to bring people one step closer to Jesus.
  - b) Evangelism is a prayerful, intentional and God-directed practice.
  - c) Evangelism involves both word and deed – loving action and truthful words are complementary parts of effective evangelism.
  - d) Evangelism is a "whole church activity".
- 3) What might a church – a community of Christ followers – who practice this sort of evangelism look like? What activities might you see them participating in? What results might you see?

### Discussion Questions Set #3

*"The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." (John 1:43-50)*

In this passage, we see a one-step closer to Jesus evangelism modelled.

- 1) What does Philip do in response to receiving this good news about Jesus? Think of the "I don't know what to say" excuse in light of Philip's actions.
- 2) According to this passage, who is it that does the saving?
- 3) What is it that convinces Nathanael of who Jesus was; a well-crafted argument or God's power on display?
- 4) How might a one-step closer to Jesus approach to evangelism benefit you in your personal attempts at evangelism?
- 5) What is a one-step closer to Jesus act for your H2H Group? How might Jesus be leading you as a group closer to Him?