



# **Community Group**

## **Talk Sheet**

### **Starting March 18, 2012 Week 9**

### **Stamford Campus**

**SERMON TITLE: “WHY Network”**

**Matthew 4:18-22**

**Message Summary**

Matthew 4:18-22 records the day when Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to become NETWORKERS of a different kind. Jesus called them to start doing their networking with people instead of fish. And if I am a Christ-follower, Jesus calls me to be a networker who connects with those around me and then connects people to Jesus.

If you follow Jesus and your Networking is Notworking it is either because you don't fully understand WHY you need to network OR because you don't fully understand HOW to network. This week we study the all-important “WHY” question: WHY Network? Here are: **10 Reasons WHY Christ-followers Introduce Others to Jesus.**

**1. Introducing People to Jesus GLORIFIES GOD—Matthew 5:16**

**Jesus says, “Let your light shine before others...that they may GLORIFY your Father in heaven.”**

The first reason for introducing people to Jesus is because it glorifies God. “Glorify” is a Biblical word meaning to draw attention to God in a way that honors Him and celebrates Him.

**2. Introducing People to Jesus PLEASES GOD - 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:3**

**“This is good and PLEASES God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.”**

God LOVES people. Nothing is more important to God than eternal souls. Nothing makes God happier than when a man, a woman, a boy or a girl turns to Him to receive His love and forgiveness.

So when you introduce someone to Jesus, you PLEASE God.

**3. Introducing People to Jesus is the heart of WHO I am in Christ - Matthew 5:13&14**

**“YOU ARE the salt of the earth.... YOU ARE the light of the world.”**

If I follow Jesus, this is WHO I am. I am Light and Salt. I'm not supposed to just ACT shiny--I AM A LIGHT in this dark world. If I understand WHO I am--then I understand what when Jesus commands me to tell others about Him, His commands are not to motivate me with guilt but encourage me to live out WHO I AM.

**4. Introducing People to Jesus Expresses MY LOVE TO GOD - John 21:15**

**Jesus said to Peter, “Peter, do you truly LOVE ME more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”**

As much as God interprets silence as a love-lack—when I speak up, it is interpreted as love to ONE who loves me.

**5. Introducing People to Jesus Has ETERNAL Consequences - Revelation 20:15**

**“If anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of LIFE, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”**

There is a Book of Life; it's real. Heaven and hell are real And there is only ONE way to escape the eternal consequences of sin--and that ONE way is through personal faith in what Jesus did on the cross.

And this WHY it is such a serious thing when your networking is notworking--it has eternal consequences.

## **6. Introducing People to Jesus is God's Up-front PURPOSE for me - Matthew 4:19**

**Jesus said, "Come follow me and I will MAKE you fishers of men and women."**

Notice Jesus' up-front purpose statement. Sharing my faith is not to be buried at the bottom of my "to do" list. Sharing my faith is God's up-front purpose for me while He has me on earth.

## **7. Introducing People to Jesus is the Overflow of a Real RELATIONSHIP with God - Acts 1:8**

**"You will receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU...and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth."**

Christ-followers network because they are filled with Someone who wants them to share Jesus. Someone who fills them with so much love that they can't help but overflow with a desire to introduce people to Jesus.

## **8. Introducing People to Jesus Heightens the Christ-follower's EXPERIENCE with God - Matthew 28:20**

**"Go and make disciples...and I will be WITH YOU always."**

Anyone who has stepped out of their comfort zone to introduce someone to Jesus knows that this promise is true—that Jesus' presence is somehow even more tangible when you're trying to help someone come to Him.

## **9. Introducing People to Jesus Results in Tremendous JOY - Luke 15:10**

**"I tell you, there is great REJOICING in the presence of...God over one sinner who repents!"**

You should be praying and seeking and rushing toward opportunities for the joy of being part of heaven's networking party.

## **10. Introducing People to Jesus is the Highest Expression of MY LOVE FOR OTHERS—2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14**

**"For Christ's LOVE compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all."**

Jesus wants you to look at the people in your life through His eyes and love them with the highest expression of love there is--by leading them toward God.

### **Possible Discussion Questions**

1. Pastor Steve shared 10 Reasons Why Christ-followers Introduce Others to Jesus. After reviewing the list, which of the reasons form the top three that God is using to compel you to make this networking issue a priority in your life? Why do you pick these top three?
2. If there are 10 reasons for introducing people to Jesus, there are probably an equal number of reasons why Christ-followers are not doing it. As a group, make a list of the top 10 reasons Christ-following people fail to share their faith. Try to go beyond the "stock" answers regarding fear and get to some of the deeper reasons we stay silent.
3. When the 10 reasons we should share our faith are compared to the 10 reasons we don't, what observations can be made in the contrast? What needs to change INSIDE the Christ-follower in order to be a consistent networker on the outside?
4. What needs to change in our lifestyle in order to make networking a priority? If you had to choose one Scripture verse to commit to memory to motivate you on this topic, which would you choose? What other helps could you assemble to keep networking a lifestyle priority?
5. When Zach's friend Rick came to Christ, he asked Zach, "Why didn't you tell me about Jesus?" Is there someone in your life you need to go to in order to avoid that question? If so, mention that person's name, so your group can pray for you and support you in the sharing process.
6. What does God want you to do this week to move beyond a networking that is notworking?