

# Connect Group Notes

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Nexus Church  
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*"I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel" (Our Heart Sunday)*

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Rom 1:16; John 4:27-42

## ice breaker

Share about a time when you received unexpected kindness or help from someone you didn't expect. How did it make you feel?

## overview

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- You are the perfect carrier of the gospel message because of your story, not despite it
- Sharing faith brings deep soul nourishment
- You don't need to be ready or qualified; grace flows through honesty now

## discussion

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- 1** The sermon posed, *"If no one has ever asked you about the hope that you have in your heart, maybe we should reflect on that a little bit."* Reflecting on your life, what would make people curious about the hope of Jesus within you?
- 2** The gospel goes out through both **showing** and **telling**. Which comes more naturally to you, and how can you develop the other aspect?
- 3** While sharing the gospel, how do we balance boldness with gentleness and respect? See 1 Peter 3:15.

## go deeper

What if the very things we think disqualify us from sharing our faith are actually what make our testimony most powerful?

This exploration of John 4 reveals a stunning truth: Jesus chose a broken Samaritan woman with a scandalous past and and poor moral standing to be history's first evangelist. She was selected **because** of her story, not in spite of it. The power isn't in perfectly articulated theological points but in the authenticity of transformation. When we encounter the living water, our souls are nourished in such a way that physical sustenance cannot offer.

The disciples returned with bread, but Jesus had found something more filling: doing His Father's will. Deep soul refreshment comes only when we let the gospel flow to other through the reality of our story. We often wait until we're ready or qualified, but the harvest is ripe now and unlikely people are waiting to hear from unlikely messengers. The surprise isn't just that Jesus offers living water to the unworthy, it's that He reveals our unworthiness and retains the offer. Rather than being disqualified by our brokenness, His power is perfected within our brokenness and the honesty of our testimony, becoming the very channel through which grace flows to a thirsty world.

## activation

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Together, use these to practice sharing aloud your testimonies:

*Before I met Jesus, my life was like...*

*When I encountered Jesus, He...*

*Now my life is different because...*

## application

Choose **one** of the following to put into practice for a challenge this week.

### Option 1: Prayer Focus

- Write down 3-5 names of people who don't know Jesus
- Pray for them daily this week
- Ask God to show you if it's "harvest time" for any of them

### Option 2: Living Water

- Identify one person who seems spiritually thirsty
- Intentionally spend time with them this week
- Look for a natural opportunity to talk about what Jesus means to you

## prayer points

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Courage, humility and authenticity to share the gospel without shame of your testimony.

Eyes to see the harvest fields around us; specific people in our lives who need Jesus.

Soul nourishment as we allow living water flow through us.

## final thought

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Re-think what it means to not be ashamed of the Gospel. Our mantle is not to convert people, but to be a person who found living water and give that same living water to a someone else.

# CG Leader Resource

Hi Connect Group Leader!

This topic confronts the brokenness in each of us. This may lead to increased vulnerability as people share the rawness of their testimony within the group.

Use from the Notes above or this Resource, that which you feel works best for your group.

Prayer/praise report from your group? Anything else you think we should know?  
[Click here](#) to pass it onto our Pastoral Team so we can address it in our weekly meet.

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## additional questions

1. How does the story of the woman at the well challenge our assumptions about who is qualified to share the gospel?
2. Are you waiting to feel ready before sharing your faith? How does this story confront that hesitation?
3. What does it reveal about God's character that Jesus offered living water even after the woman's full story was known?
4. Encountering Jesus naturally leads us to sharing Him with others. What does the transformation and impact of the woman teach us about discipleship?

## quiet reflection exercise

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Invite the group to finish this sentence. First, quietly in prayer or journaling, then aloud together. Complete this sentence:

*"If I truly believed the gospel was living water for thirsty souls, I would..."*

## for next week...

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Encourage your group to come prepared to share one of the following:

- One conversation you had about faith this week
- How you experienced spiritual nourishment through sharing or serving