

CONNECT PEOPLE TO JESUS

John 8:1-11

- **In CONNECT MORE we're focused on connecting people to Jesus, other Christians, our Church, Serving and People who need Jesus and a Church family.**
- ***What challenges have you had in your attempts to connect others to the Lord and to your Church?***
- **Christians have a responsibility to lead our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors into a relationship with Jesus and then help them grow in their faith.**
- *"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:5 ESV)
- Jesus said, *"Go and make disciples . . ."* (Matthew 28:19)
- **Many people are hesitant to be involved in relationships with Christians or Churches because of past experience or preconceived misconceptions.**
- **In order to truly connect with people in our lives so that we can then connect them to the Lord we must do so in the way that Jesus modeled for us (John 8:1-11).**
- ***What does it take to lead others to Jesus and/or help others grow in their faith?***

To Connect Others To The Lord We Need To:

UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE ARE OFTEN IN <u>BONDAGE</u> TO THEIR SINS

- *"The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 'Teacher,' they said to Jesus, '<u>this woman was caught</u> in the act of adultery.'"* (John 8:3-4)
- **Many in our day struggle with adultery in their minds and lives, but any pattern of sinfulness in our lives is always a "trap" for us.**
- *"An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him."* (Proverbs 5:22)
- *"For they (ungodly people) have been held captive by the Devil to do whatever he wants."* (2 Timothy 2:26)
- **No one sets out intending to be "trapped" by our sins, but that's a guaranteed result of what happens when we continue in our sins.**

- *"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy."* (Proverbs 28:13)

To Connect Others To The Lord We Need To:
CREATE A SENSE OF <u>BELONGING</u> WITH PEOPLE

- *"'Teacher,' they said to Jesus, 'this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?' They were trying to trap Him into saying something they could use against Him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with His finger. They kept demanding an answer, so He stood up again and said, 'All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!' . . . When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman."* (John 8:4-9)
- ***How can we help others know that they belong in the kingdom of God?***
- **We help others know they belong when we *Refrain From Judging Or Condemning*.**
    - Jesus to the Woman - *"Neither do I condemn you."* (John 8:11)
    - Paul - "*It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders"* (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- **We help others know they belong when we *Help Care For Their Needs*.**
    - *"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him."* (Luke 10:33-34)
    - "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care" - Theordore Roosevelt
- **We help others know they belong when we *Strive To Honor Them*.**
    - Paul said, *"Outdo one another in showing honor."* (Romans 12:10 ESV)
    - **Christians are called to love the unlovable, respect the disrespectful, and honor the dishonorable.**
- **We help others know they belong when we *Invite Them To Our Home And Church.***
    - *"Open your homes to each other . . ."* (1 Peter 4:9 NCV)
- ***Who is the Lord leading me to invite to church wit*h me next Sunday?**

To Connect Others To The Lord We Need To:
GIVE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO <u>BELIEVE</u> IN JESUS AS LORD

- *"Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said."* (John 8:10-11a)
- **The love Jesus showed to this woman led her to place her faith in Him as LORD.**
- *"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."* (Acts 16:31)
- **Showing love as Jesus did creates opportunities to share Jesus with others.**
- ***How should we go about inviting others to place their trust in Jesus as Lord?***
- **We invite others to know Jesus as Lord by *Asking Them If They Understand That Their Sin Has Separated Them From God*.**
    - *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."* (Romans 3:23)

- **We invite others to know Jesus as Lord by *Helping Them Understand Sin Leads To Bondage And Hell, But God Offers Abundant And Eternal Life Through Jesus*.**
    - *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)
- **We invite others to know Jesus as Lord by *Helping Them Understand That Receiving Jesus As Their Savior Makes Them Right In God's Eyes*.**
    - *"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."* (Romans 5:1)
- ***Who in your life needs to be given an opportunity to receive Jesus as Savior?***

To Connect Others To The Lord We Need To:

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO <u>BEHAVE</u> LIKE JESUS

- *"Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'"* (John 8:10-11)
- **Jesus didn't condemn the woman nor condone her sin; He challenged her to begin living a godly life.**
- **Our responsibility in relationships with those who haven't entered into a relationship with Jesus is different than with those who have become Christians.**
- Paul - *"It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning."* (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- **Once the people in our lives make a decision to place their trust in Jesus as Lord we have the responsibility to hold them accountable in word and deed.**
- *"If another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."* (Galatians 6:1)
- **Before we can hold another believer accountable to the sin in their lives we must make sure there are no lingering sins in our own lives.**
- Jesus said, *"First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.* (Matthew 7:5)
- ***Are there people in your life that you need to help get back onto the right path?***

- **No matter where people are in life, one single encounter with Jesus can change the trajectory of their lives.**
- *"Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, 'He told me everything I ever did!' . . . They said to the woman, . . . Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world.'"* (John 4:39-42)
- **The greatest call upon our lives is to lead people to the Lord and help them stay connected with the Lord.**
- **Having a place of worship is a great blessing and we're called to steward that blessing well by inviting as many people as we can to join us in worship.**
- Jesus said, *"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."* (Matthew 18:20)

- *“If unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin . . . . As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, ‘God is truly here among you.’”* (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)
- ***Who are you inviting to join you in worship next sunday for FRIEND SUNDAY?***