

Witnessing: Week 2

1. Social/Fellowship Time (10-15 minutes)

2. Content/Spiritual Conversations (30-35 minutes)

- **5 Thresholds debrief**

1. **Trust (John 4:1–26, the woman at the well):** Jesus builds trust by starting the conversation, asking her for help, and staying calm when she pushes back. Why do you think asking for help, instead of offering it, builds trust so well? How have Christians broken trust with people who don't believe, and how does that affect the people in your own life?
2. **Curiosity (John 3:1–15, Nicodemus):** Nicodemus is confused, but Jesus doesn't let him walk away. He keeps nudging him to dig deeper. What makes someone curious about Jesus instead of just interested in religion? What questions have you found open up spiritual conversations rather than shut them down?
3. **Openness (John 5:1–15, the healing at the pool):** Jesus asks a man who has been sick for 38 years, "Do you want to get well?" Why would Jesus ask that? What keeps people, including us, comfortable with things like fear, anxiety, bitterness, anger or self-doubt instead of opening up to change?
4. **Seeking (Mark 10:46–52, Bartimaeus):** Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" even though the answer seems obvious. Why does it matter for a seeker to say out loud what they want from Jesus? What obstacles, like the crowd telling Bartimaeus to be quiet, get in the way of people who are seeking today?
5. **Following (John 4:27–42, the Samaritan village):** The villagers first believe because of the woman's story, but then they say, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves." The study says the biggest barrier for many people is that "they are never invited." Why do we hesitate to invite someone to follow Jesus? How do we point people to their own encounter with Jesus instead of leaning only on ours??

3. Accountability questions (25-35 minutes)

Continue making accountability with the **Rule of Life** a primary focal point of this time.

- **When your group is getting started**

1. How is it with your soul? (Redirection Question: What is God teaching you emotionally, mentally, spiritually?)

2. What are your successes and struggles in your spiritual life right now? How might the Word and Spirit be speaking in your life?

- ***And then, when your group is ready***

3. Do you have any sin to confess?

4. Is there anything you desire to keep secret?

4. Homework

- Find a time for everyone in the group to be able to get together (a meal, coffee, whatever) during the Christmas break.