



Course Four: *The Great Commission*

SEGMENT 2: SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

The stories in the Bible tell of God's interaction with His children at that time.
Our stories tell of God's interaction with us today.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (BCP 100)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What does our faith story have to do with mission?

What faith stories do you think the Samaritan woman and Zaccheus told?

VIDEO PRESENTATION



The Samaritan Woman

Zaccheus

Telling your own story

USING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

As we live out the ministry of the baptized, we find direction through the five Baptismal Covenant promises. These promises are made at every baptism and we ask God's help in keeping these promises. For this class the first and third promises are particularly relevant.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the stories you heard as a young person from your family?

2. What are the God moments of your family's life?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, continued

3. Read the stories of the Samaritan woman or Zaccheus

John 4:1-30

Luke 19:1-10

What is the message of the story?

What was the woman's life, or Zaccheus' life, like before they met Jesus?

How did they know Jesus had something to offer them?

How were their lives different after meeting Jesus?

4. Use symbols to draw your faith story.

W R A P - U P

Following Christ means stepping out of our own boundaries and sharing our stories, to help transform the lives of others. We are called to seek out those who need to hear the good news of God's love and invite them to join us in a relationship with Christ. This is a lifelong commitment and is a most important part of our Christian journey.

The Bible tells us of God's people and their response to God's action in their lives. As God's people today, our lives need to reflect God's action in our lives. We said earlier that God's story did not end with the last book in the Bible. God's story continues to live today in the lives of the faithful. And so the story continues. It is very important that we remember that our stories are just as important and just as sacred as the stories we read in the Bible. God is with us still today.

Telling our stories makes us more real. We can all identify with certain people in the biblical stories – stories of how God brought someone closer, stories of how people in exile were returned to the love of God. The stories shared make us closer to one another.

C L O S I N G P R A Y E R / H Y M N

The following selections can help us reflect on our discussions today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray your selection(s).

The 1982 Hymnal

#539 - O Zion, haste

#659 - O Master, let me walk with Thee

#679 - Surely it is God who saves me

Wonder, Love and Praise

#781 - Now let us rise and hymn the grace

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#64 - I love to tell the story

BLANK PAGE