



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of September 13, 2015



Luke 5:27-32

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

John 4:1-42

[\(This passage is too long to fit on this paper\)](#)

Acts 9:32-43

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" 39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

Sermon Outline

- This week we looked at the last three evangelistic styles: the Interpersonal (Matthew); the Invitational (Samaritan Woman); and the Serving (Tabitha).
- Like the Blind Man's Testimonial approach from last week, these are all styles that most of us can use.
- These styles of sharing your faith show the importance of relationships and "loving your neighbor as yourself."

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What do you think would be a fun way for folks at UBC to get to know each other better?
- What one habit might have the power to take your faith to the next level?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. What do you think spurred Matthew into dropping everything and following Jesus?
2. What first led you to give Jesus control of your life?
3. Why do you think Matthew chose to throw a party for his friends and invite Jesus?
4. Is this type of evangelism one that you would be comfortable with? How might you experiment with this method personally?
5. How did God use Matthew after this? (See the first book of the New Testament)
6. What was Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman like? How did Jesus "do evangelism" with her?
7. Why do you think the woman responded positively to Jesus?
8. How would you describe this woman's evangelistic approach in her town?

9. Did anyone invite you to something that led to your spiritual Tabitha's healing lead others to put their faith in Christ?
10. Do you have stories you can share with others that might help them to see God's power and grace?
11. Why do you think so many people cared about Tabitha?
12. Are you intentionally connecting with others in such a way that your life impacts them?
13. As we conclude the sermon series on evangelism, how do you feel God has spoken to you?
14. To whom has God given the command to be His witnesses?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?
- How can we pray for your spiritual growth tonight?
- What other prayer concerns do you have?