

Every Member a Missionary When Small Talk Becomes God Talk

Partners 2.0: Retooling for Mission

Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA
2011 November 5, 12, 19
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When Small Talk Becomes God Talk

1. Small Talk: Exploring the Context

- Come and See (Insiders): John 1.46
- Come and See (Outsiders): John 4.29

2. God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

- Believe and Live: John 3.16
- Go and Bear Fruit: John 15.16

... and the Gospel of John

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Insiders)

John 1:35-51

John the Baptist: “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

>> Andrew and another disciple of JB follow Jesus:
“Come and see.”

>> Andrew “found” Simon:
“We have found the Messiah.”

>> Jesus “found” Philip

>> Philip “found” Nathanael:
“We have found him...”

... “Come and see.”

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Insiders)

John 1:35-51

What is the context?

- Where?
Bethany beyond the Jordan > Galilee / Bethsaida
- Who?
JB, Jesus, Andrew and ?, Simon Peter/Cephas,
Philip, Nathanael

>> All Jewish males in Jewish regions

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Insiders)

John 1:35-51

What is the nature of the ‘evangelizing’?

- Finding and bringing
- “Come and see”
- Declarations about Jesus

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Insiders)

John 1:35-51

What is learned about Jesus?

- Lamb of God
- Rabbi = Teacher
- Messiah / Christ
- One about whom Moses and prophets wrote
- Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth
- Son of God
- King of Israel

>> ‘Insider’ titles (except Son of God)

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Outsiders)

John 4:1-42 – The Samaritan Woman at the Well

- 7ff: Issue about Jew (man) and Samaritan (woman)
- 10ff: Issue about water
- 16ff: Matter of her husband
> “You are a prophet.”
- 20ff: Where to worship? >> Jesus identified as Messiah
- 27ff: Woman returns to city:
“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”
– 31ff: Disciples, food, harvest
- 39ff: Many Samaritans believe because of woman’s testimony (martureo)
> Many more believed because of Jesus’ word

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Outsiders)

John 4:1-42 – The Samaritan Woman at the Well

- Verse 42:
They said to the woman,
“It is no longer because of what you said that we believe,
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Outsiders)

John 4:1-42

What is the context?

- Where?
Sychar in Samaria
- Who?
Jesus, disciples, Samaritan woman, Samaritan citizens

>> Jew << Samaritan (ethnic and religious distinction)

>> Man << Woman

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Outsiders)

John 4:1-42

What is the nature of the ‘evangelizing’?

- “Come and see”
- Declaration about Jesus

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

“Come and see...” (Outsiders)

John 4:1-42

What is learned about Jesus?

- Prophet
- Messiah / Christ
- Savior of the world

>> General titles (except Messiah)

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

“Believe and Live”

John 3:16 – Jesus and Nicodemus

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.*

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον...

For God so loved the world... (KJV, NRS)
 For God loved the world so much... (NLT)
 God loved the people of this world so much... (CEV)
 For this is the way God loved the world... (NET)

- Why does it say God “loved” the world?
- Is this passage talking about how much or in what way God loved the world?

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

“Believe and Live”

John 3:16 – Jesus and Nicodemus

- so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (NRS)
- so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. (CEV)
- so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. (Message)
- How do we think about believing?
- What do we understand about the results of believing in Jesus? (What are we saved from? Saved for?)

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

“Believe and Live”

John 3:16

*For in this way God demonstrated his love for the world:
 He gave his only Son,
 so that everyone who is believing in him may not become lost
 but may be experiencing eternal life.*

mgvh translation

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

“Go and Bear Fruit”

John 15:16 – Jesus the True Vine

*You did not choose me but I chose you.
 And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
 fruit that will last,
 so that the Father will give you
 whatever you ask him in my name.*

- Why should we be motivated to be missionaries?
- What does it mean to bear fruit?

When Small Talk Becomes God Talk

Small Talk: Exploring the Context

- Come and See (Insiders): John 1.46
- Come and See (Outsiders): John 4.29

Mission...

- Happens where you are at among friends, family, neighbors
- Crosses in/outside boundaries
- Is as simple as “Come and see”
- Includes context-aware declarations about Jesus

When Small Talk Becomes God Talk

God Talk: Proclaiming the Message

- Believe and Live: John 3.16
- Go and Bear Fruit: John 15.16

Mission...

- Is based on God’s love for us as demonstrated in Jesus’
- Is not about going to heaven or hell. It is about experiencing abundant life now.
- Is motivated by our relationship with Jesus and by God’s choosing and appointing us.
- Is simply part of who we are and what we do.

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