

Alternative Stories

8.7.12

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Remember: you do not have to do the entire study (you may not have time) – you can choose what questions you want to discuss.

Read John 1:29-42

1. “Evangelism is a community activity.” What does this statement mean to you? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. In what way does this passage illustrate the idea of evangelism as a community activity?
3. “An **alternative** community that is **attractive** and then earns the right to **articulate** (speak).” Spend some time discussing this statement. What does it mean? In what way is it a good alternative way of thinking about evangelism?
4. What is important about the three words in bold in the above statement? How are these words illustrated in the passage in John?

Read John 4:21-30

5. How did Jesus talk to the Samaritan woman? How did Jesus share **authentically** with her?
6. Why do you think Jesus shared with her what he did? Was it different to what he had shared with others? Why?
7. How can we make sure that we talk to people **authentically**, rather than coming with an **agenda**? Why can coming with an agenda be harmful?
8. *“If we are serious about the great commission, but are not serious about the great commandment, then we are just making a great commotion.”* – Brian McLaren
Do you agree? How does evangelism suffer if we forget the great commandment?

Read John 15:1-5, 17-19, 26-27

9. If evangelism is about helping others come to know God, what part does God himself play?
10. How do we **abide** in God? How can we help each other, as a community, do this?

Prayer points:

- Spend time praying or ways to exhibit the ‘A’ words highlighted in the study when you share with others.