

Key References:

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.

John 4:39 (ESV)

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

John 4:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

2 Timothy 4:2-5 (ESV)

² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹[...] Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 – OPERATING IN JESUS' AUTHORITY & POWER

Mike read Zechariah 4:10 on Sunday. Some of us feel like we are just beginning to become more outward focused. So, how do small beginnings, evangelism, the Word of God and a plumb line go together?

How can we be uncompromising with the Word of God but also reach people who are culturally so far from it?

Mike on Sunday said, "The church hasn't gone wrong with the truth, but it's gone wrong with love". What do you think he meant?

2 – JESUS' BRIDGE WITH THE WOMEN AT THE WELL

Study John 4:4-30. What bridges did Jesus use to reach the woman at the well? Why did she believe that he was the Christ? What can we learn from Jesus' example about what bridges we need to build?

Read John 4:39-42. To what extent should we be seeking supernatural moments (like this word of knowledge that Jesus had) to see people's eyes open to the gospel? Does this kind of thing still happen?

From John 4:35, how are the fields "white for harvest" in Nanaimo?

3 - OUR BRIDGES

Read 2 Timothy 4:2-5. Mike said on Sunday; "I think a lot of the 'work of an evangelist' is [not standing up on soap boxes in the street, but] building bridges." How are Christian organizations building bridges to the unreached in Nanaimo? Have you been a part of them? Did you see any fruit?

From 1 Tim 6:11-12, how to the virtues in v11 prepare us for the fight?

What bridges has God used at your workplace or in your family and friends to open up conversations about faith? Did you intentionally build that bridge, or did it just happen?

Are their specific people in your life that you are looking to build a bridge with? As a group help each other come up with ideas on what could work for each situation.