
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about how to share your faith with other people.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because sharing our faith can make a significant impact in the lives of other people and it could be easier than you expected.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the final week of Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm and opening weekend for Walters' Pumpkin Patch. We are using stories from Carroll and Becky Walters and their farm to help us learn about following Jesus. The videos are produced by Scott Olney of Olney Productions.

What are the next action steps?

Share your faith

What is the good news? What is the bottom line?

The good news is that you can be one of the workers God is sending out to his harvest.

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- [text here]

Metadata

Topics

- Make Disciples
- Share
- Share Christ

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Harvest Time: Sharing a Mission from God
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2aFLaNx>

September 18, 2016
Luke 10:1-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2cVDQP4>

Sermon Books of the Bible

- Galatians
- Luke

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, share, faith, evangelism, invitation, invite, relational, relationship,

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Video Transcript

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Your Invitation

Luke 10:1-9, CEB

¹After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. ³Go! Be warned, though, that I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don't even greet anyone along the way. ⁵Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.' ⁶If anyone there shares God's peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don't move from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.'

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Listen for God's Word

I invite you to listen for God's word today.

Place for Notes

You can find a place in your bulletin to take notes or, if you prefer, in the event for this worship service in the Bible app on your mobile device

Tool for Spiritual Growth

When you learn something new, have a question, make a connection with your life or hear anything that will help you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ as you worship, grow, give, serve and share, write it down.

Then, use these notes as a tool to help you grow in your faith in the days ahead.

Prayer

Will you pray with me?

O God, use these words to speak good news, so that, as a as individuals and as a congregation, we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you, and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Average United Methodist Invites Every 11 Years

The average United Methodist invites someone to church once every 11 years.
11 years.

The most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the life expectancy of people in the United States at 78.8 years.¹ That means in the average lifetime a United Methodist will invite 7 people to church.

Seven.

Of course, that's on average, so some people will invite many more than that and some people will never invite anyone to church.

Never.

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

During this worship series, we are focusing on our discipleship pathway, which is this:

We live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

These are expectations for our members and invitations to all people to experience life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are many ways to live a faithful life. This is how we live as Christians here at First United Methodist Church.

Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm

We have been hearing from Carroll and Becky Walters of Walters' Farm. They will be sharing stories on video about their life, pumpkins and the farm. We will be looking for lessons that a pumpkin farm can teach us about living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Transition

Today, we focus on sharing our faith with others and begin with the passage from Luke 10.

Workers for God's Harvest

Hear again these words from the first two verses of Luke 10:

¹After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest."

God's Harvest

I believe that the harvest, to which Jesus is referring, is:

- People living as part of God's kingdom.

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>

- People living as disciples of Jesus as they worship, grow give, serve and share.
- People who love God with all their heart soul mind and strength.
- People who love their neighbor as they love themselves.
This is the harvest.

Workers for God's Harvest

Who are the workers? Workers for God's harvest share their faith with others. They invite people to change their hearts and lives and trust in God's good news.²

God's Harvest in 67042

Jesus says that the harvest is bigger than you can imagine and I wanted to see what that looks like in our community. I used MissionInsite³ a community engagement and demographic resource available from our annual conference to look up this zip code - 67042. Here's what I found:

Statistics for 67042

- Population: 17,874
- Number of Households: 6,551
- None / No Religious Preference - 22.59%
- Active in a religious congregation - 40.87%

That means that there are 10,568 people in this zip code that are not active in a religious congregation and there are 4,037 people who don't even have a preference about their religion, much less connect with a particular congregation.

Jesus' words are as true today for us as they were 2,000 years ago - the harvest is bigger than you can imagine.

Transition

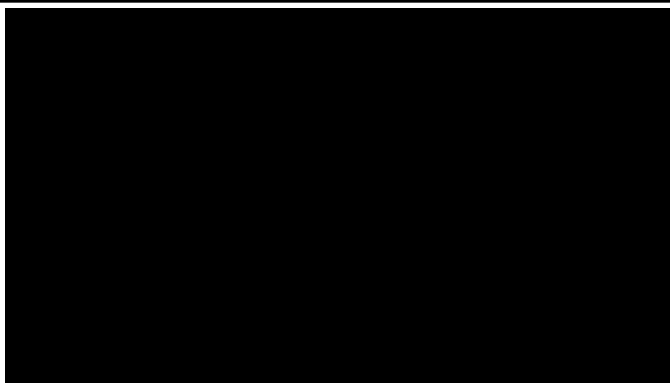
So, how do we share our faith? How do we become workers for God's harvest? It starts with something to share.

God's Love is Something to Share

Introduction to Video

In this video, Carroll describes a bit of what it's like to share their farm with others.

Let's take a look...



² See Jesus first sermon in Mark 1:14-15.

³ <http://missioninsite.com>

[Play 2016-09-18 Sermon 4 - The Most Beautiful Place We've Ever Been]⁴

Video Transcript

Carroll: We enjoy this so much and I think it's, you know, she talks about our niche, it's something we enjoy. When we were farming, it was tough. We had, you know, thousands of head of cattle and it was tough. There were good years and when there were bad years, there were bad years. This... It's just a sense of enjoyment when people come out and they stand there and say, "Wow, this is the most beautiful place I've ever been to." That's a good feeling. You know you are doing something that other people can enjoy along with Becky and I, we enjoy.

Connection to Life / Response to Video

What do you have to share?

What is it that you enjoy that other people could also enjoy?

Example: Your Favorite Restaurant

Imagine your favorite restaurant. The food is great, the people are friendly, service is fast. It's fantastic. It's something to share with other people - especially those who may not have been there before.

Personal Example: Kansas State Fair

Maybe it's a place or an event. I love going to the Kansas State Fair. The people, the spectacle, the exhibits, the contests, the food - It's great! If you haven't been to the fair, you should go.

God's Love is Something to Share

As a follower of Jesus, we have the something great to share.

God loves you.

It doesn't matter where you have come from, what your history is, or how you feel your relationship with God is right now, God loves you and offers you the opportunity to change your heart and live a life filled with "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."⁵

Next Step

You have something to share - God's love.

⁴ This video clip is 56 seconds.

⁵ Galatians 5:22-23, CEB.

Relationships for Sharing

Introduction to Video

If you have something to share, you need someone with whom to share it. In this video, Carroll and Becky describe relationships with some of their employees.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-09-18 Sermon 6 - Share Our Knowledge]⁶

Video Transcript

Carroll: We have a very good bunch of people that work for us. They're mostly parents or adults, we have some teenagers and they have to start some place. You know, learning how to deal with people and what needs to be done. We feel like if we can share our knowledge and teach these younger kids something, it makes you feel good. It's just a good feeling that you've participated in giving them a jump on life.

Becky: So often, it's those teenagers that will, a few years later, they'll say, "Hey, I gave your name as a reference. I'm applying for a job somewhere else." It makes you feel so good that they have that kind of trust and respect for Carroll and I that they think we can further them along in another job possibility for them. It feels good.

Connection to Life / Response to Video

Who are the people that are part of your life?
What relationships do you have?

Connection with Discipleship Pathway

There are 10,568 people that live in this zip code that are not active in a religious congregation and there are 4,037 people who don't even have a preference about their religion. You might know one of them. You might be one of them.

Whether it is family, friends, co-workers, neighbors or someone behind the register at the store you know someone with whom you might share your faith.

Next Step

.....
You have relationships for sharing.
.....

⁶ This video clip is 1 minute and 6 seconds.

Sharing Makes an Impact

Introduction to Video

When you share something with someone you know, it can make a big difference. In this video, Becky describes one of the a meaningful interaction with someone on the farm.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-09-18 Sermon 8 - I Love My Pumpkin!]⁷

Video Transcript

Becky: I always go back to one of the school groups that we had out here. There was a mother in the background holding a little boy and you could tell he had some disabilities. The next day the lady came back out and said, "I don't know if you noticed me yesterday with my son." And I said, "Well, I did." I said, "You know, you were taking care of him. You weren't interrupting the class or anything. It was fine." And she said, "He has never put together a sentence, a complete sentence." And she said, "That night at supper he was sitting there at the table and he said, 'I love my pumpkin!'" If that doesn't warm your heart, nothing will. At the time, I remember thinking Thank God that I have this job. That I have the life I have that a little boy could find that much joy in a little pumpkin that I'm taking for granted, but it was something special for him. So, it was good.

Connection to Life / Response to Video

This woman had something to share - a significant moment in the life of her son. She had someone with whom to share it. Even though she didn't know Becky much at all, she came back to the farm to share the good news.

This interaction made an impact on Becky - one that she remembers years later.

Connection with Discipleship Pathway

This is the simple model that we have for sharing our faith - telling someone about something that is important to you.

How to Invite

If you ever find yourself wondering how to invite someone without being weird or pushy, I'm with you. When I started as a pastor, I didn't know how to do it until, one day, when I was having lunch with my friend Dan. When he was paying for the meal, he

⁷ This video clip is 1 minute and 5 seconds.

struck up a conversation with the person at the register that I have used as a model for sharing my faith ever since.

How to Invite

Ask the question, "Where do you go to church on Sunday?"

Assume that someone is connected with a congregation.

If they are connected - great! Don't invite them to here.

There are over 10,000 people in our community that are not active.

If they are not connected with a congregation, invite them.

You might say, "I go to First United Methodist Church. We have worship at 9 and 11 a.m. You should check it out sometime."

Do this once a week and before Thanksgiving, you will have invited more people to worship than the average United Methodist does in their lifetime.

Next Step

Sharing your faith makes an impact.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that you can be one of the workers God is sending out to his harvest.

Call to Action

Something to Share

You have something to share:

- the good news of Jesus Christ,
- forgiveness for all the ways we mess up,
- the opportunity to be assured of a relationship with God.

Relationships for Sharing

Whether it is family, friends, co-workers, neighbors or someone behind the register at the store – you have relationships for sharing your faith.

Sharing Makes an Impact

Sharing your faith with others can have a deep and meaningful impact years later.

Invitation

Here's the thing, this actually works.

You're here.
Someone invited you.

Long before Carroll and Becky Walters became members of this congregation, our family got to know them at the pumpkin patch. We got a season pass and many evenings would be the last ones to leave the parking lot as they were closing down at 7 p.m. We began to recognize Becky and Carroll and eventually introduced ourselves – we were there often enough.

Several years ago, I asked Becky if they were connected with a church. At the time, they were, so that was it.

But then, last year, they showed up for worship.

They started attending regularly.

They joined a small group.

They joined the church earlier this year.

During this series, Carroll and Becky have shared their story with us.

Finding the Best of the Field

Yesterday, before all the rain, they invited our family out to help pick and carry the 'first fruits' of the fall from Walters Pumpkin Patch before they opened yesterday. Based on the model in the Old Testament of bringing the best and first harvest to God, they are giving the best pumpkin to the church to be auctioned off at the 2016 Lord's Acre on October 1.

We took some pictures while we were there. Take a look...

[Play 2016-09-18 Share - Finding the Best of the Field.mp4]⁸



Your Invitation

You have a story to share too.

I could sit down in your living room with a video camera and we could use your story for our next worship series.

God has been at work in your life in ways unlike anyone else.

No matter what your story is as an individual or family, our story together is that over 2000 years ago, Jesus was born - light piercing the darkness of our world - giving light to all of us. He came and shared the good news of the kingdom of God.

He invited fishermen to "Come, follow me."

They began to share with others and more people came to follow Jesus.

He told them, you are the light of the world - let your light shine!

⁸ This video clip is 1 minute and 5 seconds.

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As those who followed Jesus shared their faith with others, God's light spread.
They invited someone...
And they invited someone...
And they invited someone...
The good news spread throughout the world until someone invited your family.
Perhaps, your parents or grandparents or, maybe, someone invited you.

The harvest is bigger than you can imagine.
Go, share your faith and be a worker for God's harvest.