
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 the power of being in relationship with other people.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because we sometimes miss out on all that God has for us when we try to live life on our own.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the second week of the worship series focused on group life. The graphics, video and some sermon content have been adapted from the TWO Gather series at Life.Church - online at <http://bit.ly/2d0jDo0>.

What are the next action steps?

Join one of three new Wesley Small Groups launching at First UMC El Dorado before Easter 2017.

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

The good news is that God works through you in relationship with others.
The power of God can flow through you when you live life together.

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- Last week, we took a closer look at the courageous friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Together, they decided to obey God and not the king, were thrown into a fiery furnace and were saved from death by the power of God. From this story, we learned that it is important to have the right people in your life, especially when:
 - you have to decide whether to obey God or not
 - you are in the fire and facing challenges and difficulties
- At the beginning of the Bible, when God is making all things and Adam is all by himself, we read these words in Genesis 2:18:
“Then the LORD God said, “It’s not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him.””

At the very beginning of creation, God recognizes that it is not good for humans to be alone.

- The story of Elisha and the widow shows the importance of help at the right time. The woman did not have enough to provide for her family and Elisha was able to help at the right time in the right way because they were in relationships with each other. Likewise, when I am not in relationship with someone, I can be uncertain of whether I am providing the right help at the right time.
- The story of Elisha and the widow shows the importance of knowing your neighbors. The widow was able to go to her neighbor and borrow some empty jars.

When was the last time you borrowed something from your neighbors?

- Something miraculous happened as the woman continued to pour oil from the only jar that she had left into the all the empty jars that she collected. Here's the thing, Elisha didn't go out and buy more oil and give it to her. Yet, God worked through Elisha in the life of this woman and her sons in an incredible way.
- The good news is that God works through you in relationship with others. The power of God can flow through you when you live life together.

Metadata

Topics

- Grow

Sermon Books of the Bible

- 2 Kings
- Genesis
- Matthew

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, smallgroup, grouplife, WesleySmallGroup, discipleship, grow

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20th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday
TWO Gather - Watching Over One Another in Love
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2cExW5F>

October 2, 2016
2 Kings 4:1-7
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,909
Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2dnmUhv>

Why do they exist?

What do they do?

Fear: What's going to happen if I sign up?

Fear: Exposing the Real You

Invitation to a Wesley Small Group

Invitation

Key Scripture: Matthew 18:20

Assurance

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

Not ready to pray

Logistics

Closing

Closing Prayer

2 Kings 4:1-7, CEB

¹Now there was a woman who had been married to a member of a group of prophets. She appealed to Elisha, saying, "My husband, your servant, is dead. You know how he feared the LORD. But now someone he owed money to has come to take my two children away as slaves."

²Elisha said to her, "What can I do for you? Tell me what you still have left in the house."

She said, "Your servant has nothing at all in the house except a small jar of oil."

³He said, "Go out and borrow containers from all your neighbors. Get as many empty containers as possible. ⁴Then go in and close the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all those containers. Set each one aside when it's full."

⁵She left Elisha and closed the door behind her and her sons. They brought her containers as she kept on pouring. ⁶When she had filled the containers, she said to her son, "Bring me another container."

He said to her, "There aren't any more." Then the oil stopped flowing, ⁷and she reported this to the man of God.

He said, "Go! Sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what remains."

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 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.

Watching Over One Another in Love

Today, we continue our series - TWO Gather. Each week, we looking at stories in the bible of people who share their life together and what these stories mean for our life today.

Series Review

Week 1

Last week, we took a closer look at the courageous friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Together, they decided to obey God and not the king, were thrown into a fiery furnace and were saved from death by the power of God. From this story, we learned that it is important to have the right people in your life, especially when:

- you have to decide whether to obey God or not
- you are in the fire and facing challenges and difficulties

Key Scripture: Matthew 18:20

We have a common theme in the words of Jesus from Matthew 18:20:

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”¹

Wherever two or three gather together in Jesus’ name, God is there.

Now, you may say, “Does that mean God’s not there if I’m by myself?”

Of course not, God will never abandon you.²

But there is something special about the power of God with us as we gather in community with other believers.

Life is better together

God’s Work through Relationships

Throughout the Bible, we find that God uses God's people to bring about God's purposes, and there is power in relationships. This is consistent from the beginning to the end of the Bible.

Key Scripture: Genesis 2:18

At the beginning of the Bible, when God is making all things and Adam is all by himself, we read these words in Genesis 2:18:

¹ Matthew 18:20, CEB.

² Deuteronomy 31:6, CEB.

“Then the LORD God said, “It’s not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him.””³

At the very beginning of creation, God recognizes that it is not good for humans to be alone.

Our History of Small Groups

Small groups are part of our DNA.

Methodism started as a movement to inspire and train disciples for Christian living and to spread scriptural holiness across the land. In 1729, a few young college men gathered at Oxford and started the first small group in Methodism. These class meetings or Wesley Small Groups were the start of a movement which spread from England to the United States and would emerge into congregations and eventually a denomination.

Transition

This brings us to the story from scripture for today. Let me read you the story, as told by the Deep Blue Bible Storybook.

Elisha and the Widow’s Jars

Key Scripture from Bible Storybook

“One day a poor widow came to Elisha for help. Elisha was a prophet. A prophet speaks up when things are unfair and helps people know what God wants them to do. Her husband had died, and she did not have enough money to take care of her sons.

“What do you still have left in your house?” Elisha asked the woman.

“I just have one small jar of oil,” said the woman.

“One jar of oil is enough,” said Elisha.

“Here’s what I want you and your children to do: Go and find as many empty jars as you can. Look all over your house. Borrow empty jars from your neighbors. Get lots and lots of empty jars.”

“Now,” said Elisha, “go inside your house with your son and close the door. Start pouring the oil from your one jar of oil into all the jars.”

The woman and her sons carried the empty jars into the house and shut the door.

The woman filled on jar, then two jars, and then three jars. The woman kept filling jars until there were no more jars. Then the oil ran out.

The woman went back to Elisha. She told him what happened.

“Good!” said Elisha. “Sell the jars of oil to get the money you need to care for you and your sons.”

³ Genesis 2:18, CEB.

And the woman did.”⁴

Lessons from Elisha and the Widow’s Jars

This story teaches us something important about life together with others.

Help at the right time

The story of Elisha and the widow shows the importance of help at the right time. The woman did not have enough to provide for her family and Elisha was able to help at the right time. We don’t know if Elisha and the widow knew each other before this interaction. I do know this: When you are in relationship with other people, you know more about their needs and are more likely to be able to provide the right kind of help at the right time.

Example: Community Assistance

When I am not in relationship with someone, I can be uncertain of whether I am providing the right help at the right time.

Know your neighbors

The story of Elisha and the widow shows the importance of knowing your neighbors. The widow was able to go to her neighbor and borrow some empty jars.

Example: Borrowing something from a Neighbor

When was the last time you borrowed something from your neighbors?
It is hard for me to borrow from a neighbor.

God works through you in relationship others

Something miraculous happened as the woman continued to pour oil from the only jar that she had left into the all the empty jars that she collected. Here’s the thing, Elisha didn’t go out and buy more oil and give it to her. Yet, God worked through Elisha in the life of this woman and her sons in an incredible way.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God works through you in relationship with others.
The power of God can flow through you when you live life together.

Call to Action - Wesley Small Groups

Wesley Small Groups Launch

We are making plans to launch three new Wesley Small Groups before Easter 2017 so that we can more effectively live our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You can find more information at our website at

⁴ Kerry Blackwood, Daphna Flegal, and Brittany Sy; with special thanks to Elizabeth F. Caldwell, *Deep Blue: Bible Storybook* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014), 168-171.

www.FirstUMCEIDorado.org/WesleySmallGroups

What is a Wesley Small Group?

A Wesley Small Group is a group of 8 to 12 people who commit to living as disciples of Jesus Christ as they worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Why do they exist?

A Wesley Small Group exists to be a catalyst for spiritual development as we discover where we are in relationship with God and where God is calling us to grow in faith and love. The focus is not to gain more information; it is a way to equip people to actually live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

What do they do?

The members of a Wesley Small Group meet weekly for 60 to 90 minutes to study and share life, encouragement, care, and accountability. In addition, they gather for fellowship and fun, to serve beyond the walls of the church, and to share their faith with others.

Fear: What's going to happen if I sign up?

Now, I recognize when I talk about being part of a Wesley Small Group there are some fears that people have. One of them is this: "What's going to happen if I sign up?"

Even if you are outgoing, it can be a little bit hard to show up for a new group. You show up at someone's house or at the church at a time other than this time right now. I imagine that when you walk in the room there will be a whole group there already waiting for you, like they had been praying for hours and just couldn't wait for me to finally get there!

And then, when I step in the room they've got this circle of chairs and then in the middle of the room in a chair all by itself and that's my chair! You know, they're going to make me sit in the middle of the room and then everybody's going to lay their hands on me and pray for me for four hours until I confess all of my sins!

You know what I'm saying? I don't want to go through that!

And for those of you who think that this is what will happen in a Wesley Small Group, we won't do that until the second meeting! So, don't worry about it!

I'm just kidding! That's not true at all!

But there's just fears, right? It's just a fear.

Fear: Exposing the Real You

And even the fear of exposing the real you. You know, to be able to say, "Here's what's really going on in my life." That's kind of scary, wouldn't you agree? I mean, because you've got to let somebody know, "Hey, here's what I'm doing, here's where I'm messing up." And there's some fears that are associated with that.

Invitation to a Wesley Small Group

Wesley Small Groups meet at the following days and times:

- Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Thursday at 6 p.m.
- Sunday at 10 a.m.

If you want to be part of a Wesley Small Group, call the church office, come talk to me today after worship, or sign up at our website.

Invitation

Key Scripture: Matthew 18:20

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."⁵

Wherever two or three gather together,
wherever two or three come together in Jesus' name,
God is there in the midst of them.

This connection with other people starts with a connection with God.

Assurance

Some of you may say, "I'm not sure that I have a relationship with God."
You can be sure.
God love's you, no matter what.
No matter where in your life you've messed up, God is ready to forgive.
All you have to do is ask.

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

It's a very simple thing to pray – I am sorry. Thank you. Please.
Turning away from the things that we know are wrong, saying "I am sorry".
Thanking Jesus for dying and being raised for us; putting our faith in him.
And finally asking, 'Please come and fill me with your Spirit.'

Not ready to pray

You may not be sure if you want to pray a prayer like that and that's okay.

Logistics

And, if you would like to pray, then:
You do not have to pray it out loud, but just quietly under your breath.
You can repeat after me.
I'm sorry, thank you, please.

Closing

Life is better together.
It begins with a relationship with God.

Will you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

⁵ Matthew 18:20, CEB.

20th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2016

TWO Gather - Watching Over One Another in Love

2 Kings 4:1-7

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 1,909

Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2cExW5F>

Audio Online at <http://bit.ly/2dnmUhv>

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.