

# Life Group Homework

## JOHN 4:27-42 – HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS OUT

### Getting Started:

1. How often during an average day do you look around you and wonder whether those around you are believers or non-believers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If possible share a situation where God moved you to recognize that those around you were fields 'white for harvest' – in other words, you recognized that the people around you were ready for the gospel?

### Digging In:

1. We know from *John 20:30-31* and *21:25* that there were many events that John the Apostle could have recorded, and that what is recorded was carefully chosen under the leading of the Holy Spirit. John chose to record here the personal encounter that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, and then follow it up with his personal encounter with a Samaritan woman of disrepute. **What revelation is given to us concerning the richness of God's love and the reach of the gospel by putting these two stories side by side?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Look back to *John 3:16* (or just quote it as group). **How does the message of Jesus to Nicodemus in that famous verse find actual fulfillment in *John 4:39-42*?**

3. When the disciples meet back up with Jesus, they are returning from the very town to which the Samaritan woman is running with the good news of having found the Christ (Messiah). They had been making their way through the markets buying food from some of the very people that would return with the woman to meet Jesus. It seems unlikely that as they walked through those markets they were thinking, “What a great harvest could be had amongst the people of this town!” **What thoughts or beliefs might have prevented them from seeing the potential harvest amongst the Samaritans?**

4. When the disciples returned to Jesus in verse 32 with food and encouraged him to eat, he said “*I have food to eat that you do not know about.*” He adds to this in verse 34 saying, “*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.*” **How did Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman and its resulting ministry to the Samaritans have an effect on Jesus that was similar to eating food?**

5. Read *John 4:35-38* and ask the following questions:

a. What is meant by the saying in verse 37, “*One sows and another reaps*”?

b. In what way does the one who reaps “*receive wages*” (vs. 36)? In other words, what do receiving wages (earthly) and leading someone to Christ (heavenly) have in common?

c. In what way is the one who reaps “*gathering fruit for eternal life*” (vs. 36)?

d. When *verse 36* says that the sower and the reaper rejoice together, what is causing their joy?

### **Living It Out:**

1. It's possible that just as the disciples did not see the harvest as they went through the town, that we too might not be recognizing the harvest around us. Think through the people that God placed around us, are there any that might be "*white for the harvest*" that we are not seeing (personally or corporately as a church)?
2. Have we ever 'hungered' to reach the lost? If possible, share a time when you found great satisfaction in the salvation of a friend or loved one.
3. If great joy and satisfaction were found in reaching the lost why do we at times have difficulty getting out the good news about Christ?
4. Spend time in prayer asking that God give us eyes to see the harvest around us, souls that hunger for doing the work of God, and hearts that find deep joy in fruit of eternal life that is gathered.