

Embracing Catalytic Moments Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What led you to live where you currently live?
2. Describe one teacher who had an influence on your life.

Read the following passage: John 4:4-30.

The Samaritan woman in this passage had an unlikely, but life-changing interaction with Jesus. Her example teaches us several things about embracing catalytic moments in our own lives: 1) We have to get to the moment; 2) We need to be mentally and emotionally present in the moment; 3) We need to share the moment.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Describe a catalytic or defining moment in your life.
2. What were some of the factors that made the Samaritan woman's interaction with Jesus so unlikely? In our own lives, we often never make it to the important conversation, or the key meeting, or the new relationship. What are some reasons we don't make it to the moment? Describe some of the ways that our prejudgments, busy-ness, or unwillingness to pay the price can keep us from important moments?
3. How can distraction rob us from experiencing catalytic moments? What should we do about it?
4. Philosopher and author Dallas Willard challenged those he mentored to "ruthlessly eliminate hurry" from their lives. What do you think he was getting at? Why is this important and how does it relate to embracing catalytic moments?
5. As human beings, we often extend to each other "invitations to intimacy." For example, we may ask a simple question that is really more about making a connection than receiving a transfer of information. How do we recognize these invitations to intimacy? How do you typically respond to such invitations? How do we deal with the impossibility of engaging every possible "interruption"?
6. The Samaritan woman shared her catalytic moment with the people of her town. Why should we share our catalytic moments?
7. Are there any potentially defining moments you think you have been missing in your life? Explain.
8. How do you think you could better embrace the catalytic moments that God wants you to experience?

Pray