Series: Real Life Church

Message: Open Eyes Open Heart August 11, 2013

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Relationship is the bridge the Holy Spirit uses to touch the heart of man.

Take a step out of your circle of convenience. Open your <u>eyes</u>, open your <u>heart</u>.

Luke 10:30-37

## You have a story—share it!

1 Thessalonians 1:8

#### The Invitation is yours to give.

Acts 1:8

## The Invitation is your responsibility.

1 John 2:3-6

## Empty seats equals missed opportunities.

Luke 14: 14-24

**Prayer:** God I know you have sought me out because of your great love for me. Help me reach past my own fears and allow you to use me to reach others with your radical love. Amen.

# Food for thought: Talking over the message helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps

Who in your life was the relationship bridge the Holy Spirit used to draw you to Jesus?

What do you like/admire most about that person(s)?

How can you put into practice some of those same characteristics?

## **Suggested Bible Reading**

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NLT)

**Key Verse:** "<sup>9</sup>Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me."

**Thought**: God works through your weakness. You can reach people with the real you.

**Day 2:** Read 2 Peter 3:1-18 (NCV)

**Key verse:** "<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives."

**Thought**: God doesn't only wait for you, but for the people you are intended to reach

Day 3: Read Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT)

**Key verse:** "<sup>5</sup>Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity."

**Thought:** Each day God gives you an opportunity to show people what real life in Christ is all about.

DAY 4: Read Acts 1 (Message)

**Key Verse:** "8What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

**Thought:** You are His witnesses to the truth.

Day 5: Read Romans 1 (Message)

**Key Verse:** "<sup>17</sup>The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, "But those who are right with God will live by trusting in him."

**Thought:** We share the good news, God makes things right.

Day 6: Read Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV)

**Key Verse:** "8Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

**Thought**: We can produce a great harvest for God if we go out into the field.

Day 7: Read Luke 10:30-37

**Key Verse:** <sup>33</sup>"A Samaritan traveling the road came upon him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him.

**Thought:** Open your eyes, standing in plain sight is someone you are destined to be the relationship the Holy Spirit uses to draw them to Christ.