

Suggested Campaign 5-week Series

Note to Pastors: This suggested series may be done the 5 weeks of the actual campaign. It is targeted primarily at non-believers. The idea with the Campaign Message series is to show people how a relationship with Christ changes our story. You might want to show 2wordstory video clips from the website during the series, or have people from your congregation tell their 2wordstory during the service. Part of the thinking behind this series is that it will give visitors (who have been curious about the whole 2wordstory buzz) the opportunity to dig further into the idea that a relationship with Christ can change *their* life. The examples chosen show how Jesus brings different kinds of change to people's lives. Of course, you can adapt this material as you wish, or change the characters entirely to different examples.

THE SECRET THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

5.1 – ALIVE! ALIVE.

Week 1 - Nicodemus

The secret is “Without a second birth we will never know true life!”

The problem is people think that you can be good enough or religious enough to get into a right standing with God. Nicodemus had all the qualifications of someone who fit that bill. He was a member of the Sanhedrin. He was a man who obeyed the law. A Jewish Rabbi. Yet he went to Jesus by night because he still felt Jesus knew something he didn't. Jesus let him in on a secret. He was a dead man walking. The only way to find true life with power and meaning is to be born again. We think what we have is good enough, but Jesus wants us to know the most important thing we have to have is a new life in Him. No matter what we do, we won't know true life until then. The secret is a second birth.

5.8 – TRUST? TRUST.

Week 2 – Mothers Day – Esther

The secret is “If you trust God, He can use you to change the world!”

The problem comes when we don't have enough courage to do what we feel God has called us to do. When God puts us in a role and calls us to a task we sometimes get overwhelmed with circumstances. We fear for our future and we have trouble trusting God with the things we can't control. While most of us wrestle with this tension, it is certainly true for moms. It was true for Esther as well. Mordeci convinced Esther that she was in her role for a purpose and a reason (like every Mom). She was told she was good enough to perform the task even when facing fearful circumstances that could have cost her life. The secret is trust. Trust God to take care of you when you need Him the most.

Week 3 – FORGIVEN? FORGIVEN.

5.15 – Zaccheus

The secret is “God gives us unconditional forgiveness so that we can give it to others!”

Most of us have a problem with forgiveness. The only problem bigger than forgiving others is forgiving ourselves. Based on our past mistakes, we wonder how anyone can forgive us. If we haven't been given forgiveness, then it's that much harder to give it. We also demand apologies in order to approach the subject. Zaccheus must have been thinking these things when interacting with Jesus. Jesus introduced him to the secret of unconditional forgiveness. The key for us is knowing that God first gives it to us and our response is to turn around and to give it to others. No one would have ever predicted it, but Zaccheus turned out to be our model in this area. He never expected Jesus to forgive him, but He did. And he forgives us in the same way. We should turn right around and give unconditional forgiveness to others.

Week 4 – SATISFIED? SATISFIED.

5.22 - The Woman at the Well

The secret is “Jesus is the only thing that will fill the emptiness in your life!”

Many of us try to fill our lives with stuff we think will make us happy. Relationships, money, looks, power, significance, etc. The problem is it doesn't work. No matter how much we try, we will always be empty inside. The woman at the well was trying to fill a God-shaped hole with man-shaped pieces. It never works. Jesus came along and gave her the secret she had been looking for – Himself. He identified her deepest need. She was thirsty for God and didn't even know it. Jesus ended up changing her life - and the lives of all those husbands. She went back to town and told everyone, “come see a man who changed my life.” Of course, all the men in town ran out to meet her new guy. And the whole town was turned upside down. Jesus is the only thing that will fill the emptiness in your life.

Week 5 – HOPE? HOPE. (Final week of the EACH Campaign!)

6.5 – A City Lives Again!

The secret is that “the hope of a city is bound up in its humility before God.”

Can an entire CITY be changed by God's amazing grace? Can a REGION find a new future when it turns back to God? It can, but only if it humbles itself and submits to the truth of God hidden in its walls. Josiah inherited from his fathers a city that had fallen into ruin. Then one day the priest Hilkiah discovered a book buried deep inside the walls of the temple. It was the Word of God! When the Word was rediscovered, and the people humbled themselves before God, a massive reformation came about in Israel. And it all happened because they rediscovered the truth of God hidden in their walls. Detroit has an awesome past. Our city once moved the world. Now, we seem to be stalled out. Is there a future? Is there hope? Let's take a lesson from ancient Israel and rediscover the truth of God hidden in our walls. It's written on the wall of our main governmental building. *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2Corinthians 3:17)*. The hope of our region is not in faster horses, but in a saving God. There is true freedom where His Spirit reigns!