

Red Cup NSO Large Group Series

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TITLE: Students like to shape the overall title for a series. Here are a few options:

Thrive

From Thirst to Thrive

Refill

Filled

Obey Your Thirst

Searching for satisfaction that lasts.

WEEK 1: Satisfaction

Possible titles: I can't get no satisfaction! From thirst to satisfied

TALK OUTLINE OPTIONS

Option 1: John 4

1. We all have deeper thirsts in our lives. This woman has hidden thirsts in her life. Jesus moves the conversation from surface-level to her deep needs, to see if she is willing to be honest about herself. The same is true for us. Jesus invites us to be honest about what is going on under the surface. There are layers of honesty. You can be "somewhat honest" but rather vague. You can be "more honest." Or you can be "most honest." Please consider being "most honest."
2. Jesus creates a safe place to reveal our thirsts. Jesus is very gentle with her in helping uncover her deeper thirst. He uses intriguing language like "water that is alive" to draw out her curiosity. Jesus is amazing at using questions and parables. He is an expert in helping open our eyes, if we want our eyes opened.
3. Jesus can satisfy and wants to fully satisfy us. Jesus is the water. Jesus is the one who satisfies. He is God in the flesh. He is our creator, and he made our soul. Our soul is uniquely satisfied when we are filled by him alone.

Option 2: John 4

1. Jesus knows who we are. But he does not condemn. He initiates.

2. Jesus knows what we long for and desires to quench it. Her thirst is good, but how she quenches it is warped. Jesus does not just identify our thirsts, but he also quenches them. Her life flips. Shame is broken.
3. Jesus invites us to live for something more than ourselves. He inspires her to live for more.

CALL TO RESPONSE

1. Call to honesty.
2. Call to Jesus.
3. Call to mission on campus. Tell your story.

TEACHING HINTS

1. It is a very long passage. You won't have time to hit all the points. The speaker should move quickly through confusing parts (i.e. v. 20-38).
2. Briefly point to the end where she goes back to the village. Makes a great point about witness and world changers.

CREATIVE IDEAS

1. Drink mini water bottles during the talk. Share how we go after the mini bottled water, but we need to find the true source.
2. Use a waterfall image.
3. Have students eat salty food during the talk, so they feel really thirsty. Pass out mini water bottles as part of the response.
4. After drinking the water, students could put the empty bottles in a bin, signifying their choice for living water.
5. Have people write their name and their decision they make on paper and stick them on boards. Then bring those boards back later in the year.
6. Use video clips, commercials on thirst, related art, or other images.
7. Use an image of Mary Magdalene (i.e. sculpture by Donatello)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Donatello,_maria_maddalena_02.JPG
8. Have a student share his/her testimony. (Possibly include training on how to tell your story or training on proxe station.)
9. Use a song like the one below.

Song on John 4

(F Dm G/A Am)

I am a woman, you are a man
What do you want with me?
I am from here, you are from there
Why do you talk to me?
I am an outcast, you are respected
Why would you ask for something from me?
What do you want with me?

(Am G/A)

Hiding from people who've known me and seen me
Ashamed of my rejection, unfit to be loved
Everybody sees me and remembers my pain
(Dm E+7 Am F#m7(b5) Am E+7 Am)
I've been living in hell, it will always be this way
So I come to the well in the heat of the day

(F#m7(b5) Fmaj7)

And you see me,
And you know me
And you see me,
And you know me...

Am G/B C

I will never return to the well,
Because Jesus has offered me water
That brings the dead in me to life

F G

I will drink and be satisfied

w

Am G/B C

He told me everything
Everything I have ever done
And I won't hide or be ashamed

F G

You will see me and know that He has begun
To restore me, renew me, to send me...

WEEK 2: Purpose

Students want their life to have meaning. They fear being boring, humdrum pencil-pushers.

TALK OUTLINE OPTIONS

Option 1: Luke 19:1-10

1. Jesus sees us. Jesus is the one who looks up in the tree and calls Zacchaeus by name. Not only that, but Jesus takes the initiative to invite himself over for a meal. The same is true for us. Jesus calls us by name. He invites himself into your world. Do you want to let him in?
2. Jesus has more to offer us whether we are floundering or very successful. Zacchaeus is at the top of his game. He has succeeded in wealth and position. But he still sees in Jesus something far better.
3. Jesus' transformation is for us, and through us. Jesus' transformation is holistic. Jesus' transformation should be seen in all aspects of our lives, our money, our relationships, and our community. Salvation is attached to how we give and care for the poor and oppressed (how we handle our material world) as well as being a spiritual response.

Option 2: Luke 5

What you want is not bad, but Jesus gives us something greater. It's clear what Jesus is inviting Peter into, and this passage detail Peter's response. Ask students, "What nets do you need to drop to follow Jesus?" Jesus is better than a big catch of fish. Sometimes we need an identity change to catch men versus fish. At the end of the talk, point to the picture of who Peter becomes in the Church.

1. Jesus initiates with Peter by getting into his boat. Peter is a successful fisherman, not poor and needy without options
2. Jesus challenges Peter to take a risk and blows him away. He challenges Peter to cast nets into the water, then he blows away Peter's expectations. Peter's best case scenario is far smaller compared to what Jesus does.
3. Jesus invites Peter into something more. Jesus invites Peter into being about more than himself. He invites Peter into a deeper purpose. He invites Peter to make his life about people and not just about success.

CALL TO RESPONSE

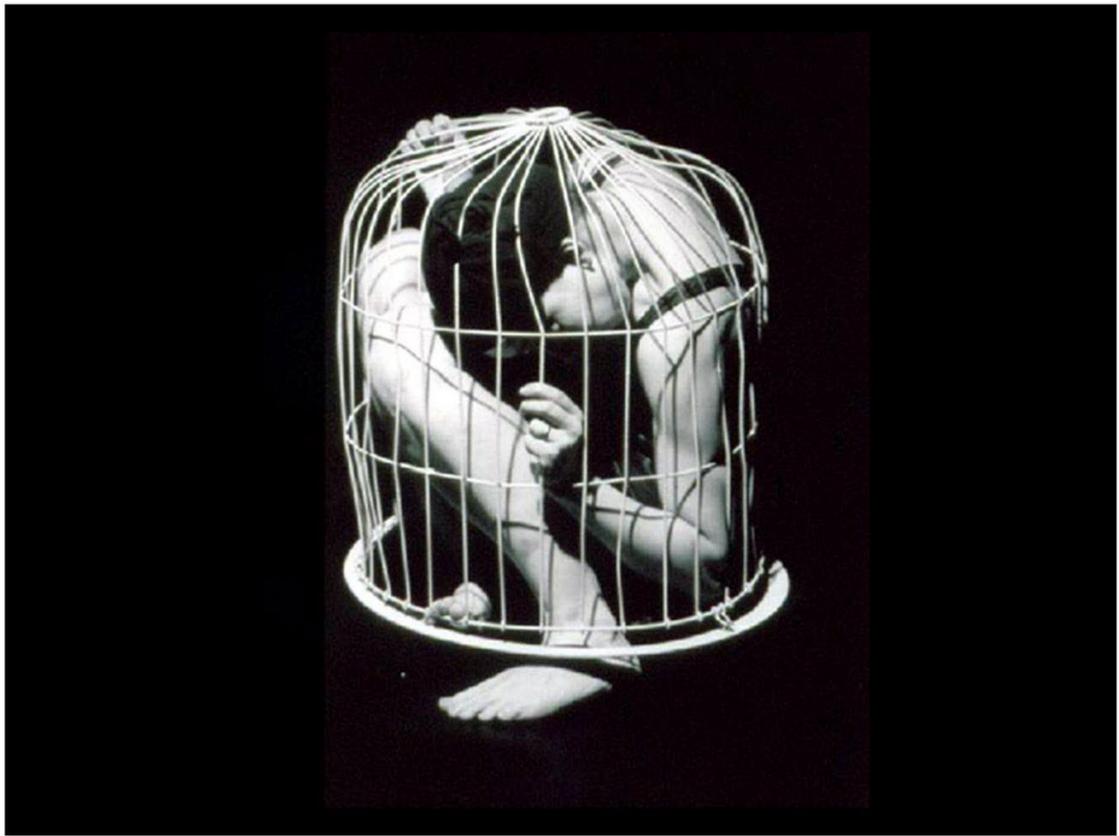
1. Open your eyes to the people around you. Be like Jesus and become about people. Get outside of yourself to look for daily opportunities to share Jesus' love with people.
2. Picture your most amazing dream or career success coming true. Jesus is better than that.
3. Rethink your purpose for being on campus.
4. Consider your identity. It's more than your major. What kind of person do you want to become? Write it down.

TEACHING HINTS

1. Possibly bridge response 4 to small groups. Share your identity with your small group this week.
2. It can be awkward that we don't know what they discuss over lunch. The text is silent on this.

CREATIVE IDEAS

1. Share a music video or song about worldly success.
2. Have a student artist or graphic designer create an image of "fishing for people."
3. Cut silhouettes of people out of foam board and place them around the room, or draw outlines of people on butcher paper to hang on the walls. As part of the response, have students write on them or stick post-it notes of names of people that Jesus is asking them to invest in this year.
4. Show compelling images of suffering people in the world.
Ex. www.flickr.com/photos/alex978/1016152029/#/photos/alex978/1016152029/lightbox
"A vulture watches a starving child," Kevin Carter, 1993. This photojournalist stopped to observe an emaciated Sudanese toddler crawling toward a food station miles away. The vulture is waiting anxiously for the little girl to die. As you observe the details in this image, let Jesus break your heart for the poor and marginalized in our world. Ask God to show you how He wants you to care for His people and join in His mission to save the lost and help the broken.
5. Show Caged Woman performance art image (below) to represent lost people who need Jesus.



WEEK 3: Love, Identity

We're all trying different things to find love and belonging. Can God meet this deeper need?

TALK OUTLINE OPTION

Luke 15

This is a story about two sons who both doubt that their father can or will meet their need for love and belonging. The younger son clearly tries to get his needs met outside of the father. He is thirsty for joy and love and adventure. But it does not work for him. He takes a huge risk, comes back to his father, not knowing what to expect. He finds love.

The other son serves out of obligation and loyalty. He is waiting for something more. He cannot experience the love of his father because it needs to look a specific way. It is possible to live with the father and never actually experience his love.

These sons are much more similar than we first think. The father offers the older son and the younger son the same gift of love and identity. What it takes to receive the Father's love is different forms of courage. The younger son needs courage to come back to his father. The older son needs courage to face his warped view of the father.

1. We all have a God-given desire to be loved and to be known.
2. We all fulfill these needs in many places.
3. We all need courage to face our barriers that block us from experiencing God's love.

CALL TO RESPONSE

1. Call to come to God the Father. Call to a life of faith.
2. Call to Christians. God is inviting you to a life of love. We need to lay down our warped views of God. He is not a God of obligation and guilt, but of love.

CREATIVE IDEAS

1. Print, laminate, and hand out copies of Rembrandt's painting. 2" by 2.5"
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt-The_return_of_the_prodigal_son.jpg

2. Watch a video about the explanation of the Prodigal Son painting by Joel Hunter from Northland Church: www.vimeo.com/3854678
3. Have students draw little images on 3"x3" paper of how they have experienced God's love or would like to experience God's love. Have them tape or staple this to a larger piece of art.
4. Print images of Prodigal Son art and place them around the room. Google "prodigal son art" or search for this on Wikipedia, where several options will come up.
5. Have a party to celebrate being welcomed by God and the love of the Father.
6. Use the Launch playlist for the session, How do I know God loves me: <http://www.playlist.com/playlist/20716024843>

WEEK 4: Community

Real v. Pseudo community

TALK OUTLINE OPTIONS

Mark 2:1-5

1. Real community starts when we choose to be real about who we are and what we need. Everyone needs to be carried at some point in our lives. Take the risk of bringing your need to your friends. (Pseudo community says “its all good” when our life is falling apart.)
2. Real community requires us to carry our friends to Jesus. Everyone needs to carry others. We need to have the courage to bring our friends to Jesus and not just leave them where they are. The experience of helping a friend be transformed by Jesus is life-changing. God can work through you, not just in you.
3. Real community happens when we choose to be about something bigger than ourselves together. Community forged in mission is better than in leisure.

The more honest you are about your struggles, the more your friends can help carry you to Jesus. (This also builds off the older son from the week before as we ask people to expose warped views of God.)

RESPONSE

1. Call to honesty within your small group and community.
2. Call to carry your friends.
3. Call to attend fall conference. Call to join a small group.

TEACHING HINTS

Open with a description of pseudo community versus real relationships.

CREATIVE IDEAS

1. Use playlist from the Launch session on Why do I need Christian community:
<http://www.playlist.com/playlist/20716103691>
2. Use Facebook as an illustration. Create a “wall” out of paper or fake bricks. Have people write on it a prayer request, something about themselves that they wished other people knew,

or something they want to share with God. If this were used within a small group, you could go deeper and have them write encouragement or prayers on other people's "walls."

3. Share the Destiny Speech from Invictus <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wTfhzkiRO8>

4. Show the painting "Violent Love" by Beth Roselius, 2007 (below).

Sacrifice, perseverance, pursuing truth and community. Jesus was the example of this kind of love. His love for us is a picture of the Father's love and relationship with Him. This is also how we are to love each other. The 'greatest love' is to lay down one's life for a friend. This intense love can only be experienced as we begin to understand Jesus' sacrifice for us and as we work this out in community with other believers.



WEEK 5: Thriving not just living.

TALK OUTLINE OPTIONS

We see three possible ways to teach this; you develop your points.

Option 1: John 4: 31-42

"Lift up your eyes." We can feast on logistics or we can feast on God's purposes. Jesus says, "I have different food." We all have barriers to feasting. The disciples didn't have eyes to see. They are biased by their assumptions about Samaritans.

Options 2: John 4: 31-42

Jesus says, "I have a food to eat that you do not know about." There are two views on obedience. We often think obedience is a bad word and will squeeze our joy. Not true! Jesus says that obedience brings the greatest satisfaction.

Option 3: John 4: 31-42

"Come see a man who told me all that I ever did." Our own story has the power to change lives.

OTHER POSSIBLE THEMES

New identity

Belonging

Community

From desire for romance to need for community

Fun to thrive

OTHER LARGE GROUP OPTIONS

1. Matt 9:9-13. What small group are you forming? Do non-Christians feel welcome? Break into small groups to discuss right there.
2. Luke 10. The story of the sending of 70, doing life together, and the community around mission.
3. The two stories of Jairus and the bleeding woman.
4. The story of the 10 bridesmaids and owning your faith.
5. John 8. The story of the woman caught in adultery.
6. 2 Kings 7. There are lepers at the gate. They find abundance and return to share.