



Week/Sermon # 8

Title: How Organic Outreach Transforms Us and the World

Key Texts: Luke 19:10, Matthew 4:18-22, John 4:13-14, Matthew 5:13-16

Overview: The first one to reach out is always God. He so loved the world that He gave His only Son. When Jesus walked on this earth, He extended grace to every person He met. We who follow Jesus are to love people as He does. Every disciple carries the best news in human history. Our calling is to share the love and Gospel of Jesus freely, in the power of the Spirit. As we partner with the Savior, He draws people to Himself, and He alone receives the glory.

Sermon Outline:

Introduction- Begin your message by sharing about how specific people have loved, served, prayed, and shared the story of Jesus. Describe how their witness had eternal impact on a friend, family member, or someone with whom they shared the Gospel. There are many ways to do this. The key is that the story is honest and captures the power and beauty of one person sharing faith and the Holy Spirit infusing their efforts with power to save!

- **Personal Testimony-** You can share a story about a family member, friend, pastor, Sunday School teacher, or some other person who had the love and commitment to pray for you, love you, and share the Good News of salvation that is found in Jesus. Sharing your own story of how God used others in your journey of coming to Jesus is powerful!
- **Live Testimony-** Have a person from your congregation tell a story of how someone truly loved them and invested time, care, prayer, and who told them the story of Jesus.
- **Video Testimony-** Record a story of how one caring person invested in the spiritual journey of another and showed the grace of Jesus and told the story of Jesus in a way that made sense and helped this person place their faith in the Savior.

Movement 1- Learning from Jesus...The Heart of Jesus...To Love and Save People Like You...And Not Like You!



- **Image:** If you are going to use the seven icons for the seven markers of spiritual growth, show the image for “Organic Outreach” and let people know that this picture will show up in sermons, on your website, in youth and children’s materials, and other times when you are focusing on the marker of Organic Outreach. Consider having the Icon on the sermon title if you project notes or on the cover of your bulletin if you have one. You might want to have the icon in one of the corners of every slide you project in this sermon. ([Here is the link to Organic Outreach badge](#))
- Jesus had a mission statement: Mission statements are very popular these days, but they have been around for a long time. Read Luke 19:10 and talk about how this was Jesus’ mission statement from the very beginning. He came to seek lost people. He came to save us from our sins.
 - Illustration- You can give examples of corporate mission statements, your church mission statement, or other mission statements. Talk about the value and importance of these declarations and how they guide the direction and action of a life, company, team, or church. Then, look at Jesus’ mission statement and why this was the primary focus of His incarnation, life, and ministry.
 - To seek and save the lost! (Luke 19:10)
 - You can look at some of the encounters in the Gospel where Jesus was open to broken and lost sheep and how He shared the truth that would save them. Two great accounts are found in John 3 (Nicodemus) and John 4 (The Samaritan Woman).
- What’s in a Name? A Lot! Jesus went by many names and every one of them had deep meaning. Some of the names for Jesus reveal His mission and reason for coming to walk among us. Take time to unpack a few of these names and look at what they reveal about the heart and mission of Jesus to reach lost people:
 - Messiah (John 4:25-26)
 - Bread of Heaven (John 6:48-58)
 - Living Water (John 7:37)
 - Light of the World (John 1:12-13)
 - Lamb of God (John 1:29)
 - The Gate (John 10:7-10)
 - The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- What are you doing here? Jesus came for many reasons. Through the gospels, the New Testament letters, the Old Testament prophets, and all of Scripture, we discover the mission and passion of our Savior. Take time to teach some of the answers to the question, “What was God doing walking on this earth?” “Why did Jesus come?” Use some of the ideas below to get you thinking about how to answer these questions:

Jesus came to:

- o Reveal the **love** of the Father
- o Share the **truth** of God
- o Offer the **grace** of heaven
- o Proclaim the **Gospel** of life
- o Invite **repentance** from sin
- o Pay the **price** for our sin against God
- o Call us to **follow** God (Discipleship and Evangelism)

Movement 2- The Journey of Organic Discipleship...His Mission Is Our Mission...Do You See It?

- But who am I? Dig into how being a disciple (a follower of Jesus) places us on the same mission as Jesus. The closer we walk with Jesus, the more we stay in line with the mission of seeking and saving lost people. As you do this, look at how the Bible gives us (the followers of Jesus) different names with great significance. Unpack two or three of these and help people see that their identity as a Christian defines their actions and mission.

Through faith in Jesus, you are...

- o A **fisher** of people (Matt. 4:18-22)
- o **Conduit** of Living Water (John 4:13-14)
- o The **light** of the world (Matt. 5:14-16)
- o The **salt** of the earth (Matt. 5:13)

Note- *If you project this list, you might want to have them come in one at a time.*

- Illustrations- What if I don't feel worthy to bear the light of Jesus and share the message of the Savior? (Many believers feel this way and excuse themselves from evangelism because they don't measure up in their own eyes. If you feel this is the case with many in your church, you might want to make reference to some prominent biblical characters who did not feel worthy to serve God, but still remained faithful. Dig into this as you feel led. Some possible characters: The apostle Paul, Esther, Moses, Esther...).
- You are who God says you are! (Take time to remind those listening to the sermon that God determines who we are. It's not really up to us. If God calls you light, a conduit of living water, salt, and a fisher of people...then don't fight it. Spend your life growing and living into what God says about you).
- My next step toward and with Jesus! (Give some words of challenge, encouragement, and exhortation for your church members to move into a life of organic outreach where they share their faith and the story of Jesus naturally. Use the prompts below to get you started...).

Take a Next Step into Organic Outreach (Share a few words about what each can look like in our daily lives):

- o Admit my fear of evangelism to God and other believers you trust
- o Check my theology...is it firmly biblical?
- o Own my calling
- o Evaluate my schedule
- o Find an outreach mentor
- o Count the cost
- o Live like Jesus
- o Speak like Jesus

Note- *If you project this list, you might want to have them come in one at a time.*

Movement 3- How Organic Outreach Transforms Us and the World...Prayer, Care, and Share!

- Be honest that many believers get stuck here. Every biblical Christian knows that Jesus came to seek the lost. Jesus was the Good Shepherd who came to rescue wandering sheep like us! We all know that our heart should break for the lost and that Christians are called to make disciples of all nations and be witnesses from where we are to the ends of the earth. Here is the rub! Most of us are not doing it. It is time for us to take the hand of Jesus and go where He goes...and Jesus is always moving toward lost sheep. It is what He does! It is His mission.
- One way to heaven, but many ways to share the story!
 - o Give your congregation at least 2-3 examples of ways to share the simple message of the Gospel with friends, family members, and neighbors. You can find all of these with a simple web search and also on pages 217-244 in the book, *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*.
 - The Bridge illustration
 - Do -vs- Done
 - The Romans Road
 - The ABCs of Salvation
 - Great apps for your phone ([GodTools](#), [Dare2Share Life in 6 Words](#), [GCLA The Bridge app](#), [PeaceWithGod](#))
- Your testimony of life transformation (when you accepted Jesus)
 - o Teach people how to share their story of salvation. They were one way, they met Jesus and accepted His forgiveness and leadership in their life, and now they have a whole new life. You can find tools for doing this on pages 199-215 in the book, *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*.

- o Illustration- Have someone share a simple testimony of when they came to faith (being sure the message of the Gospel was shared in the testimony). This can be live or on video.
- Your stories of God's presence, power, and provision!
 - o Not only do we have a conversion testimony but we have many testimonies of when God has shown up in our life, been present, unleashed power, protected us, and so much more. These are stories of God's movement in the world and our life this past week, month, or year! We have hundreds of these stories and the world is waiting to hear them. Challenge people to share stories of answered prayer, protection in dangerous times, provision in times of need, and other examples of how God is moving now!
 - o Illustration- Have a couple of people share brief but powerful testimonies of when God showed up and moved in their life. This can be live or on video. These stories show non-believers that Christians are not just doing church or being religious. We have a living Savior and a dynamic relationship with Jesus.
- His story changes lives forever!
 - o Finish by teaching your congregation that they can tell the story of Jesus and share His Good News if they can remember eight simple words. They come in four couplets that begin with the letters G.O.G.O. Notice that the movement of the Gospel begins with God: **God's Love** (He loved us while we were rebels and sinners). Then it moves to us: **Our Problem** (We have sinned and are separate from God and each other because of our rebellion. We are under judgment and can't save ourselves). Then it moves back to God: **God's Solution** (Jesus came to live a perfect life, God with us. He died on the cross in our place to cleanse us of sin and offer new life. Then, He rose again! He paid the price in full. That is God's solution to our sin problem). Finally, it is back to us: **Our Response** (Jesus offers forgiveness to all who will accept the gift of His sacrificial death and the glory of His resurrection. When we receive Jesus and follow Him as our leader, we are saved! If we reject Jesus or fail to receive Him, we are responsible to give account for all of our sins).
 - **God's Love** (He loves first)
 - **Our Problem** (Sin and its consequences)
 - **God's Solution** (Jesus' death and resurrection)
 - **Our Response** (Faith and following)

Note- If you project this list, you might want to have them come in one at a time.
- Finish by inviting people who have never received Jesus as their forgiver of sins and the leader (Lord) of their life to embrace Him today. Lead them in a prayer of salvation (an

example of this kind of prayer can be found at the end of chapter 13 in *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*). You can invite them to respond in a way that works in your church context. Some options are: Walk forward during the service and come to the altar, come forward after the service to meet with someone who will help them begin taking steps forward in their new life of faith, fill out a response card, respond online to say they made a commitment to Jesus, have them talk with a pastor or a friend about their new faith. The key is that they respond in some public way and that they begin a journey of spiritual growth.

- o Immediate follow-up. Be sure they have a Bible. Our church gives them out in English and Spanish (and we get good Bibles for new believers!). We give a 50-day reading plan to introduce them to the Scriptures (we have these in English and Spanish as well). Take them through a small group experience of Organic Disciples. This is a great new believer's learning experience. Encourage them to be baptized. Offer one-on-one mentoring (discipling). There are more ideas and resources on the Organic Disciples website.
- **Close in Prayer...** Thank Jesus for coming to find us and save us! Pray for our hearts to grow like Jesus' heart for all of those who are still wandering sheep. Ask God to give each person boldness to share their faith in organic and consistent ways.