

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online
- B. Crosscreek... a bit different
 - 1. For people who don't normally...
 - 2. Churches often known for what they are against.
 - 3. We want to be known for what we are FOR. We're FOR you
 - 4. Why is that idea so important to us?
- C. People who were nothing like Jesus loved being around him
 - 1. The way he's often thought of/portrayed... you would think the churchy religious people would want to hang with him... they couldn't stand him
 - 2. Partly b/c of the people who were around him.
 - 3. Think about it... prostitutes, traitors, outcasts... all loved being around this guy who claimed (I think proved) he was God.
 - 4. WHY?
- D. Jesus accepted people.
 - 1. Accepted- weird word.
 - 2. Often has idea that you agree with everything
 - 3. Not ever possible... better than that
 - 4. **Accepted: No matter how different we are... I see you as a person worthy of value and honor.**
 - 5. That's how Jesus saw and treated people... he wasn't afraid to publicly associate with people that were nothing like him.
 - 6. He chose to serve those that others found repulsive

II. WE

- A. We all want to be accepted like that...
 - 1. We may have differences... we might not agree with everything the other thinks or does... but we want to be seen as a person who has value and is worthy of honor.
- 2. Me and Preschool Parents- like middle school all over
- 3. We want to be accepted
 - 4. Why moms are so awesome.
 - a. Usually most accepting person in your life...
 - b. They've seen the worst of you and still accept you.
 - c. **Mom texts**
- B. And when it comes to God, if there is one, ... we hope he accepts us too.
- C. "But he would never accept me."
 - 1. What I've done. Haven't done.
 - 2. Doubts. Questions. Independence
 - 3. Who told you that? They were wrong
- D. Series- we'll discover what God is really like...
 - 1. And how all of those reasons mean nothing in the face of his love for you and his acceptance of you.
- E. Start where most great ideas begin... curiosity.
- F. Discover that- **Jesus accepts the curious.**

- G. Gospel of John (Gospel = god news) one of the most interesting pieces of ancient literature ever written.
1. Start at... **John 1:35-42**
 2. Eye-witness account of Jesus' life
 3. John, inner circle, Jesus' best friend.
 4. Insights and details you couldn't know unless you were actually there experiencing it.
 5. Accuracy of customs/political scene/geography spot on.
 6. As he got older he wrote down his experiences for next generations.

III. GOD

A. Context

1. John was originally disciple of John the Baptist
 2. A relative of Jesus according to Luke.
 3. **Eccentric**- Camels hair clothes, big leather belt, ate locusts and wild honey.
 4. **Very famous**- people came from all over to hear him
 5. Said he was preparing everyone for the Anointed One (Messiah) (Oil on head of king) by having people repent of their sin and baptizing them.
- B. One day Jesus walks by and John yells "Look the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" – Lamb= Jewish Sacrifice
1. "He's the reason I came. This is God's chosen one."
 2. Everyone finds that interesting.

3. Happens again the next day...
4. Two of John's disciples (one of which was likely the author John as a teenager) decide to check things out...

C. V. 35-37

1. **Funny scene.**
2. Are they stalking him? Behind bushes and camels... fake glasses?
3. Like how close are they? Just start silently walking right behind him?
4. John had told them in his way and it seemed a big deal... so they were curious.
5. They don't just want to take John's word for it... they want to check it out for themselves.
6. Want to know for themselves... So they start following Jesus.
7. Next are Jesus' first recorded words in John's account...
8. How John chose to first introduce his friend that he would one day worship as God.

D. V. 38

1. "What do you want?"
2. Again... depending on how the guys were following him... how did he say that?
3. Kind of asking two questions
 - a. Why are you following me?
 - b. What are you hoping to get out of it? What are you seeking in life?

4. Jesus encourages curiosity and questions

5. It was really an invitation for them to ask him anything...
 - a. What did John mean by Lamb of God?
 - b. Are you really the Messiah?
 - c. What's the stuff we need to know?
 - d. Why do Americans think you're white?
6. Instead they ask, "Where are you staying?"
 - a. Didn't care about which house
 - b. Were wanting some uninterrupted time to discover who Jesus was.
7. Jesus was down with that

E. V. 39a (end at "see.")

1. Could've given them an address and walked away
2. But instead invited them to join him and see.
3. "Come and see"- Inviting them into a relationship
4. Inviting them to get some personal understanding of who he is.

9. Personal curiosity leads to personal passion.

- a. Being forced to learn it in school v. researching on your own
5. "Hang out with me... get to know me... ask some questions... and make up your mind for yourself."
6. You don't get who I truly am... so come and see.

F. V. 39b

1. So they go and spend the day with him.
2. And it's a day John never forgot... changed his life forever...
3. **"It was about 4:00." – Eye-witness**

4. It was such an impactful time that they immediately went out and had to tell someone.
5. Like a good **restaurant or movie**- you gotta check this out!

G. V. 40-41

1. Messiah- Greek- Christ... Anointed one- The one God would send to save them... they thought from Rome but it was bigger than that.
 - a. Later in the story... you can read ahead

2. Personal passion leads to passionate publicity

3. Like a good restaurant or movie- when you find something good it's hard to keep it to yourself.

H. V. 42

1. Weird.
2. Who does that? "Good to meet you. What's your name? Simon? Nah- you're Peter now."
3. Showing his authority and that he knew who Peter could/would become. Leader of the church.
4. These guy's lives were changed forever.

I. **And it all started with Jesus accepting their curiosity.**

1. He didn't say, "Bow down and worship and then you may enter the house of the LORD!!!"
2. Didn't test them on Torah knowledge
3. Didn't make them confess all their sins
4. They didn't have to have it all figured out and have their lives put together all nice and clean.
5. Simply invited them to come and see.

6. He accepted them before they knew who he was or proved any type of worthiness to know him.

IV. YOU

1. Bottom line- **Jesus' acceptance is an invitation**
 1. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, what your question is, what you know, what you doubt, what you have figured out... Jesus accepts you.
 2. No, he doesn't condone everything you choose to do
 3. But he ACCEPTS YOU.
 4. He sees you as a person worthy of value and honor...
 5. Someone who thinks for themselves and deserves to be given time to discover who he is in their own way
 6. He is not offended or bothered by questions.
 7. He invites them. He says, "bring your questions, doubts, fears... and Come and See... for yourself."

2. Same invitation to you- Come and See

1. Do you really accept me- Come and See
2. Do you really make a difference- Come and See
3. Can you handle my doubts and questions- Come and See
4. Are you really what they say you are- Come and See
5. Can you really use me to make a difference- Come and See
6. Jesus doesn't want you to have second-hand knowledge about him... he wants you to come and see so you can KNOW him for yourself.

3. So **you are invited to come and see.**
 1. **Read it** for yourself- John's Account
 2. **Crosscreek.**- Come back- Belong before believe
 3. Ancient method (400 AD)- **Patrick of Ireland**
 4. Jesus- Invited disciples before they believed

4. You are invited to invite

1. Like a good **restaurant or movie**—if you have experienced acceptance or had a good experience here... invite someone else.
2. How all of you are here... someone invited you.
3. Either personally or through our online.
5. Look for **The 3 Nots**
 6. **Not in church**
 7. **Not going well**
 8. **Not prepared for**

9. "Come and see. You can sit with me."

10. Dress Code- Please Do.

V. WE

11. What if you grew up knowing that no matter what happened, what you asked, what you said... you would be completely accepted?
12. What if you knew that now?
13. What if we offered that to each other?
14. God, through Jesus, offers that to you.

15. Jesus accepts your curiosity.

16. So come and see

17. And bring a friend or three.