
“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team

For the week of July 28, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Seek and Save the Lost

Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham. And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost.”

Luke 19:9-10

Prayer for the Week

Jesus, you reached out to Zacchaeus even when others despised him. Thank you for seeking and saving those who are lost. Lord, there are people like Zacchaeus all around me. Open my eyes that I might see them and reach out. Help me to look beneath the surface and discover the person within, who was created in your image. Help me to have a burden for the lost and be a friend to those who are seeking you.

Notable Quote

We do not seek God—God seeks us.

Frederick William Robertson

Reflection

Zacchaeus was a Jewish tax collector with both wealth and influence. What prompted a prominent man like him to perch in a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus? Was it only his short stature? Whatever the reasons, we do know that his life was forever changed the moment he met Christ. When the crowd looked into the branches of the tree, they saw a despised tax collector, but Jesus saw a son of Abraham. The people saw a sinner, but Jesus saw a potential friend. Even as Jesus was approaching the day of his death, he continued to seek and save those who were lost. He sought out Zacchaeus by pushing through the crowd to speak to him. He reached out and befriended him by inviting himself to dinner. He gave Zacchaeus a reason to turn away from sin. What a beautiful pattern of how to reach our world! Who are the Zacchaeuses in your life? Let them know that God has marked them with destiny. Though others may see only what’s on the surface, God sees deeper. There is potential within them. Let them know that God has marked them with destiny. You might even make a new friend and because of your relationship, which points him to Christ, you will see him in heaven.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Who are the Zacchaeuses in your life? Read the last sentence of the reflection with them in mind. Pray that God will use you as he seeks them.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task. It has already started. Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel and decide to return after their initial visit. Be ready to extend an invitation yourself as we seek the Lord’s blessing to be seed-sowing kingdom builders!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message on “The Church: Beginning and Becoming” as he continues with the sixth part of his summer season, this one from Acts 2:44-45*.

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf’s of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.