

Because of You – Part 1

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In 2019, you lived out our purpose and the big 4 and because of you, thousands of others experiences them as well.

Our purpose: We exist to help all people realize that God loves them unconditionally.

The Big 4: We want to help all people know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make an impact

I know numbers can numb us, but remember that behind every number is a real life person.

1. Know God:

- Last year we had 3,078 first-time guests. This happened because of you. Do you want to see more this year? Eight in ten people in America will come to church if someone they respected would invite them.
- SOZO, our high school ministry, is on 4 high school campuses. We plan to add 4 more in 2020. Seventeen students came to Christ at their high schools in 2019.
- There were 941 salvations in Next Gen in 2019. This happened because of you - do you want to see more this year?

2. Find Freedom:

- Last year, 2,953 people participated in small groups.
- There were 111 Students & 40 Adult Leaders in our SOZO (high school) small groups in 2019.

3. Discover purpose:

- Last year, we had 490 people go through Starting Point since September. Everyone must have a starting point to discover their purpose in life. The two greatest days of your life are the day you are born & the day you find out why you were born.

4. Make an impact:

- in 2019, we had 1,125 people serving on a Dream Team. This happened because of you. Do you want to see more this year?
- We had 6 mission trips with 79 people. We have 11 planned for this year.
- We exceeded our \$1.4 million goal for Kingdom Builders
- At Victory Family Church, 3,059 people decided to give their lives to Christ. This happened because of you - do you want to see more this year?

The fulfillment of the 2020 vision will hinge on which of 3, ‘because of you’s’ governs our lives. You are living your life in 1 of these 3 because of you’s

THE 3 “BECAUSE OF YOU’S”

1. BECAUSE OF YOU - you hurt me - I’m this way because of you

John 4:6-19 - Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside Jacob's well at the Samaritan village of Sychar at about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband — You certainly spoke the truth, for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet".

- **Who hurt you? Do you want to give them the rest of your life? You must get past your past.**

2. BECAUSE OF YOU - Jesus saved me

John 4:25-26 - The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Messiah!"

- **Most people stop right here and never live beyond their own salvation.**
- **Most Christians live and die and never share Jesus with anyone.**

3. BECAUSE OF YOU – Jesus used me to save someone else

- Until we live a “BECAUSE OF YOU” life, we will never know the greatest joy known to mankind.

John 4:27-30 - Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

John 4:39-42 - Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

- The Samaritan woman became known as Photini – The Enlightened One. She went and proclaimed Christ and never stopped.
- She left Samaria and went to Carthage, in North Africa and led multitudes to Christ.
- She is regarded in church history at the level of the Apostles.
- She was martyred by Nero after refusing to denounce Christ.
- Church history reports her response to Nero's command to renounce Jesus as, *"O most impious (showing no respect for God) of the blind, you profligate (sexual deviant) and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"*
- Photini went from a victim to a world changer and so can you!