



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2026



### “Crossing Borders”

We get a lengthy gospel reading this week from John. We listen to the story of an encounter most Jewish people in Jesus' day would find offensive. Most Jews would travel around the border of Samaria to avoid any encounter with long-despised Samaritans. Most Jewish men would not dare encounter a face-to-face exchange with a Samaritan woman, let alone a woman with the personal history recorded in this reading.

Part of the authority our Scripture has is our holy book, our sacred writings, do not dodge controversial matters and often record stories and events no one would ever expect. This Samaritan woman becomes one of the first evangelists in sharing the good news of who Jesus is.

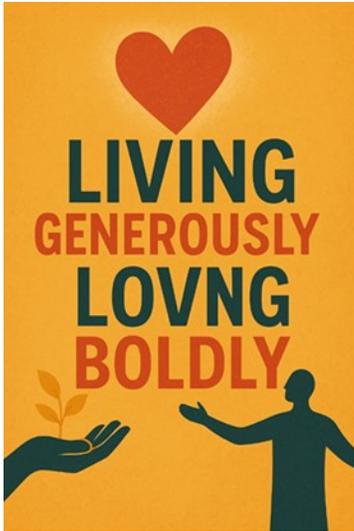
She discovered in Jesus one who would cross borders and boundaries not to exploit or conquer, but to simply share a gift of water and a life-giving message! Who has surprised you with good news of great joy by their willingness to include you or to cross borders and boundaries to make sure you know you belong, and you matter?



#### **Our Sympathy & Comfort to:**

Ruth Clemenson family and friends on the loss of her dear husband, Rich.

Please keep them in your prayers.



This week's Gospel reading shows us Jesus living generously and loving boldly by crossing borders and boundaries in offering the Samaritan woman with a less than perfect reputation the gift of his time, his attention, and a message of inclusion. Too many Christians hold back and hoard the message of God's unconditional love. Maybe there is a sense there is not enough of God's love to be shared. Fear often drives us from living generously or loving boldly.

A scarcity mindset can restrict our willingness to share or think of others in need. Congregations are not immune from being plagued by such fear or a sense of scarcity. At Love of Christ we have been blessed to be a blessing and the result is more people outside our walls are being touched with the Love of Christ. Thank you for your weekly and regular financial support of the mission and ministry Christ carries out through this community, but, most of all, thank you for daring to live generously and love boldly.



We are offering midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays during Lent. We will be using a Taize' service of meditative song and each week focus on themes from "Lent in Plain Sight." A soup supper will be available at 5:30 in Rooms 48-49 in the Center of Compassion, followed by the service in the Sanctuary at 6:15PM. Following the service, we hope to continue the practice of our Faith in Action team bringing in some of our mission partners for sharing updates and answering questions of how we are joining others in loving our neighbors and making the love of Christ known.

### **Wednesday during Lent sharing our Outreach Ministries:**

You are invited to stay after our Wednesday evening Lenten service for coffee and cookies and to learn more about our Outreach Ministries. This year we will hear from some of our ministry leaders. Here is our schedule:

#### **Lenten Education-**

**March 4- Preschool, Hospitality, RSM, and Reverse Advent Boxes**

**March 11- LAMA—Solveig Muus will be here to share about this exciting ministry**

**March 18- Ted Taylor from Family Promise**

**March 25- Egypt Highlights, Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson**



**Blood Drive Sunday, March 15th —7:30 to 11:30** Located next to Columbarium in South Parking Lot. Please sign up to donate blood! Go to our website ([loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)) and scroll down to find link to sign up. If you have any questions, you can contact Dianne Oien at [dianneoien@loclc.org](mailto:dianneoien@loclc.org). Donor Eligibility Link: <https://vitalant.org/blood-donation-requirements>. Donor Eligibility Phone: 877-258-4825

Donor Preparation: • #1 deferral for women is low iron. Women begin eating iron rich foods. • Begin drinking lots of water – hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! • Eat prior to donation (no fasting) • Bring Photo ID reflecting first and last names • Visit restroom prior to beginning the donation process • Donors may take their health history the day of donations. Fast Track Health History Questionnaire Link: <https://www.vitalant.org/health>



### **New Member Classes**

New Member class will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at 11:45am to 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. Any questions, please contact Dianne Oien at [dianneoien@loclc.org](mailto:dianneoien@loclc.org)

### **Music Notes....**



#### **Handbell Ringers Needed**

Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for monthly Sunday performances.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring with you! You can contact me at [jungmusic@loclc.org](mailto:jungmusic@loclc.org)

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

**With gratitude and excitement,**  
Jung Lee



### **Calling All Bakers**

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at [ketts14az@gmail.com](mailto:ketts14az@gmail.com)

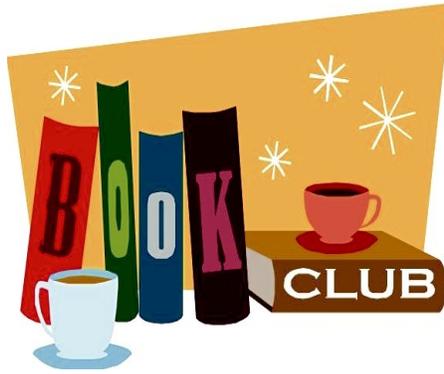
### **Community Garden News**



Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions, contact Nancy at [Dntoll74@gmail.com](mailto:Dntoll74@gmail.com)



**Naomi Circle will meet on March 9th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!**



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, March 22nd in the Leadership Room after the 9:00 am service.

We will be discussing **The Glassmaker** by Tracy Chevalier. Here is a synopsis of the book:

In 1486, Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, Italy. As a woman, she is not meant to blow glass - but when her father dies, she teaches herself to make beads in secret, and her work becomes the cornerstone of the Rosso family fortune. Skipping through six centuries, we follow the Rosso family as they live through creative triumph and heartbreaking loss. From a plague in Venice to Continental soldiers stripping its palazzos bare, from the domination of Murano and its glass maestros to the transformation of the city of trade into a city of tourists, we experience it all.

In every era, the Rosso women ensure that their work and their bonds endure.

Please join us on March 22nd as we explore the beauty of glassmaking and the family who endured through centuries of change.

Grab a cup of coffee and a treat in the Hospitality Room and head over to the Leadership Room located next to the church offices.

Happy Reading!

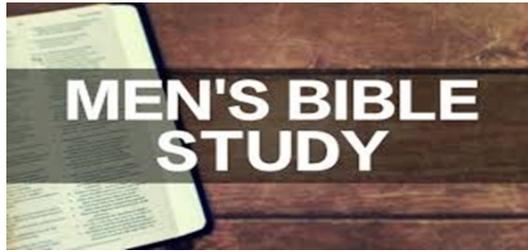
### **Love of Christ is Turning 40**



On April 12, we will join together at 9:00 to celebrate this milestone in the life of our church congregation. There will be just one combined worship service in the Center of Compassion with Bishop Deborah Hutterer preaching the word. A time to celebrate and share memories will follow the worship service.

More details will follow as we get closer to April 12.

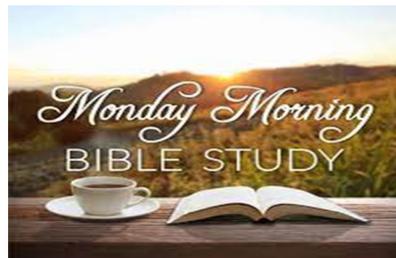
If you would like to help with preparations for the 40th Anniversary celebration, please contact Elizabeth Danielson at 480-710-5032 or [ekdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:ekdanielson@gmail.com).



**Pastor Steve Talmage is leading the Monday Men's Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**



**Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)**



**Monday Morning Bible Study is offered in the Leadership Room, 10:30-Coffee Fellowship, 11:00AM Bible Study.**



### **Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study**

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. ***This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room.*** Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: [mswiss43@gmail.com](mailto:mswiss43@gmail.com) and Ruth: [ruthleonard@icloud.com](mailto:ruthleonard@icloud.com) )



Faith stretch yoga **meets on Thursdays at 9:00am in Outreach room.**  
For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or  
email: [nonnagg51@gmail.com](mailto:nonnagg51@gmail.com) .



There is hangout this Sunday from 10 to Noon in the Youth Room!  
There is Youth Group this Wednesday night from 6-7:30pm in Youth Room!  
**Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at [masonw@loclc.org](mailto:masonw@loclc.org)**



### **Confirmation**

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights from 6PM to 7PM in the room 48.

Next Confirmation class will be held on Wednesday, March 4th.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)

**A brief Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:**

**Wednesday during Lent sharing our Outreach Ministries:**

**April 12: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at 9:00 am. This is the only service we are having that day! Come and celebrate!**

**June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC**

**July 6-10 VBS**

**Hunger Ministries at Love of Christ**

Elizabeth Danielson

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35*

I am the Love of Christ representative to the Grand Canyon Hunger Leaders Group, and at our last monthly meeting, I was asked to highlight what our church does to feed the hungry. The list is so impressive that I wanted to share it with this generous and compassionate congregation.

We support ELCA World Hunger. In addition to direct gifts, a number of our members make donations by participating in the 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge and buying Good Gifts at Christmas. Special offerings (such as during Lent) are split between ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Social Services.

Last summer a number of our members provided lunch each Friday at Resurrection Street Ministries (RSM) in Mesa. RSM provides a place where those experiencing homelessness or living in sub-standard housing can cool off, take a nap, eat, take a shower, and even do laundry. Our team made sloppy joes to feed 100 people and packed about 50 sack lunches each week.

A few times each year, we have a packing line after church so our worshippers can assemble meals to go to RSM and other such frontline providers. These bags include a canned or pouched protein, a fruit cup, chips, a soft granola bar, and a utensil packet. (Funding for these projects is provided through the Faith in Action Committee budget as allocated by the Church Board.)

God's Work Our Hands this year provided over 500 sack lunches for Resurrection Street Ministries as well.

Throughout the year, various groups assemble Blessing Bags with non-perishable snacks and a bottle of water. These are available outside of our worship spaces for people to take and hand out as they encounter those asking for money.

Our youth groups— including Boy and Girl Scouts, Vacation Bible School, and music camp—roll napkin and utensil packs and decorate paper bags for the Genesis Project, a soup kitchen/food pantry in Apache Junction.

Love of Christ hosts an annual packing event for Feed My Starving Children. This past year, we packed 110,000 meals. The \$35,000 annual cost of the food for this event is largely covered by one generous donor.

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We support the LSS food pantries at Victory and First Evangelical through ongoing donations to the food donation boxes placed at the church. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, our members donate grocery gift cards. This past year we donated 119 boxes of food through our Reverse Advent project to the pantries in January. They had all been distributed to families by early February.

We host Family Promise for a week three times a year. During these weeks, families experiencing homelessness are given private rooms and beds in the Center of Compassion and fed a hot dinner prepared by volunteers from our congregation.

We encourage "citrus sharing" one Sunday each year so that those with trees can bring excess fruit for those who are not so blessed. This year remaining fruit was donated to the Salvation Army.

Each summer, we provide water to the thirsty through donations to Grace Lutheran Church in Phoenix which purchases bottled water for distribution.

While not hunger ministries, our congregation also supports those in need through our back-to-school backpack project, buying Christmas gifts for families, and by providing bedding bundles, including handmade quilts, to children in our community and on the Navajo Nation.

During 2025, our generous congregation gave \$187,000 in gifts-in-kind, gift cards, or cash donations to support such ministries. We are blessed to be able to share our blessings with others.

### **Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:**

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children, along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at [norden6162@gmail.com](mailto:norden6162@gmail.com)



Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have these Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting will be **on Sunday, March 8** at 11:45 in the CoC. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.



Our Sunday School Ministry continues on throughout 2026! For ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC on **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will practice for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service and review of what the different parts of worship mean. Of course we will have a yummy snack of some kind! The fun begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00! Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information

### **WOW! Word on Wednesdays continues!**

Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group begin at 6PM. A light meal with be served at 5:30 in rooms 48 & 49 in Center of Compassion.

**Children's Musical—The FAB 4 Kids Show—Rockin' the Gospels All the Way to the Cross!**

**Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm in Room 50**

**Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM**

## 🌸 MomCo at Love of Christ Lutheran Church! 🌸

Calling all moms! Whether you're in the thick of toddlerhood, navigating teenage years, or somewhere in between — you're not alone.



We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

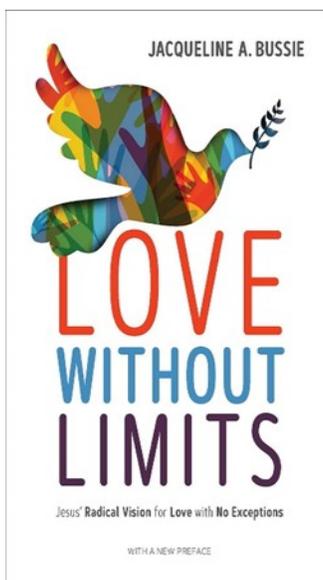
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting March 4th**, first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>



**Love Without Limits meets again on March 4th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free: there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits!

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace News

### BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



As part of our Sleep in Heavenly Peace Ministry, we are again offering a session to learn how to make a blanket.

On March 10th at 10 am in the Outreach room (next to the playground) — for anyone who wants to try this, Jan Barnett will walk you through the steps to make a twin-sized fleece blanket with crocheted edges.

Included in this session are ideas for sewing fleece blankets, quilting blankets or making stuffed animals. We will also have suggestions on where to find fleece and yarn.

Attendance is free and all are invited, so invite a friend.

If you want some hands-on assistance, just bring the following items:

#### Material List:

- 2 1/2 yards of fleece—mid-weight non-pill is our favorite;
- No. I or J Crochet hook;
- A skein of 4-ply medium weight yarn (it will have a no. 4 on it for weight designation) in a coordinating color or variegated colors;
- Large Scissors (sharp);
- Small scissors for cutting small notches;
- OPTIONAL: A needle and thread in a contrasting color (for basting edges)

Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: [barnett105@gmail.com](mailto:barnett105@gmail.com)

With the closure of Joann's Fabrics, we have been searching for places to buy fleece.... Some places we've found are : Hobby Lobby, (but if you purchase on-line, it's been better to purchase in 5 yard lengths, to avoid getting pieces smaller than 2 1/2 yards); YourFleece.com (limited selection),; Some Michael's stores; SAS - 1700 E Apache Blvd. (limited offering but \$4.99/yard); Fabric Depot—solid colors, Caution: some have a thick pile making sewing difficult; [picotextiles.com](http://picotextiles.com)

If you've found more, let us know!

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Exodus 17:1-7**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(11 min)**

A Brief Look at Exodus  
17:1-7

Sunday, March 8, 2026



**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/OfDqmGdaEEk>

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/reel/887727804060888/>

**Website:** <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at John 4:5-42**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(13 min)**

A Brief Look at John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 8, 2026



**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/tqNHS7qnzHo>

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/reel/1217102843840075/>

**Website:** <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

Pastor Steve Talmage “Crossing Borders ”

#### Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

#### Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

#### John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

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Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."