

Wednesday Night HOPE Class Lesson Example

Our journey of recovery often begins with a simple, restless question: "Where are you staying?" In John 1:38-39, two men seeking the truth followed Jesus, and when he turned to ask what they wanted, they didn't ask for a sermon or a miracle, they wanted to see his life. They wanted to know where he lived and how he walked. Jesus didn't give them a map or a flyer with his vision and mission statement Jesus gave them an invitation: "Come and see." This mirrors our Step One, where we admit we are powerless and our lives have become unmanageable.

Like those men seeking, we realize that our current "address" living in a house of addiction and isolation, is no longer sustainable. We are looking for a new way to live, and Jesus invites us into His space to witness a new reality.

In recovery, our "house" is often a place of secrets. We spend years practicing Step Four and Step Five, peeling back the layers of our moral inventory because we are terrified of what people might see if they looked past our front door.

Sometimes our front door is as far as we want anyone to go because we want to hide the truth of our mess. However, 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 tells us that we are "letters from Christ," written not with ink but with the Spirit. When we invite people to "come and see," we aren't showing them a perfect house, we are showing them a house under renovation.

We are applying Step Six and Step Seven by humbly asking God to remove our defects and transform our private spaces. God wants our willingness to be transparent and for us to let others see the "work in progress".

Our transparency is exactly what makes the Gospel and recovery believable to those still lost in their addiction. Our transparency leads us to the triumph described in 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.

In the Roman world, a "triumphal procession" involved a general leading his captives through the streets to display his victory. In our recovery, we are those captives, once prisoners of sin and addictions, now "captives of Christ." Our shame has been conquered. What we once tried to hide behind closed doors is now the very evidence of God's victory.

When we practice Step Eight and Step Nine by making amends and cleaning up our past, we are opening our doors wide. We are saying, "I used to be a slave to this, but God has defeated it." We no longer have to hide our story because our story is no longer about our failure, it's about His triumph.

Growth is often uncomfortable, especially when it requires us to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus outside the safety of this circle. While this building serves as our headquarters for strength, the mission field is our home, our workplace, and our street corners. Following in the footsteps of Jesus gets messy.

Step Twelve calls us to carry this message to others, but we must remember that the message is "Come and See," not just "Go and Do." We invite people to our recovery group not because we have it all figured out, but because we have found a Physician who is healing us.

People who are physically sick need to go to the hospital for physical healing and people who are spiritually and mentally sick need to go to God for spiritual and mental healing.

When we live out Step Ten and Step Eleven through daily inventory and prayer, we become a "sweet aroma of Christ" to those around us. Our lives should provoke a curiosity in others that makes them ask, "How are you staying sober? How do you have peace?"

As a church, we want to grow, but true growth happens when we move from being "pew-sitters" to being "living letters." The community doesn't need to see a polished building, they need to see a transformed people. They need to see that the things they are currently hiding behind their own front doors, the secrets, the bottles, the needles, and the anger are the very things God has already conquered in us.

By inviting others to "come and see" our recovery, we are offering them a bridge from the kingdom of darkness into the light. We are the evidence. Let us live in such a way that our lives are a standing invitation to the world: "Come and see the difference Jesus has made."

Discussion Questions:

1. Which part of your "house" (your life/secrets) have you been most afraid to let people see?
2. How does the idea of being a "captive in Christ's victory procession" change how you feel about your past shame?
3. How can we practically invite someone this week to "come and see" our recovery group or our church?
4. In what ways is your life currently a "letter from Christ" to your coworkers or family?