

# FORWARD



## FORward // Jeff Brodie // May 30th, 2021

Are you looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal on the other side of the pandemic? Even so, you know there are also many things that have changed for good. How you shop, how you work, how you exercise, how you eat, and how you connect. All these things will mean some changes on the other side.

You might be wondering about changes at Connexus. What does reaching people with the hope of Jesus look like as we move FORward? We are thankful for all that God has done through the pandemic and are excited about what lies ahead as we look to reach people through the end of 2021 and beyond!

**Scripture:** [John 4:6-42 NLT](#)

**Bottom Line:** If Jesus changes lives anywhere, we want to share the gospel everywhere.

### Getting Started:

1. What do you think are the biggest shifts in our lives as Canadians over the last year plus?
2. When you look ahead a year from now--hopefully well into our new normal--what new routines, habits, or priorities will you have carried forward from the last 15 months?

### Jumping In:

3. Jeff shared that over the last year the value of both digital connection and in-person community has increased significantly.
  - a. Have you seen this to be true in your own life? If so, how?
  - b. Do you think you lean more towards one over the other (digital connection or in-person community)? If so, how can you be intentional to invite people to join you in the one you aren't as excited about?
4. As Connexus moves forward into what's next, what excites you about the future? What makes you nervous?

### **Discuss:**

6. Read [John 4:6-9](#). It's clear the Samaritan woman was surprised that Jesus would want anything to do with her. Have you ever felt that way in your own life about Jesus?
7. How do you think the world around you perceives Christians or Jesus? Why do you suppose that is?
8. Read [John 4:10-18](#). Here Jesus shares about a different kind of satisfaction that he offers--one we can never fully experience on earth. What does our culture tell us about finding satisfaction in life?
9. Read [John 4:19-26](#). At that time, location and buildings were very important when it came to worship, but we read how Jesus was about to change that. Do you think we sometimes depend on church buildings (or even Sundays) too much? Do you find it easy or hard to remember that God wants to meet you anywhere, anytime? Why?
10. Read [John 4:28-30, 39-42](#). Take a moment and imagine yourself in this passage.
  - a. Have you ever felt like the Samaritan woman, eager to share about Jesus with your friends? What were the circumstances?
  - b. How would it feel for you to be sitting at a gathering, learning about Jesus and looking around to see people you know and love from your community? Why do you think there is power in an in-person gathering?
11. As we position ourselves for what's next with a hybrid approach with both online and in-person, we can engage anyone, anywhere with the hope of the gospel. Who can you be praying for in your life who doesn't know Jesus? Consider sharing the name of this person with your small group so they too can be praying for opportunities for you to share an invitation with your friend.
12. People aren't going to come to experience Jesus just because we open the doors of our buildings. People are going to come to experience Jesus because of our passion for sharing the gospel. What excited you about joining the volunteer dream team to create environments (both online and in-person) where we can invite our friends, neighbours, and coworkers to experience Jesus?

### **Moving Forward:**

As things open up this summer, it can be tempting to focus on ourselves, reward ourselves with an extended vacation, and even disappear from our neighbourhoods for months. Let's make the rest of 2021 a time when we are intentional and excited about the opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with our friends and family living anywhere and everywhere.

A practical way you can partner with Connexus to be FOR our friends, family, and neighbours all over is to join the volunteer dream team. The size of our dream for our communities will be determined by the size of our hearts for people to meet Jesus. All of the details for serving on a team can be found here:

[www.connexuschurch.com/volunteer](http://www.connexuschurch.com/volunteer)