



A New Approach

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Scripture: John 1:43-49

Visual: Flip chart with reasons not to get married with four more pages following.

Idea: There is something keeping you from placing your faith in Christ as your Savior. I would like to help you move beyond it. Not by addressing it directly, but by looking at the box top.

Introduction

1. My agenda: I want all of you to become Christians before the end of the year. I can't make you believe. But I sure wish I could. I know many of you want to be, but there are **obstacles**. You wish you could get around them.
 2. You look at the simple faith of friends and family: their peace, their responses to tragedy. You think, "Gee, I wish I were that . . . naïve." But you aren't. You have real unresolved issues and questions. You would be foolish/naïve to ignore them.
 - Suffering, hypocrisy, miracles, the Bible, other religions, the exclusivity of Christ, your religious tradition—does this mean my father/grandfather was wrong?
 - I have a good friend who believes in God, but . . . someone else paying for the sins of the entire world? Or even another person's?
 - Or, you don't know. You just don't buy it.
 3. Sometimes people become Christians once they have overcome an obstacle . . . they get more information. A question gets answered . . . but usually not.
 4. More often it is tragedy. Brokenness. Desperation. "God, I don't know about the dinosaurs and two naked people in a garden and miracles . . . but if you are there, I need you now!"
 5. Often it is reading the Bible. *The Bible* a person isn't even sure he believes. Or a Christian book.
 6. And for some unexplainable reason, one day it dawns on you: God sent Jesus into this world to die for my sins. And you are overcome with emotion. Joy. Belief. And you can't explain why suddenly you believe and before you didn't.
- I. In those encounters, the large, looming, overwhelming questions and obstacles don't vanish or even get resolved. They just get smaller . . . because something else gets larger.
- A. Guys, remember all the reasons you had *not to get married*.

[Flip chart on stage with these written out BIG]

1. Don't want to give up freedom.
2. Don't want a commitment. (What if I meet somebody better looking?)
3. Too expensive (can't afford it yet).
4. All the unhappily married people you know.
5. You are too young.
 - Which ones of these did you fully resolve before getting married? *None. Not one.* You still didn't want to give up your money, etc.
 - But something happened. All of those were still there. But something made them smaller.

[Flip to next page . . . same list written very small with big word SEX written under it. Then flip to the next page quickly and the word LOVE is written underneath.]