Mary: My husband and I went to a great restaurant last night.

Joan: Really, where was it?

Mary: It was in Lockport. We’ve been twice in the last month. The food was great and the service was terrific. The prices were reasonable, too, and they treated us like family both times.

Joan: Really, what type of food do they have?

Mary: They have just what you want and need. They do a good job with seafood and beef, and the sides and salads are great too.

Joan: I’d really like to try something new. I’m tired of the same old.

Mary: We are going again this week? Would you like to go with us?

Joan: I’d love too

Mary: Great. We will pick you up at 8 on Friday. See you then.

Joan: All right.

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We find it easy and natural to talk to our friends about our favorite restaurants, books, movies, even, our favorite car repair shop. We’re even willing to give gift cards or offer to accompany our friends to encourage them to experience our favorite places for themselves.

For us as disciples of Jesus, the most meaningful aspect of our lives is our faith – it’s our experience of being with Jesus during private times at home and in our community life at St Andrews. Jesus is God, the Holy One, the very One who created us and loves us no matter what. We love Jesus. We enjoy precious time in His presence. We enjoy ministering with Jesus in the community. We enjoy worshiping and ministering with Jesus in this place, within this community.

Yet we sometimes seem to be shy about talking to others about this. We seem especially shy about inviting people to know Jesus as we do. Perhaps we are afraid we don’t know enough about the Bible to converse with people about Jesus. Yet, really, all we need for a good conversation is our own experience of what Jesus does in our lives and how we’ve gotten to know Him and continue to learn about Him through our community life together. Jesus calls us into a closer relationship with Him, he calls us to a life of discipleship, of walking with Him all of our lives, just as He called John the Baptist and Andrew. We have to have a relationship with Jesus first; we need to know Jesus for who He is as God in human form and as the God of love. And then we need to walk with Jesus, trying to live our life as Jesus did. Sometimes that life is a bit challenging, but He is with us throughout.

As part of our discipleship, Jesus also calls us to tell others about Him. We don’t get to keep Jesus all to ourselves. We are called to spread the word, just like John the Baptist who encouraged his own disciples to go follow Jesus by telling them He was the Lamb of God. Just like Andrew told his brother Peter that he had met the Messiah.

Then Jesus calls us to go even a step farther. He calls us to bring people to Him, just as Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. He calls us to do whatever is necessary so that our friends have the opportunity to meet Jesus – to “come and see” what He is about and what He is like. For some of our friends, just telling our own story about what a relationship with Jesus has done for us is enough for them to then begin to explore Jesus on their own. But for most people, we’ll need to bring them here, whether to a café service or a Sunday morning service, or, even just for an intergenerational event. We’ll need to encourage them to experience those ministries of our church that will help them develop a relationship with Jesus. We need to come along beside them as they develop that relationship. We are called to be attuned to what they need so that they can get to know Jesus just as we do and to be His disciple, too.

So let’s try this skit again, with a new emphasis.

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Mary: My husband and I went to a great church on Sunday.

Joan: Really, where was it?

Mary: It was in Burt, at the corner of West Creek Road and Wilson-Burt Road. We’ve been going there for a while. We encounter Jesus there – in the worship, in the Bible studies, in the music and in the smiles and heart of the people.

Joan: Really, what is it like to go there?

Mary: They have just what you want and need. They have two ways to worship Jesus – a formal way in the church and a less formal way in a café like atmosphere in the foyer. They have fun activities like mystery nights and cruises. They are friendly and welcoming and they show Jesus’s love to each other and the community.

Joan: I really need to try something new. My life seems to lack something important. I don’t have a clear focus, sometimes.

Mary: We are going again this week? Would you like to go with us?

Joan: I’d love too

Mary: Great. We will pick you up at 10 a.m. on Sunday. See you then.

Joan: All right.

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Believe in Jesus. Tell others about Jesus. Bring people to Jesus.