

w/b 2nd September 2018

THEME: Creating a 'Come as you are' culture at Jubilee - Loving the rejected

PASSAGE: John 4:1-26

LAUNCH

Think of a time when you were rejected or sidelined by a social group.

Why were you sidelined and how did it make you feel?

DISCOVERY

John 4:4 Jesus was on his way from Judea back to Galilee. Because of their mutual hatred, Jews usually avoided the direct route through Samaritan territory. Scripture says, however, that Jesus "needed" to go through Samaria. Why do you think he needed to go?

John 4:7 Generally women came in groups to draw water either early or later in the day to avoid the heat. Why did the Samaritan woman come alone at the hottest part of the day?

Often, we can adopt the labels others apply to us, whether they are welcomed or not. What kinds of labels do you think the people of this town placed on this woman? Why? How might you feel if you'd been through as many relationships as this woman?

John 4:9 What social and religious barriers does Jesus break by his simple request for a drink? Why did Jesus break the social protocol to speak with the woman?

Jesus does not confront The Samaritan woman with the truth about God & her life. Discuss how Jesus gently leads her to these discoveries with invitation and curiosity. How might you use this approach to advise someone who is troubled or to lead someone to Christ?

Why do we try and change behaviour so soon after introducing people to Christ? John Burke suggests this can spiritually 'dehydrate' people by doing this. What do you think he means?

A couple join your group who are co-habiting but not married. How might you handle such a situation? At what point would the sex before marriage issue need to be addressed and how would you do it?

UNDERSTANDING

Did your parents tell you not to associate with people of certain social classes or ethnicities? How did you feel about it? How does the fact that we are all sinners in need of a Saviour help to remove our prejudices?

What do people use, instead of God's living water, to satisfy their thirst? What changes occur within our spirits when we receive God's living water? How would you explain this to others who may be mistaken like the Samaritan woman?

APPLICATION

In your closing prayer time, ask God for eyes to see the barriers that separate you and others and for the compassion and courage to break down those barriers so that you may offer others living water.

(Most questions sourced from Woodside church love the world bible study series. A few have been amended slightly and a couple of questions added. For a better understanding of creating a come as you are culture, 'No perfect people allowed' by John Burke is highly recommended)