

# Who's Your Neighbor?



## MAIN POINT

The Gospel has the power to tear down walls and open hearts

## MAIN BIBLE VERSE

John 4:1-42

Students will understand that Jesus moves toward people across cultural, relational, and moral barriers — and that when we live out and share the Gospel, those same walls can come down today.

## Teaching Script / Guide

### HOOK:

- **Where do you see walls or division in our world today?**
  - Social walls
  - Political walls
  - Cultural walls
  - Racial walls
  - Religious walls
  - Friend group walls
- **We live in a world that builds walls fast...**
  - Cancel culture
  - Assumptions and jumping to conclusions
  - Labels...
- **But Jesus doesn't build walls. He tears them down.**

### SCRIPTURE - THE STORY OF THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.

- **Set the scene**
  - Jesus is traveling and stops in Samaria
    - Important info:
      - Jews and Samaritans had generations of hostility. They disagreed about:
        - Ethnicity
        - Worship
        - Theology
  - **But Jesus stops to talk to one of these Samaritans.**
    - A woman
    - Alone
    - With a complicated past.
- **READ AND WALK THROUGH JOHN 4:1-42**

- Jesus asks her for water, despite the potential for barriers between them.
- He offers her “living water”.
- He acknowledges her past, not to embarrass, but to let her know that He knows what she’s done, but He sees her anyway.
- After the encounter, she leaves her water jar, runs back to town, and becomes an ambassador for Jesus.

## TENSION

- Let’s make this personal:
  - We build walls all the time around politics, reputation, background, mistakes someone has made in the past, social status...
- But in all of that “wall-building”, here’s the question:
  - Do we avoid people that Jesus would move toward?
  - Or do we move toward people the way Jesus did?

## TRUTH

- Notice a couple of things about Jesus:
  - He doesn’t compromise truth. He addresses it head-on.
  - But he does it in a way that maintains her dignity, shows compassion, and prioritizes the relationship.
  - The goal for Jesus was healing – tearing down walls.
- At dodgeball last week, we talked about how Jesus rescues us, but now in this story, we can see what this rescue accomplishes:
  - The Gospel...
    - Change’s identity
    - Removes shame
    - Breaks labels
    - Restores purpose
    - Heals communities
    - Tears down walls.
- Because of the Gospel, the Samaritan woman goes from...
  - Outcast → Evangelist
  - Avoider → Inviter
- And here’s the key:
  - Once she experienced the Gospel, she can be used by God not because she has a seminary degree or because she has all the answers. But she had a story. She had a reason to say, “Come and see”. No arguing. No debating. No forcing. Just inviting.

## APPLICATION

- **What does this mean for us? How do we follow Jesus’ example:**
  - Move towards the ones you might normally avoid.
  - Speak honestly. Not fake. Just real.
  - Invite. Invite them to church. Invite them to a conversation. Invite them to know Jesus.
  - Walls will never come down if we continue to avoid others. Walls come down through presence and the Gospel.

## LAND THE POINT (1 Minute)

- Jesus crossed boundaries to welcome the outcast and He’s still doing it today.
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- The Gospel tears down walls and opens hearts. Including yours... and maybe even someone else's through you.
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