

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 see that Jesus moves toward people others avoid and that His love can change anyone – including them.

Teaching Script / Guide

HOOK:

- **Imagine something with me...**
 - Imagine you're working somewhere (Ask someone to give you a job for the illustration) and one day Jesus comes up to you while you're working and tells you to quit and follow Him.
 - Where do you think Jesus would take you?
 - Take answers from the audience...
- The disciples, when they first said yes to following Jesus, were excited for what life with Jesus would be, but they often found themselves in places they said they'd never go, talking to people they never thought they'd talk to.

SCRIPTURE - THE STORY OF THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.

- **Walk through John 4:1-42 in a way that works best for your group. You could**
 - Read the entire thing
 - Ask students to act it out
 - Summarize while hopping in and out of the passage.
- Jesus is traveling and stops at a well in Samaria
 - Important details:
 - Jews and Samaritans didn't get along
 - Men didn't normally talk publicly with women like this.
 - This woman, in particular, had a complicated past, and she was labeled because of it. She came to the well alone, probably to avoid other people and she's shocked when Jesus asks her for a drink.
 - And through their conversation, despite her past and her reputation, Jesus doesn't push her away, He invites her in.

- By the end of the story, she runs back to town and tells everyone about Jesus.
- The woman that everyone else avoided became a messenger of the Gospel.

TENSION

- If we're honest, a lot of us have "that person". The one we avoid, judge, whisper about, assume things about...
- Some of us are "that person". Sometimes those lies and rumors roll off our backs. But sometimes we believe the lies that "God wouldn't want me" or "I've messed up too much" or "I don't belong".

TRUTH

- But this story shows us the heart of Jesus.
 - He doesn't avoid. He moves toward.
 - He doesn't shame. He invites.
- That's the Good News of the Gospel: It tears down the walls that separate us from God and others.

APPLICATION

- **What does this mean for us?**
 - We don't avoid people that Jesus would move toward
 - We don't label people that Jesus would love.
 - We don't write off people that Jesus wants to heal.
- **This week:**
 - Notice someone who feels overlooked.
 - Start a conversation.
 - Show kindness.
 - Share the Gospel.
 - Pray and ask God to give you a heart for the lost.

LAND THE POINT (1 Minute)

- The woman came to the well alone, but she left with Hope.
 - Jesus didn't just give her water, He gave her new life.
 - The Gospel tears down walls and opens hearts. Including yours.
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