



God Wants to Use You

Icebreaker: Tell your group about your favorite summertime memory.

Read Together: John 4:5-29 (NLT)

The Samaritans were Jewish people that had intermarried with the people around them. The Jews saw them as unclean and did not associate with them.

Ponder:

Think about what people around you who do not live the way you do. Think about those that you know have learned about Jesus, but do not look like they are following him. Think about the people that you wish would hear some of the good messages that Pastor Jason preaches. Do any of your thoughts coincide with how the Jews treated Samaritans. Ask the Lord what he would have you do about those thoughts and actions.

Reaching Those Lost and Trapped by Sin in an Ungodly Culture

1. Understand the perspective of the one you are reaching.

Discuss:

When you are around those in need of Jesus, do you consider how they got where they are?

What are some of the reasons that people have gotten where they are?

What makes you nervous to reach out?

2. Reach them with the love and grace of Jesus first.

“Jesus replied, ‘If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.’”

Discuss:

React to this statement: “The average person in the United States has never heard the pure gospel”.

Now respond to this statement: “Faith in Jesus Christ, plus NOTHING equals Salvation.”

How do those statements sit with you?

Are you angered by them?

Do you feel “Buts” raising in your mind?

We sometimes struggle in the church to try to control behavior. We want to see immediate change. We struggle with the inclusivity of the gospel coupled with the exclusivity of the gospel. Jesus opened the way for ALL to come to the Father. Not everyone will, but those that do are in the Exclusive kingdom of God.

3. Realize God has given you the Holy Spirit to share Christ with others.

Read : John 4:39 & 42 (NLT)

Discuss:

Why did the Holy Spirit come down on the day of Pentecost?

The Bible tells us that the HS came To EMPOWER you to be a WITNESS.

Pastor Jason explained the story of the encounter with the Samaritan woman and observed, "Jesus operates out of a gift of the spirit. He gets a word of knowledge for this lady. The gifts are still for today. If they weren't, the Bible would say they are not for today."

Tell your group your reaction to this observation!

Do you believe the Gifts of the Spirit are still for today?

How do you operate in the gifts of the Spirit?

When you begin to share Christ with people, and they begin to feel conviction, they may deflect to a controversial/painful issue.

What are some of the issues people have tried to distract you with?

Don't take the bait friends! Stay on task and share the hope we have in Jesus.

Pray together:

Father, you sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to be witnesses to those around us. Please show us the people who need your hope this week. Please give us words of knowledge and hope for them. Help us to be built up so that you flow out of us like living water. Spring up the well of living water in each of us to give life and hope to those around us. Help us to pray your heart for others! Help us to reach out when we need to. Help us to offer hope and leave the results to you. This witnessing is not about performance. We want to offer you and allow you to change lives. Please help us to feel your empowerment and be gracious as we offer the hope of Jesus. We need you. We love you. We want to share you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.