

February 6th, 2022

Bridge Builder

Luke 7:36-48 NIV; John 4:1-26 NIV

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. This Sunday, Pastor Terry spoke on buffers and walls that we create to protect ourselves from getting hurt but consequently it keeps us from connecting fully to Jesus and to others. Is this something you agree with? Why or why not?

3. Often when we are accustomed to barriers and walls, we keep relationships, people, and community at a distance. Jesus, with his conversation with the woman at the well, knew she was doing the same thing, as she sought to collect water in the heat of the day. As he spoke to her, he began to expose her walls and barriers that were keeping her from connecting to God and to others. In these examples below, where might some of our walls and barriers exist and why?

a. Continual need to criticize people's actions and decisions even when they don't directly affect you.

b. Inability to commit and stick with decisions once they are made.

c. Easily offended and/or quick to become defensive.

d. Staying busy, not able to slow down, or fear to allow quiet/silence in your daily routine.

4. **Digging Deeper:** Pastor Terry spoke on how we continue to allow cynicism, gossip, busyness, drama, bitterness, shame, addictions, worry, insecurity, and sin into our lives because we are doing all we can to overcome pain, hurt, or loss in our life. How can we overcome these barriers/walls/buffers in our lives even though we already know Jesus? Where does silence/solitude come into play in this?

a. How can we overcome our fear/absence of silence and solitude?

b. Share with the group why it is so difficult to let go some of these walls/buffers in your life.

c. What would be some healthy practices or spiritual habits that might allow for you to learn how to allow your soul to connect to Jesus more and more in your daily life?

d. Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you've learned this week?

Closing in prayer: Close in a time of prayer this week. Ask the group if there are any specific things that they can pray over that you feel may be a barrier to you fully connecting to Jesus. We also want to be praying for opportunities for us to be a bridge builder to our community, city, and family.

