

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Love Can
Message Title: Love Can Break Walls
Speaker: Leon Merrell
Date: May 7, 2017

UP NEXT

- **TRI-CITY FUN RUN** - Reality Church is hosting a 5K Fun Run at Walnut Creek on Saturday, June 3rd. Please register online at reality.church/events. Everyone welcome. We will be collecting food and hygiene donations for Tri-City Food Pantry, please drop them off at the church beginning Sunday, May 14th.
- **MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES** - We want you to stay connected this summer so we are offering Men's and Women's Bible Studies Wednesday evenings at the church. Each group will meet separately and will include hang out time, teaching time, and small group time. Childcare will be provided. All of this begins June 7 and will run from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Register and Purchase Books at reality.church/events.
- **LIFE GROUPS SUMMER BREAK** - Next week's sermon will be the final Discussion Guide sent out until the Fall semester of Life Groups. Your Life Group has a few options this summer when it comes to meeting such as:
 - Stop meeting and take the entire summer off. While this may sound relaxing, we don't suggest severing all communication for the entire summer.
 - Continue meeting each week or every other week. While we will not be providing discussion material, you are free to choose a study from Right Now Media.
 - Meet monthly for a social gathering. Play some games, have a cookout, meet at the park, it's up to you.
 - Some other mixture of this that best suits your group. Ideally, we want you guys to take a break and yet remain connected simply because Life doesn't stop happening to us in the summer. We still need each other!
- **FALL INFORMATION** -
 - re|engage (our marriage ministry) will begin a new class on Tuesday, August 22nd
 - Life Groups Kickoff Event (for all Leaders & Hosts) will be Sunday, August 20th
 - Life Groups resume Sunday, September 10th

MAIN IDEA

God's love breaks through walls of prejudice to bring salvation.

INTRODUCTION

- Despite the cultural rift between Samaritans and Jews, not to mention between men and women, Jesus struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman to bring her the good news. The result was salvation for her and many of her neighbors.
- This week's sermon introduces a concept of uncommon fellowship. How can we have uncommon fellowship with others who may not look like us, live like us, believe like us? When answering that question it is important to remember that the most uncommon fellowship ever is that we get to have a relationship with God. God had included us, how can we not include others?

DISCUSSION

- Think for a moment of your upbringing. Were you taught that all people groups and ethnicities were to be considered equal? If not, which were inferior?
- How have you seen race reconciliation change within your lifetime?
- How do you think it will look 10 / 20 / 30 years from now?
- What are some “safe” prejudices you have? (*i.e. Husker fan vs Hawkeye fan*)

- Have someone read [\(John 4:4-9\)](#)
- What was odd about this conversation?
 - Jesus was talking to a woman (why was this significant?)
 - Jesus (who was Jewish) was talking to the women (who was Samaritan) (why was this significant?)
 - The women had appeared at the well around noontime (why was this significant?)
 - Jesus’s disciples had likely passed this woman on their way into town and had likely not spoken to her (why was this significant?)
- Jesus spent enough time to hear what she had to say so that eventually she would be willing to hear what He had to say.
 - Is this typically the same approach you use?
- Who do you think felt more uncomfortable in this situation? Jesus or the Samaritan woman?

- What demographic of people would you probably have the most disagreements with in this world? (someone of another race or someone of another political affiliation)?
- Have you ever sought out understanding from a group similar to that?

- Where do you need to go in our city that would position you to be uncomfortable?

- Which of these would you be willing to do?
 - Spend a lunch hour in a place that you don’t usually frequent that would resemble your Samaria.
 - Eat at a restaurant that is ethnically different from you.
 - Visit a church that looks different from you ethnically.
 - Take a class or seminar about culture.

APPLY IT

- Of these points of application mentioned in the sermon, which seem more logical for you?
 - Confess your own biases and prejudices.
 - Receive and grow in God’s love and grace.
 - Build relationships with others to break walls of division and bring salvation.
 - Serve in north Omaha and learn more through our partner Abide.
 - Pray that God opens a door for you to have discussion with someone different than you.

- Who will you entrust to help you accomplish this?