

4 WEEKS





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SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Describe a time when you felt the most uninvited or rejected in a situation.

Big Idea:

Jesus invites people that others reject.

Key Scriptures:

Luke 7:37-39

"A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.'"

Luke 7:44-48

"Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do

you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'" Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'"

Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Discussion:

1. Read Luke 7:37-39. What feelings of being uninvited or rejected might this woman have experienced in the presence of the Pharisees?
2. When you have felt rejected, what are some ways you've

been able to find acceptance in Christ?

3. What was it about Jesus that allowed the woman to approach Him so boldly?
4. Read Luke 7:44-48. What do you think Jesus' words regarding this woman do to show her she was loved and valued by Him?
5. What's your story? How was it that you were invited? How did you come to know Christ?
6. What's one word to describe what you experienced after you found faith in Christ?
7. Read Matthew 11:28-29. How does the rest and acceptance Jesus offers differ from what the world offers?
8. Talk about one person you're praying for to come to Christ.
9. Spend some time praying together as a group for those who you are praying for to accept Jesus' invitation.

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for never making us feel left out or unwelcome. You love us and have invited us to be a part of your family for all time. Help us to embrace Your acceptance and extend it to the people in

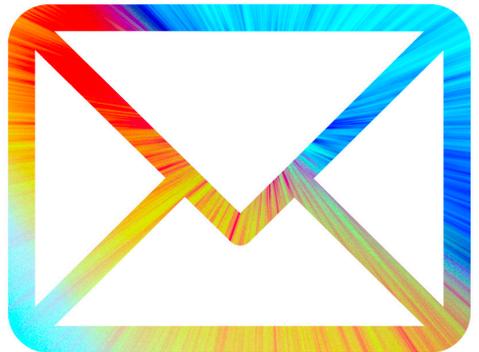
our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who feel rejected and uninvited to be drawn to Sunnybrook during this series, and for their lives to be changed by Jesus' invitation.

Memory Verse:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Have you ever broken a bone or seriously injured yourself?

What did you learn about your body through that experience?

Big Idea:

Just as every part of the body matters, so does every part of the body of Christ – the church.

Key Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 12:12

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:14-17

“Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the

body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?”

1 Corinthians 12:22, 27

“In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. ... All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

Discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12. You came to church for the first time at some point. What did you love about it that made you come back? Consider that person or person(s) might have been involved in making your experience what it was. How valuable are they to the body of Christ; that is, the church?
2. Do you know anyone who makes a big difference behind the scenes at church? What do you think about them and the work they do?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-17. If you were one part of the human body, which part would best represent you?

4. Do you ever think that you have little or nothing to contribute to God's work at Sunnybrook? How do verses 14-17 debunk that myth?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12: 22, 27 How do these passage show that you matter?
6. Consider how you could use the gifts and experiences God's given you. How could you love, serve, or share with others? If you are having difficulty in answering this, have your group share what they see in you that could contribute to the body.
7. If you are not currently using your gifts to serve the body of Christ, commit to taking a step toward that this week. Hold one another accountable to that.

community well, and share Jesus' love as they do.

Memory Verse:

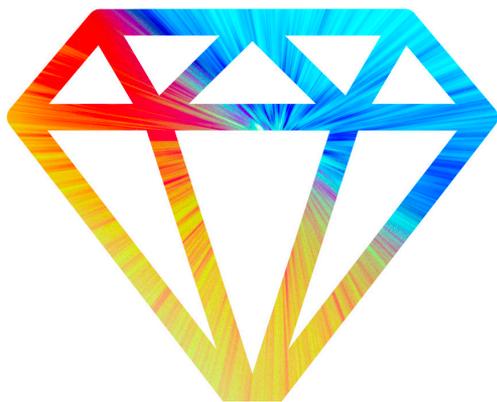
"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for creating each of us with special gifts and giving each of us a role to play in Your good work. Help us to believe that we are each invaluable and guide us in using the gifts You've given us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our Basecamp Kids' volunteers, that they can serve the kids and families of our



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What's something you are really invested in?

Big Idea:

What you keep is all you have. But what you give, God multiplies.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 6:19

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal."

Luke 12:16-21

"And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' "But God said to

him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 9:12-13

"Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him [Jesus] and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish ..."

Luke 9:16-17

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the

storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 6:19 and Luke 12:16-21. What seems to be the common underlying message in these two passages?
2. One point in Sunday's message was that God created us to pour, not to store. How do these passages support that statement?
3. What kind of messaging did you grow up with? Did you have a scarcity (store) mindset or an abundance (pour) mindset?
4. Read Luke 9:12-13, 16-17. How does this parable of the five loaves and two fish demonstrate the Big Idea: What you keep is all you have, but what you give, God multiplies?
5. Can you share an instance where you gave a little and God multiplied it to a lot?
6. Read Malachi 3:10.

How does this passage demonstrate this week's Big Idea?

7. Why do you think God invites us to test Him in the area of tithing? Have you experienced His blessing as a result of bringing your "whole tithe to the storehouse"?
8. When we trust God with the tithe, He is faithful. If you've never tithed before (giving 10% of your income) consider taking the 90 Day Tithing Challenge. Details are on our website at sunnybrookchurch.org.

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for entrusting us with the things You've given us. Help us to see our money and possessions as something to be poured out into the lives of others, not as things to store for ourselves. Amen.



Prayer Focus:

Think about how God might want to use what He's given you to bless others. For the next seven days, spend intentional time praying for God to reveal any areas where you can live with a more abundant mindset.

Memory Verse:

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Has a single conversation ever made a big difference in your life? How did it affect you?

Big Idea:

You don't have to have your life all together to influence someone for Christ.

Key Scriptures:

John 4:9-10

"The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" 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."

John 4:13-14

"Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. ..."

John 4:16-19

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet."

John 4:28-30, 39-41

"The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. ... Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe."

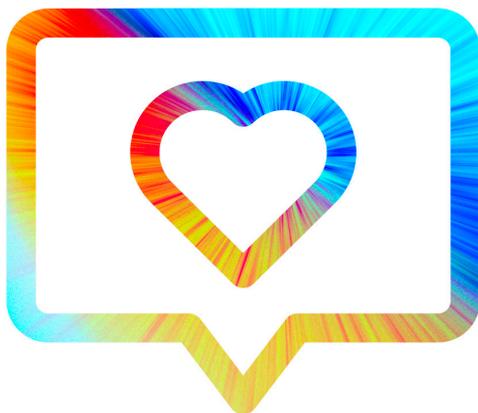
Discussion:

Read the passage from the story of the woman at the well and discuss the following:

1. How would you define the word "influencer"?
2. When you first consider the woman at the well, the fact that she comes alone to the well during the heat of the day, rather than with other women, does it seem she would be considered an influencer? What about what Jesus reveals about her in verses 16-19 might suggest she would have little influence in her community?
3. How did this single conversation with Jesus change this woman's life?
4. How did she then turn and influence others?
5. Share about someone who influenced you toward Christ. How did they do that?
6. Jesus reminds His followers in Matthew 5:13-16: You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. We have no idea how God can use one conversation, encouragement, or expression of love to be salt and light to influence others. Who in your life that God might be calling you to influence?
7. How and when can you be most influential? Think about the ways in which God has gifted you to be influential.
8. As you interact with other people this week, think about how God might want you to use that conversation to glorify Him. Then follow His lead.

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for giving each of us the gift of influence. Help us to see our conversations



and interactions with others as opportunities to glorify You and make a difference in their lives. Help us never doubt Your ability to use the gifts You've given us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our student ministries as they are underway; that leaders can influence students who can then influence their peers.

Memory Verse:

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?
Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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