

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 3/8/26

Summary

This sermon focused on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John 4. Pastor Mark emphasized how Jesus broke down social, ethnic, and religious barriers through a simple act of hospitality - asking for a drink of water. Despite the cultural taboos against Jews associating with Samaritans, especially a Jewish man alone with a Samaritan woman, Jesus treated her with dignity and respect. This simple request led to a profound conversation about worship, revelation of Jesus as the Messiah, and ultimately the salvation of many Samaritans. The sermon challenged listeners to see people as Jesus saw them - not through the lens of social categories or prejudices, but as individuals who need the Lord. Pastor Mark emphasized that simple acts of hospitality can be powerful tools for sharing the gospel and revealing Christ to others.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to see beyond our own perspectives and prejudices, just as Jesus did with the Samaritan woman. Give us eyes to see the harvest fields around us and courage to extend simple acts of hospitality to those who need You. May Your Spirit guide our discussion and help us apply these truths to our daily lives. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most memorable act of hospitality you've either received from someone or extended to someone else? How did it make you feel?

Key Texts

John 4:4-35, Acts 10:34

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to go through Samaria when most Jews would have taken a longer route to avoid it? What does this tell us about His mission?
2. How did Jesus' simple request for water break down the barriers between Him and the Samaritan woman? What barriers exist in our society today that need to be broken down?
3. The woman came to the well alone at noon, possibly to avoid others. How does Jesus respond to people who might be social outcasts? How should we respond?
4. The disciples were shocked to find Jesus talking with the woman. How do our own prejudices or social expectations sometimes prevent us from reaching out to others?
5. Jesus told His disciples to 'open your eyes and look at the fields - they are ripe for harvest.' What do you think prevents us from seeing the harvest fields around us? How can we change our perspective to see people the way Jesus sees them?
6. What simple acts of hospitality could you offer to people in your daily life that might open doors for sharing the gospel?
7. This one conversation with Jesus impacted an entire town. What does this teach us about the potential impact of our own conversations and acts of kindness?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who might be considered an 'outsider' or someone you wouldn't normally engage with deeply. Practice Jesus' example by extending a simple act of hospitality to them - whether it's offering to buy them coffee, asking how you can pray for them, or simply taking time to have a genuine conversation. Look for opportunities to see them as Jesus would - as someone who needs the Lord.

Key Takeaways

- Simple acts of hospitality can break down barriers and open doors for sharing the gospel
- Jesus sees people not through social categories or prejudices, but as individuals who need Him as Lord
- God does not show favoritism - He welcomes all people regardless of their background or social status
- We need to open our eyes to see the harvest fields around us - people who are ready to hear about Jesus
- One person's encounter with Jesus can impact an entire community when they share their testimony

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example You set in reaching across barriers to offer living water to all who are thirsty. Help us to follow Your example by extending simple acts of hospitality to those around us. Open our eyes to see

the harvest fields in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to step outside our comfort zones and engage with people who are different from us. May our lives reflect Your love and hospitality, and may we be faithful witnesses of Your grace. Use us to bring others to the living water that only You can provide. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.