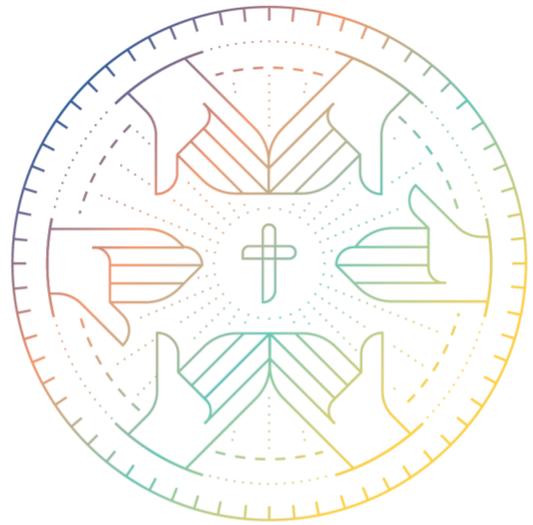


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Share a funny, significant, memorable or poignant past experience/story that your small group may not know about you.

OR

The conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman led to a transformation in her life. What person in your past has had a significant positive influence in helping to shape who you are today?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

As a way of rehearsing the story before we get into the study, answer the simple questions below as a group:

1. Where did the encounter with the woman take place?
2. Who was the woman and what did Jesus know about her?
3. Why was it unusual that Jesus was speaking to the woman?
4. In Jesus' conversation with the woman, how does Jesus prove to her that he is more than a man?
5. What does Jesus offer the woman?
6. What is the outcome of this encounter for the woman's town?

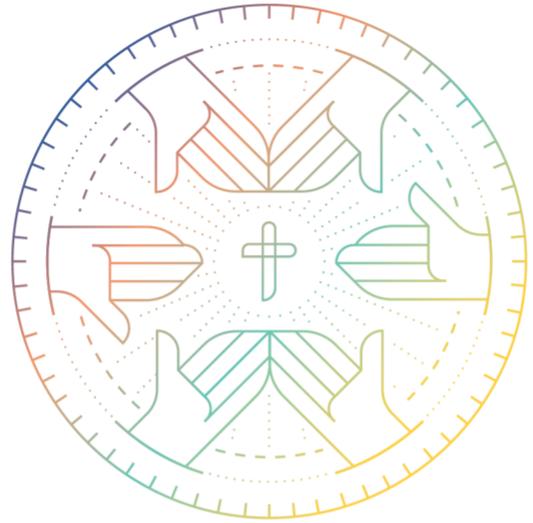
What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

INTO THE WORD (15 MINUTES)

Read John 4:13-14. What did Jesus mean when he said that he will give us water to drink that will quench our thirst forever? Have you experienced that "living water" (NIV) and what has it meant to your life? Share your experience with your group.

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HOST Guidance: A right relationship with Jesus can satisfy every longing in our soul. It can bring us peace, contentment and the ability to cease striving for things that ultimately cannot satisfy us (at least not for long). It shows us what is truly worthwhile in life. In that way it is “living water” for our thirsty souls.

Read John 4:35-36. How does this passage reflect the conversation Jesus had with the woman? What does Jesus want his disciples to grasp, which is illustrated by his conversation with the woman?

HOST Guidance: Jesus engaged in a deep conversation with the most unlikely person. This woman was either overlooked or looked down upon. Yet, as David explained, there could have been many unfortunate reasons she found her way into her current situation. Yet to this woman, Jesus made his first declaration of his true identity- he is the Messiah! How many people do we discount or overlook every day? This story is a great inspiration to see everyone as having infinite value to God.

Read John 4:39-42. Many in the town believed because the woman excitedly shared with them what Jesus had said and done for her. As you think about the people you encounter who don't know or believe in Jesus as Messiah, what are two or three things that Jesus has done in your life that you could share with them? Our story is often the most powerful thing we can share with those around us!

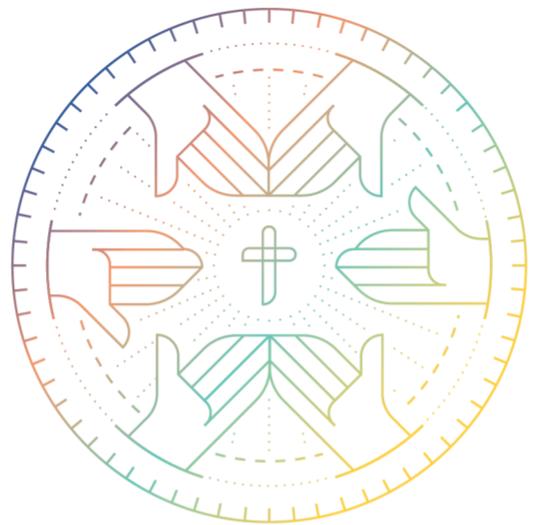
HOST Guidance: Try to encourage each person to share with the group something Jesus has done for them which might be an encouragement to a person curious or unconvinced about Jesus.

APPLICATION (20 MINUTES)

Host Guidance: Below are several separate application questions for your group to consider and discuss. Choose as many questions as you have time to discuss, but try to close with the last question below.

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



How might God want to use your past to help someone around you? Has that opportunity presented itself recently? Can you share that with your group?

Is there an experience in your past that has held you back in some way? Can you share something about that with your group? How might you counsel or encourage someone in a similar situation?

Have you experienced the freedom of forgiven sin? How would you describe that freedom? What difference has freedom from past sin made in the way you view your life?

What one truth, idea or takeaway from your small group discussion can you share with someone this week (a family member, neighbor, friend or coworker)?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, we are so grateful for your love and forgiveness. Thank you for seeing us in our sin and reaching into our lives to bring about forgiveness and reconciliation. You didn't overlook us or look down on us because of our past. Help us to experience the deep gratitude you deserve from us. Help us to extend to those around us the empathy and compassion that Jesus showed the woman in our story. Help us this week to see the people around us as you saw this woman. Amen.