

JESUS, JUSTICE, AND _____

Group Guide:
Week 6, Race

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Did your high school have any cliques? Did you ever feel 'on the outside' socially?
- When you hear the word "family," what is the first thing you think of?
- Discipleship check-in

TRUTH

This is the last week of our series "Jesus, Justice, And..." This week, we will be coming to God and to his Word to hear what Jesus has to say about race. Jesus has good news to speak to us this week, even in the hardest of topics. Jesus comes bringing unity where there was division and healing where there was pain, both thousands of years ago and today.

READ: John 4:1-45

DISCUSS:

- What do you think Jesus is talking about when he says "whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again"? (vv. 14).
- What strikes you about Jesus' attitude toward the Samaritan woman? Compare his behavior to that of the disciples and that of the nearby town.

GRACE

DISCUSS:

Both in ancient Samaria and today, Jesus responds to division by bringing the unity of his spirit and the love of his family. Have you, like the Samaritan woman, ever felt on the outside of a racial or social division? Have you ever been afraid to step over a social or racial division? What would Jesus say to that situation? How does seeing Jesus' grace toward the Samaritan woman (and toward you!) change how you think about that situation?

CHANGE

DISCUSS:

- "Jesus said to her, "Go." (vv. 16). Jesus' mission is too important to be stopped by racial or social barriers. He calls us to reach out to those different from us—and to receive grace from those different from us! What would it

look like for you to bring Jesus to those who look different from you? How could you be more open to the grace that Jesus has for you in the mouths and hearts of your brothers and sisters that look different from you? If you had Jesus' heart and compassion for the hurting and excluded, how would you be emboldened to cross these barriers?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Praise the Father that he created our diversity to be a blessing and an image of Him. Praise Jesus that he has broken down our divisions in the unity of his body. Praise the Spirit, who has been poured out on us through the hands and mouths of those different from ourselves. Ask God to heal you of trauma, of fear, of hard-heartedness; ask Him to bring you on His mission to every nation, tribe, and tongue.

***Leader's Note:** In the coming weeks we will be covering very difficult topics ranging from race to gender. It is important that as we prepare for groups and the conversations we will be having that we are taking time to pray for our groups and walking in the Spirit in the midst of them. Don't ever feel like you have to have an answer to everyone's questions. When you feel like you need additional wisdom and guidance feel free to reach out to your section leader or Sarah or Pastor Donny or Pastor Question. Also encourage your groups to attend the beyond the sermon series conversations that will be happening over Zoom with Pastor Adam on Sunday evenings.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?