

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

4/3/22

Ice Breaker (10min):

Help people to loosen up and share. Take time to go around the room and have people share their name, how long they have been a part of Society Church and what their favorite coffee or tea beverage is.

Opening Prayer (5min):

- **Introduce time of prayer-** After the group welcomes one another, open in prayer. Let your group know what to expect during prayer time, something like: As we start our group time I will open with a word of prayer, there will be a minute or so of silent reflection and then I will read the scripture from Sunday and then close in prayer and we will enter into our discussion time.
 - **Open with a brief word of prayer-** God we thank you for this time together, we open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us, allow us to hear your voice and experience your spirit at work. Come Holy Spirit.
 - **Sit before the Lord in silent prayerful reflection for 1-2 minutes**
 - **Read the scripture listed below aloud for the group to reflect on.**
 - **Close in a word of prayer:** God thank you for your word, come holy spirit and allow us to understand what it means for our lives, lead us in our time of discussion together. In Christ's name, amen.

Main Scriptures from Sunday: **John 4:3-26**

Read this message overview to the group: (5min)

We are continuing in our series "Life Together". This week we listened to a talk from Maddie Mikulin, our Kids, Youth and Family Director. She shared on the topic of "Mission", conveying that living on mission is not just meant for those called to be a missionary in another country or context but rather we all hold the opportunity to live with purpose. "Everything that happens to you is never meant to stop with you." We are given the opportunity to live our lives on mission in the places God has already placed us within.

Take a moment before diving into the discussion questions to think about the spaces and places you spend most of your time. (Facilitator: Encourage the group to either consider these quietly or go around the group having everyone share at least 2-3 spaces/places they spend most of their time.)

Why is this important? As we begin our discussion, let's try to keep these places in mind, allowing God to give us an imagination for how we may be more present to our faith and others as we will our lives.

Work though these discussion questions together (30min):

Maddie shared 3 perspectives from the story of the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well, as it relates to living with/on mission. Let's discuss each, sharing what stands out for you and how might this feel relevant to your own life.

1. Jesus on the way to where he was going was living out his purpose.

Jesus on his way from Judea to Galilee chose to go through Samaria.

- Last week Pastor Josh talked about having vision and imagination for your life. Recalling maybe what you shared last week about “vision” for your life, what might be stirring in your mind today about the *process* and *purpose* while on the way towards that vision? In other words if “Judea” is where you started and “Galilee” is where you are headed...what might be your Samaria?
- Can you think of a time in your life that you feel like you missed the purpose of an experience or opportunity due to being more focused on the destination?

2. Divine encounters happen in asking simple questions and intently listening.

Jesus asked the Samaritan woman a simple question “can I have a drink”. This was an invitation for life giving conversation, transformation and love extended out.

- From the story in John 4, what stands out to you about this story/interaction?
- Has there been a time when you experienced Jesus in this way?
- Has there been a time when you have experienced this with others?

3. God is in the business of using really imperfect people to proclaim the good news of who He is.

In Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman we learn about her past and present reality. From a societal perspective she was unwanted, unfit, unclean and an outcast. Jesus being male and a Jew, talking with this Samaritan woman would have been disgraceful. Yet, he intentionally went through Samaria during the hottest time of the day to meet with this specific woman, at this specific well, to proclaim publicly for the first time that He was the Messiah and then making her the very first missionary to her own people.

- How does Jesus' way compare to the way our world deems as qualified?
- From this story what do you think Jesus was trying to demonstrate as to what is important about *how* his message was to be shared? How can this be relevant today in our lives?

Closing Question/Prompt :

- If this hasn't already happened organically in your discussion time, take a moment to go around and share what does Jesus mean to you personally? (Encouragement: If we aren't able to share vulnerably here, we will most likely find it increasingly more difficult beyond the space of faith community. No need to make it weird, we are here to talk about Jesus.)

OR

- What might be a longing you are experiencing from this time of discussion as it relates to living with an integrated faith?

Group Prayer (10min):

- Go around the circle and share any prayer needs or requests. This week as the group leader, pray through the requests that were shared. Let the group know that in future weeks we will take time to pray together.

SHARED MEAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Our hope would be that Sermon Based Discussion Groups take 1-2 times a month to share a meal and put Sermon Based Discussion on pause. You can do potluck style, meet at a restaurant, order takeout, or prepare a meal. Get creative and have fun with it! Here are some suggested discussion starters for weeks you want to do a shared meal and prayer.

- How are you coming into our time/dinner/group today?
- What is a way you have experienced God this week?
- What are some highs and lows from your week?
- What might be something you'd like to bring to prayer tonight?

Prayer Times & Ideas: Pray for the needs mentioned during your discussion at the end of your meal together. Introduce a time of prayer before dessert, go around and share prayer requests and ask each person to pray for the person on their right. Ask the group to find someone to share prayer requests and pray with and for before the end of the night together.