



NEIGHBORS & NATIONS

Week 3

BREAKING THE ICE

- Who was or is the best neighbor you've ever had? What made them a good neighbor?
- It's Thanksgiving week! Name one thing you are grateful for today.

MAIN CONTENT

Read John 4:1-27 as a group.

In this message series, "Neighbors & Nations" we have been talking about God's love for ALL people and how He desires all to come to know Him, both people across the street and around the world.

1. God's love can be experienced in many ways. Share with your group a time in your life when you have experienced God's love and how that made you feel.

Pastor Kevin shared with us that acceptance is actually a form of worship and brings praise to God. Read Romans 15:7.

2. What does it look like in your life to accept others? Are there specific people or circumstances that make it more difficult for you to accept them?

We heard in the message about a research study that showed that rejection can hurt just as much as the pain one feels when one stubs their toe. We all know that stubbing your toe is the absolute worst!

3. Have you ever felt rejected? Did this change the way you felt about yourself and if so, how?

The world offers plenty of vices to turn to in times of struggle and rejection. Some of these include TV, Netflix binging, acceptance from the wrong people or maybe even a sleeve of Oreos.

4. What do you typically turn to in times you are feeling rejected or down?

We read in John 4 that the Samaritan woman was drawing water at noon. Typically, women would draw water in the cool of the morning or evening unless they did not want to be seen. Most likely, the Samaritan woman at the well was avoiding people due to the judgment she felt from others.

5. Have you ever experienced a time in you felt shame about something?
What led you to feel that way? Share this experience with your group.

Jesus does something completely radical for those times. He goes up and speaks to this woman at the well. This was extremely countercultural at that time. Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Men did not speak to women publicly, especially women they did not know personally and had been divorced five times. Yet, Jesus saw her, spoke to her, and did not disqualify her.

6. Is there someone you know in your life who is living in shame rather than in the freedom that comes from Christ? What is a step you can take this week to let them know they are seen, loved, and accepted?

Jesus offers a freedom that does not compare to anything in this world. He describes this as the “living water.” Transformation happens when we step into that freedom and break off the chains of shame. Pastor Kevin talked about what it means to “leave your water jar.” The Samaritan woman could “leave her jar” because she found acceptance greater than any rejection.

7. What are you holding onto in your life that is keeping you from fully surrendering your life to following Jesus?

We see in this story that God takes unqualified people and makes them qualified to spread the good news of Jesus. She did not have an education, resources, a good reputation or even a Bible. But what she did have was a testimony.

8. Do you feel confident in sharing your testimony? Do you feel qualified to share about Jesus with others? Why or why not?

9. How have you seen God working in your brokenness? What is one step you can take this week to share about the “living water” as the Samaritan woman did?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for who you are. Thank you for the love you give day in and day out. We pray that you will continue to move in our hearts. Could you help us to see those who are unseen? Help us to love those who are unlovable. Help us to hear those who are unheard. You are the God who sees, loves and hears all. Guide us to be more like you. Help us to shine your light to both our neighbors and all the nations. We are grateful for your love. Thank you for your faithfulness in our lives. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen

ACTION STEP

- Take time today to be still and pray. Consider who God may be calling you to be a good neighbor to and pray for them.
- Consider what may be keeping you from the freedom that Jesus offers and a life fully surrendered to God. Take time today to pray that God would reveal those things to you and give you the courage to “let go and let God”.
- Pastor Kevin talked about End-of-Year giving in Sunday’s message if you would like to know more and/or give toward these initiatives: crosspoint.tv/eoygiving [CROSSPOINT.TV](https://crosspoint.tv)
- Learn more about Advent devotionals, what is happening with Cross Point Music’s EP “Advent: Here Now” and the upcoming podcast series at this link: crosspoint.tv/advent