

November 17-23, 2018

Community Group Questions

Open Door Policy

For leaders: More times than not, our preconceptions around people can govern our engagement with them. It could be overt but speaking personally, it tends to be more subliminal; but nevertheless it is there. In the same way, when faith comes up in our day-to-day interactions, we could be “pegged” to fit a certain mold. Conversely, we can “peg” other people who aren’t believers, creating rifts instead of building bridges, and in turn creating opportunities for the gospel to flourish.

Read John 4:1-15, 25-26

“The shortest route from Jerusalem to Galilee lay on the high road straight through Samaritan territory. Many Jews would not travel by that road, for they regarded any contact with Samaritans as defiling...there was a trace of sarcasm in the woman’s reply, as if she meant “We Samaritans are the dirt under your feet until you want something; then we are good enough!” Jesus paid no attention to her flippancy or to her bitterness. He was more interested in winning the woman than winning an argument.” Frank Gaebelin and Merrill C. Tenney.

Icebreaker: Have you ever had to knock on the door of someone who you didn’t know? What was that experience like? What were some of the feelings you felt?

1. How do your preconceptions about people influence how you engage them? Share a time when your preconception was confirmed. Share a time when it was challenged based on your interaction.
2. What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How does this understanding shift our interactions with others?
3. Describe a significant time when you experienced hospitality. Has there been a time when someone made space or showed hospitality to you? Was there a moment when you were able to make space for or show hospitality to someone else?
4. What are the risks to living lives that are open to other people?
5. Have you ever had to show hospitality to someone who is being hostile? Has someone shown hospitality to you when you have been hostile? Take a moment and share how those interactions were affected by hospitality.