

Jesus _____.
Week 3/4: May 23, 2021

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To inspire students to cross any cultural divides or labels and to show Jesus' love to everyone.

SCRIPTURES*

Main Teaching Scripture:

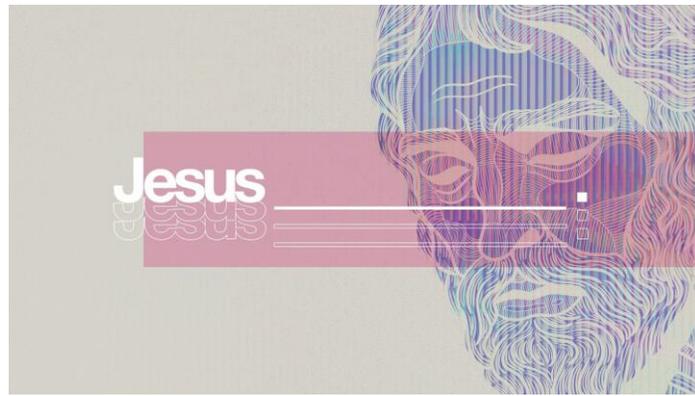
- John 4:1-16

Main Small Group Scripture:

- James 2:1-9

*Since both our Scripture passages today are long, but we think it valuable to teach the whole passages, the speaker will focus on teaching the John and this guide sets up small groups leaders to focus on discussing the James passage in small group. Both are included on the back of this page for your convenience. Both passages have a common central theme: where people have drawn lines to divide themselves, God builds bridges across those divides to radically love everyone freely, passionately, and equally. Feel free to refer to both Scriptures, just be mindful of your time in your discussions. The ideal small group time follows the 20/80 strategy: small group leaders talk 20% of the time and students talk 80% of the time. One reason for this is because studies show we only remember 20% of what we hear but we remember 70% of what we discuss. So we encourage you to mostly discuss the James passage so your students have plenty of time to discuss the Scripture and it applies to their lives.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Jesus welcomes those people over there.

GET THEM TALKING

What is your favorite candy and why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. No judgment, but be honest—how do you usually react to, or interact with, someone who seems strange or foreign to you?
2. Why do you think that is?
3. Favoritism is the giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense over another. What are some examples of this you have either heard about or seen?
4. Have you ever felt the victim of favoritism?
5. Why do you think people show favoritism to others sometimes?

READ JAMES 2:1-9 and discuss:

6. In your own words, what is this Scripture saying?
7. How do these verses encourage us to treat others?
8. What are ways we can welcome others, even when they are different than us?
9. Sometimes our differences can divide us: the music we like, movies we watch, color of our skin, clothes we wear, etc. God builds bridges. How can we build bridges with others who are different than us?
10. How can we, as a small group, help church be a welcoming place for new students who come?

NEXT STEP

Pick someone in your life who is different than you in any way and do something to show them Jesus' love this week.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers,
so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

JAMES 2:1-9 (NIV)

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. **2** Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” **4** have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. **9** But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

JOHN 4:1-16 (NIV)

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— **2** although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. **3** So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.**7** When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)**10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” **16** He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”