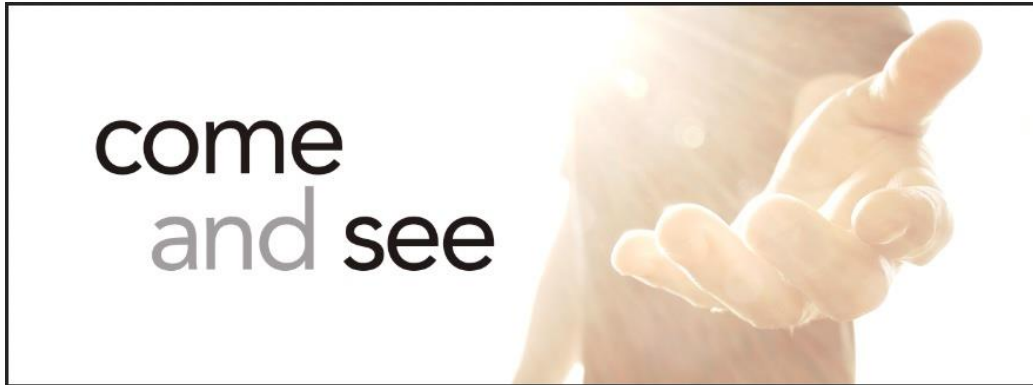


Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Come and See

It's the power of an invitation; to a long-awaited wedding, a party with good friends, a dinner with the new neighbor. Do you remember how it felt? To feel welcome, to be included, to join in with the celebration and connection. In the gospel of John, the life-changing invitation to follow Jesus and to find new life is as simple as, "come and see." Come and see the long-awaited Messiah that everyone is talking about; come and see and witness a life-saving miracle; come and see that the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Join us this May as we reflect on the power of a single invitation, how we have experienced transformation through community with Christ at Revolution, and who we need to invite next. Won't you come and see?

Message Description:

Sometimes the greatest invitation we can offer others to "come and see" is to tell our own stories of how Jesus has changed our life. We each have a story to tell, but how often do we share it? When is the last time you shared about a life-changing encounter with Jesus? Do you believe your story and the work that God is doing in your life is worthy and good enough to share? Thanks be to God for the story of the woman from Samaria, who reminds us that Jesus meets us where we are, knows us and loves us completely, and sends us out to be his witnesses.

Key Scriptures:

John 4:1-45

Additional Resources:

Consider an alternate study on the show "The Chosen" by watching season 1 together and discussing each episode during your time together. Episodes can be watched for free on The Chosen app or at <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch?vid=S2:E7&ap=true>.

Check out a trailer for season 1 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

Reach out to Rachel for a study guide on season 1 with teaching notes from the Rev. Dr. C. Chappell Temple!

Questions Related to This Week's Teaching:

1. What was so shocking and revolutionary about Jesus' encounter with the woman from Samaria?
2. What stands out to you about her story?
3. Do you believe that you have a story worth sharing?
4. What keeps you from sharing your journey of faith with others? Is there a jug of water that you need to leave behind?

Going Deeper: Sharing your story

Section 1: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

For more on the history and theology behind "Blessed Assurance," read:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-blessed-assurance>

- When reading over the lyrics of this hymn (https://hymnary.org/text/blessed_assurance_jesus_is_mine), what phrases or images stand out to you?
- What can we learn from the story of Fanny J. Cosby?
- Have you ever considered worship to be an act of witness or bearing testimony to God? This hymn lends itself to such proclamation, praising God all the day long for God's mercy, goodness, and salvation. Reflect for a few moments on the line, "this is my story, this is my song." What do you think it means to make your faith story a song? Who is meant to sing this song?

Section 2: Sharing your story

Learning to share your story of faith with others can be very intimidating. Maybe it makes you nervous, maybe you don't always know what to say, or maybe you feel your story wouldn't help or impress anyone. Sometimes it is easiest to start with a little reflection and practice among friends.

- Take a few moments to share some "glory sightings" as a group: how have you experienced God's goodness, mercy, or glory in your life in the past few weeks?
- Knowing when and how to share your story with others takes wisdom and discernment. **Read Romans 8:26 and Luke 12:8-12.** What role does the Spirit play in discerning when and how to share?
- According to these scriptures, how can we best stay connected to the source of our wisdom and discernment (the Holy Spirit)?
- It is the Holy Spirit who give us the power, wisdom, strength, and courage we need *when* we need it to love and share with others. We truly cannot underestimate the power of prayer to recognize opportunities to share and to invite them to "come and see." Therefore...

Section 3: Closing in prayer

- Continue to pray that God would place a name, or multiple names, on your heart in the coming weeks that you might invite to "come and see" the life-changing grace of Jesus Christ.
- Ask, who in your life needs the support, welcome, and love of a church community like Revolution?
- Ask, who in your life needs to experience freedom? Who in your life is longing for a change?
- Pray for wisdom to see an opportunity to share your story with someone this week and for courage to share when the opportunity arises.