

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 description:

In Jesus' time, there was a long list of "outsiders" - people who for one reason or another weren't supposed to be close to God. But Jesus changed all that. Luke's gospel is a story of Jesus going to the margins of society to share good news with those who were overlooked, forgotten, and excluded. That is good news to anyone who, from time to time, feels like they may not belong. And it is a challenge for the church today to go and do likewise.

Message description:

In Luke 17:11-19, we see Jesus travel *between* the regions of Samaria and Galilee, a space many scholars refer to as a borderland. A borderland is the district near a border, or the overlap of two regions. It was more than a geographical boundary we might think of today, but a social and cultural boundary as well. Activist Gloria Anzaldúa defines a borderland as "a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary ... the prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants." So close to enemy territory, this borderland could be a dangerous and hostile place as well. And yet it is to this very place that Jesus goes. This community was out of sight and out of mind to everyone else, but not to Jesus.

We can all do something to follow Jesus to the metaphorical borderlands of our city today; to see and affirm the humanity of our neighbors who live there, forgotten and forbidden. Jesus went out of his way to bless and heal people who never would have found their way to him. And that is the challenge for us today. To follow the way and path of Jesus to go to the ones who will never make their way to our doors but who are desperate for the good news of healing and belonging and freedom.

It is us who must do the moving, to do the traveling, to be inconvenienced, to go out of our way to be intentional, to engage, and to make space for others.

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Questions based on this week's teaching:

1. In the story of the healing of the ten lepers, only one person returns to thank Jesus. What do you think sets that person apart, and what does this teach us about gratitude and worship in our own lives?

2. What are some modern “borderlands” you see in your community, and who are the people most often forgotten, forbidden, or overlooked?
3. Jesus intentionally goes into uncomfortable and avoided spaces. What might it look like for you personally to “go out of your way” to encounter and serve others? What makes that difficult?
4. In her teaching, Rachel noted six practical steps we could do to respond to the issue of homelessness in our city. Of those options, which do you feel compelled or challenged to do? How can we support each other in our response together?
 - Volunteer with the Louisville Outreach for the Unsheltered.
 - Donate food items for food boxes to be packed on Maundy Thursday.
 - Pack food items by attending our Maundy Thursday service together.
 - Educate yourself by attending the CLOUT rally this week.
 - Advocate for our neighbors by attending the CLOUT Nehemiah Action on April 20 at 6:30pm where representatives of Metro government will be asked to prioritize funding for housing and services for our unhoused neighbors.
 - See your neighbors. Consider keeping small food bags or gift cards on hand to hand out to neighbors as you encounter them throughout the week.