



## Summer Of Love – Love across lines

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** (Page 1)

#### **TRADITIONAL MODEL:**

What lines did someone have to cross in order to reach you with the gospel?

As a group read through John 4:1-30 and talk about what you see happening.

Share with the group the last time you had a conversation about God with someone who didn't believe in him?

Do you think drawing lines between people is a "worldly activity?" What does 2Cor 5:14-16 about lines and what causes us the cross them?

What's one thing that holds you back from crossing lines?

Read Luke 14:12-14. How will you be more intentional about inviting people into your circle who are different than you?

#### **CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:**

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?



### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** (Page 2)

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)

### **What is the Gospel?**

The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God’s forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn’t take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.

An example prayer you could pray:

*Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I’m broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.*

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer’s resource: [God Time: Your First 31 Days](#). Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!



### **Message Notes: *Love across lines***

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*Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5:2*

#### **Jesus calls us to love across the lines.**

John 4:5 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 the sixth hour. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

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.)

Her question, *9 How can you ask me for a drink?* exposes the lines present for them:

- Religious
- Societal
- Gender
- Lifestyle

This is not done

27 his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. (*"woman like that"*)

#### **What's going on here?**

Jesus intentionally crosses the lines

Jesus is making himself vulnerable to her rejection.

Jesus is acknowledging her dignity.

The result:

28 the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way towards him.



### ***Only love can reach across our lines***

Not:

- Doctrine
- Worldview
- Lifestyle
- Morality
- Logic
- Politics
- Comfort

\*These are all *line creators*.

### **How can I cross lines for the gospel sake?**

#### **1) Acknowledge your lines**

Categorizing people is a *worldly* activity:

2Cor 5:16 So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view.

2Cor 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all

#### **2) Start looking for common ground instead of differences**

We are stamped with the image of God. God places dignity in every human being, no matter how different they are from us.

We all have common experiences

Matt 5:45 He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it"

Atticus Finch in To Kill A Mockingbird

#### **3) Intentionally reach across a line.**

Luke 14:12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



A RESERVATION: **“Won’t loving across lines cause me to compromise?”**

When we reach across lines we are not compromising faith, we are living out faith.

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Until Christian people adopt more than Jesus’ moral lifestyle we will not be like Him.