

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Genesis 12:1-3 & John 4:4, 23b, 27-42

Believe: Jesus' Precedent for the Gentile Mission

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: Genesis 12:1-3 & John 4:4, 23b, 27-42

Sermon Summary:

Our God is & always has been a lover of all people. And because of that, his mission is simply to reach all people & bring them into a relationship with himself. We see his heart in Genesis 12 as he calls Abraham to follow him in order that Abraham can bless all people on earth. Well that desire didn't wane in God even after centuries of failure and disappointment from Abraham's descendants. When Jesus came, he carried God's mission forward mostly to the Jews. But in John 4, we see him intentionally travelling through a Gentile territory. At first one might think he did this so he could make his journey home that much faster. But when we examine this text closer we see that Jesus went there on purpose to reach people with that blessing God promised through Abraham. God's salvation is for all people & Jesus makes that clear by his precedent-setting journey through Samaria. And today, God invites us into that very same mission so that his blessing, his salvation, can reach all people.

Discussion:

1. From Genesis 12:1-3, to whom was God's blessing through Abraham towards? How might that promise of blessing impact you and those in your life?
2. Read John 4:4, 23b & 34. What do these verses tell you about why Jesus went through Samaria? Was it just a chance encounter with the woman, or possibly more?
3. What do the unspoken questions of the shocked disciples say about some of the unspoken prejudices we must fight in order for God's mission to reach all people?
4. John 4:29 is a beautiful template for us to reach people with God's blessing: Invite. Use your own experiences. Be humble. Talk about how these are helpful & how they might challenge you?
5. Jesus needed to adjust his disciples' understanding of God's mission. First, he told them there was no need to wait (4:35), and then, that we're all working together for God's mission (v. 37). How are these adjustments helpful to your understanding?
6. Talk about the Samaritans' declaration that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. What are the implications of this for us and our carrying forward God's mission?

End with Prayer.

- Thank God for his wonderful heart that longs to be in relationship with all people.
- Pray for one another.