

ENCOUNTER: THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE "The Discarded"

Purpose: Like Jesus, we are called to break down barriers, engage others who feel discarded, and offer them the hope of the gospel, seeing everyone with God's love and grace.

Opening Interaction: Describe a time that you've felt discarded by others.

Read and Discuss: John 4:1-45

- In this passage, what details seem important? What jumps out at you?
- What is the author communicating to his audience?
- What does this passage teach us about God?

1. How does Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman challenge the way we typically see and approach others? What steps can we take to see people as Jesus does?

2. In what ways might we, often unintentionally, "otherize" people today—whether through our assumptions, behaviors, or even avoidance? How can we recognize and change those patterns?

3. Jesus begins his conversation with the woman by asking for a drink, something simple and human. What can we learn from this about starting gospel-centered conversations with people we may not naturally connect with? What are some practical ways to initiate such conversations?

4. Jesus didn't ignore the woman's past, but he didn't let it define her worth either. How can we balance truth with grace when reaching out to others, especially those who may feel discarded?

5. The Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus led her to invite others to meet him. How can we encourage others to have a similar response when they experience the gospel in their lives? How can we help our community see Jesus in the way we live and engage with them?

Close with Prayer

Announcements:

- Trunk or Treat THIS SUNDAY! We are still looking for families and small groups to host trunks. Sign up on our website: calvary.church/events.
- Grounds Serve Day THIS SATURDAY. This is a great opportunity to serve together!