



For the One Group Guide | April 12

Open with prayer, the series description, and a question (15 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with a word of prayer. Thank God for this space to learn, share, and grow!

Read the following series description for your group. Then, ask the question below:

- **SERIES DESCRIPTION:** Welcome to Week 1 of our For the One Series content! Our goal in this series is to cultivate awareness of the people God places in our path, to recognize every person as made in God's image (imago Dei), and to believe that God desires relationship with **all** people! This week, we're exploring how Jesus models "seeing the one" by intentionally engaging the Samaritan woman.
- **QUESTION(S):** How would you gauge your awareness of people in need of Jesus or in need in general as you go through life? Score yourself on a scale of 1-10. Then, share why you chose whatever number you landed on with your group and why.

READ John 4:1-42 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

You may not get through all these questions. That's okay! Use the questions you think will be most beneficial for your group.

- In his sermon, Dan mentioned that "In order to love people the way Jesus loves them, we have to see people the way Jesus saw them." How does Jesus demonstrate awareness of the "one" in His path? What cultural barriers did Jesus see *through* in order to engage the Samaritan woman? How does this challenge our tendency to "write off" certain people (e.g., due to politics, lifestyle, background, or awkwardness)?



- In this text, Jesus *slows down* and wasn't rushing through life. This led to his encounter with the woman. Are you moving through life slowly or rushing? If rushing, what's the cause? Are there any people you've "missed" as a result? Explain.
- Notice, too, what Dan pointed out in this passage: that Jesus didn't label, he loved. What labels could Jesus have slapped on this lady to avoid her according to this text? Are there labels you tend to utilize to keep people at arm's length?
- Dan also pointed out how Jesus is an initiator. Is "religion" or "Jesus" something you feel comfortable initiating with others about? Why or why not?
- Obviously, Jesus got to the heart with this woman. He went "deeper," to use Dan's language. What specific things did Jesus bring up in his conversation with her? How did she try to deflect? Why might going deeper with others be an avenue for engaging them with the gospel?
- Lastly, Jesus not only engaged the Samaritan woman with love but with truth, too. Dan said, "Love without truth is hollow...but truth without love is harsh." Which side of the spectrum do you tend to fall on when it comes to this dichotomy? Are you more of a "love without truth" person or a "truth without love person?" Explain.
- Of the five pointers we learned from Jesus' interaction with this woman in John 4, which one is for you to apply this week? What is one action step God is calling you to take as a result?

Mindset Shift (10 minutes)

A missional mindset starts with **seeing** people as God sees them: Every person bears God's image (Genesis 1:27)—worthy of dignity, love, and in need of the gospel. As 2



Peter 3:9 tells us, God is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” How many people do we often miss because we're distracted, prejudiced, or unavailable? Jesus was interruptible. Are we?

Have your group reflect on the following questions.

- Who do you tend to "write off" or feel uncomfortable around (e.g., coworkers in a different political camp, neighbors with chaotic lives, people from other cultures)?
- How does this inhibit your evangelism and mission?
- Is my schedule/life open to interruptions, or do I guard my time tightly?

Once you've finished thinking over these three questions, spend a few moments praying individually and bringing these things before God. Repent where repentance is needed. Confess where confession is needed. Lean on God through it all. Ask for His help to see people as Christ sees them.

Case Study (20 minutes)

Split your group into smaller groups. Utilize the following case study in the smaller groups to prompt good discussion on evangelism and mission. Then, have the smaller groups reflect as a on the questions below. Once finished, come back as a large group and discuss what your smaller groups talked about.

Meet Sarah, an introvert in her mid-30s who works from home and attends church but rarely initiates conversations. She's an introvert and doesn't ever want to "impose" herself on others. She loved the idea of a missional mindset but felt evangelism was for extroverts—loud testimonies, street outreach, big groups, etc.



One week, after praying a prayer of availability, Sarah noticed her regular coffee shop barista (a young man with a weary expression) seemed down. Normally, she'd smile politely and leave. But she sensed a nudge.

Heart racing, she simply said, "Hey, you seem like you've had a rough day—everything okay?" He opened up about stress at home. Sarah listened deeply (her natural strength), asked gentle follow-up questions, and shared briefly how her faith gave her hope in tough seasons. No big presentation—just authentic care. Over the next few weeks, short chats built trust; she invited him to a low-key church event. He came, eventually met Jesus, and later thanked her for "seeing" him when no one else did.

Reflect:

- How did Sarah make herself available to be used by God in this scenario?
- What barriers did she face?
- In what ways did she exemplify the five traits Jesus put on display in John 4?
- How did Sarah utilize her unique personality to "See the One" in front of her?
- What application might a story like this have for you in your evangelism?

Once finished, come back as a large group to go through the same questions and hear how people thought through Sarah's story.

Weekly Challenge & Planning (5 Minutes)

This week, we have two challenges for you:

- **CHALLENGE 1: Pray a prayer of availability every day.**



Your prayer might go something like this: “Lord Jesus, like You at the well, I want to be available today. Open my eyes to see the ‘one’ You place in my path. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

- **CHALLENGE 2: Strike up a conversation with someone you don’t know well.**

This might be a person God places in your path this week (a barista, neighbor, coworker in the break room, someone in line). Keep it simple: Ask a genuine question, give a brief compliment, etc. The key is to allow conversation to flow naturally and organically; You're simply trying to initiate a conversation, you’re not necessarily trying to give a whole gospel presentation at this moment.

Begin planning now using the following questions:

- Who might God place in your path (specific places/routines)?
- What could a low-pressure opener look like? (E.g., "How's your day going?" or "I love your [item]—where'd you get it?")
- If prompted to go deeper (share faith or offer help), what might you say?

Finish with prayer requests and prayer (5 minutes).

As you end your group time, make time to share about a person you want to be sharing the gospel with. If you don’t have anyone in mind, that’s okay, begin praying for God to give you eyes to see the people in your everyday life.