



Working for Justice,  
Peace and Holiness

Discovering ways to help you see people as Jesus does, seeking justice and peace.

## REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

### Where and how did you experience God last week?

JUST LYFE

## JESUS COMPASSION

The following account demonstrates that Jesus was good at being both confrontational and compassionate. It also demonstrates the cultural barriers he was prepared to cross in order to bring freedom and a new life.

## READ

### † John 4. 4 – 26

## Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

<sup>4</sup> This time he had to go through Samaria, and on his way he came to the town of Sychar.

<sup>5</sup> It was near the field that Jacob had long ago given to his son Joseph. <sup>6-8</sup> The well that Jacob had dug was still there, and Jesus sat down beside it because he was tired from travelling. It was noon, and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy some food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. <sup>9</sup> Jesus asked her, "Would you please give me a drink of water?"

"You are a Jew," she replied, "and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do with each other?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask me for the water that gives life."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water?" <sup>12</sup> Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us, and his family and animals got water from it. Are you greater than Jacob?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But no one who drinks the water I give

will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman replied, "Sir, please give me a drink of that water! Then I won't get thirsty and have to come to this well again." <sup>16</sup> Jesus told her, "Go and bring your husband." <sup>17-18</sup> The woman answered, "I don't have a husband."

"That's right," Jesus replied, "you're telling the truth. You don't have a husband. You have already been married five times, and the man you are now living with isn't your husband." <sup>19</sup> The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her: Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world. <sup>23</sup> But a time is coming,

and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him according to the truth.

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that the Messiah will come. He is the one we call Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup> "I am that one," Jesus told her, "and I am speaking to you now."

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

## REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ This lady is enigmatic. First she comes to the well 'about noon.' Due to the heat, people didn't usually walk in the noonday sun! Women usually came as a group for mutual protection as well as making the journey more tolerable and interesting. Secondly the women went early in the morning to avoid the heat. The implication is that this woman was ostracized by the rest because of her immorality.

- ▶ You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. There had been long-standing and bitter antipathy between Jews and Samaritans. Jews regarded the Samaritans as polluted because of the Assyrian devastation in the eighth century but also because of their antagonism to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (see Nehemiah chapter 4) and his ostracisation of them. They wouldn't share vessels because they considered to do so would make them unclean. It was also amazing that a Rabbi like Jesus would

take a drink from a woman – she was 'polluted' anyway!

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ Have you ever had a conversation which crossed cultural barriers? What was the experience like?
- ▶ How well do you handle confrontation? How do you integrate confrontation with compassion?

## RESPOND

**Jesus Compassion challenge:** As a group, create a challenge to help you broaden the diversity of people that you know and break cultural barriers

**Challenge ideas:**  
If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

### 01 Breakout

This week, on as many occasions as you can, seek to spend time with people outside of your usual social circle. Mix with people at work, get to know new people and learn about them. Invest time and energy into making new (and genuine) friendships. Try to see

something of God in each person you meet. If you go to a party or some other social gathering – lookout for the person on their own, spend some time with them rather than gravitate towards the people you already know.

### 02 Public Transport

If you are someone who usually travels alone in a car a lot, then make an effort to use public transport. Use the bus or train to place yourself amongst different people. This goes against the grain of much of our private/personal/individual living. If appropriate, make eye contact, say hello, smile. Be open to conversation with people you don't know.

### 03 Available

Practice the discipline of availability and be open to allowing God to use interruptions or hold ups in your schedule this week. If you find yourself 'wasting time', like Jesus, - perhaps in a queue, at the hospital, waiting for a train, or waiting for someone who is running late, seek to be alert and responsive to the person whom God 'just sends along' - be open to God's timing and strike up conversation.

### GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you explore ways to break out of your current social contexts and cross barriers.

### Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

*'God has been quite clear on this. Do justice. Start in your own world. Ask God for the gift of integrity. Just speak the truth.'* [John Ortberg](#)

### More resources on 'Just Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Andy Clasper - Executive Director of Micah Challenge
- Read interview with Shane Claiborne
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Mother Teresa and William Wilberforce
- Recommended listening - *You Have Shown Us* available from Kingswayshop.com