

Background Scripture: John 4:1-42

Print Passage: John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

L3 Different, but the Same

REFLECT



Joanne's town welcomed some refugees who left their country due to extreme poverty and violence. The teen refugees would be enrolled in the local high schools. As the refugees were arriving in town, some residents made offensive comments about them that were both racist and classist. Stereotypes were being perpetuated; this act was dividing the community. Joanne and a group of friends from school started a community-wide welcome program so the community could get to know their new neighbors. The refugees were from the other side of the world, and their customs were different from those familiar in the U.S. This community-wide welcome would allow everyone to get to know the refugees, make

them feel more comfortable, and offer an opportunity to learn about their culture and explore the differences.

Joanne's city leaders organized cultural education classes to help raise awareness among residents of words and behaviors of the refugees that may be unfamiliar. When the refugees began arriving at school, fellow schoolmates better understood their differences and showed kindness and respect to their new classmates. The school rallied around the refugees to make them feel comfortable.

The refugees were told that by the end of the summer they would be relocating to their permanent homes in another state. But until then, refugee families made permanent friends in Joanne's town—and her town and school learned to appreciate cultural diversity. In the end, Joanne's town realized that people from different backgrounds and cultures are more like them than they once thought. Joanne's town listened, learned, and honored the culture of the refugees.

Share ways in which you can learn about and honor the cultures of other people you encounter.



Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." (John 4:39)



John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) **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.) **10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” **11** “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” **13** Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

.....

28 Then, leaving her water jar, 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 Messiah?” **30** They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

.....

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers.

INTERSECT

A SAMARITAN WOMAN ARRIVED TO DRAW WATER AT A WELL. JESUS WAS AT THE WELL AND ASKED THE WOMAN TO GIVE HIM A DRINK OF WATER. JESUS WAS A JEW, AND THE WOMAN WAS A SAMARITAN. She was surprised that Jesus would ask her for a drink. Jews and Samaritans avoided interacting with each other. Jesus told the woman that if she knew what gift from God she would receive and who it is that asked for a drink, she would give it. Jesus then explained about the water. Drinking natural water will only satisfy thirst for a while, while the water that Jesus offers will quench one’s thirst forever. Jesus’ spiritual water will spring up to eternal life. The woman said she wanted this spiritual water of eternal life! Then Jesus told the woman that the One who was with her at the well was the One with this eternal water! The woman left her water jar and went back to town to tell the people to come and see this man who might be the Messiah! The people in town came out to see Jesus. Many of the Samaritans heard the woman’s testimony and believed on Jesus. The Samaritans asked Jesus to stay, and Jesus stayed with them for two days. The people listened to Jesus’ words and became believers. The testimony of the Samaritans to the woman was that they no longer believed only because of what the woman told them—they heard Jesus for themselves and knew that Jesus is truly the Messiah!

Inside Out



Refer to the printed Scripture and respond to the following questions/statements: (1) Describe how Jesus’ water differed from the water that the woman sought to draw from the well. (2) Describe what the woman went and told the people about Jesus. (3) The disciples were shocked to see Jesus’ conversing with the Samaritan woman. Are you comfortable striking up a conversation with a person who is different from yourself? Explain your answer. (4) How can discrimination and prejudice hinder our witness to people who are different? (5) Are you eager to talk about your faith with your relatives, family, and neighbors? Share an example.