



Sermon Discussion Guide

Personally Unburdened - Christian

1/29/23

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Leader Tips for this week

- This topic could be deeply personal for some people. You will want to think about how to create a safe environment of grace for people this week.
- You may want to split up men and women if this is appropriate.
- There may be parts in the application section where you have people journal (you would want to invite them to bring their journals ahead of time).
- In whatever way feels appropriate, set a tone of honesty and vulnerability. Honesty brings out honesty in others. Vulnerability begets vulnerability. As leaders this is one way we create an environment of grace in our groups.

Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.
- Share about a time when a single conversation with someone had a big impact on your life.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying:**
- **Read John 3:16 and 4:1-42**
- What is significant about where and why Jesus had this interaction with the woman? (Can touch on the connection to the Well of Jacob).
 - What do you know about the relationship between Jews and Samaritans at that time?
 - What do you know about the relationship between men and women at that time?
- What do you know about the woman from the text?
 - How would you describe her?
- How does the woman's response to Jesus change throughout the conversation? (Beginning, middle, and end)
- If this interaction was all we knew about Jesus and his character, how would you describe him?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- Put yourself in the shoes of the woman. What might she have felt and thought as she had a face-to-face conversation with Jesus as a Samaritan AND while holding the hidden burden of her broken past and present?
 - How does Jesus address both the cultural and personal brokenness in her story?
- Jesus mentions her marital status and relational brokenness, then the woman quickly changes the subject. After that Jesus never references it again. What does this suggest about how Jesus relates to us in our brokenness?
 - What results are seen in her because of it?
- How does this interaction reveal the reality of John 3:16?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- On Sunday, Christian talked about the hourglass effect (inviting, pressing in the middle, opening). We can see that represented in this sermon series but also in how Jesus relates to the woman. How have you seen this effect in your life in the past or how are you seeing it now?
 - In other words, how has God brought a universal spiritual truth personally to bear on your life?
- If you were to have a sit down conversation with Jesus like the woman at the well what things do you think he would reveal to you?
 - When is a time in the past you've been unburdened of lies or sins or hurts?



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- When have you been part of helping others be unburdened of lies, or sins, or hurt?
- Are there places where you need to be unburdened this week?
- In the past, how have you seen or experienced the way that being unburdened can lead to a more full engagement with Jesus' mission?
 - How might being unburdened of these sins allow you to more fully carry out the mission he has called you to?
- On Sunday, Christian said that in his conversation with the woman Jesus restored, re-storied, and unburdened her.
 - Which one of these do you feel like you need Jesus to do for you the most today? Pray for one another in response.

Time of Prayer