



BAEWATCH

GRACE TO SAVE US FROM A HOOK UP CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Baby Dedication, March 11, 10:30PM Vi Juba Theatre
- Leaders Lab, March 15, 6:30 Knox Church
- Easter Celebration, April 1, 10:30PM & 6:30PM

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- The people you will bring to Church on Easter.
- Yourself to develop greater love for Jesus than your desire for other things.
- A biblical perspective in relationships.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

To experience the power of God's mercies morning by morning, to live and believe Christ's gospel daily so we will not be defined or destroyed by our past sin, but directed by the power of grace.

JOHN 4:14 NLT, *14 But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.*"

ICE BREAKER:

For unmarried: Sincerely (not jokingly) list down qualities you want in a future spouse.

For married: Write down godly relationship goals you want to pursue together.

INTRODUCTION: Every day, on social media, we are treated to romantic scenes that catch our attention and warm our hearts. Unfortunately, not all love stories are blissful. Some stories are just straight out painful and shameful. We all have parts of our lives that we do not want published; certain things we won't talk about in our Instagram or Snapchat stories. Parts that, if we could go back in time to change things, we will. And if we will all just be brutally honest to ourselves, we would admit to the fact that we do have regrets. There are things in our past that we wish we didn't do. So, we try to cover things up as best we can, and make believe that they never happened, or find an escape that only make matters worse.

Last Sunday, Pastor Jon closed out our series, *Baewatch* with a powerful sermon on John 4, *the Samaritan woman at the well*. We learned from that story that Jesus intentionally went to Samaria, in the village of Sychar at the well of Jacob because he knew a sinful and outcast woman goes there every noontime. Unlike many "religious" people, Jesus seeks out people. He does wait for them to get clean before he approaches them. In this instance, Jesus literally went to a place where most Jews don't go, to save a woman whom every hated. We also learned from Sunday's sermon that the Samaritan woman was fetching water at the most inconvenient time of the day because she was sick and tired of getting bullied, insulted, mocked and rejected by her very own people. As a woman who has had five husbands living in a very religious community, she was considered the town whore and home-wrecker. By fetching water at noontime, the woman tried to escape a life of guilt and shame, by keeping away from people who would judge her.

The Lord Jesus steps into her life by offering her the water of life. For a moment she found it hard to understand what Jesus meant, but when Jesus started exposing her past, she realized that He was no ordinary man. She attempted to change the subject of conversation, but Jesus was in hot pursuit of her broken soul. **For Jesus, exposure is mandatory for healing to take place.** He exposes (not in public) to the woman that her longing for constant sexual relationship is a symptom for a deeper need in her life. Pastor said, "*Most emotional and personal problems we have are but symptoms of a deeper problem we need to address.*" At this point, Jesus speaks to the thirst by exposing her issues, and begins to provide a covering grace to heal her and give her a fresh start! You can be in a relationship night after night but in the morning, you're still thirsty. Only Jesus can satisfy.

Eventually, the woman accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Just as she was leaving, the disciples of Jesus came and were shocked with what they saw, but none of them had the guts to confront Jesus. Pastor Jon shared that the disciples' attitude is typical of many religious people. They may not express their distaste over a situation or judge a person, but they do so in their hearts. But Jesus simply sought and received the woman like He would anyone (Luke 19:10). The woman left her jar and shared what she learned with the people of her town. **Her newfound value in Christ became more important than her reputation.** After receiving Jesus, her calling changed and outlook in life became bigger, she became an evangelist of the Good News which resulted in the salvation of thousands of people in her town, the same people who used to judge her!

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

How do we know this woman was an outcast?

How did Jesus show acceptance to the woman? Why do you think Jesus reached out to the outcast?

Would you have treated this woman as an outcast or would you have readily accepted her? Would she have been one of your good friends? Who are some of the outcasts in our culture?

When have you felt like an outcast?

Do you see loneliness being an issue in our culture? Or in the church?

In what ways are able to relate with the woman at the well?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

What was the woman's real problem that resulted in five failed marriages and "shacking with" someone new?

In our culture today, why do you think people are so obsessed with pursuing romantic relationships? And why do they usually end miserably?

What do you think is the need or void in their hearts that people try to fill with romance, attention and sex?

Pastor shared a personal story about how he used dating relationships as a crutch in his life, but God made him realize that until he finds complete satisfaction in Jesus, he will never be happy.

- What are your emotional crutches (romance, sex, games, drugs, alcohol, make-up, fashion, friends, etc.)?

- What is God teaching you about finding your greatest satisfaction in Him?

Before the Samaritan woman could partake of the living water that Jesus offered, she had to deal with the sin in her life. We have to deal with sin in our lives in order to receive everything God wants for us. What could be the things that might be taking the place of God's rightful place in your life?

Our newfound value in Christ supersedes should our desire for things that don't last. Instead, we find ourselves giving more of our lives to God's cause. Why do you think this Samaritan woman found talking to others about Jesus to be easy while many of us find it difficult?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Do you know an "unlikely" person that you think would not be interested in the gospel? How could you approach him/her?

Jesus was willing to violate cultural taboos to talk with this sinful Samaritan woman. What cultural taboos do we face that may keep us from talking with others about Christ?

Will you make a commitment to reach out and be friends with someone outside of your own culture for the sake of leading them to Christ? How can you start doing this?

How can you and your group (or our whole church) start TRULY and sincerely reach out to as many people as we can?