



LEARN FROM PERSONS OF PEACE, REPRESENTING SAMARIA NEIGHBORS

🕒 15-30 Minutes

PURPOSE:  Meet Persons of Peace who are connected to or serve Samaria in your area.

It's time to get ready to GO to our Samaria neighbors! But before we do, it is important to know how to best connect with people in our Samaria. While many ways of loving others are universal like thoughtfully listening and having a willingness to serve, because of the potential complexities and histories of social lines, talking with a Person of Peace is a critical first step.

In order to respond to the research that was done last time (Samaria: Week 8) we engaged with discovering our Samarias, we must contact Persons of Peace. A Person of Peace is someone who leads an organization or who are already a member in good standing with the group of people you are praying about connecting with. As we grow as bridge builders, a Person of Peace will show us contextually how to build these particular bridges where there are preexisting social lines of separation (Coming up in Samaria: Week 16).

This Sunday's play is about connecting the congregation with Persons of Peace. Before this play happens on a Sunday morning, it would be helpful for your leadership to meet with the Persons of Peace to learn more about where and how they serve the Samara group that they represent. These conversations will help you create a bridge for the congregation and the Persons of Peace. With that prepared, this Sunday the congregation will get to meet with Persons of Peace.

SETUP:  *Invite between 1-3 Persons of Peace to share with the congregation on a Sunday morning. Discuss the church's willingness to learn, connect with, and serve the group that each Person of Peace represents.*

 *As stated above, have the leadership meet with each Person of Peace ahead of time to discuss the same questions on this Mission Play.*

Recommended:

- Send the congregation information (like a website or bio) about each person of peace and how they are connected to or serve the groups they represent.



LEARN FROM PERSONS OF PEACE, REPRESENTING SAMARIA NEIGHBORS

🕒 15-30 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS:

🟡 Organize Members 🟠 Leader Instructs 🟢 Members Practice 🟣 Reflect and Report



1

Have the Persons of Peace form a panel to answer questions.

In less than one minute, reference the big picture about God's heart for "Samaria." Make sure to include the right sensitivities to the Persons of Peace and groups represented. We always want to avoid having a posture that makes someone feel like they are being looked down upon. Rather, we want to emphasize that we have neighbors that we are socially disconnected from.



2

Explain that the congregation will be able to ask questions to each of the Persons of Peace after they share a bit about their context.



3

For about half of the allotted time, ask each Person of Peace to share about their context and how they're connected to the groups they represent. It is helpful for which aspects of their story for each Person of Peace to be discovered in the leadership meeting ahead of time.



4

Decide which way you will have the congregation ask questions. Some options are:



5

1. You can have everyone text their questions to the same number.
2. There are apps and websites that are built for spontaneous audience engagement that you can use.
3. More simply, but less participatory, you can have people raise their hands or pass a microphone around to ask their questions.



6

Have the Persons of Peace answer the congregation's questions.



LEARN FROM PERSONS OF PEACE, REPRESENTING SAMARIA NEIGHBORS

🕒 15-30 Minutes



7

Finish by discussing the best ways to “cross the lines” and meet people we may not know from the represented groups. What ways and advice would each Person of Peace recommend for future interactions?



8

Have the Persons of Peace answer questions about how to best meet with people from represented groups.



9

Close by having Persons of Peace pray for the congregation to connect more deeply with the people in their Samaria. If a Person of Peace is uncomfortable praying, discover this ahead of time in the leadership meeting with them and instead, ask them to say a final word of encouragement to the congregation in building deeper relationships in the context they represent.



10

Pray for Persons of Peace.

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS:



As you reflect on the congregation’s interactions with the Persons of Peace, what observations do you have about the questions asked and the answers given?



What next steps for connections with the people that the Persons of Peace represent seem to be the most obviously connected with steps of obedience in following the Lord’s lead towards loving our Samaria neighbors?