



DISCUSS SOCIAL LINES OF SEPARATION IN OUR SAMARIA

🕒 15 Minutes



PURPOSE:  Discuss social lines of separation that exist in our local area.

Samaria for the disciples was a place that didn't just exist on the other side of a physical line, but a social one as well. It is said that some people would rather add days onto their journey to walk all the way around Samaria. This would avoid personal contact with people from Samaria, rather than save that time and walk through that area. We see that Jesus had a different perspective on the people of Samaria. Through the story of the Good Samaritan and His conversation with the woman at the well, Jesus is reframing the disciples understanding of Samaria

Jesus then goes onto explicitly highlighting Samaria as one of the three specific places to represent Him in Acts 1:8. Today, we have to take a step back to realize what Samaria's importance represents to the heart of God. Jesus was directly calling the disciples to cross the social lines and connect personally with the people who the disciples may have preferred to avoid. This Sunday, we will be going through a process that may feel similar to what Jesus brought the disciples through. We will discuss the social lines that separate us in our own neighborhoods and city.

SETUP:  *This exercise can be done in groups of various numbers. Depending on the setup of your space and how people can move around, decide the number you would like the groups to be. They should be small enough for every person to have an opportunity to contribute, but big enough for diverse perspectives. Ideally, 3-6 is recommended.*

Recommended:

- Use a slide with a prompt question about Samaria to remind everyone about the focus for today.

Optional:

- Use a countdown slide for groups to know how much time remains for each section.

INSTRUCTIONS:

 Organize Members
  Leader Instructs
  Members Practice
  Reflect and Report



1

Have everyone stand and make groups of the decided number.



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2

Before you explain the discussion, or as part of the teaching, talk about God's heart for the "Samarias" of your city. You can use The Activation Starter Kit, scripture, or personal examples to help explain our "Samarias".



3

Explain that each group will be discussing the social lines that they can personally see or identify in our neighborhood and city. Let them know in a future week, we'll be introducing research into our Samaria discovery, but this week will be only discussion from our personal perspectives and experiences. One question to ask that makes a Samaria comparison is, "Are there any social lines that would make you walk around someone rather than connecting with them personally?"



4

Groups take 8 minutes to discuss the social lines of our city.



5

Instruct the groups to pray for God's heart for the "Samarias" that were identified today.



6

Groups take 4 minutes to pray.



7

Ask each group to select one person to send in a few sentences of reflection on their Samarias for the church to pray about.



8

Close by sharing that if we want to be a church that serves the hidden and hurting in our city, we have to grow in our awareness of our own Samarias. Encourage everyone to continue to pray for awareness about our Samarias.

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS:



As you look at the congregation's submitted thoughts about Samaria, what observations do you notice about their thoughts on social lines of separation?



Are there any groups of people or social lines that uniquely stick out to you as a leader that God is highlighting to pray about or serve in a particular way?