



## PRAY ABOUT AND RESEARCH SAMARIA INFORMATION

🕒 15 Minutes



**PURPOSE:** 🎯 Research the social lines of separation that exist in our local area.

There are lines in every city that separate neighbors from one another. They are physical lines like a street, train tracks, a river, or sidewalk. They are also invisible lines of the heart that cause us to see each other with prejudice, judgment, and fear. Our neighborhoods are meant to be a place of cooperation, wholeness, and connection, but these lines remain. It's time to cross the lines! (Adapted from Serve the City International's Serving Manifesto, [www.servethecity.net](http://www.servethecity.net)).

As God's people He is leading us across social lines to shine His light and represent the presence of Jesus as His body. At the same time, Jesus identifies Himself with the "least of these" and said when we serve the least of these, we're serving Him. And when we ignore the least of these, we are ignoring Him. To find Jesus among the hidden and hurting in our own area, we must cross the "lines!" This Sunday we will be researching these social lines as they exist in our 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 form groups of the decided number.



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2

In less than one minute, talk about God's heart for our "Samaria." You can use The Activation Starter Kit, scripture, or personal examples to help explain our Samaria.



3

Explain that each group will be researching information about the people and places most separated in our local area. We encourage researching answers to the following questions for discovery:

- What local organizations are serving vulnerable people in our area? (People who are homeless, disabled, elderly, refugees, victims of abuse, children with needs, etc)
- What are the demographics of this area that may look different than the demographics of our congregation?
- Can we identify where to locally connect with people spoken of in Matthew 25? (People who are without essential needs, foreigners, sick, or imprisoned)



4

Before starting the research, give each group 2 minutes to pray for their Samaria.



5

Groups take 2 minutes to pray.



6

Encourage everyone to use online resources like volunteer organization websites, government sites, social media groups, and local news outlets for their research. Let them know they will have 10 minutes.



7

Have each group identify one person who can write down and compile the findings of the group.



8

Groups take 10 minutes to research.



9

Ask the person from each group who is responsible for compiling the findings to send their discoveries to their group members and church leadership.



10

Close by encouraging everyone to pray this week over the people and places discovered in their research. The Lord may have future purposes in what we discovered this week.



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### LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS:

- ❓ As you look at the congregation's findings about Samarias, what observations do you notice about the lines of separation in your local area?
- ❓ Are there any next steps that God is highlighting for you to lead the church to pray about or serve in a particular way?