

Authentic Faith

John 4:39-54

- Greet your group! Allow time for everyone to share the best part of their week.
- Take prayer requests and ask someone to open in prayer.

Main Idea: The contrast between the Jews' and the Samaritans' responses to Jesus reveal what authentic faith looks like.

Share: In verse 39-45 Jesus has concluded a wonderful few days with a group of Samaritans, who've turned from darkness of sin and embraced the light of the world. They've repented of their sin and placed their faith in Jesus. Then Jesus leaves them and heads back to his own people- the Jews. Jesus is fully aware of what awaits him. Unlike the Samaritans who've believed in him, he's heading back to a people who will reject him. Though the overall response Jesus receives is unbelief, there are occasions of real faith, and the contrast between these two responses teaches us what authentic faith looks like.

-Carter, Matt, Josh Wredberg, David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida. *Exalting Jesus in John*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishing Group, 2017.

Discuss:

What is faith?

- Read **John 4:39-54** together as a group. (you may assign this to one person or several people)
- Allow each student to read the passage alone completing a H.E.A.R. Journal. (**Highlight** what stands out to you, **Explain** what the passage is saying, **Apply** this passage to your life, **Respond**)
- Allow time for sharing from H.E.A.R. Journals

Small Group Discussion Questions:

How does this passage show us what real faith looks like?

Read verse 42 together. How can we move from having a second hand faith from those around us, to experiencing who God is for ourselves?

Has there ever been a time when you had to obey God without knowing the outcome? Explain.

In what ways can your faith influence those around you?

Has there ever been a bad circumstance in your life that has led you to seek out God? Share.

What does this passage teach us about the power and authority of Jesus?

How can we continue to grow in our faith?

What is God saying to you and what are you going to do about it?

*Don't feel like you have to get through all of these questions. Allow time for reflections and meditation upon God's word! Silence is okay! Allow the Holy Spirit to work and focus on where you see Him moving in your group!