

Seedling Group Questions for the week of March 15 – the Third Sunday in Lent

The sermon for March 15, “The Opposite of Social Distancing,”
can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

What special beverage do you like to offer guests when they come visit your house?

When was the last time you had a conversation (more than “hello”) with a stranger? Describe the experience.

Read Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites take out their frustration on Moses, who interprets it as testing God. What is a faithful way to share one’s frustration and fear? What, if anything, does this passage teach about testing the Lord?

Moses strikes a rock and water flows out of it. How might this experience be a metaphor for the cross of Jesus? When in your life have sustenance and life come from an unlikely place or situation?

The discovery by the end of this passage is phrased by a question: “Is the Lord among us or not?” If you had to phrase your faith in the form of a question, what would it be?

Read John 4:5-26

It would have been unlikely for Jesus and his disciples to travel through Samaria. What do you know about Samaria and the Samaritans? What clues does John give us?

What public spaces can you think of in today’s society that are like wells in Bible times? How does God meet us in those spaces?

In this story, what does Jesus mean by telling the woman that God seeks people to worship him in “spirit and truth”? What does this look like? How is it practiced?

Putting things together

How many barriers does Jesus cross in this encounter? Does this line up with your overall perception of Jesus? Does it line up with your own practice of faith?

Pastor Phillip says, *“The kind of love that Jesus shares for us on the cross, this total giving of self, can only be extended others. I cannot save it up, stick it in some corner of my life just for me. If I try that, then it is not the love of Jesus I am talking about. Jesus love gushes up from within me and naturally is extended to others around me.”* Where do you see this play out in the life of the Church? What kinds of things get in the way of sharing God’s abundant life for others?

Making it personal

How is your relationship with Christ like living water for you?

Which barriers do you have difficulty crossing in today’s world? Do you know why?

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

John 4:5-42

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I

have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."