WEEK 5: MARGINALIZED PEOPLE

KEY TEXT
Matthew 25:39–40

SET-UP
Take some time to research the demographics of your community and local church. What countries predominantly make up the immigrant population of your community? What is the primary language spoken, aside from English? How many people with special needs are in local schools or care facilities? How many single parents are in your church? How many people are living in poverty according to federal and state guidelines?

The church is not just a place where "like attracts like." Ideally, it is one that facilitates healing, serving, blessing, helping, and loving people from differing demographics. Unfortunately, many churches miss out on amazing opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus because they don't take time open their eyes and hearts to the often overlooked and underserved people within their communities. Here are a few ideas you can try to get familiar with some overlooked people groups in your community.

1. Go to **joshuaproject.net/countries/US**. Explore the red, yellow, and light green dots that indicate people groups in the United States who are unreached or under-reached. Which of them are near you?
2. Make a list of organizations in your community that support people in poverty, immigrants and refugees, single-parent families, those with special needs and their families, efforts to promote racial reconciliation, and service members. How you can pray for and/or partner with these groups?

VIDEO
Marginalized People

PRAYER PROMPTS
Intercession is praying for a specific demographic or person. This is praying to God on their behalf or for their benefit. Jesus shows us examples of intercession in John 17 and Luke 23:34. After identifying marginalized people within your community or organizations that serve them, intercede for these people and organizations. Pray that these individuals may be open to hearing and embracing the gospel. Also, ask God to meet their tangible needs.