



## Love Can Break Walls May 7, 2017

### The Big Idea

- God's love breaks through walls of prejudice to bring salvation.

### Key Text

- John 4:1–42

### Supportive Texts

- Galatians 3:28
- James 2:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:20–23

### Exegetical Idea

- Despite the cultural rift between Samaritans and Jews, not to mention between men and women, Jesus struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman to bring her the good news. The result was salvation for her and many of her neighbors.

### Primary Thoughts to Convey

- Racial division and ethnic unrest exist.
- Jesus' love breaks down walls.
- Believers need to lead the way in breaking down walls of prejudice, bigotry, and bias.

### Applications to Make

- Confess your own biases and prejudices.
- Receive and grow in God's love and grace.
- Build relationships with others to break walls of division and bring salvation.

### Creative/Illustrative Ideas

- John 4 Skit (Willow Creek)
- Spoken word as woman at the well
- Elephant in the room—a plastic elephant?
- Citywide round table opportunities to have race relations discussions.  
Get a ballroom donated for this event.
- The high honor value of the Asian/Hispanic cultures
- "Your honor" is used in a court of law
- "Honor is seeing people for who they are without tripping over what they're not." –Kris Vallatan
- The "Maury Show" is all about hard conversations, and is not necessarily done the right way. What would the "Jesus Show" be like?
- Skit showing how NOT to have dialogue

## Sample Message / LOVE CAN BREAK WALLS

### Introduction: BREAKTHROUGH (Sticky Statement)

Love can break walls of division if we...

#### I. Pursue a greater honor for people.

##### A. Explanation

1. John 4:4,7
2. Jesus spent enough time to hear what she had to say so that eventually she would be willing to hear what He had to say.
3. His approach to reconciliation is radically different. The disciples asked, "What are you doing, Jesus!?"

##### B. Illustration

1. Asian / Hispanic culture has a high honor value

##### C. Application

1. Where do you need to go in our city that would position you to be uncomfortable?
2. Spend a lunch hour in a place that you don't usually frequent that would resemble your Samaria.
3. Eat at a restaurant that is ethnically different from you.
4. Visit a church that looks different from you ethnically.
5. Take a class or seminar about culture.

#### II. Create a better dialogue with people.

##### A. Explanation

1. John 4:7–26

##### B. Illustration

1. John 4 skit from Willow Creek

##### C. Application

1. Conduct a listening session with someone that you have biases and ignorance toward.
2. Attend a local racial round table or conduct one at your house or a third space.
3. Example: Bridge had Mayor, Chief of Police, etc. all sit down and talk.
4. Pray that God opens a door for you to have discussion with someone different than you.
5. Start a book club and read a book around a particular topic on race or diversity, such as *Right Color, Wrong Culture* (Brian Loritts).

#### III. Establish a deeper connection with people.

##### A. Explanation

1. John 4:40
2. Jesus spends two more days with them.

##### B. Illustration

1. "Life around the table" in Jesus' day brought life to those around the table.

##### C. Application

1. Do a family swap and live with a family different than yours for the weekend.
2. Go serve in an area of the city that is foreign to you.
3. Pray and ask God to give you one new friend completely different than you.

**Conclusion:**

- Pick one of the suggested application ideas and write down what you'll do at a designated table.
- Pray for courage, strength, and love to help tear down walls in the name of Jesus.