

## GIG Week 2: Leader's Guide

### INTRO (5 min)

**Welcome.** Thank participants for coming to Part 2 of our two-week series on understanding what God is doing in redeeming our ethnic journey.

**Introductions.** Introduce yourselves and your ethnicity again. Be as specific as possible. (In pairs, if the group is large)

**OPTIONAL:** Remind the group about "Ground Rules of Engagement" if you mentioned it last week. Pray for safety and honoring of the other in this conversation.

### DEBRIEF THE WEEK (5 min)

**Share in pairs:** Last week, we looked at both the beauty of our ethnic journey and the brokenness. Some of us agreed to share what we were learning about beauty and brokenness with someone else. How did that go? What did you learn?

### JOHN 4 REFLECTION (5 min)

Today we are talking about being bridge builders. We in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship believe that Jesus is the best bridge builder in history. In Jesus' day, there were lots of divisions and resentments, not unlike us today. Let's see what we can learn from him in a famous story from the Bible in John chapter 4, depicted in this artwork.

Hand out copies of the Insta-GIG.

Tell the story of John 4 using the Insta-GIG script (provided below):

Jesus is all about living in God's love and power, and sharing that with others. Where everyone else sees the walls and boundaries between people, Jesus moves in God's power and love to break down these barriers.

At this time, Jews and Samaritans are enemies. They have a long history of division and resentment, and they avoid social interaction at all costs... but not Jesus. He wants to teach his disciples to lean on God's power to engage with others from separate communities. In order to do this, he intentionally takes them into Samaritan territory and models for them how to interact with those whom they had been taught to hate and fear.

When Jesus arrives in Samaria, he first meets a Samaritan woman who has a broken heart. She is alone at the well, drawing water. He asks her for a drink and she is **shocked** and says: *[Point to woman with her hand in the air]*

“You are Jewish and I am a Samaritan Woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”

Jesus says that he is offering **living water**, for those who are thirsty. She is interested. And Jesus replies: *[Point to water coming out of Jesus’ mouth]*

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I gave them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

To her surprise, Jesus reveals that he knows about her 5 previous marriages and the pain in her life that has caused her **broken heart**. He says to her: *[Point to her purple heart with the 5 scars]*

“You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband.”

The woman is amazed and intrigued that Jesus knows about her life, so she begins to ask more spiritual questions. Instead of judging her pain, Jesus reveals that he is the **Messiah**, the one who has come to restore all things. The woman tells Jesus: *[Point to the halo of living water around Jesus’ head]*

“I know that the Messiah is coming...when he comes, he will tell us all things.”

And he replies:

“I who speak to you am he.”

The woman embraces his healing and his living water, and her scars are transformed by his love and power. She is so moved by his forgiveness and love, that she rushes back to her **town** to declare: *[Point to the crowds]*

“Come and meet a man who told me all I have ever done.”

Her joy of this new living water overflows to the whole village, and they all become followers of Jesus. The woman experiences personal **healing** as she shares about Jesus with her town.

*[Point to her healed red heart on the right]*

**“Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’”**

Meanwhile the **disciples** are silent. Because they are not willing to cross cultural barriers, they’ve missed out on what Jesus was trying to show them.

*[Point to the disciples at the bottom left corner]*

**“Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you seek?’ or, ‘Why are you talking to her?’”**

This story ends in healing for the woman, restored community for the town, and noticeable silence from the disciples.

#### **JOHN 4 DISCUSSION (10 min)**

If your group is large, have them share in pairs first.

- What part of this story resonated with you?
- Which characters do you relate with most? Where do you see yourself in this story?
- Where are you experiencing thirst/scars on your heart?
- What would it take for you to share your story with Jesus?

#### **LEADER’S TRANSITION**

Today’s video is an honest look at how real people are transformed by God’s love and forgiveness and how they become bridge builders. Remember the Japanese *kintsugi* pottery image from last week? Brokenness isn’t something to hide or ignore, but something that, in the hands of a master potter, can be bring even more beauty and restoration. As you listen to their stories, pay attention to how redemption happens even in the midst of great brokenness.

#### **REDEMPTION VIDEO with Debrief Questions (25 min)**

Play the video and invite everyone to take notes during the video using the handout. Ask them to jot down key words or feelings. Afterwards, discuss in pairs or small groups.

- Which story or quote resonated with you? Why?
- What are you learning about the journey of redemption?

## RESPONDING TO JESUS Handout (15 min)

We have begun to see the journey of redemption in the story of the Samaritan woman, in our stories, and in the stories shared in these videos. The redemption journey is difficult, but it can also be beautiful. Now we're going to turn to Jesus' story of redemption for our world. As we take turns reading, let's consider Jesus' invitation to each of us.

**Review the Gospel.** Read out loud together, taking turns on each circle. Afterwards discuss in pairs or as a group:

- What do you like about this summary of God's plan for you and our world?

**Invitation to Respond.** As the leader, it is good for you to read all of the response page, pausing at the end of each of the 3 responses so they can reflect or write down their answers. Please celebrate the decisions that people are making.

## NEXT STEPS

Even though it's your last time meeting, invite people to consider next steps for the week.

### >>Commit to a Small Group.

Invite the GIG participants to join your small group. Faith is not a solo activity—it is a team effort. Please join our team and let's grow in faith together.

## TEACHING NOTES

### Before the Study

Ask Jesus to step ahead of you and prepare the way. You'll be talking about the healing Jesus brought to your ethnic journeys and hearing compelling stories in the videos. And you as the leader will be inviting people to say "yes" to following Jesus. Make sure you prepare for not only for leading the discussion, but also for giving a call to faith. Ask Jesus to open ears and hearts, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you during this GIG. You don't have to be perfect; you just need to take small steps of faith as you lead in this way. Expect and ask Jesus to be present with each participant as you lead.

### Consider Notecards

Offer notecards to the group before going through the 2 responses. Ask everyone to write down their commitments so you can follow-up with them after the study.

## Ground Rules of Engagement

In order for this to be a conversation where everyone can be honored, challenged, and grow in their ethnic journey, we need some ground rules that help us do that.

1. **Avoid language that generalizes (i.e. all \_\_\_\_\_ people are like \_\_\_\_\_)**
  - Don't assume that one story about a \_\_\_\_ person is true of everyone
  - Avoid assumptions about wealth/poverty
  - Avoid dismissing race or "colorblind" mentalities
  - Avoid lecturing. The point of the conversation is to reflect on our stories and to learn from the stories being shared.

2. **If you think it might be an offensive term, avoid it.**

If you're not sure, preface or ask with "I don't mean to offend, but I don't know any other way to say this" or "I'm not sure if this is appropriate so could somebody please help me understand if there's a more accurate or better way to say this?"

**Note:** If you're on the receiving end, gently correct others if they offend you.

3. **Seek to have a learning posture.**

Ask good questions. We are all a work in progress. We all have growth edges. Give yourself grace to learn & make mistakes & receive correction from others.

<b>ACCUSATORY QUESTIONS (to avoid)</b>	<b>LEARNING POSTURE QUESTIONS (to use instead)</b>
<i>"Why do you do that?"</i>	<i>"Could you tell me more? I'd love to understand better what that experience was like for you."</i>
<i>"Why do your people or _____ people do that?"</i>	<i>"I think I missed something back there. Could you help me understand what was happening when ____ happened?"</i>
<i>"That food/event/experience was _____ (gross, inefficient, chaotic). Why is it like that?"</i>	<i>"Forgive my ignorance, but I don't know what ____ is. Could you explain it a little more so I can learn?"</i>
<i>"Aren't you just overreacting? Why did you say that?"</i>	<i>"This might be an uncomfortable topic, but at some point, I'd love to know about what this is like for you. Could we talk about it sometime when you feel comfortable?"</i>

Engaging in this important discussion can feel daunting. Please remember that the real danger is not of you being labeled a racist. The real danger is shutting yourself off from the opportunity to love those around you better and the opportunity to experience God's love for you more deeply. Commit to listening to each other, learning from one another's experiences, and reconciling as conflict comes up!

## Redemption Video: Cheat Sheet

NAME (in order of appearance)	NOTES
SEAN (African American)	"I've grown to see the gospel has something to say to black people... Jesus isn't colonizing my culture, he's cleansing, transforming and redeeming it with him at the center."
TODD (German American)	"God said to me... 'I created you. You are white and that means that there is something good about that.'"
CHARLENE (Ghanaian)	"I didn't know that Christians cared about what was happening in the world... I realized that these were students who believed that God cared about justice, that God cares about black students and that God was calling them to make space on campus for black voices to be heard. It was then that I realized that I didn't need to be white to follow Jesus... and that my black life matters to God."
ELEANOR (Asian American, Filipino)	"The good news of Jesus telling me truths about myself was a complete game-changer for me" "I'm not just good enough, but I am made well."
NOEMI (Mexican American)	"Growing up undocumented in the United States is a scary experience... Over the years though I started to read Christian material... I started to notice that Ruth, Esther, Moses, were all immigrants, even Jesus."
ANDREW (German, Scottish, Irish, English, Armenian)	A: "I remember Brent saying to me... 'You are a part of the hope in this world and that God is making you to be a gift to me and my people.'" B: "Because I too needed Jesus to restore my image of white people and God was using Andrew to do that." A: "I went from white is normal to white is wrong to now that white is being restored in God's hands."
JULIE (Swiss German American)	"And as I studied James, God started speaking to me about privilege and he started to convict my heart of the ways that I benefited unjustly from being white."
NOEMI (Mexican American)	"Learning the history of the black community helped me realize that not all laws are just and it helped me move beyond shame into an embrace of my created goodness in the image of God."
MEGAN (Native American, Irish, Scottish)	"That was the first time I felt like I could come as I was, that there was a space for me in the circle and that who I was was enough."
LEAH (Puerto Rican, Italian, Polish)	"As I began to let Jesus be the one to define my identity, I realized that he's the only one who can tell me who I am because he's the one that made me."
MEGAN (Native American, Irish, Scottish)	"I am God's child and creation... a perfect and beautiful creation made with a calling and a purpose."
KAITLIN (Chinese American)	"I have a Chinese name... and I feel that God has been redeeming that name ... in my life, actually giving me a purpose in my ethnic identity as a Chinese American woman to be someone who speaks of and stands for Christ."
TODD (German American)	"It hasn't always been a smooth journey because it's easy for that sense of guilt to creep in but God has been gracious to provide those invitations to keep pressing in and keep learning and growing."
SEAN (African American)	"I've grown over the years to see my blackness as part of the multilayer character of God. He isn't one ethnicity but all our ethnicities, together but still distinct that reflect who he is."