

# 2 Crossing Divides

## **Bible passage**

**The Woman at the Well**

(John 4:1–30)

## Before

## Reflect

**We live in a world of divides: categories and labels that not only distinguish but which separate us from one another. Healthy boundaries are essential in our relationships, but walls we put up due to prejudice or assumptions can prevent us from asking those on the other side about their story. This only increases distrust and distance, and we stop questioning our own assumptions. Differences can then become a cause of suspicion, rather than curiosity.**

Some of these divides are of our own making, some we inherit. Consciously and unconsciously we often surround ourselves with people who think like us, dividing the world into the categories of 'us' and 'them'.

Jesus lived in a world of divides and power imbalances. Roman citizens had rights not afforded to anyone else. Within his own religious community there were strict guidelines about who to meet and what to eat. Sharing a meal with non-Jews was not permitted. Jesus was continually engaging in encounters with those on the other side of all sorts of divides. He spent time with the most unlikely people – those whom society had already made up its mind about – as we see in the story of the Samaritan woman at the well.

The first step for us in following him is to identify the walls we create and the people on the other side.

# During

## Story



### Sami's story

What does this story say to you about crossing divides?

 Write your notes in these spaces...



### The Woman at the Well

(John 4:1–30)

What do you learn about Jesus in this story?

In the film and the Bible passage, how do the three habits help people cross divides?

# Space

## Discover our walls

Use the space below to write or draw your responses during the Space activity.

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

Partial empty rounded rectangular box on the right edge.

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

Wide empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

Wide empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

Partial empty rounded rectangular box on the right edge.

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

Wide empty rounded rectangular box for notes.

# Sanctuary



Divides and prejudice are part of the story of all of our lives. But we have an opportunity to be part of a new story.

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**After** →

## Top Takeaway

Write or draw one thing you want to take away from this session.

# Act

God invites us to see where difference or prejudice divide us from others and offers us opportunities to see them as he does.

## Be Curious\_

How could I be a better listener?

 **Try** understanding more about an area of division you don't know much about. The least impacted by a division, injustice or hurt are often the least aware it exists.

## Be Present\_

Where am I showing up and sticking around?  
Who could I have better encounters with?

 **Try** spending some time with someone you don't usually choose to spend time with.

## Reimagine\_

Where am I in need of hope?  
How could I act on the hopes I already have?

 **Try** considering the possibility that someone unlikely could become a friend.

# End

difference.