

Restoration: Leader's Guide

INTRO & CAST VISION (2 min)

Reminder of Ground Rules of Engagement.

Introduce yourselves and your ethnicity. Be as specific as possible.

DEBRIEF THE WEEK (5 min)

How did it go telling your story? Hard? Easy?

How do you feel about committing to a small group?

OVERVIEW

Each week we will be looking at our ethnic stories and how they tie to different aspects of God's greater story—the gospel. We will be looking at the beauty, brokenness, redemption, and restoration of our ethnic journeys.

As we experience God's healing and redemption in our lives, God invites us to help bring God's healing and restoration to our communities and the world. Today we will dive deeper into God's plan for restoration.

VIDEO WITH DEBRIEF QUESTIONS (20 min)

Play the video and invite everyone to take notes on the handout. Write down key words or phrases. Afterwards, discuss in pairs or in small groups.

- What are some stories or phrases that resonated with you? Why?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how hopeful are you feeling? Why?
- How might God be inviting you to steward your ethnic story?

BIBLICAL REFLECTION: John 4:16–42 (20 min)

Background/context

- At the Proxe, we told the story of this woman encountering Jesus. In fact, with the "Insta-GIG" we saw her bring the new living water to her village. (Feel free to show your small group the "Insta-GIG")
- Samaritan/Jewish conflict: In Jesus' time, there was hatred and ethnic division between Samaritans and Jews. Though they shared some common ancestry, they were divided by civil war, betrayal, bloodshed, and ethnic division. Jews avoided Samaritans like the plague.

Read the passage out loud.

- **vv. 27–28** How do the disciples react to her ethnicity and gender?
- **v. 35** Jesus uses “harvest” as a metaphor. What does Jesus see that the disciples don’t see?
- **vv. 39–42** Describe the impact that woman’s story has on villagers.
The first half of the story is how the woman is transformed personally with her interaction with Jesus. The second part of the story is how interacting with Jesus transforms her relationships. Describe the before and after for the woman’s relationships.
- What do the villagers know about Jesus and his Living Water by the end of the story?
- Do you believe your story could have this kind of impact on your village?

YOUR ETHNIC STORY WORKSHEET (10 min)

Let’s fill out the worksheet together, to the best of our ability. No right answers. We are just learning to invite God more deeply into our story. If there is time, practice sharing your story in pairs.

ACTIVE RESPONSE (3 min)

>>Continue to Work on Telling Your Ethnic Story This Week.

Pick a friend (not in InterVarsity) with whom you will share what you’re learning as you reflect on your story this week.

>>Personal Journaling Assignment for the Week.

Take time this week to reflect on the following questions:

1. Who is the “person by the well” with whom I least want to interact?
2. What kind of fear, anxiety, bitterness, or unforgiveness do I need to repent of?
3. Who is the “Samaritan woman” I could never imagine myself having authority to reach?
4. How do you feel about blessing your own people? Have you felt rejected by your ethnic group?

Stretch Goal – Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (Micah 6:8).

Which community on campus is on your heart? Practice solidarity. Serve in a practical way. Listen. Build bridges.

Teaching Notes

BEFORE THE STUDY

You're on the final week! Use this week to invite participants to get involved in a small group, if they haven't already. Keep going, and start dreaming about who else needs to hear the gospel and the good news Jesus has for our ethnic stories. Keep praying and asking Jesus to help people enter into the kingdom!

Have a **Beyond Colorblind Insta-GIG** on hand, if you want to use it to introduce the John 4 passage.

- Fill out the worksheet in advance. It is important for you to be able to share concretely how you are growing, and how God is redeeming your story.
- Be prepared to tell a story about something beautiful in your family lineage, and something broken in your family story.
- Please also think through the specific people who attend your small group. Try to identify something beautiful in each of their stories, so that you can offer a word of encouragement.
- Some members may feel pressure to be able to describe their ethnic journey in all four aspects: beauty, brokenness, redemption and restoration. Remind them that life is a journey and it's OK to be in process. In fact, even if we have experienced restoration, we often find ourselves wrestling with both our beauty and brokenness and needing Jesus' healing time and time again.

**You may want to take 2 weeks or 2 hours on this topic.

ADDITIONAL NOTES on John 4:16–42

Instead of pretending like ethnicity doesn't matter, Jesus does see her in her Samaritan context and takes her story and questions seriously. While the disciples ignore this Samaritan woman, Jesus intentionally speaks the truth in love to her. This uncomfortable conversation opens the door for him to offer his Living Water to the woman. The woman sees ethnicity as something that's supposed to bar conversation and interaction. For Jesus, he sees ethnicity as the vehicle (not the confines) of mission. Jesus not only affirms her spiritual questions that come from her heritage, but also offers healing (Living Water) to the places of pain.

The Samaritan woman's story is central to her bearing witness to Jesus as the Messiah. She is becoming a redeemed Samaritan woman, and her story resonates with her village. Imagine if the townspeople said, "Honey, everyone knows everything you've ever done!" But her response might have been, "But he's a Jewish rabbi, who didn't ignore me. He actually spoke to me with kindness in ways that I have not experienced even among my own people." The fact that Jesus was Jewish makes his impact on this woman more intriguing, even shocking. They have to see this Jesus for themselves!

As a result of the healing she experiences as a Samaritan woman, she is able to love her own people in new ways and bring them to Jesus. Jesus, as a Jewish man, is showing the disciples what it means to be Jewish and to love God and neighbor.

VIDEO 4: Cheat Sheet

NAME (in order of appearance)	NOTES
ELEANOR (Asian American, Filipino)	"I move with a solid footing in my Filipina identity and now instead of being a jumper, God has made me to become more of a bridge builder."
BRENT (African American)	"I got to talk with a white woman and share with her Jesus's plan for redemption for her and her people and as a black man I got to extend to her forgiveness."
LEAH (Puerto Rican, Italian, Polish)	"So I wanted to start reaching out to Latino students and this was terrifying for me because I still felt really inadequate... but the potential impact felt worth the risk."
ANDREW (German, Scottish, Irish, English, Armenian)	"Living out of my redeemed ethnic story I've been able to mourn and lament alongside my non-white family."
MEGAN (Native American, Irish, Scottish)	"Being a tribal member opens doors to me in the Native community... Being white gives me access to power and resources that I can use to serve Native people."
BRENT (African American)	"Jesus says to love your enemies, but advocating forgiveness for your oppressor is not the most popular thing to do but I'm being faithful to the hard call of the gospel."
TODD (German American)	"It's still worth pressing forward even if it could lead to difficulties."
SEAN (African American)	"I want to get older and see the kingdom of God coming increasingly... I do think justice will come and I think it will come in my lifetime."
ELEANOR (Asian American, Filipino)	"When my Christian convictions ask me to seriously engage with politically and emotionally difficult issues like racial reconciliation or immigration reform I have to fight the part of my brain that says, 'Keep your head down, don't say anything.'"
ANDREW (German, Scottish, Irish, English, Armenian)	"My black friends and family have taught me the beauty of what does it mean to be part of a people, that when one of us rejoices, all of us rejoice and when one of us is hurting, we are all hurting."