

# THIS HOPE

Read John 4:3-30

## Following Jesus to the Margins

Michael Messenger, World Vision

### APPETIZER: Taking the next step for children

Since 2011, we've been **partners with World Vision** to help change the lives of children in the developing world who are facing poverty and injustice:

- We sponsor more than 1,500 children in two communities in Malawi, southern Africa, helping these kids, their families and entire communities to build a more sustainable future.
- Through our compassion fund, we've supported microfinance programs to improve economic conditions in these communities.

This year, we're also reaching further: to support a new program called RAW HOPE, reaching the most vulnerable people in some of the world's toughest places.

**"To follow Jesus, we need to keep marching off the map."**

--Stan Mooneyham, World Vision International

### DINE IN: Jesus and the "least of these"

- Jesus challenges us that when we care for those in need we are caring for Jesus himself (**Matthew 25**).
- Jesus is "**God's show and tell**" to help us understand how we should care for people who are marginalized the "least of these" (e.g. Matthew 8:3, John 8:3-11, Matthew 12:1-14)

### Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well

Following Jesus' example, to reach the most vulnerable:

- Where do we go?
- Who should we reach?
- How should we respond?

### TAKE OUT: Raw Hope

#### Galatians 6:9

"Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

*NEXT WEEK: We start a new chapter in our Jesus by John series*

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

Share a time when you **took a risk, faced a fear, or moved out of your comfort zone** to accomplish something important. Some questions to consider could include: Why did you do it? How did you feel? Was it worth it? Would you do it again?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

1. What impressions did you have after watching the video from Central African Republic and hearing the teaching?
2. Jesus reached across boundaries to show he was willing to find connections with people who were marginalized because of class, status, ethnicity or wealth. Read these stories and reflect how Jesus challenged unjust social barriers by ignoring protocols and making contact. What lessons can we learn from how Jesus interacted with the people he reached?
  - a. Jesus touching the leper during the healing act (**Matthew 8:3**)
  - b. Jesus picking grain on the Sabbath (**Matthew 12:1-14**)
  - c. Jesus' lack of condemnation for the woman caught in adultery (**John 8:3-11**)
  - d. Jesus' washing the disciples' feet (**John 13:1-17**)
3. Read the full story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in **John 4:4-30 and 39-42**
  - a. What stands out for you in this passage?
  - b. For what reasons was the woman marginalized in her society?
  - c. What boundaries or expectations did Jesus cross to reach her?
  - d. What can we learn about how Jesus interacted with this woman?
  - e. What was the impact of Jesus' connection with her on (a) herself and (b) her community?
  - f. Why do you think Jesus' offering of "living water" made her so excited to share the Good News?

(For more on this story, listen to Bruxy's teaching on this passage called "Crossing the Line," part of the *Jesus by John* series.)

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What are some ways you might be able to cross boundaries or go to the margins to help someone this week?
5. Pray for each other, and pray for the vulnerable children and families in Central African Republic and around the world who are being supported by our partnership with World Vision through Raw Hope.