

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

CANCELED

You hear a lot about “cancel culture” these days. It’s what happens when swarms of people on the internet band together to call out, shame, or even “cancel” someone. And while there are definitely times when people or systems need to be called out and held accountable, we can all be a little too quick to be cruel to each other — online and offline too. In this 4-week series, we’ll get introduced to a few people from Scripture whose stories show us that humans have always struggled to choose love instead of hate. This problem isn’t a new one, but through the stories of Jesus, a few outcasts, a king, and a shepherd, we’ll see that God is challenging us to love people **who aren’t like us**, love people **who are in need**, love the people **we envy**, and love the people **we want to hate**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Love people who aren’t like you.

THE BIBLE

John 4:1-26, 39-42; II Timothy 4:2-4;
Galatians 3:28

- What’s one pop culture trend you’d like to see get “canceled” forever?
- When do you think it’s right or justified for someone to get called out, shamed, or canceled? When do you think it’s wrong or harmful?
- Do you see “cancel culture” happening more often online, in person, both, or neither? Why do you think that is?
- What are some ways you’ve seen people avoid, or get angry with each other because of their differences?
- Have you ever felt uncomfortable, angry, or afraid of someone who was different than you? In what ways were you different from each other?
- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to show that He valued the Samaritan woman?
- What’s one way valuing people who are different than us lead to more people hearing the good news of Jesus?
- Read Galatians 3:28. What is one way we could practice being “one in Christ,” while celebrating the things that make us different?
- Think of someone who is different than you. How can you show value to that person like Jesus and the Samaritan woman did by: Starting a conversation? Treating them with respect? Serving them? Listening to them? Learning from them? Telling others what you learned from them?
- Who is someone you’re struggling to love because they’re different than you? What’s one way you’re going to value them this week?