

## John 4:6–9 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To frame how Christians should disagree well and invite us to respond first and foremost as Christians to racial tensions in Columbia.

**Sermon Refresher:** Jesus goes into Samaria in order to show how God is reaching out to people across the world's dividing lines. And he takes us with him. What does God want us to seek in the midst of these divisions?

- To understand each other – Listen to other people and try to understand what they've experienced and where they're coming from.
- To apply the gospel – Jesus reached out to us, his enemies, which enables us to reach out to others. Racial reconciliation is gospel work.
- To understand both our unity and diversity – We have more in common in Christ than anything that might divide us. Yet the vision in the new creation is that we're still diverse in our unity.
- To examine our own hearts – Ask God to show you your sin with regards to racism and not understanding his heart for all people.

### **Discussion**

Read John 4:6–9.

1. Why did Jesus have to go through Samaria?
2. Read Romans 5:8. Keith said in his sermon, "For the Christian, the incarnation of God is the end of racial division." Why is that the case?

Jesus wants the gospel to change how we treat people who are different from us. What are some of the biblical principles in this area? Read James 1:19–20.

3. What difference can it make when we listen well? Think about a time when someone listened well to you. What did that do in you? In your relationship?

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4. Why do we struggle to listen well? Why is it hard for us? What do you need to do to listen better?
5. How does social media, do you think, help us understand each other better? In what ways does it make it harder for us to understand each other?
6. One of the barriers for us living out the gospel is that we let the world's categories define and divide us: man, woman; single, married; race; education; politics, and on and on. What categories do you tend to divide people into?
7. Read Ephesians 2:19–20. How would it look differently if you let your identity as a member of Christ's body trump all other identities?
8. Keith said, "Racial reconciliation isn't political correctness or social work. Racial reconciliation is gospel work. It's kingdom work." How can you as an individual and your group love others in Columbia when it comes to race? Don't just stay at the level of generalities. What can you do concretely? Whom do you need to reach out to?