

Leader Guide

Spiritual Transformation: Crossing Boundaries

Date: December 9, 2020

Scripture: Acts 10. 1-29

Big Idea: Jesus crosses boundaries, and asks us to cross boundaries to include others.

Guide Pro Tips

1. The boundary between heaven and earth was crossed when Jesus was baptized.
2. The boundary between sick and healthy (leprosy) was crossed when Jesus healed the leper.
3. The boundary between good and evil (man possessed by demons) when Jesus cleanses the man of demons.
4. The boundary between Gentiles and Jews, and men and women is crossed when he heals the Syrophenician woman's daughter.
5. The boundary between God and the people God loves is crossed when Jesus dies on the cross for us.
6. The boundary between life and death is crossed when Jesus is resurrected.

Video Big Idea with Pastor Tim

Tonight we start with our video from Pastor Tim.

He reads the Bible story for us, Acts 10.1-29 (page 1195 in the grey confirmation Bible) Students should follow along while he reads.

Small Group Time

While the movie is playing, people will be assigned to break out rooms based that match their small groups. The rest of the evening will be small group time.

Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from Pastor Tim's video?
- What boundaries do you see in your life? At school? On your teams? In the world?
- How do you feel when you're on the wrong side of the boundary?
- How could you work to break down boundaries between people?

Digging Deeper

Remind students of what Pastor Tim said at the very beginning of the video: that Peter, a Jew who followed Jesus, and Cornelius, a Roman soldier would never talk to each other, let alone visit one another's home. A lot of that had to do with not only boundaries, but stereotypes.

- Have students use their smart phones, or their computers to google the definition of stereotype.
 - Stereotypes are oversimplified and fixed views of other people and groups.

Ask the students how our boundaries, let's say, between "good" people and "bad" people might be influenced by our stereotypes of others.

- Does God's vision of people and groups include stereotypes?
- How should we deal with our own stereotypes that we hold?

Journal Question

Have students pull out their journals and work on the following question:

- What boundary do you see in our world today that most needs to be crossed? Why? What do you think God has to say about this boundary?

Highs and Lows

As you begin to wrap up your time together, share highs and lows from the past week or two. Ask if there is anything students need pray for.

Closing Prayer

Ask students if they are willing to share the boundary they journaled about in the closing prayer. You can do the prayer as a popcorn prayer going around the small group, always offering students the chance to pass.