

Dear parents,

This week we started a new series on the five biblical purposes for our lives. We began by talking about the importance of reaching out to people who need to be cared for and loved. Reaching out is something Jesus modeled for us when he talked to a Samaritan woman in John 4.

We discussed how Jesus went where other "religious" people were afraid to go. He was also willing to talk to people who thought differently than him. Jesus asked some tough questions, and he recognized the importance of paying attention to a person's needs and keeping the focus on God's love. We finished our time by encouraging our students to each think of one person on the "fringe" in their lives and finding ways to show that person they care about them this week.

I'd encourage you to find time this week to talk with your teenager about our group lesson. Here are some questions to help fuel your conversation:

- Do you usually find it hard to reach out to people or friends who are different than you? Why?
- When have you had a conversation with someone else who held very different views on God and religion and faith? What was that experience like? What did you learn by having that conversation?
- What's one big obstacle you feel in reaching out to people? What are some possible ways around that obstacle?

Thanks for your prayers for our youth ministry. Have a blessed week!