

LOVING OUT OF BOUNDS...

1 John 8:1-15 // The Greatest Task

John 8 is the story of Jesus going out of his way – out of bounds – to show love to someone that was not like him. This worship service reflects on Jesus' actions and calls worshipers to do the same for all people in the world. Here are some materials to help you create your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *How do you go out of your way to show love to all people in the world?*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- 🎵 **All Creatures of Our God and King**
Text and Music: St. Francis of Assisi
Public Domain

- 🎵 **All the Poor and Powerless**
Text and Music: Leslie Jordan and David Leonard
© 2011 Integrity's Praise! Music and Integrity's Alleluia! Music

- 🎵 **Awesome is the Lord Most High**
Text and Music: Reeves, Tomlin, Pierce, and Abel
© 2006 worshiptogether.com songs / sixsteps Music (ASCAP) / Admin. by EMI CMG Publishing

- 🎵 **By Our Love**
Text and Music: Christy Nockels
© 2009 worshiptogether.com

- 🎵 **Everywhere That I Go**
Text and Music: Cindy Ratcliff and Israel Houghton
© 2007 Integrity's Praise! Music, Sound of the New Breed (adm by Integrity's Praise! Music) and My Other Publishing Company

- 🎵 **God of Justice**
Text and Music: Tim Hughes
© 2004 Thankyou Music

- 🎵 **Hear Our Praises**
Text and Music: Reuben Morgan
© 1998 Reuben Morgan/Hillsong Publishing (Admin. in U.S. & Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Read this scripture reading in the style of a readers' theatre to highlight the conversation between Jesus and the Woman at the Well. You can check out this reading that we created below.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE // JOHN 8:1-15

Instructions

You will need four readers for this passage. Readers One and Two can be either male or female. Reader Three should be a male. Reader Four should be a female.

Reader One: Please open your Bibles to John Chapter 4, beginning with verse 8, and read along with us. At the end of this reading, we will say, “This is the word of God.” Please respond by saying, “Thanks be to God.”

Pause for a slow count to five.

Reader Two: The well that Jacob had dug was still there, and Jesus sat down beside it because he was tired from traveling. It was noon, and after Jesus' disciples had gone into town to buy some food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. This is the conversation Jesus and the woman had together.

Reader Three: “Would you please give me a drink of water?”

Reader Four: “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans won't have anything to do with each other?”

Reader Three: “You don't know what God wants to give you, and you don't know who is asking you for a drink. If you did, you would ask me for the water that gives life.”

Reader Four: “Sir, you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get this life-giving water? Our ancestor Jacob dug this well for us, and his family and animals got water from it. Are you greater than Jacob?”

Reader Three: “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life.”

Reader One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Ask the artist's permission to project this painting of Psalm 100 by Laura James in worship. It shows all nations lifting praise to God.

You might download and use the painting pictured to the right of Jesus and the Samaritan woman during the scripture reading. It was created by Dr. He Qi, Chinese artist and member of the Asian Christian Art Association.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

A few days before worship, invite 2-3 worshipers to prepare brief testimonies completing this statement: Name a time when you saw someone step out of bounds in the name of Jesus. This might be a video

project that you want to prepare beforehand by conducting interviews with members of your congregation.

Is anyone from your church going on a mission trip? Whether local, national, global, urban or rural, this might be a great time to highlight those trips and encourage worshipers to consider going on one of those trips.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

If you're working through the whole module, add pictures to your collection from previous weeks. This time, use pictures of people around the world. You might focus on those places in the world where your congregation is sponsoring missionaries, has taken mission trips, or has another investment.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

We suggest you make prayer central to this worship service. You can do that by setting up prayer stations around the room, and we've already made a guided prayer activity to spur your imagination! Check out "Praying Out of Bounds" below.

PRAYING OUT OF BOUNDS

Overview

This prayer experience will happen in four stations, placed at the front and back of the worship space. You may need to have two or three of each station, depending on the size of your worshiping community. The first station is a graffiti wall where worshipers will write or draw a prayer to God for the courage to step out of bounds and show the love of Christ to others; the second station is a water station where worshipers will get a sip of water and pray for someone they know and someone they don't know who needs the life-giving water of Jesus; the third is a global prayer station where they will step across yellow caution tape to grab a picture or a name-card of a child or person from a different country for whom they will pray. Instructions and more descriptions of each station are given below. You will have to adapt this according to your worship space and needs, and take some time to create your own station!

Materials Needed

STATION 1 // GRAFFITI WALL

A graffiti wall this could be a chalk or white board, a bulletin board with pins and paper, or something else. Use your imagination!

STATION 2 // WATER OF LIFE

Large water coolers with water and drinking cups filled with water.

STATION 3 // PRAYING OUT OF BOUNDS

Yellow caution tape with pictures or name cards of children or people from a different country. The pictures or name cards should have information about the person and their country on them with information about how to pray for them.

STATION 4 // ???

We've gotten you started. Come up with another station that works in your context!

Instructions to be given by leader:

Tonight, we are going to pray out of bounds. There are four prayer stations set up around the room, and you will be asked to visit each of them. When you get to each prayer station, instructions are posted for you to follow. Read the instructions at each station, then spend time at each station in prayer as you are instructed. When you have visited all four prayer stations, return to your seat and continue asking God who needs to know the love of Jesus and how you might show that love to them. *(If you've doubled up on prayer stations, give directions for how the group will be divided).*

STATION 1 // GRAFFITI WALL Write or draw a prayer to God, asking God to give you courage to step out of bounds and show the love of Christ to others.

STATION 2 // WATER OF LIFE Take a sip of water out of the cooler. As you do, pray for someone you know and someone you don't know who needs to drink from the life-giving water that Jesus offered to the woman at the well.

STATION 3 // PRAYING OUT OF BOUNDS Step across the yellow caution line and take a picture or a name card. Take a moment to pray for the person and their country using the prompts on the card. Keep it with you, and remember to keep praying for this person all week.

STATION 4 // ??? This one's all you!

[Sing a refrain from a song earlier in the service to draw worshipers back together.]

Consider having a prayer time for the whole world. Have worshipers turn and face different directions that correspond to neighborhoods, cities, and global regions as you pray for them specifically.

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Loving Out of Bounds... // 1 John 8:1-15 // The Greatest Task

PRE-WORSHIP ACTIVITY

If you're working through the whole module, add pictures to your collection from previous weeks. This time, use pictures of people around the world. You might focus on those places in the world where your congregation is sponsoring missionaries, has taken mission trips, or has another investment.

[Sing the chorus of "God of Justice" quietly to draw worshipers into the worship space and call them to a time of worship]

WELCOME

Say hi to other worshipers and welcome them in the name of Christ

SONGS OF PRAISE

*Hear Our Praises
Awesome is the Lord Most High
All the Poor and Powerless*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

STORIES OF THE PEOPLE

A few days before worship, invite 2-3 worshipers to prepare brief testimonies completing this statement: Name a time when you saw someone step out of bounds in the name of Jesus. This might be a video project that you want to prepare beforehand by conducting interviews with members of your congregation.

SONG OF JUSTICE

God of Justice

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 8:1-15

MESSAGE // PART I

Divide this week's message into two, short parts: one before the prayer stations, and one after. This message will need to lead to instructions for the prayer stations (see below).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"Praying Out of Bounds"

[Praying Out of Bounds is the "centerpiece" of this worship service. They will need to be prepared beforehand. Also, consider playing soft music during this time. Download complete instructions on the Resource page of our website.]

Instructions to be given by leader:

Tonight, we are going to pray out of bounds. There are four prayer stations set up around the room, and you will be asked to visit each of them. When you get to each prayer station, instructions are posted for you to follow. Read the instructions at each station, then spend time at each station in prayer as you are instructed. When you have visited all four prayer stations, return to your seat and continue asking God who needs to know the love of Jesus and how you might show that love to them.

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STATION 4 // ??? This one's all you!

[Sing a refrain from a song earlier in the service to draw worshipers back together. Ones from All the Poor and Powerless or God of Justice would work well.]

MESSAGE // PART II

This part of the message might be interactive with worshipers - asking questions about their experiences at the different prayer stations. Or, it might wrap up the series of worship on love.

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

God of Justice (refrain only)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace and share the love of Christ.

All: **With God's help, we will.**