



# LifeGroup Discussion

David Kinnaman in his book, *Good Faith*, defines our challenge as Christians: “If Christians are to be agents of good faith, we’ve got to overcome the real or perceived barriers to talking with people who don’t already agree with us. We need to become experts at engaging in difficult conversations.” (page 44)

According to Colossians 4:5-6, how are we to connect and communicate with people that are different from us? From John 4, with Jesus and the Samaritan woman, He was able to live out Colossians 4:5-6 and overcome the following differences between the woman and Himself. Read through these differences and discuss which of these are the most difficult and most comfortable for you to overcome.

Discuss the differences Jesus overcame in his encounter with the Samaritan woman in John 4. Be sure to purchase *Good Faith* and learn what David Kinnaman says in the chapters listed. He offers some specific ways we can grow in these areas:

- **Race/Ethnic:** Jew and Samaritan (Chapter 12)
- **Gender:** Man and woman (Chapter 10)
- **Sexuality:** Jesus is holy, she has had multiple men. (Chapters 13, 14, 15 on gay issues)
- **Religious beliefs and practices:** Jews in Jerusalem and Samaritans in Mt. Gerizim
- **Historical grudges:** Past resentment from attacks between Jews and Samaritans.
- **Personal feelings:** (Chapter 16-17 )
  - I am too busy. John 4:3-4
  - I am too tired. John 4:6
  - I am fearful. John 4:7, 9
  - I am too uncomfortable with her/him. John 4:7
  - They are too sinful for me to connect with. John 4:17-18

As one more biblical resource, read Acts 2:41-47. The church was filled with the Holy Spirit and the believers enjoyed “good faith.” They lived in a political and religious world and with families that were hostile to them. Even so, what positive impact did those believers have on their local community in Acts 2:47?

From Acts 2:42-46, below are some reasons for that positive impact as they lived out their faith. Which do you now enjoy? Which can you grow in?

- We learn from and live the truth from the Bible. We are united on what we believe.
- We know and care for others in meaningful relationships.
- We pray together expecting great things from God.
- We worship together in an authentic and awesome worship of God.
- We give sacrificially to accomplish the mission God calls us into.
- We joyfully and sincerely live out our faith with a gladness of heart.
- We overcome barriers of age, culture or gender to serve and share with one another.

## Next Steps

1. **Pick up your copy of *Good Faith* today:** Be inspired to live faithfully and engage intentionally in a culture that has grown increasingly hostile to Christian beliefs. Meet David Kinnaman and have him sign your copy of *Good Faith*, available for \$15, in the Lobby after the service today.
2. **Join us for Common Ground Conversations this Wednesday at 7pm:** Come dig deeper into each Sunday’s sermon through panel discussion with pastors and special guests. See weekly topics at [calvarylife.org/series](http://calvarylife.org/series)
3. **Get Connected at the LifeGroup Fair next Sunday:** Meet LifeGroup leaders and find a group you can grow with next Sunday, September 18, in the Worship Center Lobby after each morning service. [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)