The Hub Beeding
CAFE | COMMUNITY | CHURCH

LOVE for everyone
JOHN 3 & 4

Artwork by Huibing He

Growth Groups notes for w/c 12 September

John has told stories of a journey of faith from no faith to true faith in the non-Jewish world. Francis Moloney

John chapters 3 & 4— these are huge stories; spend a moment reminding yourselves of the stories and ask yourselves: **why does John put these two stories together in his gospel account?**

On the surface the stories are very different. In what ways are they **different**, and how are they **similar**? Compare Nicodemus' and the unnamed woman's reactions to Jesus. Here are some pointers: think about their names, status, religion, moral standing, influence, gender, race, location, the questions they ask, what they do after they encounter Jesus.

Both recognize that Jesus is no ordinary man (see John 3.2, and 4.19), but one leaves **confused** and one leaves **liberated**. **Why?**

Spend some time chatting together about who are the 'Nicodemus' and 'women at the well' in our community today. Use the pointers about (names, status, religion…) to guide your thoughts. Give yourselves time and space to fully think about what **'Love for Everyone'** might look like. Can you put a name of someone you know to those characters?

Are there any people who feel or are treated as though they are beyond the reach of God's love? Who might think they are by the way the church or society treats them?

The Eastern Orthodox tradition have given the woman the name Photini (the luminous one) and refer to her as Equal-to-the-Apostles because of the way she responds to Jesus and lives as an evangelist.

Open arms— by Bethel music

Let me be filled with kindness,
and compassion for the one
The one in whom You love
and gave Your Son
For humanity
Increase my love

Help me to love with open arms like You do
A love that erases all the lines and sees the truth
Oh that when they look in my eyes they would see You
Even in just a smile, they would feel the Father's love.

Listen to this song as you finish

https://tinyurl.com/openarmshub

LOVE first