

Our global village / receiving in mission

discussion guide

based on **John 4.1-29** (Linked to sermon of 20/11/16)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was a one-off sermon linked to our 'developing our church vision' series earlier in the term, profiling our international mission cells and the work they're doing.

Intro: What (idea/gift/act/event etc.) have you received in your life that has made a significant impact on you?

The biblical context: Jesus is travelling back from Jerusalem where he had overturned the tables in the Temple and was travelling through the despised Samaritan's territory and arrived at Sychar where Jacob's well was. His disciples had gone shopping in town and Jesus was alone and tired by the well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water at noon.

Our context: Shirley is increasingly glocal – where the global and local are so intertwined that we are much more diverse in people / cuisine / cultures / religions / ideas / goods etc. This raises interesting opportunities and challenges in mission for us to reflect on through this passage.

Read John 4.1-29.

“Will you give me a drink?” – “How can you ask me for a drink?” What lies behind this exchange?

Jews did not associate with Samaritans – therein lies a long history. Jesus could have avoided going in the territory by walking on East side of the Jordan back to Galilee but they went through the heart of Samaritan territory.

What risks was Jesus taking and why?

One aspect of mission is going to be amongst others and not waiting for them to come to us. Who is God calling you to go amongst?

Jesus asked for help – he was willing to be vulnerable. In what ways was Jesus vulnerable?

As a church we so often want to show people we love and care by doing things for them. In what ways are we willing to be vulnerable? (For more information on vulnerable mission see www.vulnerablemission.org)

Jesus was willing to receive. How open are we to receive from others? What sort of things should we receive? How might doing that open up opportunities for mission?

Think of a friend or someone in Southampton from another religion. Can we learn anything from this dialogue about inter-faith friendships?

Pray for some of the issues raised by Sunday's service and this study:

- that we'd become more welcoming to people of all nationalities as a church
- that we'd all be open to learn from Christians from other cultures
- that we'd be able to share Jesus with people from other faith backgrounds here in Southampton – by going amongst others, by being vulnerable, by receiving as well as helping