



Be Brave: Wild Heart | September 12, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

One of the things that's missing from many of our lives is adventure. We live a faith that's safe, clean and by the books. But what if it's not supposed to be that way?

Key Verses

John 4:7-9 (NIV)

"When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)"

Discussion

Most of us would agree that as humans we naturally long for adventure. And yet, we'd probably also say that there's not really much adventure in our everyday lives; they're not that exciting. We may dream about going on crazy trips and look at other people's adventures with a little bit of envy, but when it comes to being adventurous ourselves, we tend to prefer playing it safe.

1. Would you say that adventure is a normal part of your everyday life? Explain.
2. Why do you think we naturally long for adventure? What about it is appealing and what makes us look at others and crave the adventures they have?

The truth is that adventure actually unlocks something inside of us. Because we are wired for this kind of adventure, we aren't meant to live out a faith that is safe, clean and by the books. Living that way actually limits us from being used by God in this kind of world. But what if it's not possible for us to live as adventurously as other people we know? The Bible teaches us that we can still learn from those people; similar to the way the disciples learned from Jesus how to step out from behind their safe faith.

3. How would you describe your faith right now? Would you say that it's full of adventure or that it's more safe and by the books?
4. Who, if anyone, in your life would you describe as someone who lives out a faith that's full of adventure?

In John 4:1-42, we read a story about Jesus interacting with a Samaritan woman at a well. Both Jesus as well as the disciples knew that at that time, Jews did not interact with Samaritans. But the Bible actually says that Jesus *had* to go through Samaria, so we know that Jesus went to the well with intention to see this woman. When Jesus asks her for a drink, she tells him they aren't supposed to associate with one another. In our faith, despite what culture may tell us, we can actually step into the places we aren't "supposed" to go. Author Brené Brown says it's in these situations where we come alive.

5. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach the woman at the well and his disciples about interacting with someone from a different culture/background?
6. Have you ever stepped into an uncomfortable place only to realize it made you come alive? Explain.

What's Next?

There is more to what God wants from our lives than just simply going to church on Sunday morning. Jesus tells us in the Bible that he has come to give us life to the full; better life than we could ever imagine for ourselves. We were meant to wander, to wonder, to grow, to explore, and to learn... even and especially when it feels scary or uncomfortable. Just as the disciples learned from the way Jesus lived, we can also learn from those in our lives that are living out their faith with adventure.

This week, as you live out your faith, look for places where you can engage your wild heart. Instead of shying away from a new opportunity or experience that feels uncomfortable, lean into it instead and ask God to show up and reveal something new to you about the world. Watch your faith come alive in new ways.