

Believing Like Jesus | Week #03

The Cosmic Egg | September 30th and October 3rd

Our Story: We Are

We all have our _____ identities.

Identity in Nationalism, Cultural Religion, Ethnicity, Groupthink

My Story: Just Me

We all have a _____ identity.

Identity in Power, Prestige and Possessions

Personal and group identities are not bad, they just aren't _____.

When we think _____ story is _____ story, we will fear _____ story.

Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the other and their story? (Wisdom in John 4:5-24)

The woman was _____ in her national and religious identities.

(John 4:5-9)

Jesus offers something that _____ her identity stories.

(John 4:10-14)

Jesus _____ her personal story first. (John 4:15-18)

Jesus invites her into _____ Story. (John 4:19-24)

Don't Miss This

Jesus believed God is one: The _____ of _____.

What about my everyday, peacemaking life?

_____ is not the Kingdom of God.

_____ is the hard work of living in the story.

Practice _____ to center on the oneness of God.

(Scripture honors all three levels.)

Read | Meditate | Pray | Rest

How can this make me a better human and our world a better place?

The Oneness of God saves us from the _____ of “we” and the _____ of “me.”

The Oneness of God _____ our fear of the other.

Jesus was never afraid of others because his “I am” was wholly rooted in the _____.

What is God inviting you into today?

1. Recognize that my personal story and my group story is not the fullness of God’s Story.
2. See Christian spiritual formation as the way of rooting my “I am” in the Great I AM.
3. Try Lectio Divina once this week with John 4:21.

Thought Provoking Questions for Groups or Personal Reflection

1. How would you describe yourself? What makes you uniquely you? What groups are you a part of? How might those groups naturally be in opposition with other groups?
2. Why do you think Jesus dug into the woman’s personal story? Given what you know about Jesus, do you think Jesus was judging her or doing something else?
3. Why would Jesus’ statement regarding not worshipping in Jerusalem be so scandalous at the time of its writing?
4. If you were to root your identity completely in the *Great I Am*, the Wholeness of Truth, rather than your personal and group identities, what fears would be healed in your heart?