

INTRO

- When you were a kid were there any other kids your parents warned you to stay away from?
- Are there individuals or groups of people who a typical Canadian might consider avoiding or distancing themselves from?
- How about in the church? Are there groups of people Christians sometimes avoid?

READ

Mark 7:1-8, Mark 7:6-8, Mark 7:25-30

REFLECT

- The Pharisees and Jesus
The Pharisees continually criticized Jesus for two things: breaking their religious traditions and spending time with “tax collectors and sinners”. (Matt 9:11, Matt 15, Matt 12:2, Luke 6)

- Jesus and the Pharisees
Jesus attempted to show the Pharisees time and time again that as they valued their traditions and their interpretation of the law, they missed the heart of God. Jesus’ message to them and to us is that what matters most is not how clean or perfect we look on the outside, but what is in our hearts. (Matthew 23:25-28)

- The Heart of God
As we saw with the Syrophenician woman, Jesus was compassionate towards all who approached him. Mark 7 ends with the healing of a man who was deaf. Many of the parables that Jesus told in the presence of the Pharisees had to do with God’s pursuit of those who are far from him - those who are lost. (Luke 15)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

One of the values of Every Nation GTA :

“A culture of ENGAGING - an outward focused church engaging and attracting those outside the church, making it easy for them to connect with our church and explore the Christian faith”

RESPOND

- Think about the acronym for outreach: “PEBCI” (Pray, Eat, Bless, Connect, Invite)
- In light of PEBCI, consider your neighbours, your workmates, your classmates. Who could you be praying for? Have a coffee with? Help in some very practical way? Connect with your Christian friends? Invite to a church event?
- Take a minute and write down the names of a couple of people to begin or continue to reach out to.
- Talk with the group about one way you will reach out to one person on your list.
- Consider ways to help one another with “PEBCI” and hold one another accountable in your pursuit of the heart of Jesus to “seek & save the lost”.

PRAY

Pray for those individuals on your “PEBCI” list.
Pray for one another for courage and creativity to reach out.