

Barriers  
Wk 2

**Purpose:** For Students to see how we create our own barriers when confronted with ourselves

**Passage:** John 4

**Major Emphasis:** John 4:19-28, 39-42

**Topic:** Barrier of Self (insecurities, shame, etc)

*Ricks Devotional:*

When the woman at the well had her own idea of who God was and Jesus didn't fit the model. Jesus didn't fit her model, but as he got closer to her instead of running toward him at first, she continued to build her barrier even as he looked through the holes she was creating.

The woman at the well did everything she could to keep her barrier in tact, but ultimately walked away from her barrier when faced with the reality of Christ

1. Christ gave her hope w/ "living water" (Vs. 7-12)
  - a. She refused
2. Christ revealed the "living water" (vs 13-15)
  - a. She misunderstands
3. Christ unpacks her life (Vs 16-18)
  - a. She changes the subject (19-20)
4. Christ reveals himself as Messiah (vs 21-26)
  - a. She gives up the barrier, submits to Christ, and walks away from the barrier (vs.28-29, 39-42)

We do the same thing

1. We have our own idea of who God is, and how he works
  - a. We encounter him and don't recognize him
  - b. He brings hope and we refuse
  - c. He reveals to us the reality of a relationship with Him, we misunderstand
  - d. He unpacks our lives, we change the subject
  - e. He reveals Himself for who He is, but will we walk away from our barriers and submit to him

We can overcome the barrier of self by submitting our lives to God (James 4:1-10)

*Small Group:*

Option 1

Discuss some of the reasons we have an unbiblical view of who God is and what he is like

1. We don't really know Him (2 Cor. 5:18-21)
2. We don't know His word (James 1:22-25)
3. Tradition and rituals which have a non-biblical (not unbiblical) root (Mt. 23:23 and following)

Option 2

Discuss why we are so reluctant to walk away from our barriers

1. We like them (Luke 18:22-27)
2. We have to admit that we're guilty (Jn. 4:16-18)
3. We don't know what we're missing (Jn.4:10)