

FLIP THE SCRIPT

The Voice of Rejection

John 4:1–42 | Speaker: Jodi Hickerson | Weekend of July 4–5, 2026

Message Summary

In this message from our Flip the Script series, Jodi unpacks the deep sting of rejection — the belief that we are helpless, worthless, or unlovable — and traces it to the enemy's oldest strategy: deception and accusation. Turning to John 4, Jodi walks through Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, showing how He crossed cultural and religious barriers to reach someone the world had cast aside. Through this story, Jodi reveals three truths: Jesus doesn't refuse anyone, Jesus knows our deepest thirst, and Jesus can redeem any life — turning our rejection into a story of redemption.

Icebreaker

Jodi talked about the sting of scanning a locker room list and not finding your name, or having someone you loved abandon you. Share a memory — lighthearted or not — of being picked last, cut, or passed over. How did you handle it in the moment? How did you feel?

Discussion Questions

1. Jodi shared that Scripture describes our enemy's only real strategy as deception and accusation. What's a lie about your identity that you've had to fight against, and how does knowing the source of that lie change how you respond to it?

Scripture: [Read John 8:44 \(NLT\)](#), [2 Corinthians 10:5](#) and [1 Peter 2:9-10 \(NIV\)](#)

2. Jesus intentionally goes through Samaria and breaks cultural and religious barriers to speak with the woman at the well. Is there a group of people, or a type of person, you find yourself avoiding or writing off? What would it look like for you to “go through” that barrier the way Jesus did?

Scripture: [Read John 4:4-9 \(NLT\)](#)

3. When Jesus tells the woman, “Go and get your husband,” He goes straight to the place she was trying to hide. Jodi said Jesus doesn't need a rope or a bucket to reach the deepest parts of our story — He already knows. What's a part of your story you've kept hidden in the past, even from people close to you, and what kept you from bringing it to Jesus?

Scripture: [Read John 4:16-18 \(NLT\)](#)

4. Jodi named some things we run to in an attempt to fill our deepest need — substance abuse, image management, performance, spending, anger, work, relationships. Jesus told the woman that anyone who drinks from His well will “never be thirsty again.” Which of those substitutes listed has been most tempting for you? What would it look like to bring that thirst to Jesus instead? How could you do that specifically?

Scripture: [Read John 4:13-14 \(NLT\)](#)

5. By the end of the story, the woman leaves her water jar behind and runs to tell her whole town about Jesus — the outcast becomes the messenger. Who in your life needs to hear that Jesus doesn't refuse anyone and can redeem any story? Is there a way this week you could become that messenger?

Scripture: [Read John 4:28-30, 39-42 \(NLT\)](#)

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He never refuses to meet us in our mess, and that His love isn't dependent on our performance.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any lie about your identity you've believed, and pray for the courage to replace it with truth.
 - Pray for someone in your life who feels rejected, forgotten, or unworthy — that they would encounter Jesus' love this week.
 - Pray for our Eastside family, that we would be a community that reflects Jesus by refusing no one and offering living water to those who are thirsty.
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