

# SAMPLE



Thank you for downloading the FREE SAMPLE of **DNowStudies** 4-session Bible Study, *Outcast*

*Outcast* is an amazing resource for your DNow or Retreat weekend. By leading your student through this study, you'll not only challenge them to live out their faith in a powerful way, you'll equip them to do it long after your event is over.

Before jumping into this sample, make sure you check out all the amazing features that **DNowStudies** puts at your fingertips. There really is nothing else like it anywhere...

### What You'll Find In This Sample

- >>A Sample of a Small Group Lesson Plan
- >>A Sample of the Student Book
- >>A short version of the *Outcast* Overviews

Of course each of these components, and dozens more, are available to your teachers through their Online Lesson Manager. But this PDF will simply give you an idea of the main content of *Outcast*.

If you have questions, email us at [dnow@leadertreks.com](mailto:dnow@leadertreks.com).  
Or, give us a call at 1-877-502-0699

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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YOUTH MINISTRY

## ***Outcast: John 4:1-30***

We see outcasts everyday—people who fit under a different stereotype, don't look like us, like what we like, or believe the same things. It's easy to walk away from the outcast, leaving them forever in that category, but Jesus never did. Instead, he walked into the difficulty of their lives to bring them the ultimate insider experience—belonging in his family.

At a quick stop at a well on a hot day, Jesus shows us how it's done. And now we are called to go to the outcasts and bring them in. After all, we've all been outcasts at some point.

From the time we are little kids, we learn how to put things in boxes. From toys that separate shapes and colors, to finding people to hang out with that share the same likes and dislikes. We label the world around us (Star Wars fans, soccer players, musicians, etc.) and choose to spend time with people who fit into the same boxes we do. We gravitate toward the boxes that we're comfortable with.

But what about the people who don't fit into our boxes? We don't share a lot in common with them, we don't run into them at the same places, and it doesn't always feel comfortable to talk with them. Its easiest to avoid interacting with these people—making them feel like an outsider. The only problem is that God's family isn't just for people who fit into our boxes, it's for everyone. Outsiders Welcome.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 1**

- **Session Title:** On the Outside
- **Session Overview:** The goal of this session is to help students see what makes someone an outsider or feel like they are on the fringes of community. Students will take a look at the Samaritan woman at the well from the Gospel of John to discover why she was an outcast. From there, students will begin to identify who the outsiders are in their own communities so that they can begin to follow in Jesus' footsteps and reach out to invite them back in.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 2**

- **Session Title:** Invite Them In
- **Session Overview:** This lesson will teach students how to engage those who have been excluded or don't seem to fit in. Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman is an excellent example of how to embrace the awkward situations of life; how to look beyond social stigmas, past actions, and basic differences to appreciate the value of any person; and how to reach out to those on the fringe instead of waiting for them to make the first move. As students come to understand the value God places in all people, they'll begin to desire unity based on Christ over division based on differences.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 3**

- **Session Title:** In Our Shoes
- **Session Overview:** The main objective of this lesson is to help your students understand the power of empathy, truth, and compassion that ultimately brings the outcast into community. We all (like the woman at the well) are broken and in need of a Savior. In Jesus, students will discover that we serve a Savior who not only put himself in our shoes but also offers the perfect grace that we all need.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 4**

- **Session Title:** The Great Invitation
- **Session Overview:** The main objective of this lesson is to introduce students to the healing and transformation Jesus brings to his followers. Once students have been transformed, they'll grow more and more like Jesus, taking his priorities as their own. As we've seen in the story of the woman at the well, Jesus values all people, even those who have messed up and been pushed to the margins. Students who follow Christ will love those he loves and value what he values. Then they'll be compelled to share Jesus with those on the fringe. Jesus was the only one who could heal the Samaritan woman's brokenness, and he's the only one who can heal those today who have been hurt, rejected, or cast aside.

### **Student Book Devotional Outlines**

Devotion 1: Hebrews 13:1-3

Devotion 2: Mark 2:15-17

Devotion 3: Deuteronomy 10:17-19

Devotion 4: Luke 5:18-26





## 01. On The Outside

### HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

#### GOAL:

The goal of this lesson is twofold:

1. *This small group lesson is designed to help you and your students go deeper into identifying those who have been on the outside, and understanding their true value.* Students will be given an opportunity to identify with the woman at the well, to see themselves in those who rejected her, and to discover Christ as the only solution for the outcast and the broken. They'll discover where their ultimate, unwavering value originates as children of God.
2. *It is also designed to make it easy for you to facilitate and teach students about God's value for the outcast.* That is why the Small Group Leader Guide is packed with easy-to-use instructions, timeframes, and questions that promote thinking and draw out real responses.

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A copy of the Small Group Leader Guide for you and any other facilitators.
- A Student Book for each participant.
- Be sure to check out the Live It Out section ahead of time to prepare. You'll need:
  - pads of paper & pens

#### TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Don't forget to take a minute and watch the teacher prep video found in your DNow Studies account. It's a short video that will take you through some of the need-to-knows before you dive into this lesson with students.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED: Small Group Leader Guide or Student Book**

This table outlines the parts of each lesson and provides an approximate timeframe that you can adapt to meet the needs of your group.

<b>Lesson Elements</b> (and brief description)	<b>Included in Small Group Leader Guide</b>	<b>Included in Student Book</b>	<b>Approximate Timeframe</b>
<b>LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW W/OPENING QUESTIONS</b> Recap the teaching. Get discussion going by sharing answers from the end of the Large Group Talk.		✓	3-5 minutes
<b>A SECOND LOOK</b> A look at God's value for outcasts in current, everyday life—followed by discussion questions.	✓	✓	10-15 minutes
<b>A LITTLE DEEPER</b> Dig into Bible passages that were not in the Large Group Talk. See what else Scripture says about this topic.	✓	✓ (w/discussion questions)	15-20 minutes
<b>LIVE IT OUT</b> An experiential activity to help students reinforce and internalize the lesson—followed by discussion questions.	✓		10-15 minutes
<b>APPLY IT</b> A practical application for students to do this week.	✓	✓	2-3 minutes
<b>STUDENT DEVOTIONAL</b> A short devotional for students to do on their own.		✓	

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## SMALL GROUP SESSION ONE: On the Outside

### THE FIRST MEETING

Since this is the first small group meeting for this event, take the time to lay the foundation for the whole event.

- If your students don't know each other, cover introductions and consider an icebreaker (see [leadertreks.org/freebies](http://leadertreks.org/freebies) for several icebreaker and team-building activities).
- Make sure to cover the schedule and ground rules for the event, especially if you are staying at a host home.
- Tell students why you are here. You are probably sacrificing some time and comfort to be a small group leader and, chances are, it's worth it! Let students know why you care so much about them and why you want to invest in them to help them grow. Tell students why you think they're great and why it's worth it for you to be a small group leader this weekend!

### LARGE GROUP TALK REVIEW

Take a minute to review what students just learned in the Large Group Talk. Have them pull out their notes, and ask them to share what their answers were for the two questions found on **page 4** of the Student Book. Consider having students share their answers with a partner, and then ask for two or three volunteers who might want to share with the whole group.

### A SECOND LOOK

Read this story together and answer the following questions, found on **page 5** of the Student Book.

Case Study:

As Kaylee got home from youth group, her thoughts returned to the party last Friday night. All week she'd been stressed—first about breaking up with her boyfriend, then about two tests she had on the same day. When Friday night finally came, her friends from school decided she needed to let loose, forget her stresses, and make a few bad decisions. Kaylee responded that she didn't need any *more* regrets in an already bad week, but her friends were persistent: "We're just looking out for you." She finally gave in, if only to shut them up. A few bad decisions later, she was feeling much better about her stressful week—until she made eye contact with Bethany, a girl from youth group. Bethany's eyes opened wide as she realized what Kaylee had been doing. *What is she doing here?* Kaylee thought. Her youth group friends never came to the same parties as her school friends! But it was too late; she'd been discovered.

By the time Wednesday night youth group rolled around, Kaylee felt terrible. She didn't want to go, but in the end, she decided that if anyone could be forgiving, it was her friends from youth group. She couldn't have been more wrong. Word of her actions at the party had spread quickly. She felt like everyone was staring daggers of judgment into her. She caught a glimpse of someone's phone screen and realized the other students had been texting about her during the youth pastor's talk. But it didn't stop there. Her school friends, who had been so concerned with her well-being at the party, laughed at the fact that she felt so guilty about what she'd done. She'd never felt so ashamed, so universally hated. There was no way she could ever recover from this. As she sat in her room longing for just one sympathetic person, her cell phone rang—someone from youth group was calling. After staring at it for a few moments, she decided to pick up.

**Discuss:**

- If you were the one calling Kaylee, what would you say?
- What did Kaylee's school friends and youth group friends have in common?
- Have you ever made a mistake that you thought your friends or God could never forgive? If so, how did that make you feel?

**Leader's Note:** Make sure to say a positive or encouraging comment after students share, for example, "Thanks for saying that," "Good insight," "I think we've all felt that way," or "I've never thought of it like that." If you let silence take over after a student shares, it can change the tempo of the discussion and prevent students from sharing any more. Stay upbeat, nod at them, and smile. It can change the whole atmosphere of each small group time.

**A LITTLE DEEPER**

In this section, you'll take a look at several Bible passages about God's unconditional love and students will answer questions. As students share, remember to listen deeply. Don't be afraid to ask second-level questions.

Read each Bible passage and answer the questions found in the Student Book on pages 7 and 8:

**Genesis 1:27**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**Background Note:** No other creation was made in God's image, only humans.

Discussion questions found on page 7 of the Student Book.

**Galatians 3:26-28**

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Background Note:** Paul (who wrote Galatians) focused much of his time and ministry on sharing the Gospel with the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). In this letter to the church in Galatia, he is reinforcing what Jesus showed us at the well with the Samaritan woman—God's saving love is available to everyone!

Discussion questions found on page 7 of the Student Book.

**Romans 5:6-8**

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Discussion questions found on page 8 of the Student Book.

**LIVE IT OUT: Who's In?**

**What you'll need:** pads of paper & pens for each group of 3-5 people.

**Say Something Like:** Every one of us at some point feels like an outsider, like we just don't fit in. But the fact is that as followers of Jesus, we all belong to the same family: the body of Christ, the church. While we each come from very different backgrounds and cultures, we can still love one another and connect over the new family we get to create with Jesus.

**Instructions:**

- Divide the students into groups of 3-5 and give each group a pen and paper.
- Ask the groups to try to come up with a list of five things that they have in common (places they've visited, details about their families, etc.). The goal is to come up with a list that is unique to that group and no one else in the room.
- Once the lists are made, each group reads out their experiences. If anyone else in the room has had that experience, the group who is reading marks it off their list.
- By the time the last list is read, the group with the highest number of unique experiences wins.

**Leader's Note:** Preparing a few examples of fun but obscure experiences, likes and dislikes, or facts from your own life can help students catch the spirit of the activity.

**Debrief:**

- Was it hard or easy to find common experiences with each other?
- Did the things other groups came up with surprise you?
- What did it feel like to be an insider or outsider, based on such random lists?
- How does this remind you of the school hierarchy you discussed in the opening question at the beginning of our time together (from **page 4** of the Student Book)?

**APPLY IT**

What is one thing you can do to show value to someone who needs it? Think about what you can do this week, or even today.

*Be specific:*

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

**Leader's Note:** Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." Challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair up, share their applications, and ask for accountability from their partner.



**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**Schedule:** Make sure you let students know what's happening next in the schedule and what they need to do or bring with them.

**Student Devotional:** The Student Book contains a short devotional for students to do on their own. Remember to point this out to students and let them know if and when this fits into the schedule of the weekend. The devotional that corresponds with this lesson is found on **page 37**.

Interactive Student Book

# OUTCAST

finding our place in God's kingdom.

**This book  
belongs to:**



Outcast: finding our place in God's kingdom  
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# WELCOME TO OUTCAST

We see outcasts everyday—people who fit under a different stereotype, don't look like us, like what we like, or believe the same things. It's easy to walk away from outcasts, leaving them forever in that category, but Jesus never did. Instead, he walked into the difficulty of their lives to bring them the ultimate insider experience—belonging in his family.

At a quick stop at a well on a hot day, Jesus shows us how it's done. And now we are called to go to the outcasts and bring them in. After all, we've all been outcasts at some point.

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## Here are some things you need to know as you go through this study:

1. God wants to connect with you. In fact, he's looking forward to it. But how ready are you to connect with him? As you go in and out of the sessions and devotional times, make sure you are willing to listen to him and learn from him. He promises that he will come near to you if you come near to him (James 4:8). Try it!
2. What you put into this study is what you'll get out of it. There are people all around you who have spent a lot of time praying for you and getting ready to invest in you. You'll probably meet some new people, hear some new speakers, and get a chance to spend some quality time with God and with friends. Take advantage of it! Ask hard questions. Commit to being authentic and honest. God wants to use this time and these people in your life.

# SESSION ONE INTRO

## ON THE OUTSIDE

From the time we are little kids, we learn how to put things in boxes. From toys that separate shapes and colors, to finding people to hang out with who share the same likes and dislikes. We label the world around us (Star Wars fans, soccer players, musicians, etc.) and choose to spend time with people who fit into the same boxes we do. We gravitate toward the boxes that we're comfortable with.

But what about the people who don't fit into our boxes? We don't share a lot in common with them, we don't run into them at the same places, and it doesn't always feel comfortable to talk with them. It's easiest to avoid interacting with these people—making them feel like outsiders. The only problem is that God's family isn't just for people who fit into our boxes, it's for everyone. Outsiders Welcome.

# SESSION ONE LARGE GROUP ON THE OUTSIDE

*These two pages are designed so you can take note of anything that stands out to you and that you think is worth remembering during the large group talk. This talk will set the stage for the rest of the session.*

*Consider writing down main points, quotes, Bible verses, and any questions that pop into your head.*

If you made a diagram of all the levels of the people in your school, with the most important people at the top level and the least important people at the bottom, what group of people would be in the top spot? The bottom spot? Why?

What are some of the reasons one person will reject another person?

# A Second Look

As Kaylee got home from youth group, her thoughts returned to the party last Friday night. All week she'd been stressed—first about breaking up with her boyfriend, then about two tests she had on the same day. When Friday night finally came, her friends from school decided she needed to let loose, forget her stresses, and make a few bad decisions. Kaylee responded that she didn't need any more regrets in an already bad week, but her friends were persistent: "We're just looking out for you." She finally gave in, if only to shut them up. A few bad decisions later, she was feeling much better about her stressful week—until she made eye contact with Bethany, a girl from youth group. Bethany's eyes opened wide as she realized what Kaylee had been doing. What is she doing here? Kaylee thought. Her youth group friends never came to the same parties as her school friends! But it was too late; she'd been discovered.

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**If you were the one  
calling Kaylee, what would you say?**

**What did Kaylee's school friends and youth group friends  
have in common?**

**Have you ever made a mistake that you thought your  
friends or God could never forgive? If so, how did that make  
you feel?**

# A Little Deeper

Take a look at each of these Bible passages and get ready to talk through the following questions with your group.

*Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

If your value comes from the fact that you were created in God's image (God's autograph on you), does it change the way you see yourself? Why or why not?

How would it change your relationships if, instead of seeing people's faults or differences, you looked for God's image in them?

*Galatians 3:26-28: For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

What does this verse tell us about the family of God (the church)? In light of this verse, how should we view those who are lower than us on the social ladder?

Do you think this should affect who we hang out with?



*Romans 5:6-8: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Why do you think Christ died for us while we were still ungodly and sinful?

How should that change the way we act toward other people who seem ungodly and sinful?

## Apply It

What is one thing you can do to show value to someone who needs it? Think about what you can do this week, or even today.

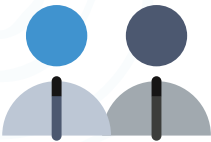


**Be specific:**

**What are you going to do?**



**When are you going to do it?**



**Is there someone who can keep you accountable?**

# Notes:

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