

CREATING A SAFE PLACE

January 26, 2020 Rom. 15:7; John 4:1-26 by Bob Branch
Building a Strong, healthy Family series, part 1

Our vision of being a healthy, connected, expanding family where people are born, belong, are formed, healed, called & launched.

“**Accept** one another, then, just as Christ **accepted** you, in order to bring praise to God.” **Romans 15:7.**

BIG IDEA: Safety and acceptance create the atmosphere for healthy trust to be built. Let’s build this safety here!

³ Now he had to go through Samaria... Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town...)

1. People feel safe when they are ENGAGED in a natural, non-threatening way.

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

2. People feel safe when we are GENEROUS with who we are and what we have.

¹¹ “Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep... Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

3. People feel safe when we LET DOWN OUR GUARD with them—when we open up.

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Matthew 20:28**

People feel safe, and trust rises, when we are generous...

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

Jesus engages her in her brokenness with dignity.

4. People feel safe when they don’t feel JUDGED or written off.

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

5. People feel safer when they can ASK QUESTIONS and engage honestly.

²¹ “Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” **John 4:1-26**

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.” **John 13:34** CSB

a) **Jesus has modeled real love for John and for us—join him.**

b) **We need to let God deal honestly with our own hearts and habits.** Am I a good lover of people? Am I warm and inviting? Why/why not? Am I generous? Do I let down my guard with others? Am I judgmental? Am I open to people’s questions?

c) **Jesus himself has been loving you—knocking...**