

White Picket Fence

Session 1

I. Welcome

- Invitation to the Spirit
- Watch *White Picket Fence: Overview*
- Introduction to White Picket Fence

II. On Stereotypes

- Read James 2:1-5
 - i. How does the church view people who live in poverty?

ii. Is the church more welcoming to people who appear affluent?

iii. What stereotypes would you make in the situation James describes?

- Hear the Stories
 - i. Look over Stereotypes Questions to Consider
 1. Watch *White Picket Fence: Stereotypes*
<http://www.westohiounc.org/conference/homelessness-stereotypes>
- What are some of the statements that stay with you?

III. Discuss Stereotypes Questions to Consider

- What stereotypes do you have about the homeless?

• Where do you think these ideas came from?

• How true do you think these stereotypes really are?

• Do some of these stereotypes have a basis in reality?

• How can you learn more about the reality of homelessness?

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Session 2

I. Welcome

- Invitation to the Spirit
- Recap Stereotypes
- Follow-up Questions and Comments from Session 1

II. Poverty

- Read Luke 4:18-19
 - i. What are the specific things Jesus includes in his mission?

- ii. Why don't most Jews or Christians observe the Year of Jubilee?

- iii. What does it mean for the church to carry out Christ's mission?

- Hear the Stories
 - i. Look over Poverty Questions to Consider
 1. Watch *White Picket Fence: Poverty*
<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/homelessness-poverty>
- What are some of the statements that stay with you?

III. Discuss Poverty Questions to Consider

- How can the household a person is born into influence the outcome of their life?

- What individual challenges may lead to poverty and homelessness?

- What if you had no one to turn to for help in a crisis?

- Is 'pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps' myth or reality?

- What aspects of Amy's story resonate with you?

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Session 3

I. Welcome

- Invitation to the Spirit
- Recap Poverty
- Follow-up Questions and Comments from Session 2

II. Trauma

- Read Luke 9:46-48
 - i. How did people view children when Luke's gospel was written?

- ii. How do people view children today?

- iii. How are children and adults vulnerable to violence and abuse?

- Hear the Stories
 - i. Look over Trauma Questions to Consider
 1. Watch *White Picket Fence: Trauma*
<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/homelessness-trauma>
- What are some of the statements that stay with you?

III. Discuss Trauma Questions to Consider

- Why do veterans make up such a large portion of the adult homeless population?

- Why might childhood trauma eventually lead to homelessness?

- How can domestic violence be a barrier to stable housing?

- How might trauma be a catalyst for other issues like mental health/addiction?

- What aspects of Sylvia's story resonate with you?

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Session 4

I. Welcome

- Invitation to the Spirit
- Recap Trauma
- Follow-up Questions and Comments from Session 3

II. Mental Health/Addiction

- Read Luke 9:37-43
 - i. What did people think caused spiritual possession at the time of Jesus?

- ii. How does our culture view spiritual possession today?

- iii. Do you think there is a link between mental illness and ancient stories of possession?

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- Hear the Stories
 - i. Look over Mental Health/Addiction Questions to Consider
 1. Watch *White Picket Fence: Mental Health/Addiction*
<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/homelessness-mental-healthaddiction>
 - What are some of the statements that stay with you?

III. Discuss Mental Health/Addiction Questions to Consider

- How do problems with mental health/addiction create barriers to housing?

- How might being homeless exacerbate mental health/addiction issues?

- What stigmas do we attach to those who struggle with mental health/addiction?

- Do we view addiction as a disease, or simply as a weakness in character?

- What aspects of Tim's story resonate with you?

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Session 5

I. Welcome

- Invitation to the Spirit
- Recap Mental Health/Addiction
- Follow-up Questions and Comments from Session 4

II. Who Is My Neighbor?

- Read Luke 10:25-37
 - i. Why do you think the man wanted a clear definition of “neighbor”?

ii. How did Jews view Samaritans when Luke was written?

iii. What does this parable teach us about our own stereotypes?

- Hear the Stories
 - i. Look over Who Is My Neighbor? Questions to Consider
 1. Watch *White Picket Fence: Who Is My Neighbor?*
<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/homelessness-who-my-neighbor>
- What are some of the statements that stay with you?

III. Discuss Who Is My Neighbor? Questions to Consider

- How do you/your church live out Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan?

• What aspects of Jana's story resonate with you?

• How would you/your church treat someone like Jana?

• What are ways that you/your church can get involved in helping the homeless?

• Who are the 'neighbors' in your life?
