



March 2018

Grace & Main

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 4:4-15; 28-30; 39-42

FOCUS MINISTRY

Grace & Main Fellowship

fellowship!

“Strange and Adventurous Work”

Spring 2018

[http://issuu.com/fellowship/](http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/spring18_fellowship)

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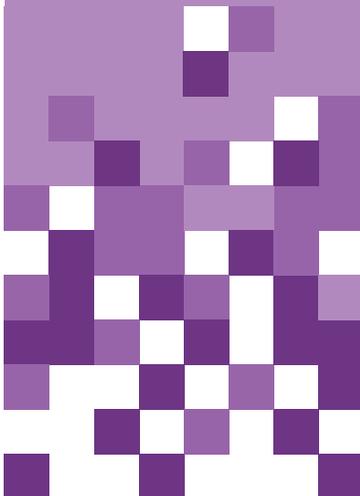
[final?e=1254077/58802821](http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/spring18_fellowship)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Abigail Pratt is a Missouri native who currently lives in Richmond, Va., where she serves as the Associate Pastor of Families and Mission at Central Baptist Church. Abby graduated from Wake Forest University School of Divinity in 2014 and was ordained by Peace Haven Baptist Church (also in Winston-Salem, NC). With roots in Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia, Abby is a fan of KU Basketball, the Kansas City Royals, Cheerwine, and tacky Christmas lights.

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman experienced transformation through a simple but powerful conversation at Jacob’s Well. Jesus invited the woman to have the gift of living water and the woman was willing to talk with Jesus to learn more and be able to fully accept this gift. At a time when men and women as well as Jews and Samaritans did not form friendships, transformation occurred through the building of an unlikely relationship. This transformation not only took place within the lives of the two individuals but throughout an entire community. Similar to that day at Jacob’s Well, the community of Grace & Main Fellowship has committed itself to building relationships and in doing so, transformation is happening in Danville, Virginia. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to learn about transformation in the Bible and in the world today through engaging in challenges, conversation, and collaboration.

- **ENGAGE:** Students will begin to think and dialogue about transformation through a fun challenge and collaborative thinking.
- **EQUIP:** In reading John 4, the story of the woman at the well, students will explore transformation in the Bible. By making a storyboard they will retell the story and reflect on transformation within the lives of those in the story.
- **EXTEND:** Using definitions of transformation from the Engage and Equip sections, students will compare transformation within the Bible to transformation within the world today. They will learn about Grace & Main Fellowship as well as hear two stories of transformation.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will be challenged to find/identify unused items, space, or other resources to transform into a mission project.





Grace & Main

LEARNING GOAL

Students will learn about the good work that is bringing relief to those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Students will also discuss what they can do in the midst of disaster.

GETTING READY

1. Read “Strange and Adventurous Work” article in *fellowship!* magazine.
2. Gather materials needed: 14 sticky notes, markers, 10 sheets of construction paper, and a map of the United States
3. Print or write Jessica Hearne’s quote on one of the ten pieces of construction paper.

“Transformation is something that happens by building relationships with people,” Hearne said. “Transformation is not efficient work. It’s not clean work. It’s not something that happens because of a program that you implement. Developing relationships takes time; so we’ve invested ourselves indefinitely in Danville to be present, to be a stabilizing force in a place that experiences a lot of instability. Through those relationships over time, over loving people over the course of months and years, that’s where we see our lives and the life of our community being transformed.”

4. Print or write Ministries of Grace & Main Fellowship on one of the ten pieces of construction paper:
 - Community garden
 - Hospitality House Network
 - Food distribution in neighborhoods and to families in need
 - Community meals
 - Weekly worship
 - Assistance in accessing financial and housing resources
 - Neighborhood advocacy for safer places to live

ENGAGE

1. Write the letters **A A F I M N N O O R R S T T** on individual sticky notes and place them in this order on a wall.
2. Challenge students to work together to unscramble the letters in order to form a word. Tell them they have 2 minutes to complete the challenge. At the end of the set time, if students have not unscrambled the word, help them by putting the letters in the correct order to spell “Transformation.”
3. Ask students to define the word transformation as a group and write their definition on a piece of construction paper.
 - Ask them if they can think of people from the Bible who experienced transformations (i.e. Jesus, Saul/Paul, Nicodemus)
 - Ask students if they can think of people in their lives or in the world today who have experienced transformation.
4. Share with students that in the lesson for today they are going to both explore transformation in the Bible and in the world today.



5. Ask students to locate Danville, Va., on a map of the United States. Share with students that today you will be learning about Grace & Main Fellowship which is an intentional Christian community located in Danville, Va. Share with the students what you learned in the article “Strange and Adventurous Work.” Invite students to read aloud the different ministries of Grace & Main Fellowship found on the Ministries of Grace & Main Fellowship poster.

EQUIP

1. Read: John 4:4-15; 28-30; 39-42
2. Storyboard: Give students six pieces of construction paper and ask them to divide the story into six parts and draw pictures to tell the story. When completed the parts of the story/pieces of construction paper should fit together like a cartoon strip. Encourage students to work together and make sure everyone is contributing in some way.
3. Ask three students to come up and tell the story using the first three pieces of construction paper. Once they are done, ask three more students to finish the story using the last three pieces of construction paper. Use the Storyboard as a visual for the rest of the lesson.
4. Reflect on the story by asking
 - Who experienced transformation in this story?
 - How was transformation experienced?
 - What was needed in order for transformation to take place?
5. Ask students to revisit their definition of transformation and as a group once again define transformation but this time develop a definition using the Bible story. Ask them to write their definition on another piece of construction paper.

EXTEND

1. Read students Cindy Anderson and Mike Wilkins’ stories, two leaders within the Grace & Main Fellowship.

[Cindy] Anderson first met Jessica and Joshua Hearne as members of Grace & Main were pass-ing out sandwiches in her neighborhood and inviting local residents to dinner. She says Grace & Main came into her life with Beloved Community just when she needed it most. Anderson was not only facing immobility because of a leg injury, but was seeing a rise in drug crime at her apartment building as well. As Anderson began attending community meals, Sunday worship and even accompanying Jessica to the grocery store to prepare for weekly dinners, she started confronting the dealers that frequented her residential complex and began partnering with law enforcement to advocate for better living conditions on behalf of her neighbors. Today, Anderson serves on the leadership team of Grace & Main both as an advocate for the intentional community and an expert in accessing social resources such as housing and bill-paying assistance.

Mike Wilkins, a bread merchandiser and leader with Grace & Main, says he began hosting homeless neighbors after leaving work one night and encountering a young man whose in-laws had dropped him off at Walmart, possessions and all, with no place to go. Since that night, Wilkins frequently hosts two or three guests on any given night at his home. At one point, Jessica Hearne says, the Grace & Main leadership team discovered that Wilkins had been offering his own bed and was sleeping on the floor of his home until his guests no longer needed housing.





2. Read Jessica Hearne's quote about transformation. Give students the piece of construction paper with Jessica Hearne's quote about transformation. Ask students to look at all three definitions and share how they are similar and how they are different.
3. Ask students to compare and contrast the transformation stories from the Bible as from the article.
4. End your time together by celebrating transformation through God's love and through beloved communities. Close in prayer by inviting students to each take one of the sticky notes with a letter on it. Ask them to share what they have learned about transformation today and to take the sticky note with them as a reminder of today's lesson. Give thanks for God's transforming power in the past, present, and future.

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MISSION PROJECT

Ask students to brainstorm and create a list of items, spaces, or other resources within your church and community that are not being used to their full potential. Try to come up with as many ideas as possible. As a group, go through the list and group together items, spaces, or resources that could be combined to help others. Maybe you have an empty room and lots of gently used clothing that when combined you could start a clothing closet. Maybe you have a group of ladies in your church who enjoy knitting and a group of youth who are interested in learning to knit. Get them together and start a knitting group that makes hats for a local homeless shelter. With each project idea challenge yourselves to find ways this project will build relationships. Divide students into groups and have them make mini-presentations for their Transformation Project ideas. As a group, choose one of the projects and put it into action. Share with the rest of the church how this is a transformation project and you need their help overtime to develop and maintain it.

