

On the Fringe

Many times it is easier to connect with the people in our own community than it is to venture into the fringe to connect with people who are different than us. On the Fringe is a series that explores various ways in which we can interact with the people and issues that exist outside our tight knit communities. Jesus loved the people on the margins, the poor, and the oppressed. Can we do the same? Can we provide for those in greatest need? We will work together to find out!

In Lesson 1, **Group Identity**, every group in history had people on the inside and people on the outside. That is part of what makes up a group. Is it a good thing or a bad thing? What did Jesus make of it? What should we make of it? And how does it affect people on the fringe?

In Lesson 2, **Stop and Serve**, sometimes we can get organized and make a plan to help someone in need. Sometimes needs just flare up unexpectedly. The Good Samaritan figured out what to do in an emergency need and now hospitals and laws are named after him. Can we do the same?

In Lesson 3, **World of Opportunity**, students confront issues related to new Canadians. Canada used to be pretty homogenous (everyone looked the same and acted the same). Clearly, that is no longer the case. Thousands of people make Canada their new home every year. What is life like for these people? Do they feel on the fringe? What does that have to do with us?

In Lesson 4, **Filled with Your Glory**, is there a connection between caring for the environment and following Christ, or is the environment a fringe issue? Does caring for the environment affect people on the fringe? Can our youth group evaluate its environmental impact? Can it make a plan for action?