

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Savior Comes to Samaria
John 4:1-42 (page 741)

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Jesus comes to break down barriers to faith
(John 4:1-12)

He breaks the barriers of:

- comfort zones (vs 4-6)
- prejudices (v 9)
- gender (v 9)
- religious pride (vs 10-12)

Jesus comes to reveal the truth (John 4:13-26)

- The truth concerning eternal life (v 13-14)
- The truth concerning my sinfulness (vs 15-19)
- The truth concerning authentic worship (vs 20-24)
- The truth concerning His identity (vs 25-26)

Jesus comes to reach others through me (John 4:27-42)

- Don't keep Jesus to yourself (vs 27-30)
- There is a deep satisfaction in obeying God (vs 31-35)
- The spiritual harvest is always ready (vs 36-38)
- When we obey, God brings forth results (vs 39-42)

Take it further.....

What barriers did Jesus set aside to minister to this woman? What barriers do I need to set aside to share Christ with others?

Do you consider yourself an “active” worshipper? If an objective outsider were to examine your finances, your calendar, the things that you spend your time with and engage in...what would they conclude about you and what you worship?

Explain. _____

What does it mean to worship God in “spirit and truth”? How does Jesus move us from practicing religion to worshipping God in spirit and truth? _____

When it comes to telling others about who Jesus is, are you more like the Samaritan woman or more like Nicodemus? What can you do to be more bold about sharing Christ with others?

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 4:1-42 (Week Nine)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

Jesus' miracles have made Him instantly popular in Judea. His success has attracted the attention of the Pharisees who consider themselves the "watchdogs" of Judaism. However, it is not yet time for Jesus to confront these Jewish leaders, so He abandons baptizing and refocuses His ministry in Galilee. Yet Jesus is always pursuing His mission as the Son of God. We will once again find Jesus in conversation, this time with a sun-parched woman at a Samaritan well about to learn of water that all humanity thirsts for. Such is the offer to all who come to Christ. Like this woman, with one sip of faith, our deepest thirst is quenched.

Discussion Questions

How does the attitude of Jesus toward the Samaritans compare to the attitude of the Jewish people in general toward them? Give examples of the differences.

Who are the Samaritans in your world - the people that you try to avoid any contact with? How can you emulate Jesus and His attitude and actions toward them in the future?

How does the woman identify Jesus in each of the following verses: v 9, 12, 19, 29? How do her observations reveal a *progression* in her understanding of who Jesus is?

What do you think Jesus is referring to when He uses the term "*living water*"? What can you do to allow the living water to well up in you? (cf 4:14; John 7:37-39)

What does Jesus mean when He says that we are to worship God "*in spirit and in truth*"? Explain what you think He is saying. How is Jesus able to move us from practicing "*religion*" to authentic worship that pleases God?

Read verses 16-18....how does Jesus lead the Samaritan woman to realize her sinfulness and need for the living water that He offers? Discuss.

How would you describe the life of the Samaritan woman after her conversation with Jesus (from v 26 onward) What did she do? How had she changed?

Read John 4:31-38. What was Jesus trying to teach His disciples about the harvest? What was He trying to teach them about Himself? About themselves? About their mission? What is He trying to teach us?

What was the result of Jesus' ministry to this woman? What does that tell you about God and the mission He has called us to?

Taking it to the streets....

Are you more like the woman at the well in your response to Jesus or are you more like the disciples? Explain.

What is one practical thing you can put into practice this week to live as a worshipper of God in spirit and in truth?