# JESUS + THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

WEEK 3

# JOHN 4

## V. 4-41 // THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

4 He had to go through Samaria on the way.
5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village
of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his
son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus,
tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside
the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan
woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to
her, "Please give me a drink." 8 He was alone
at the time because his disciples had gone into
the village to buy some food.

9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to
have anything to do with Samaritans. She said
to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan
woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

10 Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift
God has for you and who you are speaking to,
you would ask me, and I would give you
living water."

11 "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket,"
she said, "and this well is very deep. Where
would you get this living water? 12 And besides,
do you think you're greater than our ancestor
Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you
offer better water than he and his sons and his
animals enjoyed?"

13 Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water
will soon become thirsty again. 14 But those
who drink the water I give will never be thirsty
again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring
within them, giving them eternal life."

15 "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this
water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I
won't have to come here to get water."

16 "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

17 "I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a
husband— 18 for you have had five husbands,
and you aren't even married to the man you're
living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

19 "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a
prophet. 20 So tell me, why is it that you
Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place
of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is
here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors
worshiped?"

21 Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman,
the time is coming when it will no longer
matter whether you worship the Father on this
mountain or in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans
know very little about the one you worship,
while we Jews know all about Him,
for salvation comes through the Jews.

23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here
now—when true worshipers will worship
the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is
looking for those who will worship Him that
way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship
Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is
coming—the one who is called Christ. When
he comes, he will explain everything to us."

26 Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!"

27 Just then his disciples came back. They were
shocked to find Him talking to a woman, but
none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do
you want with her?" or "Why are you talking
to her?" 28 The woman left her water jar beside
the well and ran back to the village, telling
everyone, 29 "Come and see a man who told
me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be
the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming
from the village to see Him.

31 Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus,
"Rabbi, eat something."

32 But Jesus replied, "I have a kind of food you
know nothing about."

33 "Did someone bring Him food while we
were gone?" the disciples asked each other.

34 Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment
comes from doing the will of God, who sent
me, and from finishing his work. 35 You know
the saying, 'Four months between planting
and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look
around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.
36 The harvesters are paid good wages, and the
fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal
life. What joy awaits both the planter and the
harvester alike! 37 You know the saying, 'One
plants and another harvests.' And it's true. 38
I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant;
others had already done the work, and now
you will get to gather the harvest."

39 Many Samaritans from the village
believed in Jesus because the woman had said,
"He told me everything I ever did!" 40 When
they came out to see Him, they begged Him to
stay in their village. So he stayed for two days,
41 long enough for many more to hear his
message and believe.

# TAKE 5

## WEEK 3

MON

John 4:4–8

Imagine being poor, homeless, traveling on foot, and dependent on others. This is where we find the King of Kings as our story unfolds; our Savior Jesus Christ, subject to the frailties of humanity, is weary and thirsty.

When we feel exhausted, we often isolate and focus on ourselves. We are more apt to grumble and snap at those around us. Yet Jesus, though He is weary, chooses to reach out to this woman. He seizes this precise moment to initiate a life-changing conversation with her.

Have you been waiting for the perfect time to talk with a family member, friend, or coworker? Perhaps, an imperfect time is the right time.

TUE

John 4:7–9

The Samaritan woman visits Jacob's Well, alone, in the heat of the day, rather than with respectable women who enjoy the company of others. She is an outcast who is ignored and rejected by her community. Yet Jesus notices her and engages with her!

Jesus always meets individuals right where they are, right as they are! He isn't fearful of what others will think or how it will look (vs. 27). He crosses cultural boundaries (Jews didn't talk to Samaritans), and He crosses social boundaries (men, especially rabbis, didn't talk to women). He has the longest conversation recorded in the Gospels with someone deemed unworthy by others.

Is there someone (or a group of people) you have deemed unworthy? Confess your prejudices and ask God to help you see people as He does—worthy of love and attention.

WED

John 4:7–28

The flow of this conversation transitions repeatedly from a surface level topic to a deeply spiritual topic: from a simple question about water to eternal life; from addressing sin to worship; from salvation to the declaration that Jesus Himself is the Christ, the Messiah.

Our approach to conversations is likely different. We talk about surface issues. We avoid conflicts. We like to give advice. Yet, Jesus doesn't condemn, doesn't avoid the spiritual issues, and He doesn't tell her what to do. He allows her to share whatever she is thinking. He responds in unexpected ways, and He masterfully leads the conversation to Kingdom topics and ultimately to Himself. For today, ask God to guide your conversations and lead you to talk about topics that point to Jesus.

THU

John 4:25–44

After her conversation with Jesus, this Samaritan woman's heart is moved; she is excited and highly motivated to tell others about Jesus.

In seeking leaders, we tend to seek out the seemingly qualified—the person who is perfectly put-together. Yet, Jesus chooses a woman from a despised ethnicity, an outcast in her own community, who is caught in a cycle of sin. As she leads her community to the Messiah, she becomes a highly unlikely and incredibly effective first evangelist recorded in the Gospels!

Perhaps, you think God can't use you. But Jesus seeks the broken—those who encounter Him amid their messy lives. It's as simple as interacting with Him today, and then telling others about that encounter.

FRI

John 4:31–44

What prompted Jesus to initiate a conversation with this woman? How did Jesus know how to guide the conversation? How was He able to discern the underlying spiritual issues for this woman? Thankfully, Jesus tells us the answers to these questions.

If we are going to navigate conversations well, we need to connect to the same source as Jesus. We need the living water and food that Jesus feasted upon! His power, insight, and discernment came as He was *"Doing the will of God and accomplishing His work."*

Jesus had many demands on His time and energy, yet Jesus often rose early to talk with His Father (Mark 1:35). If Jesus found sustenance as He interacted with His Father, and then did what the Father told Him to do, wouldn't we want to do the same?

# TEACHING NOTES

# SESSION THREE

## JESUS QUESTION

"Do you want to get well?"

**John 5:6**

## WEEKLY WORSHIP

"You Say" by Lauren Daigle

“Gentle words are a tree of life;
a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”
PROVERBS 15:4

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**INTRODUCTORY QUESTION:** Do you like to talk to strangers? Why or why not?

1 What do you notice most about the conversation in John 4:4–41?

2 In our culture, who is like the Samaritan woman? Who is typically marginalized and uncomfortable for you to talk with in your workplace, school, church, family, or neighborhood?

3 Jesus is standing by a well and begins the conversation naturally with a request for water. Think about all the places and settings you are in each week. What are some examples of surface issues you talk about that could lead to spiritual conversations?

a. How does Jesus move from a surface issue to a deeper spiritual heart issue?

b. Jesus allows this conversation to flow naturally and lets the woman lead through topics as she chooses. What aspects of Jesus' conversation in this passage could we adopt for our own conversations?

c. Why are we more inclined to enter into conversations with an agenda or goal rather than listen to the person, and allow their responses to guide the topics?

4

Jesus was far less concerned about the Samaritan woman's behavior, and much more concerned about her heart and whom she worshipped.

a. What makes us more inclined to focus on behavior change versus heart change with ourselves? With others?

b. How do you determine if you are making real heart changes, or just changing your behavior?

c. Have churches you've been a part of focused more on behavior modification, or on a change of heart and motivation? Explain.

d. Has God changed your heart recently? How did that impact your behavior?

5

When the disciples return, they are shocked to see Jesus talking with this Samaritan woman. Jesus responds by talking about the spiritual harvest. What is He trying to tell His disciples (and us) through that metaphor?

6

One of the postures for a good conversationalist is to be humbly willing to learn from anyone. What is something God has unexpectedly taught you through someone who is vastly different from you?

7

Jesus chose to use His time and energy to minister to this Samaritan woman and her whole town. How do we decide who to minister to when we have limited time, energy and resources?

Who is someone marginalized in our culture (or in your social circles) that God may be calling you to minister to this week? Pray together about opportunities to engage in conversation with them.