



## Small Group Discussion Questions

### “Living Water”

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As we get to know Jesus through John’s Gospel, we’ll discover new things about Jesus, about ourselves, and about the surprising encounters that Jesus has with people along the way, such as the Samaritan woman in John 4.

In Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman, we see how Jesus is breaking down walls and reaching out to those in need. The Samaritan woman seems an unlikely candidate, but Jesus breaks down the cultural, racial and social barriers to talk with her and extend God’s gift of ‘living water’ which He freely offers.

Yet, isn’t that Jesus’ way? He comes to those who do not deserve it in their own right – He comes to seek out and save sinners – just like us. Surely, this woman did not understand that day all that Jesus had to offer her in the living water. He said would quench her thirst, but she did know that Jesus knew her, truly saw her. Her response is amazing – she told everyone in her town to “come and see.” And the people do! They discover for themselves “that this is truly the Savior of the world.” (v. 42)

The Samaritan woman is an example to all of us who feel awkward sharing about Jesus because we feel inadequate or unsure that we can answer any question that is asked. She shared what she knew and **invited** others to “come and see.”

#### Warm it up

Has someone ever given you a drink of water when you were super thirsty or dehydrated? When was the last time you remember being really thirsty? Explain.

Other than those in your family, who has had the biggest influence in your life?

#### Talk it Over

##### Read John 4:1-15

1. Jesus breaks through some significant barriers to talk with this woman. Who were the Samaritans and why was there tension between the Samaritans and the Jews? What were some of the barriers that Jesus set aside when he engaged the woman in this conversation?

2. Jesus started a connection with this woman by pointing not at her need but at his own need (vv. 4-9). Why do you think Jesus did this?

3. Read Ps. 42:1, Isaiah 55:1, Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13, Revelation 21:6. How do these verses expand on Jesus' statement about 'living water'?

#### **Read John 4:16-26**

4. Why does Jesus' knowledge of the woman's relationship history (v. 18) make the offer of living water even more important?

5. What did Jesus mean when He said we must worship God "in spirit and in truth" (v. 24)?

6. The woman attempts to avert the issue to the mountain where the Samaritans worship (Mt. Gerizim). The Samaritans would turn their faces toward this mountain as they worshiped, believing that that Messiah would one day appear there. Jesus points her not to a mountain, but to Himself as the center of worship. What is the essence of his message (vv. 21-24)?

#### **Read John 4:27-42**

7. The Samaritan woman is the first person that Jesus reveals himself to in John's Gospel. Any thought about why he chose this woman (vv. 29-42)?

8. What impact did this woman have on the "others"? Considering the social barriers in this story between the Jews and Samaritans, what does this teach you about Jesus (vv. 40-42)?

**Work it Through**

9. What are some ways we can take common everyday things like 'asking for a drink of water' to engage people about Jesus? How could you begin to take the initiative in sharing the gospel with others?

10. What are some of the things that you thirst for today? (Such as purpose, hope, peace, salvation?)

11. What does it mean to you to receive Jesus' promise of 'living water'?

**Pray it Through**

Pray for one another as we get to know Jesus through the Gospel of John. Share with your group and take prayer requests from one another. Commit to upholding one another in prayer on a daily/weekly basis. How might you be able to encourage one another in sharing the gospel with others?