

THE SON OFFERS LIVING WATER

+ **SESSION IN A SENTENCE:**

Jesus promised the Samaritan woman that all who believe in Him receive living water—the Holy Spirit—who completely satisfies the longings of the heart and enables true worship of God.

+ **BACKGROUND PASSAGE:**

John 4

+ **SETTING:**

Jesus was returning home to Galilee after some time spent in Judea. Instead of going around the region of Samaria, He went through it. While in Samaria, He stopped at a well and interacted with a Samaritan woman who was known for her immoral lifestyle, seeking satisfaction from the pleasures of the world. Jesus met her and promised that He could give her living water—the Holy Spirit—who would completely satisfy her deepest longings.

DAY 1

READ:

John 4:1-7

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 4:6-7

NOTES

In John 4, Jesus encountered a woman from Samaria at Jacob's well. She went to the well at noon to draw water alone in the heat of the day. We know from later verses that she was a social outcast because of the immoral lifestyle she had chosen to live. She was thinking that day that she would sneak off to get some water by herself in her shame. Jesus, however, had other plans for her.

Though Jesus was weary from His travels, He was always obedient to God, not only in the structured rules but also in complying to God's will and mission. He saw an opportunity to share good news with a Samaritan, a non-Jew, a Jewish enemy, so He took that opportunity. He was first in starting the conversation and He did so casually in asking her to give Him a drink.

In our own lives, sometimes we think evangelism is such a big word and sharing the gospel is so difficult. But if we follow Jesus's example, we find that everyday conversations easily could lead us to spiritual conversations. The first step seems to be the hardest: just taking the initiative in saying something, anything.

"How was your week?" to a barista.

"Has it been a busy day?" to the grocery clerk.

"This weather is amazing!" to your neighbor.

Little did the Samaritan woman know that Jesus's first words to her, "Give me a drink," would lead to a transformation that comes from knowing Jesus. Some may be hiding in sinfulness or shame, but once someone reaches out with a word and it develops into a spiritual conversation, God's glory and the spread of the gospel can flourish. Once this woman encountered the Lord Jesus Christ, she was changed and became a witness for Christ herself.

What conversation starters can you think of with specific people in your community that you can initiate this week?

DAY 2

READ:

John 4:9-12

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 4:11-12

NOTES

“Are you greater than our father Jacob?” This is the question the Samaritan woman asked Jesus in John 4:11. Jesus met her at Jacob’s well. This well had been running for nearly two thousand years before Christ came to earth and had been meeting the daily needs of the people around it. Actually, if you were to go to Jacob’s well today, you could still drink water from this well. For nearly four thousand years this well has been running and providing water.

While this well that Jacob dug gave the people enough water to be drawn for a day, Jesus is greater than Jacob because His gift is greater. The water that Jesus has come to provide is greater because one sip from what Jesus offers is enough to never thirst again. While Jacob’s well provided for the people’s physical needs for a day, Jesus’s water is greater because it brings eternal life. Jesus was using the physical illustration of water to describe the eternal life that He brought to those who would believe in Him.

Another reason why Jesus is greater than Jacob is because He is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham, Jacob’s grandfather. In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God promised Abraham that “all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring” (Gen. 22:18). Jesus is greater than Jacob because He is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham that through his offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed. Jesus’s talking with this Samaritan woman was a fulfillment of the blessing of salvation going out to the nations.

How can you follow Jesus’s example to talk to anyone anywhere to share the gospel this week?

DAY 3

READ:

John 4:13-18

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 4:15-18

NOTES

Inside of each one of us there is a longing for more. Inside of everyone there is a longing for fulfillment and a longing to worship. There is a reason why millions of people travel every year to visit beautiful national parks like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. Humans long to enjoy something that is greater than themselves. However, the problem comes when that longing for fulfillment and worship turns inward or turns to a continual chasing after the desires of our sinful flesh. The desires of the flesh will never truly satisfy, nor will they ever quench our thirst for fulfillment.

The woman at the well was longing to be filled. However, she was turning to the desires of her sinful flesh to find fulfillment. Instead of those desires filling her inner longing, she moved from relationship to relationship. She had likely moved from husband to husband thinking the next person would fill that longing inside of her, only to be disappointed every time. Now, the only One who could quench her deepest desire was standing right in front of her.

In John 4, Jesus points us to the sources of our longing for more. Jesus alone can quench our thirst for true fulfillment and joy. Only by receiving the gift that Jesus brings can our thirst be quenched. Jesus said that whoever drinks from the water that He gives him will never thirst again (John 4:14). What is this water that Jesus offers? Ultimately, it is the gift of salvation and eternal life. Jesus explained that the water He gives will become a well springing up in him for eternal life (John 4:14). This water is the Holy Spirit and His power welling up in us. Have you come to drink of this water? Have you received this gift from Jesus?

Where are you looking for true satisfaction and joy right now other than in Jesus?

DAY 4

READ:

John 4:16-24

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 4:19-23

NOTES



KEY DOCTRINE #90: WORSHIP

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

When someone is spiritually dead, they need something to shock them to life, which is what Jesus was doing here in His interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well. When Jesus told her to go call her husband (John 4:16), this would have been shocking. However, what was even more shocking was when Jesus exposed her past, knowing that she had five husbands and the current one wasn't even her husband (John 4:18). How could Jesus have known about her sinful past? Who was this man who knew her life story?

When Jesus told her to get her husband, He was exposing her sinful idols that she had been holding on to. The Lord does not allow us to keep our idols from Him. When we are called to follow Jesus, we are called to lay down our idols at His feet and follow after Him alone.

What are the idols that you are trying to keep from the Lord? It is only when we lay those things down that we are able to follow Jesus faithfully.

This woman would have been shocked by all that Jesus knew. However, Jesus knew that this shock was exactly what she needed to be brought to life. After Jesus exposed her shameful past, she changed the subject to a theological debate over the proper place of worship. Jesus told her that those who worship God will worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). The only way for her to truly worship God was to trust in the One who was standing right in front of her.

What idols are you holding on to in your life that need to be confessed to the Lord?

DAY 5

READ:

John 4:27-38

FOCAL PASSAGE:

John 4:34-35

NOTES

VOICES from THE CHURCH

“Throughout the Scripture . . . God celebrates the diversity of His creation. He does not distinguish between races in His saving love. He created man in His own image, sent His Son to save the world, and saves anyone who believes. God calls Christians to be imitators of Christ and to walk in love. If He doesn’t show partiality, neither should we.”¹

–Trillia Newbell

When the disciples returned, they found Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman. They were surprised at why He was doing this as it wasn’t normal for men back then to talk to strangers who were women, and a Samaritan at that.

Once the woman left, the disciples told Jesus that He needed to eat. However, Jesus let them know that He had food that they didn’t know about (John 4:32). They were confused, so Jesus went on to explain that His food was to do the will of the Father and to finish His work (John 4:34). Just as Jesus used the physical illustration of the well water to explain a spiritual reality earlier in chapter 4, here He used the physical illustration of food to explain the spiritual reality of doing God’s will.

Jesus was alluding to Deuteronomy 8:3-6, specifically verse 3, which says that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Living on God’s Word means keeping His commands (Deuteronomy 8:6). Jesus, then, is the perfect fulfillment of these verses as He told His disciples that there is greater nourishment in doing the Father’s will than in eating any food they had to offer Him.

The Father’s will for Jesus was to reveal His identity as the Messiah to the Samaritan woman that she might have life and be part of God’s kingdom. The mission of God is to save humankind for His glory. For Jesus, there was greater satisfaction in seeing this woman come to believe in Him than any meal this world could ever offer.

Jesus then told His disciples that they did not need to wait any longer for the harvest of souls because the harvest was already upon them. We should not be distracted from this priority like the disciples were, but we should have an urgency to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

What can you do this week to do the will of God in sharing the gospel with someone?

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from THE CHURCH

“Because Jesus treated this stigmatized woman as someone worth talking to, she became a witness to Jesus, and all of Sychar was brought to him.”²

—Samuel Ngewa

POINT 1: The Son gives living water (John 4:7-14).

Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman about the physical need for _____ to explain how, through Him, our spiritual need for _____ is fulfilled.



With what types of people might we find it difficult to share the good news of Jesus?

Jesus is greater than Jacob because His _____ is greater—one sip from the water that Jesus _____ is enough to never thirst again.

POINT 2: The Son enables true worship (John 4:19-24).

KEY DOCTRINE #90: WORSHIP

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the _____ and extends to all areas of _____. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian’s life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and _____ other Christians, but it also serves as a _____ to non-believers of the greatness of God.

True worship comes from knowing the truth of the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and from being indwelt by the Holy Spirit.



Why are truth and the Holy Spirit necessary for our worship of God?

POINT 3: The Son provides an abundant harvest (John 4:34-38).

Jesus used the need for _____ and nourishment to teach His disciples about the importance of doing God’s _____, especially in terms of evangelism and mission.



Why is evangelism so important to God?

Whether sowing or reaping in the harvest of _____, all _____ are important in the mission of God.



How can we have a stronger sense of urgency in sharing with others the good news of Jesus?

MY RESPONSE

Because Christ satisfies our deepest longing, we worship Him as a way of life, praying that God might use us to draw others to Himself so that their thirst might be quenched as well.

- **HEAD:** How will knowing that Jesus Christ talked with all types of people help you live on mission for Him this week?
- **HEART:** What hurtful attitudes toward a particular person or people group will you confess to God that He may restore you with the truth of His grace?
- **HANDS:** With whom will you sow the seeds of the gospel this week in hopes of seeing a harvest for Christ?



Scan this QR code to access this session’s Scripture passages.

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

“Jesus calls the quickening gift of the Spirit ‘living water’ because mere human nature is parched to its very roots, now rendered dry and barren of all virtue by the crimes of the devil. But now human nature runs back to its pristine beauty, and drinking in that which is life-giving, it is made beautiful with a variety of good things and, budding into a virtuous life, it sends out healthy shoots of love toward God.”³

–Cyril of Alexandria (c. 376-444)