

JOHN 4:1-54

February 4, 2021

1. Read John 4:1-10. From Judea to Samaria is approximately a three-day journey on foot. Look closely at verses 6-7 and use your imagination. What do you think Jesus is experiencing?
2. Rather than responding to Jesus' request, what does the Samaritan woman emphasize in verse 9?

Read Jesus' reply in verse 10. What two important things has this woman failed to recognize?

3. Read John 4:11-15 where the Samaritan woman is focused on literal, physical water, but Jesus is talking about "living water." List the things that are expressed about each kind of water.

Physical water

Living water

Jesus speaks of water as a religious symbol. Read the following passages and note some truths of God expressed with the symbol of water.

Isaiah 44:3-4

Isaiah 55:1-3

Ezekiel 36:25-27

4. Jesus says He is here to grant a "gift." What makes something a gift?

Read John 7:37-38 and write down who receives God's gift of living water.

5. Jesus' talk of a gracious gift is followed with raw truth. Read John 4:16-19. What do we learn about this woman?

How does the woman respond to the truth of her life? What is surprising about her response?

6. How do you normally respond when God's Word pierces your heart or exposes your sin?

What have you seen in Jesus' encounter with this woman that will make you less defensive when He exposes your sin? Read John 3:16-17.

7. Read John 4:20-26. The Samaritan woman brings up an age-old dispute regarding temple worship. According to verse 23, what is God looking for?

Considering the argument over the proper location for worship and this woman's history, what do you think is meant by "worship in spirit and truth"?

8. The Samaritans were waiting for God's Messiah. Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and describe what the Messiah would do for them.

What startling revelation does Jesus make in John 4:26?

9. Read John 4:27-38. While the disciples worry and wonder about food, what is it that nourishes and sustains Jesus?

Read John 6:40 and record God's work/will.

Jesus uses farming language to teach His disciples. Sowing is preparing the soil/people, and reaping is gathering in the crop/belief. Read John 4:35 and 4:28-30 back-to-back. When Jesus tells the disciples to lift their eyes, what do they see? What is Jesus' hope for them?

10. Read John 4:39-42. What two things contribute to the Samaritans' belief?

Have you ever told someone about your personal experience with Jesus? Read 1 Peter 3:15. Consider these verses and record the significance of sharing your own testimony.

Prayerfully consider who you should share with and how you will do it. Write it here.

11. Read John 4:43-54. From verse 45, why did the Galileans welcome Jesus at this time?

Look back at John 2:13-17 and 23. What had the Galileans seen Jesus do?

12. Who approaches Jesus in John 4:46-47 and what is his request?

What does Jesus discern about the people's true motivation in verse 48? Also read Matthew 16:1-4.

Why do you think it offends Jesus when people demand or rely on supernatural signs to believe?

13. What instruction and assurance does Jesus give in John 4:50?

How does the man demonstrate belief in Jesus?

Two times in John 4:50-54 it is recorded that the man "believed." Look at both instances and describe the progression of this man's belief.

14. Reflect on your life and share how your belief in Jesus has progressed and grown. List some words, signs and interactions with Jesus that have helped your belief grow.

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Lift Your Eyes

John 4:1-54

Samaritan Woman Sees the Love of God and a Gracious Gift

4:1-26

- Jesus breaks through every man-made prejudice and boundary to converse with this woman.
- Jesus speaks about visible water to explain something invisible.
- Water is a metaphor describing the Holy Spirit's work that cleanses the soul in forgiveness and gives new spiritual life.
- To receive God's gift of _____ she must confront the _____ of her sin.
- He explains true worship happens when the human spirit connects to God's Spirit through Jesus' work.
- Jesus identifies himself as the Messiah!

Disciples See Evangelism Prioritized

4:27-38

- Many Samaritans are coming from the town to see if Jesus is the Christ.
- Jesus explains as food nourishes the body, He is nourished by doing the work of God.
- Jesus instructs them to see people as souls ripe for judgment or souls ripe for salvation.
- A spiritual harvest requires everyone to work. Like sowers planting seeds, some talk about Jesus; like harvesters reaping, some help people toward belief; all rejoice together when salvation occurs.

We lift our eyes today to care for the souls around us.
See people as eternal souls, some of whom are spiritually dead in need of living water.

Samaritans See their Savior

4:39-42

- The Samaritans demand no miracles or visible signs; they simply ask Jesus to _____.
- After a personal encounter with the Living Word, many see and believe Jesus is the Savior of the world.

We lift our eyes today to care for our own souls.
Enjoy Jesus' presence with no demands and find spiritual life and refreshment.

Galileans See a Miracle Worker

4:43-54

- The people initially welcome Jesus because of the miracles He has performed.
- An official with a dying son begs Jesus for physical healing.
- Jesus censures the crowd for seeking physical signs and miracles but not spiritual _____.
- Jesus' powerful words heal the child from a distance.
- The official's faith grows from believing in Jesus' miracles, to believing in Jesus' words, to believing Jesus.

We lift our eyes beyond the signs. See the Savior and trust in Him!

JESUS the WORD – John 4:1-54

February 3-4, 2021

EZEKIEL 36:25-27 (NIV) I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

ROMANS 3:23 [F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOHN 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

JOHN 6:38, 40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. . . . For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

MATTHEW 11:20 Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

MATTHEW 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?