



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of January 16, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. These are intended to help spark discussion. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What is the thirstiest you have ever been? How did you get to that point? Where were you?
- How did you find water and quench your thirst? Have you ever tried to quench your thirst with something besides water? How did that turn out?

The Context

Jesus "had to pass through Samaria" on his way to Galilee. Even though this may have been the shortest route, it was not the easiest or the popular route to travel. Jesus chose to pass through Samaria because he had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman who needed the living water that only he to offer. The living water that Jesus offers is for everyone. Jesus chose to talk with a Samaritan woman who was a social and moral outcast in her community. Jesus crossed multiple social lines by even asking her for a drink. This unlikely conversation led an unnamed woman to realize that the thirst of her soul could only be satisfied by what Jesus had to offer because he is the Messiah. Jesus reveals that he is the One who has come to meet the deepest needs of every person.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 4:1-26 NIV

"Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John-- 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you

will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you--I am he."

Discuss

1. When you were growing up, who were the people you were told not to associate with? Why? What impact do you think this has had on your relationships, outlook, or approach to life?
2. Jesus displays his willingness to meet an outsider on common ground. What does this imply about how his followers should engage the world around them?
3. After reading this passage, what do we learn about this woman's life? Why is she avoiding people? How do you think this has affected her outlook on life? Her outlook on the Lord? Her future?
4. It seems like the woman tries to change the subject after Jesus reveals the source of her shame and social status. What subject does she turn to in order to direct the conversation away from her situation? (Verses 19-20)
5. How do you normally respond when you feel led to go deeper in your faith or when you feel conviction from God's Word (the Lord)? (ex: change the subject; seek distraction; run; hide; respond; repent...)
6. What do you see in Jesus' encounter with this woman that will make you less defensive when He exposes your sin? Read [**John 3:16-17 and John 7:37-38**](#).
7. How does Jesus respond to the woman's statement about worship?
8. According to verse 23, what is God looking for?
9. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth? What categories of your life does this affect or should this principle of worship be applied? What might this look like for you this upcoming week?
10. At the end of this conversation, Jesus makes an amazing statement about himself. What does Jesus reveal about himself to this woman? (Verses 25-26) What does this mean for her? For us?
11. In what ways can we end up like the Samaritan woman, missing the grander picture of what God has for us and simply searching for immediate fixes to temporary problems? Can you think of a specific example in your life?

Challenge

Make a commitment to be bold and invite one person, this week, to hear about and meet Jesus. It may be a simple invitation to come to church, attend your small group, or join with you in reading the Gospel of John. Pray that God would lead you and guide you as you act upon your desire to share the love of Jesus with others.

End Your Group Time in Prayer