



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *The Woman at the Well [John 4:1-42]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

Think of a time when a simple misunderstanding has caused confusion or a problem in a relationship. What happened? Did it get resolved?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. In what way can you relate to the woman at the well in your relationship with God?
2. In what way do things (what divides us, distinctions, grievances from the past) keep us from moving into a deeper relationship with Jesus?
3. In what way does what transpires at this well point to Jesus being the Savior of the World?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [John 4:1-42]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins in having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, where in the text.)

What had the Pharisees heard about Jesus? (4:1)

What did Jesus do when he heard what the Pharisees were saying about Him? (4:3)

Why did Jesus sit down by Jacob's well? (4:6)

What did Jesus say to the Samaritan woman? (4:7)

Where were Jesus' disciples? (4:8)

Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her? (4:9)

What did the Samaritan woman think Jesus was talking about? (4:11-12,15)

What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water He offered? (4:13-14)

How did Jesus respond to the Samaritan woman's answer to His request? (4:16-18)

How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus' statements about her situation? (4:19-20)

What kind of worshipers does God seek? (4:23)

What did Jesus say about God? (4:24)

Who did Jesus say He was? (4:26)

How did the disciples respond when they saw Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman? (4:27)

What did the Samaritan woman do after she had spoken to Jesus? (4:28)

How did the townspeople respond to what the Samaritan woman said? (4:30)

How did the disciples respond to what Jesus told them about food? (4:33)
What did Jesus say was His food? (4:34)
What did Jesus say about the fields? (4:35)
What did the woman tell the Samaritan people Jesus told her? (4:39)
What did the Samaritans urge Jesus to do? (4:40)
What did Jesus rely on to convince more people to believe in Him? (4:41)
What impact did Jesus' words have on the Samaritan people? (4:41)
What difference did hearing Jesus for themselves make to the Samaritans? (4:42)
What did the Samaritan people believe about Jesus? (4:42)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What surprises you most about this interaction Jesus has with this woman?
What "groups" of people do you most feel uncomfortable being around? Why?
How could things like people's backgrounds, traditions, questionable moral character, identifications and associations become the things we see first in people affect what Jesus has called us to?
How does "prejudice" affect our "witness" as Christians?
What dry wells do we tend to keep going back to in order to quench our thirst?
What barriers keep us from seeing Jesus for who He is? What barriers do we seem to stay stuck in, focused on that keep us from being more deeply united in a relationship with Jesus?
What tasks, priorities get in the way, or compete for your attention in your walk with God?
Who do you think Jesus is? (categories, like skeptical, prophet, messiah or savior?) What do you think influences people most in the way they think of Jesus? What could we do about it?
What led you to believe in Jesus? In what ways do you think you misunderstood who Jesus is or what He came to do?
How has someone's "testimony", or their story impacted your life or the lives of others?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?
How can we pray for each other?