

PURSUE

BUILDING FOR PEOPLE. BELIEVING FOR MORE.

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Leader Guide

Pursue the Person (Samaritan Woman)

February 27, 2022

Main Passage: John 4:4-26

Theological Theme

God is the sovereign King of the universe. He is drawing people to the Son from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Even something as mundane as going to draw water from a well (and all the circumstances that led to that occasion) have eternal significance.

Introduction

- Have you ever experienced a time where it seemed that everything was chaotic and confusing, but you later realized how God was working those things out for your good and His glory?
- How did you come to that realization? How did you respond when you saw that clearly?

When Christians study the Gospels, their hearts ought to stand at the ready to read, understand, believe, and rejoice in the person and work of Christ. The story of the Samaritan woman is a perfect occasion to do that. Here we see the application of Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King. Christ sovereignly governed the woman's life. He spoke the truth to her. And He pointed her to Himself as the One who could intercede for her and who would ultimately be sacrificed for her. Let's consider the glorious work and person of Christ pictured in John 4.

1. An Intended Encounter (John 4:4-8)

Generally, women would go to the well in the morning or evening hours. This was common practice because getting water at the well involved a lot of walking while carrying a heavy load. It was much

easier to do that hard work when the sun wasn't high overhead, as it was cooler in the morning and evening. Yet, this woman was drawing water in the heat of the day. We can't know for sure, but the circumstances suggest that she was drawing water in the middle of the day so she wouldn't have to do so in the presence of other women. As we will learn, she had had multiple husbands and the man she was currently living with was not her husband. It is possible she was ostracized and seen a person to be avoided.

2. The Awful Truth (John 4:9-24)

One of the startling characteristics of Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman is the fact that He spoke the truth with her directly. Here we see Christ exercising the office of the Prophet. He told her the truth about who she was and what she needed, even though it may have been difficult for her to hear.

3. Christ, the Hope (John 4:25-26)

The Samaritan woman knew she was speaking to someone special. After all, how could He have known that she had had five husbands? Jesus's authority must have made her think of the promised Messiah because she said, "I know that the Messiah is coming. . . . When he comes, he will explain everything to us" (v. 25). To that, Jesus replied, "I, the one speaking to you, am he" (v. 26).

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?

- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?

- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?

- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)

- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?