



Group Guide

John 4

October 13, 2024

Main Passage: John 4:1-42

Theological Theme

Those who believe in Jesus receive living water and thirst no more. Christ followers should be ready and willing to tell their stories so others may also believe.

Introduction

- ❓ What is the thirstiest you've ever been?
- ❓ How did it feel to finally have your thirst satisfied?

1. An Unexpected Encounter (John 4:1-19)

It was unusual for a Jew to go through Samaria and even more unlikely for a Jew to “need” to take that route. It was not that Jesus needed to go because of travel details, but because of who Jesus knew He would meet and interact with. After walking a long time, Jesus was physically tired. This is a reminder that as a man, Jesus experienced human weakness like physical exhaustion.

- ❓ What does Jesus's desire to meet and speak with this woman teach us about Him?
- ❓ What opportunities do you have to cross barriers to speak to people about Jesus?
- ❓ Application: How might Jesus's response to the woman have been different than others she encountered? Who is God calling you to respond to in a unique way this week?

2. The Power of Truth (John 4:20-30)

Sometimes we must wrestle through confusion to get to the truth. Jesus's conversation with the woman took a turn as she shifted the subject to worship. Maybe it was nerves. Maybe she was intimidated by what He knew about her, personally, and wanted to focus on something else. Whatever her motivation, Jesus was ready and willing to engage in this conversation with her.

- ① What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth? What are some wrong ways we might focus our worship?
- ① When have you experienced something unusual but believed God had a plan in it? How should we respond in these moments?
- ① Application: When has excitement about Jesus led you to go and tell others about Him, including those you might otherwise avoid?

3. The Urgency of the Gospel (John 4:31-42)

The disciples, who were still focused on their mission of food and refreshment from the travels, urged Jesus to eat. They took seriously the mission to help their friend and Rabbi. There are times when a person gets caught up in activity to the point that they may need reminders about taking care of themselves physically. This is not a wrong desire, but Jesus used their words to initiate a teaching moment.

- ① When was a time you began pursuing God's will in your life but eventually faced the temptation to give up? How did you respond? How do you need to respond further now?
- ① What gives us urgency for sharing the gospel with others? What might a lack of urgency indicate about what we believe?
- ① Application: Where is God calling you to be about His work and share your story about Him with others this week?

Conclusion

- ① Where is God calling you to go to those you might otherwise avoid to share about Him?
- ① How can we make these types of evangelistic efforts as group?
- ① Who can you share your story of Jesus with this week?