

Discussion Starter – What is the main point John is conveying in this story about the Samaritan woman at the well? How does this story exemplify the divine nature of Jesus?

Jesus Meets Us Where We Are, Not Where We Should Be (John 4:1-9)

- What were the circumstances surrounding Jesus' departure from Judea?
- Why do you think the Pharisees were concerned with Jesus and His disciples baptizing more people than John the Baptist? Read John 3:11-15. Discuss the core problem Jesus points out about the Pharisees in His response to Nicodemus.
- What is the significance of Jesus deciding to go through Samaria? Who were these people and what was their relationship to the Jews?
- Jesus travels through Samaria, comes to a place called Jacob's well, and demonstrates His human attributes of being weary and thirsty. Soon after He arrives, a Samaritan woman comes to the well at the sixth hour, which is noon. Explain why this is a representative example of how Jesus meets us where we are and not where we should be.
- Jesus was all alone at this time with no disciples and He asks the woman at the well for a drink. What cultural barrier does the Samaritan woman reveal by her response to Jesus' request for a drink of water? What are some of the cultural barriers that you grew up with? What do we learn here from Jesus about how to handle the cultural barriers in our lives?

We Learn How to Fake That We Are Fine (John 4:10-15)

- Read John 4:10-15. Summarize in your own words what message Jesus was conveying to the Samaritan woman and the significance of each of her responses.
- How did the Samaritan woman arrange her life to enable her to think that she was fine even though she wasn't? Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What insight does this verse give us on how Jesus saw the Samaritan woman and how He sees us today?

Jesus Calls Us to Honestly Face the Sin in Our Lives (John 4:16-19)

- What question does Jesus ask the Samaritan woman in verse 16? Why do you think He asked this specific question?
- What are the benefits of honestly facing the sin in our lives?

God Calls Us to Worship Him in Spirit and Truth (John 4:20-30)

- What religious smoke screen does the Samaritan woman try to offer to Jesus and why?
- What message was Jesus conveying to the Samaritan woman about the manner in which the true worshipers will worship in Spirit and in Truth? How was this significantly different from how worship was being done?
- Explain in your own words what it means to worship in Spirit and in Truth.