

## The Living Water – John 4:1-42



MEMORY VERSE: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13,14

### DAY 1 JOHN 4:1-12 — The Samaritan Woman

1. What situation compelled Jesus to leave Judea and depart for Galilee? vv.1-3
2. Jews intensely disliked Samaritans and avoided passing through Samaria by taking different routes. Why do you think Scripture says that Jesus, “had to pass through Samaria?”
3. Jesus was exhausted and sat by Jacob’s well. Why was the Samaritan woman surprised when Jesus asked her for water?
4. What does Jesus imply about the woman and claim about Himself? v.10
5. What does her response to Jesus reveal about her thinking and faith? vv.11-12

### LEARN THE TRUTH

God had forbidden Jews to marry outside of their race in order to protect the purity of the Jewish faith. Yet some chose to marry non-Jews anyway and the result was the Samaritan race whom the Jews scorned. But Jesus came for all who would seek Him as we will see in this lesson, no matter their race.

### DAY 2 JOHN 4:13-15 — Living Water

6. What truths does Jesus say about mankind and about Himself? vv.13,14
7. Why did the Samaritan woman want some of the water Jesus offered? v.15

8. Is she the only person who looks to Jesus for personal comfort rather than something greater?

9. List some qualities of water. How do these take on new meaning in terms of “living water?”

10. How do the following verses enhance your understanding of how living water works?  
Jeremiah 17:7-8

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Titus 3:5

2 Peter 3:5

### DAY 3 JOHN 4:16-26 — Worship in Spirit and Truth

11. Why do you think Jesus told the woman to go and get her husband? vv.16-18

12. How had her view of Jesus changed? What does her next question indicate about her faith? vv.19,20

13. What does Jesus’ response say about the Samaritans, Jews, and true worship? vv.21-24  
Samaritans

Jews

True worship

14. Jesus had kept quiet about His identity. Why do you think He now clearly claims to be the Messiah?

15. When has God patiently revealed His glorious Self to your sinful and confused self?

#### **DAY 4** JOHN 4:27-38 — The Fields Ripe for the Harvest

16. Considering where the disciples had just been and what they encountered when they returned, what might have been their frame of mind? v.27

17. Why do you think the people from the town followed the Samaritan woman to Jesus? vv.28-30

18. While the disciple's cared about physical food, what "food" did Jesus care about? v.34

Deuteronomy 8:3

19. What is the difference between an earthly harvest and a spiritual harvest? vv.35

20. The fields are ripe now for the harvest. What truths did Jesus say about His harvest? vv.36-38

21. What was the Samaritan woman's role or "labor" in this harvest? What was the result? vv.39-41
22. What blessing did she then reap from her labor in the harvest? v.42
23. What circumstances and attitudes could have prevented this harvest of Samaritans?
24. Can you think of a time when you got to reap a harvest because you overcame circumstances and attitudes and stepped out in faith?
25. What thoughts keep you from laboring for the harvest, and/or what empowers you to jump in?

## LOVE THE TRUTH

The world is dying of thirst and we believers in Christ have the Living Water. The fields are ripe for the harvest and God will use each one of us if we are willing to jump in. We do not have to do it alone because we are only a small part of a larger field of workers and the Holy Spirit causes the growth.

## John 4:1-42

### The Living Water

The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans and avoided them at all costs. And men, especially Rabbis, did not talk with women. And so the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman would never have happened by human means. But God has compassion on those who are a mess. Jesus went to the wedding in Cana, where the wine supply was messed up. He then met with a highly respected Pharisee, Nicodemus, who was messed up in his theology and thinking. Now Jesus has a divine appointment with a messed up adulterous Samaritan woman. The Samaritans were half Jewish and half Gentile. They embraced the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, and nothing more from Scripture. Thus the woman claimed allegiance to Jacob, knew about worship of God, and had an expectation of the coming Messiah, but was ignorant of many Scriptural truths. Her knowledge was limited and her lifestyle was shameful, yet Christ went out of His way to meet with her. He knew she was thirsty for so much more than plain water.

Jesus was always good, but generally unconventional. He always cared about the person in front of Him. He went out of His way to go through Samaria because He had a divine appointment with a sinful woman and then broke tradition by talking with her. His disciples had the uncomfortable job of going into a distasteful Samaritan town to get food. While they were gone, Jesus patiently conversed with the woman so she could see that He was the Messiah and it changed her life forever. He gave her the living water that she didn't know existed, didn't know she needed, and didn't know she could have. But when offered, she desperately wanted it. Because of His great compassion, she embraced Him as Messiah and went on to bring others to Christ.

God speaks to us according to the Spirit, but we often hear Him according to the flesh. He has a Spiritual plan that we can miss if we think only in terms of the

physical. The Samaritan woman was concerned with physical water from the well, and the disciples were concerned with physical food. When the woman grasped the meaning of living water, she became a laborer in the fields by sharing her testimony of what Jesus had done. Her people then saw for themselves that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Jesus told His disciples that His "food" was to do the will of God and to accomplish His work. It appears that the disciples may have been mere observers in the great harvest of Samaritans rather than active laborers, though their time for labor would come.

### WALK IN TRUTH



The fields really are white, ready for harvest! It is easy to see messed up people and assume they are not open or ready to receive truth. It is also easy to think that we are a bit too messed up ourselves to adequately share the gospel. But God specializes messes! If He can use a woman with limited knowledge and a sinful past, He can use us! Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:12-13) As believers, we have the living water in us welling up to eternal life. We worship in Spirit and in truth. And His food for us is to share in His marvelous work. We are to labor in His fields, sharing our stories of transformation so others can see for themselves that He is the Messiah. If we delight in God and His law, we will each be like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. And we will prosper as we serve Him. (Psalm 1:1-3)

## Notes