

## Good News for Thirsty People

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

John 4:4-26

#### Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do people usually satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?
2. In John 4, we see Jesus leaving Judea to go to Galilee, but He needed to go through Samaria (v. 4), a route not usually taken by Jews. Throughout Jesus' ministry we see Him going to places where there are people who did not know Him and who needed to hear His message. He gives us a very clear picture of how we as His followers need to share the Gospel to others: we need to go to where people who need the Lord are. Read John 4:4-26. This passage gives us five simple steps to lead people to Jesus:
  - a. *#1: Start a conversation (v. 7).* How did Jesus start talking to the Samaritan woman? What cultural prejudices did Jesus break when He started talking with her? Do you feel put off by a person's background or race? How can prejudice have a negative effect on a Christian's witness? Many Christians are either too shy or are introverts by nature, and so find it difficult to share the gospel with others, even knowing that those people need to hear it. But one thing any Christian can do—whether an introvert or an extrovert—is to be friendly (e.g. being kind and pleasant). By being so, you are already making a bridge to communicate to them what you need to share. Discuss how friendliness and being open to people can influence others. Share how you have started conversations with others that lead you to share something about God. How does friendliness communicate to people that you care about them? Do you agree that “people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care”?
  - b. *#2: Turn conversation towards God (v. 10-14).* Jesus did not ignore the woman, but acknowledged her presence. He did not allow cultural prejudices to hinder Him from talking to her. By asking her for a drink, He gave her sense of value, and then He turned the conversation towards God. How did Jesus do it? How about you? Remember that whatever is in you will come out, and so immersing yourself in the Word of God and letting God use you is extremely important preparation. Share how you saturate yourself in the Word of God. Discuss how you can connect a normal conversation to talking about God.
  - c. *#3: Listen to the Holy Spirit (v. 15-19).* Jesus knew the social stigma that the Samaritan woman had to go through. She came by herself at 12:00 noon,

the hottest part of the day. Usually women in their day and culture came by groups when the weather was cooler, so coming at off-peak hours meant she must have been avoiding other people. Jesus sensed that she had problem with relationships and understood that she had a need. What divine insight or question from Jesus brought this woman around? Have you ever prayed, “Lord, give me the wisdom to know what to say to this person”? From your own experience, how did the Holy Spirit lead you to say something that would make another person to open up to hearing what you have to say? Or were you ever led to open up and be helped by someone who was led by the Holy Spirit? Share with the group.

- d. *#4: Avoid arguments (v. 24).* Jesus did not go to into a religious debate with the woman. His objective was to share the gospel. To witness to someone is to reveal what you have experienced, to share what Jesus has done for you. There is room for debate, but in most circumstances, arguing with others about your faith is not the best method to witness to them. When you argue and debate, what usual emotions come with it? Sharing the gospel is not a confrontation, but a showing of care to someone who does not have Jesus as his/her Savior. How would you share the gospel to another person in a caring way that meets that person's need?
- e. *#5: Reveal Jesus (v. 25-26).* Ultimately, people get saved when they see Jesus. The Samaritan woman was looking for an answer and Jesus revealed Himself to be the Messiah. Your business is to point others to Jesus. While it is important to have a biblical knowledge of Jesus, a personal experience and life testimony is also important. What does your life testimony reveal about Jesus Christ?

### Walk

For a lot of people, the reason why they don't believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior is because nobody tells them about Him. As a follower of Jesus Christ whose life has been changed because of Him, you need to share Him with others as well. Remember the five simple steps when you share the gospel: Start a conversation, turn the conversation towards God, listen to the Spirit, avoid arguments, and then reveal Jesus. How can you persuade people in your circle to quench their spiritual thirst? What are some prejudices and biases that you need to ask God to help you overcome so that you can share the gospel to anyone and not just to people you are comfortable with?

### Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your begotten Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin so that I can enjoy a personal relationship with You here on earth and in eternity. You have given me a responsibility to share Your gift of salvation with others, yet most of the time I am too timid to talk about You. Please help me to develop an attitude of caring friendliness to people around me so that I can openly talk about You with them. Please forgive me for my prejudices, which keeps me from sharing the gospel even with people whom I know need You. May I see people through Your lens: someone whom You love and for whom Jesus died. May my life be a living testimony of how You, my God, meet and satisfy every person's spiritual thirst. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*