

- **What is a silly thing that you find really satisfying?**

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the Gospel of John, we find Jesus having an unexpected, yet life changing conversation. One of the most controversial things about this interaction is that Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman. 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews despised Samaritans for intermarrying with foreigners and non-Jews, and even refused to travel through Samaria.

**Have someone volunteer to read John 4:1-6**

- **What is the significance of Jesus' travel to Samaria, given the history between Jews and Samaritans?**

Jesus crossed several cultural boundaries in order to show this woman how much God loved her, despite her mistakes or her background. Jesus wanted people to see the good news He was bringing was for everyone.

- **What are some groups of people/places that are avoided today like Samaria in Jesus' day?**

Emphasize the word avoid, it may lead to better discussion. While the Jews despised the Jews, we can tend to avoid those we don't understand or are not like us. We discussed some examples on the Leader podcast (homeless, mentally ill, etc.).

As Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman, he used their setting (a well) to explain who He truly was and His purpose for coming into the world.

**Have someone volunteer to read John 4:7-15**

- **What was Jesus offering when He offered the woman "living water?" What made it different from the water she normally drinks?**

The woman went to the well to satisfy her physical needs of thirst, but Jesus was offering something that would satisfy a greater need in her life, her spiritual needs. He said that what he was offering would cause her to never be thirsty again.

- **In your experience, what does it mean to never be thirsty again?**

This could be a great opportunity to share your own experience. The truth of following Jesus is that we have true satisfaction, yet many times we fail to see/remember what God has done for us. Everything else we turn to for satisfaction will ultimately not meet the need that only God can.

**Have someone volunteer to read John 4:16-18**

Even though Jesus is highlighting this woman's past and her mistakes, the point of their interaction is to show her that Jesus knows her, fully. He knows her story, her dreams, her life, her mistakes, even her heart.

- **Who in your life can you share everything with? (Good and the bad)**

Be prepared to share the people in your life who you can share with. Help your group to see the importance/power that can come from having other people truly know you, even if it may seem

scary. If there are people in your group do not have this type of person in their life, you can start a conversation about how to find them or where to look.

- **In the same way Jesus knew everything about the woman, He also knows everything about you. How does that reality make you feel? How should it affect our relationship with Him?**

This can be initially terrifying, but can lead to peace as we realize that Jesus knows all of us, and still loves us and came for us. Help your group think through the substantial peace they could experience if they lived their daily life remembering that Jesus knows everything, yet still loves them.

**Have someone volunteer to read Exodus 3:13-14 & John 4:25-26**

- **What name does God use for himself in the Old Testament? What is the significance of how Jesus describes himself to the woman?**

This is a direct tie to God's statement to Moses about who was in charge. This is only one of Jesus' "I AM" statements found in the Gospel of John. It is clear from the reactions of those who hear some of His later ones that there is no doubt as to what He is claiming. Jesus wants there to be no mistake. He is not simply a good teacher, or someone who crossed some cultural boundaries to speak to this woman. He wants her to know that she is speaking to her creator. Jesus is the Messiah she has been waiting on.

- **Notice how the woman's view of Jesus change throughout her conversation with Him. First, she calls him "sir", then "prophet", then "Messiah. How has your view of Jesus changed throughout your life? Throughout this series as we walk through the Gospel of John?**

Be prepared to share from your own experience of how your view of Jesus changed throughout your life. It could also be a great opportunity to share how reading Jesus' words for yourself and watching Him interact with people in the Gospels can be a life changing thing. This could be an encouragement for your group to continue reading on their own, or to invite others to visit Brazos Pointe as we look at Jesus in the Gospel of John.

We would love for you to help your group to develop some personal bible study habits during our study of the Gospel of John. One idea is to send your group a text/email/message every week with the verses for the upcoming small group discussion. Ask them to read it on their own and personally think through the following three questions.

This week

**John 4:1-45**

- What does this tell me about God?
- What does this tell me about people?
- Is there a next step for me to take because of this?

You can refer to these questions in group, but do not have to. The main purpose is to build the routine of reading and applying the Bible on their own.