Never Met a Stranger

– 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. 1st century Jews despised Samaritans for intermarrying with foreigners and non-Jews, and even refused to travel through Samaria.

Read John 4:1-6

- What is the significance of Jesus' travel to Samaria, given the history between Jews and Samaritans?
- What are some groups of people/places that are avoided today like Samaria in Jesus' day?

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.

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

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)
- 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?

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?
- 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?