

There is something physical that can satisfy us.

“Her encounter with Christ is one of the most powerful in scripture.”
— Liz Curtis Higgs

Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” *John 4:7*

“How is it that you, a **Jew**, ask for a drink from me, a **woman of Samaria**?” *John 4:9*

The woman was a Samaritan.

The Samaritan was a woman.

Jesus switches from talking about a physical reality to a spiritual reality.

“If you knew the **gift** of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you **living water**.” *John 4:10*

“Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that **living water**?” *John 4:11*

“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*

The Jewish faith used physical thirst as a representation for spiritual thirst.

“Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” *John 4:15*

Jesus exposes her idolatry.

idolatry: looking to anything other than God for what only God can do

Jesus said to her, “**Go**, call your **husband**, and come here.” *John 4:16*

Jesus is fiercely committed to **exposing** the thing you are trusting in for **happiness**.

The woman’s encounter results in her satisfaction.

So, the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, “**Come, see** a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” *John 4:28-29*

When you encounter the **living water**, you will want others to drink.

Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read John 4:1-42, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Jesus is on his way back to Galilee and decides to stop for a drink in Samaria. A woman from Sychar, which is a nearby village, also stops to draw water. This interaction is extremely awkward for this woman for a number of reasons, but Jesus doesn’t care about that. He only cares that she’s a troubled soul, who is trying to fill a spiritual thirst with something physical. He knows only one thing will truly satisfy her thirst.

Discussion Questions

1. Read John 4:1-9. There are many reasons why this woman would feel extremely awkward having a conversation with Jesus. What are some of those reasons? Describe an awkward, spiritual conversation you’ve had that relates to the tension this woman felt. Why is this awkward tension significant to the story?

2. Read John 4:10-26. The woman at the well has a spiritual thirst she tries to fill with something physical. Describe the spiritual thirst you believe this woman is trying to fill. What do you thirst for or what desires do you have? How do you find yourself trying to satisfy those desires?

In verses 16-18, Jesus very poignantly shares with the woman everything he knows about her because he is fiercely committed to helping her expose the idols in her life she’s looking to for happiness. In your own words, what is idolatry? In what ways has Jesus been helping you to expose the idols in your life?

Throughout the course of this conversation, what does Jesus reveal about himself, and what is he offering this woman? In what ways are you taking advantage of Jesus’ offer, and in what ways do you feel you could be better engage in his offer?

3. A true encounter with Jesus transforms your life. Read John 4:39-42. Once this woman realizes nothing physical will ever satisfy her soul, she tells the whole village and helps many others have an encounter with Jesus. What keeps you from telling others about the life-transforming message of Jesus? If you feel you do this well, share with the group how you do it.

Read John 4:27-38. What is Jesus teaching his disciples in this passage? How can this group support and encourage one another to “plant and harvest?”

4. What spiritual thirsts are you trying to satisfy in physical ways, and how will you begin to satisfy those thirsts with Jesus—the living water? What practical steps can you take this coming week to apply this teaching?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I’m praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

The Colombian mission team is giving away toys to hundreds of Colombian children. Please collect and donate small toys (i.e. happy meal toys, beanie babies, etc.) and drop them off at your campus’ Information Desk.

Support Love One, Emmanuel’s foster and adoptive care ministry, by serving in one of two ways: 1) Prepare a meal and drop it off to a foster family or 2) Babysit their children so the foster parents can go on a date night. Please email Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org to connect with a foster family needing your support.