

06

JOHN 4:9-29

LIVING WATER



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

The Bible talks a lot about thirst. When it does, it's usually a metaphor for that longing we have deep in our souls. Physical thirst will drive us to do just about anything for a drink of water—and when it finally hits our mouths, how sweet it tastes! Spiritual thirst is similar. This week, we'll get to look at a stunning conversation Jesus had with a woman at a well. She was there because of physical thirst, but Jesus engaged her on a deeper level, inviting her to look to Him alone for satisfaction. We will see that Jesus offers the living water that will eternally quench our spiritual thirst—and oh, how sweet it tastes!



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus offers living water that saves us from death and satisfies us in life.



EXPLORE scripture JOHN 4:9-29

JOHN 4:9-15

9 “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered, “If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would ask him, and he would give you living water.” 11 “Sir,” said the woman, “you don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this ‘living water’? 12 You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the

well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock.” 13 Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.” 15 “Sir,” the woman said to him, “give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and come here to draw water.”

JOHN 4:16-18

16 “Go call your husband,” he told her, “and come back here.” 17 “I don’t have a husband,” she answered. “You have correctly said, ‘I don’t

have a husband,’” Jesus said. 18 “For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

JOHN 4:19-29

19 “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” 21 Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. 24 God is

spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Jesus told her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.” 27 Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 4:14

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 4:1-15

DWELL

Verses 1-7 can make it seem as if this was a coincidental meeting. But was it? Is anything God does a coincidence? Often the details of our lives can seem so very ordinary that we overlook how God is actually in charge of all of it. For this woman, an ordinary day led to an extraordinary conversation about an ordinary thing (water) with a person she never expected would speak with her.



What does Jesus's desire to talk with this woman teach you about Him?



How have you seen God do extraordinary things within the ordinary events of your life?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 4:14 on a piece of paper, "taking a picture" of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

PRAY

Ask God to show you ways He is using the ordinary details of your life for extraordinary purposes.

day 2

JOHN 4:16-26

DWELL

Sometimes being known is refreshing, like, “This person gets me!” Other times being known is terrifying, like, “Oh no—this person can see everything I’m hiding!” In her conversation with Jesus, the Samaritan woman, who hid from others, quickly realized she wasn’t able to hide from Jesus. And yet, her conversation with Him was as refreshing as a cold gulp of water on a hot day. Her experience reminds us that God knows everything about us—even what we try to hide. And yet, He still offers to satisfy us with living water.



How does this text prove that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it (see John 3:17)?



If God knows everything about you already, how can that impact how you pray to Him?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 4:14 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Look up Psalm 139:1-3 and read it aloud as a prayer. Thank God for knowing you better than anyone else!

day 3

JOHN 4:27-38

DWELL



In what ways did Jesus surprise His disciples in this passage? (Hint: there are at least two ways.)



How does it encourage you that even Jesus’s closest companions often didn’t understand the way He did things?

Though Jesus’s disciples were confused, we can see that being known by Jesus made the Samaritan woman less afraid to be known by others. The conversation was a cool glass of water in her dry desert of a life! Beautifully, this conversation seemed to “feed” Jesus, too: see His words in verse 34. Somehow, doing the work His Father asked Him to do offered Jesus great satisfaction. This story can build our trust in Jesus during times when we don’t understand what He’s doing.

MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 4:14 from memory twice.

PRAY

Thank God for who He is, and ask Him to increase your faith so that you can trust Him even when life doesn’t make a lot of sense.

day 4

JOHN 4:39-45

DWELL

From what we know about the Samaritan woman's past, it's easy to imagine that she would not have been trusted in her town. And yet, when she ran into town talking about her encounter with Jesus, many believed her and then believed in Jesus! Her story, though full of brokenness and pain, resulted in some pretty wonderful stuff. In fact, the town seems transformed—all because she invited them to come and see the One who had seen her.

↔ **How might this woman's story encourage others who have had a painful life?**

→ **How does this woman's story motivate you to share about your own Jesus encounter?**

MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 4:14 from memory as you can.

PRAY

Ask God to provide you with an opportunity to tell someone about what Jesus has done for you—ways you have been “thirsty” and He has offered satisfaction.

day 5

JOHN 4:46-54

DWELL

→ **How does this story emphasize the importance of belief?**

← **Why is the location where this miracle took place significant?**

Amazingly, Jesus was able to heal the official's son without being in the same town. This sign is like a neon arrow pointing to Jesus's deity (His “God”-ness). Those who saw it had to admit: this is God! Just like the woman at the well, this story, too, features someone whose home was transformed because he believed in Jesus. We can see that belief is almost contagious—it can spread from one person to another!

MEMORIZE

Write out John 4:14 somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

PRAY

Ask God to put people in your life who truly believe in Him and whose deep belief can spread to you, so that you can live utterly convinced that He is God.