

PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

WEEK 2: JOHN 2-4

[Note: This study will focus on John chapter 4. Feel free to read chapters 2 and 3 before you begin this study.]

1. Read John 4:1-4. Jesus wasn't looking for trouble (with the Pharisees) but he was looking for gospel transformation (by going through Samaria). To what extent are "trouble" and "transformation" connected when it comes to the gospel? How can we try to avoid the former while seeking the latter?

2. Read John 4:5-8. Sometimes we can imagine Jesus like an angelic being floating on the clouds, but he was definitely human. What signs of his humanity do we find in these verses? What comfort does that bring to you?

3. Read John 4:7-9. Jesus crossed a religious and social barrier to talk to this woman. What religious and/or social barriers do we need to cross in order to talk to others about the good news of Jesus?

4. Read John 4:10-15. Jesus speaks of "living water" that will satisfy the woman far greater than the water from the well. Share your own experiences of finding greater satisfaction in Jesus than an earthly thing. How could you communicate this reality to others?

5. Read John 4:16-19. In an amazing way, Jesus here both demonstrates his divinity and at the same time helps prepare the woman to acknowledge her need for him. Have you ever experienced, either directly or from another Christian, this kind of loving confrontation?

6. Read John 4:20-26. Jesus finally reveals his true identity to the woman and teachers her about worship. From these verses, but in your own words, how would you describe what "true" worship really is?

7. Read John 4:27-38. The disciples came back but didn't dare challenge Jesus about talking to the Samaritan woman. Instead, Jesus challenged them! What was Jesus wanting to teach them... and us... about our priorities in life?

8. Read John 4:39-42. Jesus shared the good news with the whole town and many believed in him. (Remember, this is a group of people who had been rejected by the Jews.) Think of a group of people today who seem unlikely to be transformed by the gospel, and pray for them, that they too would know the truth about Jesus and his living water!