

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 4:1-14 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, John 4:1-14

March 29, 2015

Title: The Road Less Traveled

Read to the group: I have a friend in Pennsylvania—her name is Tammy Stauffer—who leads “She’s Somebody’s Daughter,” a national non-profit organization that works to honor women and end sexual exploitation. Women exploited through marketing, pornography and sex trafficking are real people who rarely, if ever, experience the love of Christ. She’s Somebody’s Daughter does that in part by visiting strip clubs, serving buffet lunches for the women there, gaining their trust and friendship, and helping those who want to leave that lifestyle. Many of them have found Christ and a church that welcomes them. When we look at our Lord’s encounter with the woman at the well, we see no judgement, no appeal to change behavior or lifestyle without her first quenching her thirst with living water. We only see Jesus’ compassion. His compassion teaches us to look beyond what a person is doing to see them made in the image of God and therefore full of incredible dignity.

Question: Pastor Peppy noted that Jesus had a "divine appointment" with the woman at the well. Have you ever experienced something similar, where God led you to a specific place to speak with a specific person about Him? If you can't recall such a time, do you think it possible that God would arrange a "divine appointment" for you to keep? How would you know?

Question: The woman, because of her immoral lifestyle, was an outcast among outcasts. Can you think of present-day examples of people or groups of people in our society who are shunned by society and considered socially unclean? Based on Jesus' example, how should we relate to them? Are there specific examples that come to mind?

Question: Jesus says he will give the woman "living water" (v. 10) and that it will quench her spiritual thirst. Read John 7:37-39: *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.* How does this help us understand the water about which Jesus spoke in chapter 4?

Question: Jesus also speaks about the water he gives becoming "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (v. 14) within those who drink from him. In what way/s is the Old Testament image of water found in Isaiah (12:3; 44:3 and 55:1-3) similar to what Jesus describes to the Samaritan woman?

Question: Think about your testimony of coming to faith in Jesus Christ. How would you describe this "thirst quenching water" in your own soul? Do you sense that the water Christ has given you has made you never to thirst again?

Question: Can you think of a time in your life when you were reluctant to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ with a person of a different race, nationality, or culture? If so, why? Do you still struggle with those prejudices and have you repented?