

**“WHY DO WE WELCOME?”****SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS****DATE: MARCH 20, 2022****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:****JOHN 4:1-26, 39-42**

Why should Jesus' people be welcomed as a transforming presence into a community that holds a low opinion of Christians? Popular media makes it tough when it portrays Christians as hypocritical and ignorant. Admittedly, sometimes we live up to that press. But, how do these descriptions align with what Jesus demonstrates in the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well? They don't.

If we begin with the end of the story, where an entire village is transformed, we can work our way back and see how Jesus began the process. He gives us a fresh way to view our city and its people, most of whom don't believe like Jesus' people do. As quoted in this message, "Jesus' people give value and worth to other people because all people are made in the image of God." And, when we do so, remarkable things can happen..

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Break into pairs, and share one high and one low from the week. Have fun with this!
2. Have you ever had to travel out of your way to get somewhere, and if so, what was that like?
3. Describe a time when you met someone by chance while on a business trip or vacation? What do you remember most about the experience?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. When and where did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman, and under what circumstances?
2. List some of the differences, potential barriers, between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
3. What type of water did Jesus ask her for, and what type of water did Jesus offer to her?
4. What did Jesus tell her about the nature of God and the nature of the worship he desires?
5. What did Jesus do in John 4:40-41 that caused "many more" to become believers?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What negative comments or stereotypes have you heard others say about Christians?
2. In what ways does our contemporary culture show others that they are valued and have dignity? What is positive about those approaches? What is negative, if anything at all?
3. What are some ways that people find "water" in our culture that seems to satisfy, but can still leave them thirsty?
4. Compare and contrast the Samaritan Woman's situation with that of people who repeatedly marry and divorce today.
5. How did Jesus' words to her acknowledge her pain, but also bolster her sense of worth? How do people try to do the same today?

## CONTINUED:

**LOOK IN:** *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Do you understand what Jesus means by “living water?” If so, are you drinking what he promises, and why or why not?
2. What is your worth wrapped up in-family, friends, work, wealth, reputation, education? From what wells are you drinking?
3. How might your life change if you stopped drinking from those other wells?
4. What does Jesus’ engagement of this woman suggest about your own value to him? How might Jesus’ view of you motivate your thirst for the “water” he offers?
5. If you’ve met Jesus and become one of his people, how has encountering him transformed your views of others? How has he shaped your approach life?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Following Jesus’ example, which person or people will you treat with dignity, after the manner of Christ. Be specific.
2. When you find yourself finding fulfillment from something that isn’t of God, take that time to read scripture, pray, and spend some time reflecting on the life-giving water you’re offered.