

Small Group Discussion Guide — May 8, 2022

- Series: Before and After
 - Sermon: The Woman at the Well
 - Scripture: John 4: 13-29
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Did you make any movement toward Christ this week, toward a deeper and fuller commitment to him? If so, in what way?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. How comfortable are you interacting with people considered social outcasts? How do you usually feel after these encounters?

ENGAGE

1. Read John 4:13-18.
 - The individual Jesus encounters at the well is both a woman and a Samaritan. What does it say to you about Jesus that, first of all, he's in Samaria when they meet, and second, that he engages in conversation with a woman who is a stranger to him?
 - What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water he offered?
 - What did the woman think he was talking about (v. 15)? What do you make of Jesus seeming to change the subject in v. 16-18? What is the main issue Jesus is highlighting here?
2. Read John 4: 19-29.
 - How did the woman respond to Jesus? What do you make of her changing the subject to worship?
 - What do you think Jesus meant by saying true worshippers will worship in Spirit and in truth?
 - Read verses 28-29. Does anything surprise you about the woman's actions now? How might you have responded if someone called out behavior you weren't proud of?

APPLY

1. What is it about Jesus that makes confronting people with difficult truths about themselves not seem offensive? How might you adapt this to your own life and relationships?
2. What are some thirsts you try to satisfy outside of Jesus' Lordship in your life? How successful have you been in this effort?

3. What role does admitting truths about ourselves play in our relationship with Jesus? With others who are close to us?
4. How are you pursuing filling yourself with Living Water that really satisfies your thirst?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that the truth does, indeed, set us free. We pray for the courage to seek truth and, when necessary, admit truth. Help us to understand that only you can satisfy the deep thirst of our souls. We want to follow you more closely every day and we know we can do nothing without your grace and mercy. Thank you for your unfailing love for us and for never giving up on us. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

1. David spent significant time in this sermon talking about sex and God's plan for it in the lives of his people. Here at the well, with the woman caught in adultery, and elsewhere, we see Jesus addressing sexual sin. What's something he seems to want to teach us in these encounters?
2. At the end of this story, the people of the woman at the well's village say to her, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." Can you share a time when you felt like you heard from Jesus yourself and the impact it had on you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

John 6: 51, 55

John 7: 37-39

QUOTATIONS

"Our hearts, minds, and souls most desperately want to love and be loved by real people in real time and space, not the fantasized, virtual people who make up the vast majority of our mental narratives."

Curt Thompson

"You don't have a soul, you are a soul. You have a body."

C.S. Lewis

"Desire does not exist merely as some independent phenomenon to which we respond; it is also something that, like any good gardener knows, must be pruned."

Curt Thompson

"When regarding the notion of eternity — we do not simply long to live forever. Rather we long to be known forever, ever more deeply and joyfully. In the center of our souls eternity is not just measured in time, it is measured in depth — a depth that feels infinite. And in this case it is the depth of our desire to be known that is infinite."

Curt Thompson