



## The Samaritan Woman Goes on Record: Jesus Knows Me and Changes Me

John 4:1-30, 39

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61% of people in the greater Austin area are open to having spiritual conversations.

– Ed Stetzer and Lifeway Research

Spiritual conversations are relational, friendly two-way communications that can naturally lead to deeper discussions about belief, God, and the Gospel. Not scripted, forceful debates requiring conversion.

### Training from Jesus on How to Have a Spiritual Conversation

- **Initiative:** Take initiative to make contact with people by entering their world. (1-5)

Jesus crossed many social barriers to have a spiritual conversation.

Do not expect people to come to us in a church building. We must go to them where we live, work, learn, and play.

- **Common Ground:** Naturally connect with people in the common areas of life. (6-9)

Focus on what unites us, not on what divides us.  
Focus on what we all need.

This was not an ideal situation to have a spiritual conversation, but Jesus had one anyway.

- **Questions:** Ask questions and listen. (7-15)

Spiritual conversations involve curiosity and asking open-ended questions about the other person's life, interests, concerns, and beliefs.

What well am I drinking from?

Everything apart from God eventually leaves us thirsty again. Only Jesus satisfies. (Psa. 36:9; Isa. 12:3; 35:1-7; 49:10; 55:1; Jer. 2:13; 17:13; Zech. 13:1; 14:8; John 7:37)

- **Grace & Truth:** Do not judge, but speak truth. (16-18)

Jesus does not shame her.

Before Jesus can satisfy a thirst, he must expose its source. There is no conversion without conviction – no redemption without repentance.

Jesus is better at this than us, so we must be gentle.

- **Focus:** Keep their relationship with God the main focus and avoid smoke screens and chasing rabbits. (19-24)

- **Where:** The woman was focused on *where* to worship, but Jesus redirects her to *who* and *how* – not to religion, but to experiencing a relationship with God.
- **Who:** Are you worshipping the true God of living water?
- **How:** Are you worshipping God of living water in spirit and truth – with your heart and mind?

- **Word:** As the opportunity presents itself, share a word of Gospel truth. (25-26)

Remember, the goal is the relationship, not a result, because God is in charge of results, not us.

Even if a conversation does not result in conversion, know that spiritual seeds were planted and relational trust was built for future conversations.

- **Hope:** Share Good News. God offers what they want to hear and desperately need. (10, 13-15)

1 Peter 3:15 .... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (NIV)

Jesus seeks thirsty people, satisfies thirsty people, and sends satisfied people. (28-30, 39)

Will I let Jesus send me?

## Examples of Comments & Questions

### Comments:

- In my life, God has been...
- I've been praying about \_\_\_\_\_, and I've seen God answer in unexpected ways.
- I used to not like Christianity/Church, but I have come to realize...
- I went to church this past weekend, and...
- A Bible verse that has impacted me is...

### Questions:

- What is your spiritual background?
- Did you grow up in church?
- What do you think about God or Jesus?
- How has your faith changed since childhood?
- What do you think it means to be a Christian?

## Sharing Gospel Truth - Gospel Grid: 3 Stories / 4 Words

### 3 Stories:

#### Their Story – Your Story – God's Story

#### God's Story in 4 Words:

**God:** God loves us, created us with purpose in his world and kingdom, and wants a relationship with us.

**Sin:** We all sin, which separates us from God.

**Jesus:** Jesus died as a sacrifice to remove our sin barrier and reconcile us to God.

**Salvation:** To experience a saving reconciliation with God and a BOLD Life in his kingdom on earth and in heaven, we must follow Jesus – believe with our lives that he is our Lord (Leader) and Savior (Forgiver).