

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Welcome to week 9 of our John series. This passage tells of Jesus' interaction with a Samaritan woman. They cover a lot of ground in their conversation, so you might need to focus on particularly parts of the narrative if you feel you're running short of time. This week's Life Group Guide is co-authored by Sam Kiladejo, who is a member of our Wimbledon venue, and Andy Tuck, who is on our staff team. God bless, Sam and Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 4:1-30

This Week's BIG IDEA: Jesus offers us living water and living worship.

Please read John 4:1-30.

1. v1-5, what is the context for this passage? Where is Jesus traveling? Does anyone know the roots of the feud between the Jews and the Samaritans?
[Leaders note: Samaritans were viewed as heretics by the Jewish elite in Jerusalem. It was said they had compromised with invaders over the centuries, both intermarrying with foreigners and incorporating idolatrous beliefs into their worship. They had also opposed rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.]
2. v6, what does this verse tell us about Jesus' humanity? Can you sympathise with Jesus in this moment?
3. v7, what's significant about the hour that this Samaritan woman is coming to draw water? What insight does it give us in to her life?
[Leaders note: she came at a quiet hour to avoid being with any other women collecting water.]
4. v7-9, what do these verses reveal to us about the social awkwardness of this situation? (cf v27)
5. Let's dive in to their first exchange in v10-15. Would someone be able to put these verses in to their own words? What are the direct answers to the Samaritan woman's questions in v11-12?
6. What is the living water Jesus is talking about? Have you ever experienced this 'living water'? Is this your experience of God?
[Leaders note: there won't be a narrow identical experience that we've all had, but what you're looking for here are descriptions of the life and light that God gifts to us by his Holy Spirit. These will be moments of refreshment from God.]
7. v16-19, what is Jesus' insight here and what effect does it have on the Samaritan woman?
[Leaders note: you could also point people ahead to v28-30.]
8. v20-26, what are the implications of Jesus' teaching here for our own worship? Do we worship God in spirit and in truth? Is our worship together filled with truth about God? Is our worship worked up human emotions or a relational bowing down before God in love and adoration?
[Leaders note: You might find it helpful to consider worship when you're on your own, worship in your Life Group, and corporate worship together on a Sunday.]
9. What similarities and differences can you spot between this interaction and Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus in John 3? What picture is building of Jesus through these conversations?
[Leaders note: Both Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman misunderstand Jesus, yet they are two very different people. There is a building picture of many/all types of people responding to Jesus.]
10. Are there any ways in which you assume the gospel is only for people who are like you, be that ethnically, culturally or economically?
[Leaders note: no one is excluded from God's kingdom. The only entry requirement is believing in Jesus.]
11. Finish in a time of prayer and worship. Sam recommends this song: *Jesus What a Savior* [sic] by Housefires <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUrdYIYov0>. Andy recommends pondering these questions: Are you weary from the journey too? How might the living water offered by Jesus revive you today?