

# GOOD NEWS

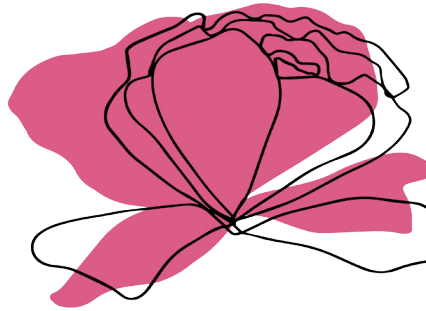
NO 6

WINTER/SPRING 2022

## THIRSTY NO MORE

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

John 4:23



“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified.”  
John 4:39

JOHN 4:4-42

*“Jesus said to them,  
‘My food is to do the will of Him  
who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”  
John 4:34*

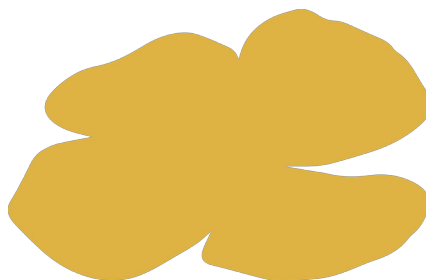
## Woman at the Well

### IN OTHER NEWS

#### TODAY'S WEATHER



RAIN FINALLY COMES TO  
DROUGHT-STRICKEN VALLEY



#### COULD THIS BE THE MESSIAH?

Samaritan woman makes bold claims about a man she met while fetching water. Villagers seek out man to find if her claims are true.

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As anyone who works outside during the summers in Redding can attest to, one can develop an almost unquenchable thirst that sometimes water alone can't satisfy. You know that kind of thirst, yes? It's the kind of thirst that needs a tall, ice-filled, sugared-just-right, colorful bendy-straw between the fingers infused, glass of lemonade while sitting in a comfy pillow-filled lounge chair under a rainbow-striped umbrella, black, floppy-hat donned head, large Ray-Ban eyewear-covered face, clothed in your favorite outfit at the beach, to be satisfied. This isn't the only kind of thirst we acquire, however; and this other kind of thirst can be more deadly if not satiated properly.

We possess a gluttonous spiritual thirst that we try to snuff out with any number of things—food, family, friends, shopping, men, drugs, and entertainment of all sorts. But only one thing can dispel the desire to be known, to be valued, and to be loved in the way we were created to be. This divine quenching is only found in a deep, life-sustaining relationship with the Creator, Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ. Our soul, like the Psalmist's, cries out for Him:

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"*  
(Psalm 42:1-2 NIV)

Can you relate to the Psalmist? Let's take a journey back in time, to a place far away, to learn how we might "thirst no more."

## SAMARITAN POST

### LOCAL NEWS

#### TOWN SAVED AFTER MESSIAH FOUND!

Jacob's Well, Sychar, Samaria, Israel:

The town of Sychar will never be the same after an unidentified Samaritan woman preaches the Good News: "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

I went to the well at noon that day, just as I always do, and there he was—Jesus of Nazareth. He was there resting from His journey north to Galilee. I was hoping that because He was a Jewish man He would leave me in peace, but as I approached He asked me for drink. I was flabbergasted at his request since Jews do not associate with Samaritans and I told Him as such.

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water," He answered.

I pointed out that He had nothing to draw with and that the well was deep. I asked Him where He could get this living water. "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

He answered me saying, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

I couldn't believe my ears! "Sir," I said to Him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

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“Go, call your husband and come back,” He told me.

I was surprised and embarrassed. How could He know? “I have no husband,” I replied.

“You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true,” the man said.

That He could possibly know this threw me for a loop. I tried to change the subject. “Sir, I can see that You are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

He was so kind but firm in his response. “Woman, believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

I didn’t know fully what He meant by all of this, but one thing I did know: “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us,” I replied. What He told me next changed my life!

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am He.”

Just then, Jesus’ disciples returned from town. It

was obvious they had been to the marketplace. I could see that they were surprised to find Him talking to me. But they didn’t ask, “What do you want?” or “Why are You talking with her?” I was so excited by what I heard from Jesus, that I left my water jar and ran back to town telling anyone and everyone who would listen: “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

They were curious to see for themselves and we all went back to the well. Many of the town’s people believed in Him because of my testimony and they urged Jesus to stay. He stayed for two more days after that. The people then said to me, “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.”

SAMARITAN POST  
BUSINESS & EDUCATION  
JESUS’ DISCIPLES GET LESSON IN EVANGELISM

Jacob’s Well, Sychar, Samaria, Israel  
Jesus’ disciples returned from their shopping trip in the market place of Sychar only to find him talking to a Samaritan woman.

“Everyone knows that Jewish men don’t talk to women and especially Samaritan women,” said Peter, one of Jesus’ inner circle, “but we didn’t dare ask her what she wanted or why Jesus was talking to her.”

James, another one of Jesus’ disciples, said, “We encouraged the Rabbi to eat something. We all were tired, hungry and thirsty from our travels. It’s a long way back to Galilee from Judea, after all.”

James’ brother, John, interrupted, “Jesus responded, as He usually does, with word pictures. ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ The twelve of us

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surmised that someone might have brought him food. Jesus went on to tell us,

My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, "One sows and the other reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.

"Many of the town's people started coming to the well to see and listen to Jesus for themselves," Peter continued. "I wouldn't be surprised if the entire town believed in Jesus that day. They encouraged us to stay longer and we left there two days later. I'll never see Samaria in the same light again."

SAMARITAN POST  
BOOK SECTION

The Holy Bible NIV

Book of John Chapter 4:4-42

4 Now He had to go through Samaria. 5 So He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as He was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give Me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to Him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and Who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water. 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father

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neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus declared, “I, who speak to you, am He.” 27 Just then His disciples returned and were surprised to find Him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. 31 Meanwhile His disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” 33 Then His disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought Him food?” 34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest?” I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” 39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they urged Him to stay with them, and He stayed two days. 41 And because of His words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, “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.”

## OBSERVATION

Answer the following questions using the previous passage.

1. Who are the who’s?
2. Where are the where’s?
3. What are the what’s?
4. When are the when’s?
5. **Highlight** every word that has something to do with water.
6. **Put a box** around words that have to do with worship.
7. **Circle** words that have something to do with the harvest.

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## SAMARITAN POST

AROUND THE WORLD IN 31 A.D.

## TRAVEL SECTION

When Jesus left Judea to return to Nazareth in Galilee, He journeyed west up the Wadi Farah toward Shechem (also known as Sychar), the capital city of the Samaritans. He and His disciples arrived at Jacob’s well around noon.

Two miles southwest is Mount Gerizim where the Samaritans have their temple of worship. Mount Gerizim is believed by the Samaritans to be the place where Abraham led Isaac to be sacrificed. Mount Ebal is two miles to the northwest and is where God had instructed Moses to build an altar of rough stones, covered with plaster on which the Israelites were to write the words of the law (Deuteronomy 27:2-3).

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Between these two sacred mountains was ancient Shechem where (among other things):

Abram first came when he arrived in Canaan from Babylonia and God first appeared to Abram in Canaan, to renew the promise of giving the land to him and his descendants (Genesis 12:6-7); and Jacob safely returned with his wives and children from his encounters with Laban, purchased land and built an altar to the Lord called El Elohe Israel which became known as Jacob's well (Genesis 33:18-20). Jacob gave this plot of land to his son, Joseph, where eventually Jacob's bones were buried when they were carried up from Egypt (Genesis 48:22, Joshua 24:32).

One mile north of Jacob's well was the town of Sychar, which Jesus had passed on His way to the well.

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SAMARITAN POST  
RELIGION & CULTURE SECTION

When the Babylonians conquered the southern kingdom of Judah, they took almost all the population captive, exiling them to the Babylonian Empire. All they left behind were the lowest classes of society, because they didn't want these lowly regarded people in Babylonia. These ones left behind intermarried with other non-Jewish peoples who slowly came into the region, and the Samaritans emerged as an ethnic and religious group.

Because the Samaritans had a historical connection to the people of Israel, their faith was a combination of commands and rituals from the Law of Moses, put together with various superstitions. Most of the Jews in Jesus' time despised the Samaritans, disliking them even more than Gentiles, because they were, religiously speaking, "half-breeds" who had an

eclectic, mongrel faith. The Samaritans built their own temple to Yahweh on Mount Gerizim, but the Jews burned it around 128 B.C. This obviously made relations between the Jews and the Samaritans even worse. (Guzik)

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SAMARITAN POST  
CLASSIFIED ADS

## EVANGELISTS WANTED

Jesus is looking for born-again believers to tell the "Good News" that He is the Messiah and has living water to give.

- No prior experience needed
- Training included
- Salary: \$0.00
- Cost: Your time and possibly your life
- Benefits: Rewards beyond your wildest dreams to be redeemed in heaven
- Report to: Your local Bible-teaching church for further instructions

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SAMARITAN POST  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In regards to the unnamed woman of last week's report: All in all, this woman is a fascinating character. "She is of mature age, and has had a not altogether reputable past. She is frivolous, ready to talk with strangers, with a tongue quick to turn grave things into jests; and yet she possesses, hidden beneath masses of unclean vanities, a conscience and a yearning for something better than she has." (Alexander Maclaren)

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Dear Editor,

I have something to say about Rabbis of the time. "The strict Rabbis forbade a Rabbi to greet a woman in public. A Rabbi might not even speak to his own wife or daughter or sister in public. There were even Pharisees who were called 'the bruised and bleeding Pharisees' because they shut their eyes when they saw a woman on the street and so walked into walls and houses!" (William Barclay)

Dear Editor,

I can attest to Jesus' ways. "Christ has different doors for entering into different people's souls. Into some, He enters by the understanding; into many, by the affections. To some, He comes by the way of fear; to another, by that of hope; and to this woman He came by way of her conscience." (Charles Spurgeon)

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Dear Editor,

Those disciples of Jesus needed to see themselves as workers/reapers in the harvest, for surely:  
"As He was speaking, the Samaritans were leaving

the town and coming across the fields toward Him. The eagerness of the people the Jews regarded as alien and rejected showed that they were like grain ready for harvesting." (Tommy Tenney)

///

Dear Editor,

"The gospel is not good news if it requires that you must do penance, reform your life, keep a bunch of rules, do an unspecified number of good deeds, and hope that someday God might let you into heaven on that basis. But it is wonderfully good news if God offers it to you as a free gift, which He does!" (Steven J. Cole)

///

Dear Editor,

"The application for those of us who know Christ is: If we want to be like our Savior, we should be seeking out unlikely candidates for salvation and try to turn the conversation to spiritual matters so that they can come to know the Savior. I confess that all too often, I size up someone who seems to be far from the Lord and think, 'He wouldn't be interested in spiritual things.' So I don't attempt to steer the conversation to the place where I can tell him the good news." (Steven J. Cole)

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Dear Editor,

“Leaving God, in whom alone man’s thirsty spirit can find satisfaction and thirst-quenching, he hath set himself, with infinite labour, to hew out cisterns of gold and silver, cisterns of splendid houses and reputable characters, and lavish alms deeds, cisterns of wisdom and ancient lore. From any of these the hewer thinks he will obtain sufficient supplies to last him for life. At the best, however, the water is brackish, wanting the sparkle of oxygenated life; hot with the heat of the day.” (FB Meyer)

Dear Editor,

“There are still four months and then comes the harvest: This was a proverb with the idea that there is no particular hurry for a task because things simply take time and you can’t avoid the waiting. Jesus did not want His disciples to have this mentality; He wanted them to think and act as if the harvest was ready now.” (David Guzik)

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SAMARITAN POST

FOOD & DRINK

David Guzik & The Word of God

LIVING WATER

In ancient times they called spring water living water because it seemed alive as it bubbled up from the ground. At first glance, it might seem that Jesus told this woman about a nearby active spring. But Jesus made a play on words with the phrase “living water,” because He meant the spiritual water that quenches spiritual thirst and gives life. (Guzik)

In the ancient near east a fountain of living waters—

an artesian spring—was something special. It was a constant supply of good, fresh, life-giving water that came to you! In ancient Israel, water was a lot of work, but a fountain of living waters brought it right to you. (Guzik)

*“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13).*

*“LORD, You are the hope of Israel; all who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away from You will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water” (Jeremiah 17:13).*

*“The LORD will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail” (Isaiah 58:11).*

*“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and blessing on your descendants” (Isaiah 43:11).*

*“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty’” (John 6:35).*

*“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life’” (John 4:13).*

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6).*



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*“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from him’” (John 7:37-38).*

*“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).*

*“He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be My son’” (Revelation 21:6-7).*

*“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life” (Revelation 22:17).*

## INTERPRETATION:

8. Why did Jesus have to go to Samaria?

9. Why do you think the woman came to the well at noon?

10. Why did it shock the woman that Jesus would ask her for a drink?

11. What did Jesus mean by the gift of living water in verse 10?

12. Did the woman understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual things?

13. Why did the woman change the subject of the conversation after Jesus told her to get her husband?

14. What might the life of the Samaritan woman be like?

15. After calling Jesus a prophet, why does she all of a sudden bring up the controversy over the correct place to worship?

16. What does Jesus mean by salvation being “*from the Jews*”?

17. What did Jesus mean by worshipping “*in Spirit and in truth*?”

18. What three identities did the woman ascribe to Jesus?

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19. What did the woman do after Jesus revealed himself as Messiah?

20. How much experience did she have in telling people about Jesus?

21. What did she tell them?

22. Why do you think Jesus talked to the disciples about the harvest?

23. What does Jesus mean by, "*It's still four months until harvest*"?

24. What did His disciples see when they obeyed His command to "*open your eyes and look at the fields*"?

25. How did the town's people get saved?

## APPLICATION:

26. Do you yearn for something better in your life?

27. What have you used to try to satisfy your spiritual thirst apart from Jesus? Family? Career? Possessions?

28. Does *living water* flow from you so that you thirst no more? How do you know? Is it time to drink again?

29. How do you drink this *living water*?

30. Re-read Charles Spurgeon's "Letter to the Editor." In what way did Jesus come to you? How can you use your experience to bring someone to the saving knowledge of Jesus?

31. Write a brief salvation story for your own life.

32. Do you have a field ripe for harvest? What do you intend to do about it?

33. Choose any verse from the lesson and write it here:

35. Will you commit to memorizing it?

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## I Am From

I am from dichotomy.  
I am from the womb of a wounded woman, her pain  
delivered from mother to child.  
I am from rejection and acceptance, foster care and  
finding a forever home, lost and found.  
I am from divorce and happily ever after.  
I am from prison and freedom, poverty, and kings'  
palaces.  
I am from travel; rough roads, rocky roads, dead-end  
roads, roads under construction, yellow brick roads,  
and take me home country roads.  
I am from Elvis's swaying hips and a mother's  
warning lips.  
I am from sugar sandwiches and filet mignon.  
I am from pulling a little red wagon and flying in a  
first-class cabin.  
I am from false religion and amazing grace.  
I am from black and blue and healthy boundaries.  
I am from cancer and vibrant health.  
I am from new beginnings.  
I am from gratitude.  
I am from "It is all grace!"

Donna Rhodes

*How the Woman at the Well became the Well Woman*

*by Donna Rhodes*

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For tools, and resources on how to evangelize:

<https://www.livingwaters.com/>

Living Waters exists to inspire and equip Christians to fulfill the Great Commission. Living Waters seeks to train the members of Christ's Body in the principles of biblical evangelism and to provide them with practical tools to proclaim the gospel.

# GOOD NEWS

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## MY EVANGELISM JOURNAL

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25  
NLT

### THE RETURN OF THE LORD IS DRAWING NEAR!

We spent our Fall semester writing letters to answer a “Dear Abigail” column, to help us understand how to share the GOOD NEWS! Now we are putting into action what we have practiced.

Answer the following questions each week and share in your group time that you may encourage one another!

1. Pray and ask the Lord to put someone on your heart that needs to know about the GOOD NEWS! (It may be a stranger that will cross your path.) Write their name here.

2. *Each* morning, pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities. Write any opportunities you had this week.

3. What have you learned about yourself this week as you shared the GOOD NEWS? Was it easier than you thought? More difficult? Did you miss an opportunity?

4. *Praise* the Lord for what He taught you about evangelism this week. Would you have changed your approach? *Continue* to pray for those you shared with, and *trust* the Holy Spirit to continue the work. *Confess* if you felt afraid or weak or if you avoided sharing altogether and then *start afresh* next week. He is FAITHFUL!

# WORD SCRAMBLE

## WOMAN AT THE WELL

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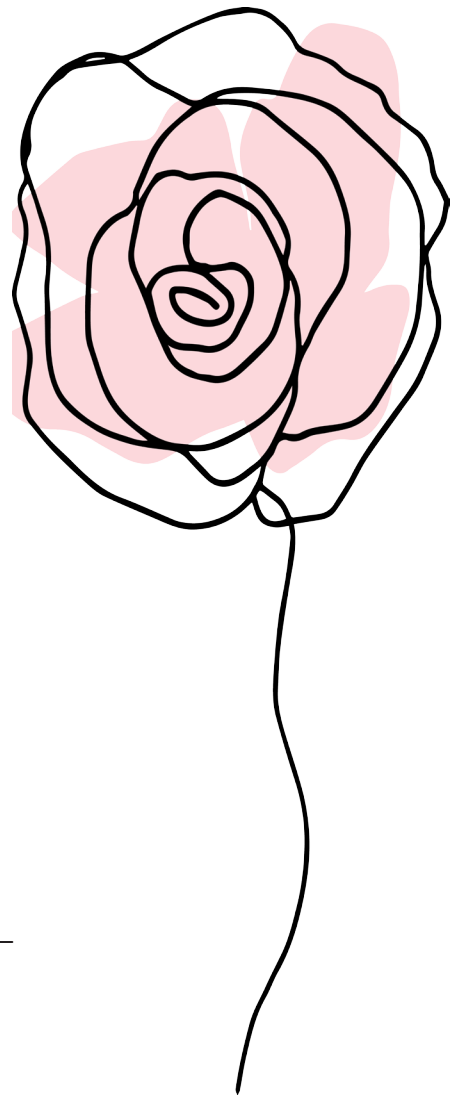
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Answers are on page 108