

John 4:1-42

CG Discussion Guide// Week of January 8, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

- Icebreaker: What is one New Year's Resolution you actually succeeded in?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Harbor Network sister church to pray for: Soma Church Northwest (Pastor: Bobby Barbour)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is significant about Jesus being wearied from travel?
- What strikes you about the location, time of day, and context of this particular story?
- Have you ever thought someone was so far gone in their sin or lifestyle that there was no way they would ever come to know Jesus? Why or why not? If yes, what were the "barriers" to knowing Jesus? If no, why do you believe so?
- What were the "barriers" that kept the Samaritan woman from knowing God? And why would these be significant?
 - For the CG leaders, there are at least three:
 - Religio-ethnic: Jew/Samaritan beef
 - Gender: For example, moral/conservative men in that culture would not converse alone with a woman that is not his wife in public
 - Moral: the Samaritan woman had 5 previous marriages, whether divorced or widowed is not clear, but it is clear that she's not married to her current partner—which is taboo in Jewish, Samaritan, and even Gentile mores of the time.
 - How does Jesus break through those barriers in the story?
- Jesus employs many metaphors to describe His work in people's lives. In verses 10-14, He compares it to "living water." What is significant about the symbolism of living water, especially in that particular context (It's the Middle East, in the middle of the day, no AC, no modern water systems)?
- Why does Jesus call out her marital situation and how does He do it? What strikes you about his approach and her response?
- We must note that the Samaritan woman's passage follows directly from Nicodemus, which invites us to make a comparison between them. What are similarities and differences that you see between the two, especially how Jesus reveals Himself to each person?
- What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth? How does Jesus inaugurate that reality?
- What is about knowing exactly Who Jesus is that makes us want to share Him to others, just like the Woman? Compare and contrast her response with the disciples' actions in the story.
- What do you make of Jesus' statement to the disciples? What did they miss?

Abide Time: John 4:1-42

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Jan. 11: Redeemer Men
- Jan. 18: Leadership School Kickoff
- Jan. 24: Restore Groups Kickoff
- Feb. 1: Redeemer Women
- Feb. 4: Membership Class
- Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 26: Child + Family Dedication

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.