

Connection Group Questions
For the week of December 1, 2024
This Week's Message: Only Jesus Satisfies
Passages: John 4:1-26

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. If you could sit down and have a meaningful conversation with someone either from the past or the present, who would it be? What would you talk about or what questions would you ask?

Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read John 4:1-26. Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well.**
 - Are there any aspects of this story that stand out to you?
3. **Historically, the Samaritans and the Jews harbored hatred for one another with sharp differences both culturally and in their worship practices.**
 - In verse 4, Jesus didn't geographically need to travel through Samaria, so why would He "have to" take this route when other Jews would choose to purposely avoid it?
 - What were some cultural barriers Jesus broke through as He entered Samaria?
 - What are some important spiritual principles for us to remember when we are sharing the gospel in our own "divine appointments" in areas that are uncomfortable or non-receptive?
4. **In verses 1-8, the humanity of Jesus is displayed.**
 - What are some human aspects of Jesus in these passages?
 - Why is it important that Jesus was completely God, yet fully human and experienced all the struggles, temptations, and pain as we do? Read Matt. 4:3-11 and Hebrews 4:15.
5. **In verse 7-10, Jesus interacts with the Samaritan woman.**
 - What does Jesus mean when He says that *"God would give you 'living water' if you would only ask Him?"*
 - Share in your own words what God's gift of "living water" means to you.
 - With all the personal tensions swirling around in this story, discuss why this conversation is so overflowing with honesty and truth and has such rich meaning for us.
6. **In verses 11-12, the woman had a good grasp on her own beliefs and boundaries as she traced her ancestry back to Jacob, yet she is eager for the eternal, living water Jesus promises.**
 - What do you think it was about Jesus that piqued her curiosity to know and ask more?
 - Can you recall a time when someone wanted to know more in depth about your faith?
7. **In verses 16-19, Jesus tells the woman about her marital history and relationships issues.**
 - Why do you think she immediately pivots to ask a question about the appropriate place to worship?
 - Do you think she was deflecting, or do you think she was trying to understand how best to deal with her sin, or some other reason?
 - Why would Jesus approach her with compassion and focus on spiritual renewal rather than condemning her past actions?
 - How does this reveal His true identity to her as the Messiah?

8. **Both Nicodemus and the woman at the well misunderstood Jesus's words during their encounters with Him.**
 - In what ways do these two stories have similarities with each other?
 - In what ways are there clear contrasts between them?
 - What do you think John wants us to personally glean from these two encounters he wrote by intentionally recording them side by side?

9. **In verses 19-26, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that arguments about where worship should take place are unimportant, but what matters, is the heart of those who come to Him.**
 - What does Jesus mean when He desires believers to worship in "*Spirit and in truth?*"
Read Mark 12:30.
 - What happens when we rightfully worship God?
 - What happens to us when we worship Him in truth?

Application For The Week

John offers us the shape of this story, very simply, as an invitation to love others enough to point them to Christ for salvation. Having just one meaningful conversation with someone who is desperately thirsty has the potential to transform their life forever. This week, share the promise of eternity found only in the Messiah to those who thirst so that they may draw freely from the well of God's gift of "living water" that never runs dry.

How Your Group Can Pray This Week

Jesus' promise to the Samaritan woman at the well extends to all of us, for nothing can quench our souls like our Savior, Himself. Pray we continue to drink from the fountain of living water asking God to satisfy those deepest places and longings in our hearts. This week, pray also that God will make us the true worshippers He is seeking —ones who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.