

101. The Water of Life (John 4:4-42)

What is your favorite food and drink?

What are Jesus' favorite food and drink?

Think about those questions during this study.

John 4:4:-6 Jesus had to travel through Samaria. He went to a town in Samaria named Sychar. That was near the land Jacob gave to Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from walking, so He sat down near the well. The time was noon.

- The Bible says Jesus had to go through Samaria. Why did He have to go through Samaria?
- What did Jesus feel in verse 6 that he never felt in heaven?

John 4:7-9 A woman from Samaria came to get water. Jesus asked her, "Will you give me a drink?" Jesus' disciples were gone. They went to town to buy food. The woman said, "You are a Jew, I am a Samaritan. Why ask me for a drink?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't do things together.)

- How did Jesus surprise this woman?
- What did most Jews and Samaritans think of each other?

John 4:10-15 Jesus said, "If you knew God's gift and if you knew who I am, then you would ask Me and I would give you living water." She said, "Sir, the well is deep, and You don't have anything to get the water. Our father Jacob gave us this well and he and his sons and animals drank from it. Are You better than Jacob?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never become thirsty again. The water I give him will become a spring of water, springing up to eternal life." The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't become thirsty. Then I won't need to continue coming here for water."

- Jesus talked about "living water." The woman misunderstood. What kind of water did she think Jesus was talking about?

- What is living water? (Read John 7:37-39. Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, the same as the Bible says, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this, Jesus meant the Spirit. Later, people who believed in Jesus received the Spirit.)
- How important is water for your body? How important is “living water” (the Holy Spirit) for your soul?
- How does the Holy Spirit lead us to eternal life?

John 4:16-18 Jesus told her, “Go get your husband and come back.” She answered, “I don’t have a husband.” Jesus said, “You are right. You don’t have a husband. The truth is, you had five husbands. Now you live with a sixth man, and he is not your husband. You spoke the truth.”

- Why did Jesus bring up her five husbands? Was he trying to make her feel bad, or what? (Or make her feel thirsty?)
- If we were witnessing to this woman, do you think it would be worth your time to talk to her? Or a waste of time and energy?

John 4:19-24 The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped here on this mountain. You Jews say we must worship in Jerusalem.” Jesus said, “Believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship God the Father, but not on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship, but you don’t know who God is. We worship and we know who God is, because salvation comes from the Jews. But a time is coming, the time is now, when true worshipers will worship God the Father in spirit and in truth. That is the kind of worship God wants. God is spirit, and people who worship Him should worship in spirit and in truth.

- Notice the woman doesn’t say anything more about herself or her husbands. Why does she ask Jesus about where to worship?
- What does Jesus tell her? Where is the right place to worship?

- What is the right way to worship?

John 4:25-27 The woman said, “I know that the Christ is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.” Jesus said, “I am the one.” At that moment, the disciples came back. They were surprised because Jesus was talking to a woman. But no one asked Jesus, “What do You want?” or “Why are You talking to her?”

- At that time, important Jewish teachers would not “waste their time” talking to women. That is why the disciples were surprised. Why did Jesus talk to the woman?

John 4:27-30 The woman went back to town, and she left her water jar near the well. She told the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I have done. But He can’t be the Christ, can He?” The people left the town to go see Jesus.

- When the woman went back to town, she left her water jar by the well. Why? What do you think that means?
- When the women told the people in town about Jesus, she thought they would say, “No, He can’t be the Christ.” But what did they do?

John 4:31-38 While the woman was gone, the disciples encouraged Jesus, “Teacher, eat something.” Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” The disciples asked each other, “Did someone give Him food?” Jesus said, “The Father sent Me here. My food means doing His will and finishing His work. You say, ‘Four more months, then harvest time.’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe, ready to harvest. The reaper is now working and harvesting the crop for eternal life. Then the sower and the reaper together can be glad. Then the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. You didn’t work to plant, but I send you to reap. Other people did the hard work and you can reap the benefits from their work.

- What is Jesus’ “food”?
- So far, Jesus talked to Nicodemus about birth, the woman about water, and the disciples about food. Did any of them understand at first?

- So how should we feel if we don't understand something in God's word? What should we do to figure it out?
- What is the harvest? Is the harvest still ready today?
- Who are the sowers? Who are the reapers?

John 4:39-42 Many Samaritan people from that town believed in Jesus because the woman told them, "He told me everything I did." When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked Him to stay with them. So Jesus stayed two days. Because of Jesus' speaking, many more people became believers. They told the woman, "We don't believe only because of what you told us. Now we heard Him ourselves and we know that He is the Savior for the world."

- How did the Samaritans find out about Jesus? Who was the sower?
- How can we be sowers or reapers?
- What if it seems like people don't want to believe in Jesus? Then what do we do?