



November 5-6, 2022

Ice Breaker Questions

- In today's text we see the first group of people who believe in Jesus because of his words rather than his signs (Read John 4:39-42 and then look back to John 2:11 and forward to John 4:48-50).
 - We know that God can call people to himself through miraculous signs, and through the everyday witness of his word. Which of these 2 'methods' drew you to Jesus? Have you prayed for a miraculous sign to confirm your own faith, or the faith of others? Did God answer that prayer as you expected, or in other ways?

Understand Their Story

John 4:1-42 is the only story in which John records Jesus engaging directly with Gentile (non-Jewish) people. We'll break it down into two sections and try to understand some of the big ideas it is communicating.

1. John 4:1-30 records Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman.
 - a. List all the things which confuse the Samaritan woman in their first conversation (v 7-15). How does Jesus answer her? What is the conversation primarily about?
 - b. When Jesus reveals her marriage history, the woman perceives that he is a prophet (v 19), and her statements become theological. What does she ask, and what does she know (v 16-26)?
 - c. What is the climax of the story? What happens as a result of this conversation?
2. Read John 4:31-42.
 - a. As the disciples join him back at the well, Jesus gives them a fuller picture of his mission. What does he want them to know?
 - b. What is the link between Jesus' words in John 4:31-37 and the narrator's summary in 4:39-42?

Connect to His Story.

3. Some cities that we read about in the Bible have a significant history. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman in *Sychar* which was known as *Shechem* in the Old Testament. Look up the following texts to see a few events (there are many more!) which have happened in this location:
 - a. Read Genesis 12:1-7 (and focus on v 6 & 7) What happens at Shechem in these verses?

- b. Read Genesis 33:18-20. What happens at Shechem in these verses?
- c. Joshua 24:1-5, 14-25, 32. What happens at Shechem in these verses?
 - i. In Genesis 12:1-3, God promises Abraham that through his family, all the nations of the world will be blessed¹. In response, Abraham builds his first altar to worship God at Shechem. How is Jesus fulfilling these promises to Abraham at Shechem as he speaks to the Samaritan woman in John 4?

Apply to Our Story

John 3:22-36 can be applied to us in at least two ways.

- Our personal response: Along with the Samaritan woman, Jesus is calling all people to drink of the living water (accept his offer of salvation and the gift of the Spirit - see John 7:37-39 and Revelation 22:16-17), and worship him in Spirit and in truth. Have you accepted his offer of living water? If so, what does / could it look like for you to worship Jesus in spirit and in truth?
- Our witness: What can you learn from this story about what it looks like to bring others to Jesus? How do Jesus' words about the harvest encourage or challenge you as you think about sharing the gospel?

Prayer

- *Pray in Adoration: Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham: through him all the families of the world will be blessed.*
- *Pray in Confession: In John 4:34, Jesus says that his "food is to do will of him who sent me". Is this your attitude or posture?*
- *Pray in Supplication: Ask God to give you the courage and words to introduce others to Jesus.*

God's work and our Work

How All of Life Connects to the Gospel - in John 4:1-42

In John 4:1-42 we see physical work pointing to spiritual realities. The Samaritan woman comes to draw water (John 4:7), which was part of her daily duties, and Jesus uses this act of work to talk about the living water he offers. Later Jesus uses the physical imagery of harvest (people reaping and sowing crops - John 4:31-38) to draw his disciples' attention to the spiritual harvest which is before them.

- Think about what you "do" in your everyday work. How could your work be used as a means to explain an aspect of God or the gospel to people? Here are some examples to help you think through this:
 - A mechanic identifies where a machine is broken and sets about fixing it. How is this a picture of how God works in the world?
 - A lifeguard watches over & protects human life. How is this a picture of how God works in the world?
 - Parents sustain, encourage, and discipline their own children. How is this a picture of how God works in the world?
 - A structural engineer designs a bridge which brings people in different communities closer together. How is this a picture of how God works in the world?

¹ These promises are repeated to his son Isaac in Genesis 26:1-5 and to his grandson Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14