



## Week 2 Study Guide

**Main Passage: John 4:1-42 ESV**

### Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** In John 4, Jesus intentionally walks into a place most people avoided—Samaria—and starts a conversation with someone most people ignored—a Samaritan woman with a painful past. Through this interaction, we see that the Gospel breaks down the walls of division, shame, and hostility that keep people from encountering God. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to love our neighbors the same way He did.

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### Discussion Questions

#### CONNECT

- Have you ever avoided a place or a person because you knew the interaction would be awkward or uncomfortable? What made it difficult?
- Who in the group can list the most “neighbors”? Actually, think about the people who live around you. How many do you know?

*Leader Note: Feel this out. If no one knows their neighbors, use this as a growth opportunity. If someone connects really well with their neighbors, ask them for tips on how they built those relationships.*

#### DISCOVER

##### **Read Together: John 4:1-15**

- What does this story reveal about the kindness of Jesus?
- What is the significance of Jesus’ phrase “living water”? What is “living water”?

##### **Read Together: John 4:16-28**

- When Jesus reveals the woman’s past, He isn’t condemning her but inviting her to bring her brokenness into the open. Why do you think people often try to hide their struggles instead of bringing them to Jesus?
- The woman shifts the conversation to a religious debate about worship locations. Why do you think people sometimes prefer arguments about religion instead of confronting their deeper spiritual needs?

## APPLY

*Jesus models several ways to love our neighbors:*

- Go where others won't go
  - Are there people, spaces, or situations in your life that you instinctively avoid? Why?
- Listen beneath the surface
  - What does it look like to truly listen to someone instead of trying to fix them?
- Be a safe place for brokenness
  - Why do you think people often feel safer confessing struggles outside of church rather than inside of it? How can we change that?
- Point to Jesus
  - Why do you think arguments rarely change hearts? What does it look like to point someone to Jesus instead of trying to “win”?
- The woman came to the well alone in shame but left telling others about Jesus. What does this transformation teach us about what happens when people truly encounter Christ?

## DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

- This week, ask God to help you identify one person who might be searching for a “better well” in their life. Pray for them by name and look for an opportunity to:
  - Listen to their story
  - Encourage them
  - Invite them to church/Easter
  - Share how Jesus has impacted your life

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## GROUP PRAYER

- Ask God to give you **eyes to see the people around you as Jesus does**.
- **Pray for courage** to go where He sends you and love people who might feel far from God.
- **Pray for opportunities** this week to share the hope of Jesus.

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## CLOSING

- Next week, we'll be discussing Jesus feeding the 5,000 to see how serving others opens the door to share the Gospel. You can read it ahead of time in Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, or John 6.