

If we were honest, we don't always care about others' spiritual journeys. But Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well shows us that we are called to meet people wherever they are on their spiritual journey. This week's devotional will help you continue to reflect on John 4 and assess how you are becoming more like Jesus through this story.

New to daily devotionals? Here are a few tips:

- Find a quiet place, free of distractions, to meet with God. Open in prayer, asking Him to guide you.
- Try not to get hung up on finishing the devotional or answering questions "right." Rather, follow the Holy Spirit's lead and pay attention to your heart and mind.
- Take one thought from each devotional and meditate on it throughout the day, incorporating God into your entire day.

Monday, October 1st

Read John 4:1-26 through a couple of times.

What sticks out to you about the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well?

What questions or curiosities do you have?

What themes or metaphors capture your attention?

What does Jesus' interaction with the woman suggest about who Jesus is? How do you look similar to or different from that picture?

Tuesday, October 2nd

Focus in on John 4:1-14.

The woman names her cultural identity as a barrier to Jesus talking with her. What things keep you from interacting with people? (Cultural differences, social constructs, time and energy, etc.)

What do you think Jesus means when he talks about "living water"? How have you seen living water in your own life? What difference would it make if everyone in your life had living water?

The Samaritan woman (understandably) has trouble grasping Jesus' metaphor about the living water but he doesn't become impatient with her questions. When have you found yourself frustrated at the pace at which others discover Jesus? What implications does Jesus' example have?

If verse 14 is true, and as believers we have the capacity to be springs of water, how does this impact the ways we share our lives with others?

Wednesday, October 3rd

Focus in on John 4:15-26.

Why do you think Jesus mentions the Samaritan woman's past?

In verses 21-24 Jesus has a unique ability to offer hope in the midst of being honest—even proclaiming that we should worship in Spirit and in truth. How have you benefited from this kind of hope? Who do you know that would benefit from this kind of hope?

What is the significance of Jesus revealing himself as the Messiah to this unnamed woman in verse 26? How does this deepen our understanding of who Jesus is?

Jesus is willing to reveal himself and his hope to the marginalized. How does this broaden our ideas about those to whom we're called to show the hope of Jesus? Are there specific people or areas for which God is calling you to care?

Thursday, October 4th

Reflect on the story of John 4:1-26 in its entirety.

In what ways are you like the Samaritan woman? (Unnamed, without hope, curious and desperate for more, holding on to hard life decisions and moments, perplexed at the intentionality of Jesus, etc.)

In what ways do you look like Jesus? (Willing to break through barriers, speaking truth in love, offering a message of hope, etc.)

What would it take for you to look more like Jesus in this story?

Friday, October 5th

Jesus sees the Samaritan woman with the eyes of grace and mercy because she is the Father's creation. Because we are within the Father, we have the ability to do the same thing in caring for one another and investing in each others' spiritual growth. Spend time in prayer, asking for God's ability to see with the eyes of grace.

Help me to see people with eyes of grace.

Father, help me to see the beauty, dignity, and your image in people, much more clearly than I notice their brokenness and inconsistencies. And when I do see their weaknesses and differences, may I do so with compassion and understanding, not with shock or irritation.

Help me to see what you see in my spouse, my children, my friends, my coworkers and especially in strangers.

Jesus, thank you for pursuing, engaging and rescuing me, offering me freedom to know more and more of the depths of your mercy and grace.

Make clear to me whom I have branded as "useless," with my actual words or unspoken words and forgive me for not seeing others' spiritual growth as vital to your mission.

Father, help me to know your Spirit more deeply, that I may worship in the Spirit and in truth according to your word.

IF I WERE HONEST

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