



Read the Gospel

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: John 4

Skepticism has replaced faith as the most common spiritual bond observed in our culture today. People often reject or resist commitments to faith because of the seeming absence of reality and reason. Because faith is based on belief without sight, the validity or authenticity of Jesus is difficult for many to grasp. In chapter 4 of the Gospel of John we meet two individuals – a disgraced woman and a desperate father. Both have problems. Both are searching for a cure that only Jesus alone can remedy. The woman searches for fulfillment and satisfaction, while the man searches for a cure for his sick son. Ultimately, the encounters they have with Jesus provide them with proof of Christ's deity and cause a definite dismissal of their doubts. Both accounts diminished skepticism and brought into clear view the reality of Jesus, which turned them to repentance and belief.

Pray for the Work of the Gospel

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise** God for His sovereign authority over time and space, and His divine grace manifested through His Son, Jesus.
- **Repent** from any prejudice you may have against other cultures or races.
- **Ask** God to remove any skepticism in your own heart that causes you to doubt His power and might.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit's work as you boldly share the Gospel to those He places in your path this week.

Engage in the Gospel

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.

- Have you ever been skeptical about something? (A product, person, etc.)
- **Read John 4:1-6.** Discuss Jesus' travel plans. Where was He? Where was He going? Why did He choose the route through Samaria? Do you think this was intentional?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples in Matthew 10:5-6 concerning the Samaritans? Look at Luke 10:29-37? What does this parable indicate about showing love and compassion to those who are not like us?
- What does this intentional journey tell you about the sovereignty of God the Father and His Son, Jesus? What does it tell you about love, mercy, and compassion
- **Read John 4:7-15.** Discuss how Jesus used an everyday physical need to spark a life-changing conversation. Have you ever done this? What were the results?



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- The woman responded to Jesus with positive affirmation desiring the “living water” He claimed to have. What is “living water”? (Compare John 4:10 with 7:37-39, Acts 10:44-45, Isaiah 44:3, Revelation 21:6, 22:17) Explain the difference between “living water” and well water.
- **Read John 4:16-26.** Jesus interrupts their conversation and cuts to the heart of the woman’s problem – her search for satisfaction. What validation or testimony can you give to others that Jesus satisfies? Use Scripture to support your answers.
- Discuss the strategy Jesus used to guide the woman at the well into an effective Gospel conversation. Talk about ways you can implement this strategy. Give real-life examples or engage in role-play to practice having these types of conversation.
 - Begin with a common connection.
 - Transition from common material issues of life to greater spiritual needs.
 - Expect skepticism and prepare for resistance.
 - Assert the testimony of the Gospel and its gracious promise.
 - Offer validation. (This is how Jesus brought the woman to a place of repentance.)
 - Trust the power of Jesus’ name.
- What is true worship? How do true worshipers worship the Father? Explain. (John 4:23)
- **Read John 4:27-42.** What is the outcome of the woman’s talk with Jesus? How does this result affect others in Samaria? How does Jesus use this to teach His disciples in John 4:34-35?
- **Read John 4:46-54.** When the official asked Jesus to heal his son, do you think he believed Jesus to be the Son of God or a prophet with some kind of miraculous power?
- Jesus did not want the official to have faith based on hearsay or wonders and signs, but rather because of complete trust in who He said he was. Describe the progression of his faith: crisis faith, confident faith, confirmed faith, and contagious faith.
- In both stories we see skepticism turned to belief in Jesus. Though there are two completely different sets of circumstances for both parties, what were the central themes for each? Discuss God’s free gift of grace that is offered to all who are thirsty. (See Revelation 22:17) This verse says that the water Jesus offers is without price. What did He pay so we could have living water? Will you share this free grace-gift with someone this week?

Live the Gospel

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.

- Ask God to bring a “doubter” into your life this week. Commit to share your testimony of grace with that person and tell how Jesus removed your doubts and filled you with faith and belief in Him.

Joshua Code memory verse:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– Romans 6:23

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