



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Satisfying the Thirst for Significance | January 9, 2022

Summary

Jesus offers the Samaritan woman—and us—living water that will satisfy our thirst for significance.

Scripture

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

He had to go through Samaria on the way. Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”

Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!”

Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” So the people came streaming from the village to see him. —John 4:1-30 (NLT)

Let’s Start

Why are the messages in media so appealing and persuasive?

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Talk

1. What sources have you visited to find satisfaction?
2. How is the world's need for salvation and eternal life like thirst?
3. In what other ways besides thirst might you describe eternal life?
4. Part of what makes the account of the Samaritan woman stand out is the fact that Jews and Samaritans hated each other. What groups of people do you feel uncomfortable being around? Why? What could you do to increase your love for these people?
5. How did the Samaritan woman respond to Jesus?
6. Pastor Dale shared four things from Tim Keller that you can do when you realize that the world cannot give you soul satisfaction:
 1. You can blame things.
 2. You can blame yourself.
 3. You can blame the universe.
 4. You can blame separation from God!

Have you experienced this? Explain.

7. "We tend to see eternal life in terms of time without end and it is, but the eternal life that Jesus offers this woman and you and me that is also a quality of life begins now." Have you heard eternal life described in this way? Do you think the statements below are true? Why?

Eternal life quenches our thirst for purpose and significance!

Eternal life quenches our thirst for love!

God is a perfect Father Who loves and accepts us perfectly!

Let's Act

How can you encourage others to quench their spiritual thirst this week?
