



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 4:1-16

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When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), he left Judea and went again to Galilee. He had to travel through Samaria; so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water." "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" "You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life." "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here."

Sermon Summary:

This is the second time in this gospel where Jesus has a one-on-one with a person. This narrative follows closely after the meeting with Nicodemus. Hence, these two encounters should be compared with each other. The differences between the Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman are striking. Their responses are also very different. Initially they both don't understand what Jesus is talking about. However, eventually we will see that the woman has a better response than Nicodemus. We

can see the heart of Jesus in how he seeks out the Samaritan woman and in the way he speaks with her. Jesus is breaking down barriers between people. This should both challenge us and bring us hope.

Discussion:

1. John 4:4 says Jesus “had to” travel through Samaria. What are the two ways this can be understood? What is significant about these two understandings?
2. What makes this meeting so unusual? What are all the barriers that Jesus is breaking?
3. John 4:10: *“Jesus answered, “If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would ask him, and he would give you living water.”*
 - Why do you think Jesus said this? What kind of response is he trying to get from the woman?
4. John 4:13-14: *“Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”*
 - How can we say that Jesus is beginning to reveal who he is to the woman? What do these verses say about who he is?
5. Compare Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. What are the similarities and differences?
6. What does this portion of Scripture reveal to us about Jesus?
7. How does it challenge us and give us hope?

End with Prayer:

- Pray for a greater understanding of Jesus’ attitude and heart for various kinds of people and that we would have the same heart.