

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read John 4:15-30 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, John 4:15-30

April 12, 2015

Title: How to Properly Drink the Living Water

Read to the group: My wife tells the story of when she was a little girl, her grandfather, just back from an old-time camp meeting revival, was working around the farm singing hymns and gospel songs. She overheard her grandmother say, "Somebody get the shotgun and shoot Jimmy while he's still saved!" And she tells another story of two older women in an evangelistic meeting dragging a rebellious young boy she knew to the front of the church during the invitation. No question he needed it, but he sure didn't want it. As she and I compare our lives as youngsters, each of us was scared our salvation didn't take, so we'd pray to be saved over and over. Lots of screwy ideas float around christendom about what God requires of us and how we are supposed to live and act. Most of them are wrong and even deceitful. Let's take a close look in John 4 as Jesus makes a 30-mile detour into enemy territory to bring His Living Water to a thirsty soul.

Question: We all encounter people every day, some we know and most we don't. What are your immediate thoughts when you meet someone for the first time? Are they based on looks, on clothes or socio-economic status? On race? On whether they are male or female?

Question: When you meet someone new and want to establish a relationship with them, do your values and moral boundaries change in a way that would surprise someone who has known you for a long time? Do you at least feel a pull to compromise personal standards to avoid being seen as different? How long is your lag time between your desire to compromise and your decision to keep your standards?

Question: We know from Scripture that Jesus was tempted in every way just like we are (Hebrews 4:15). And we learn from our passage that the woman He met at Jacob's well lacked moral boundaries and probably was a woman men found seductive. How do you suppose Jesus prepared Himself to look beyond her physical appearance or to avoid shunning her for her immoral behavior or her mixed-race culture?

Question: A drink of cool water feels good on a hot day. How is that like an addiction to substance abuse, or to overeating, or to promiscuity or pornography? How is it different? **Facilitator:** Many addictions begin innocently enough. We have to eat and drink, we take medication for pain, and sex in a male-female marriage relationship is encouraged. But each of these, like sin and even a simple drink of water, offer only temporary satisfaction.

Question: Peppy walked us through four truths that led to the woman's salvation: She acknowledged her need, she acknowledged her sin, she drank the Living Water by offering Him her heart, and she believed in Jesus as the Messiah. What salvation passages can you find that parallel these truths to salvation? **Facilitator:** John 3 introduces us to probably the most humanly righteous man in the world, and John 4 to perhaps the most immoral woman in Samaria. Jesus used the same truths for each.

Testimony: Share your salvation experience with the group—how you became aware of the truths leading to salvation, how drinking the Living Water changed you and how you responded in the days and weeks immediately after. **Question:** Do you still live that way? Are you still eager to share your testimony about what Christ has done for you? Each of us feels a degree of inhibition—some more than others—about sharing Christ. Why is this, and how can we overcome it?