

Lesson Objectives

- Continue to deepen trust and relationship with the members of the study.
- One of the objectives this week is simply to get them fully into scripture. But obviously this is more of a passive objective as they will simply be doing this as they read.
- Help them to see what they go to for satisfaction outside of Jesus.
- Help them begin to look to Jesus and His Spirit for satisfaction.

Lesson Notes

- Before you launch into the study, have snacks available and set aside 15-20 minutes for people to slow down from their day and connect with others. Use this time to personally build relationships and trust with individuals there.

Getting Started

- After 15-20 minutes, let everyone know you are getting started and ask them to grab a seat.

Review

To get us started this week let's review.

- What did we talk about last week? [You can let them answer and ask follow up questions if necessary. The main focus of the conversation was that falling in love with Jesus is a central part of the Christian life. Make sure that they note that both the author of Blue Like Jazz and John the author of 4th Gospel expressed their desire for us to hear their experience of Jesus so that we might believe in him and find life. Use this idea of looking at John to transition to our discussion today.]

Launch

Over the next few weeks we are going to begin looking at John's recorded experience of Jesus. To get this kicked off we are going to start in John 4 this week. But before we do that consider the following question:

- When was a time in your life you remember being the most thirsty?

Well today we are going to see what we learn about Jesus and being thirsty. To get us started lets pray and ask God to be with us during our time. [Ask one of the participants to pray.]

Discussion

Read verses 1-10

- Why do you think Jews had no dealings with Samaritans? [This question takes a little Bible knowledge. Depending on the group they may or may not have an answer here. Either way you can transition to the next statement below.]

- Ok to fully answer that question and give us a little context for this section let's read what two commentators have to say about the Jewish/Samaritan situation: [Ask someone to read this out loud.]

"When the King of Assyria defeated the northern kingdom of Israel and captured Samaria there in 722-21BC he deported the Israelites to Assyria and the cities of Medes (modern Iraq and Iran). Then Samaria, northern Israel, was fatefully resettled by alien peoples, and here we can give a synthesis of the 2 Kings 17 report: "The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities. When they settled there they at first didn't worship the Lord but following such providential disasters the king of Assyria was moved to return one of Israel's priests to teach the settlers to law of the Lord. He taught them but polytheism followed."

"John Chrysostom summarizes the situation concisely: "The Jews after their return from the captivity entertained a jealousy of the Samaritans, whom they regarded as aliens, and enemies; and the Samaritans did not use all the Scriptures, but only the writings of Moses, and made little of the Prophets. They claimed to be of Jewish origin, but the Jews considered them Gentiles, and hated them, as did the rest of the Gentile world.""

- To help put ourselves in the shoes of the woman, let's brainstorm some modern day scenarios that are similar to this. What modern day examples can you imagine where people of opposing groups that find themselves interacting? [This could be a divide between two sports figures, an economic divide, a political divide, a university divide or a racial divide. A player from one football team meets a player from a rival team on the street. A Christian meets a Muslim. A Republican sits next to a Democrat on a plane, etc.]
- Let's continue reading to see what Jesus does in such a tense setting.

Read verses 10-15

- If you were in the woman's situation, how do you think you would have understood Jesus offer of living water? [Personally I would have been confused and skeptical but maybe a little intrigued and curious. You can let them answer.]
- Though Jesus' offer of living water must have come off as a little confusing, what do you think she would have found most appealing about Jesus' offer?
- Ok, so the woman, probably skeptical but sufficiently curious, finally accepts Jesus' offer. Let's see how he responds.

Read verses 16-26

- How would you feel if you were the woman and your sin was called out publicly?
- Donald Miller, the author of Blue Like Jazz, sometimes presents his audiences with the following terrifying scenario: Imagine waking up one morning to find that all of your dark hidden sin had been plastered all over the front page of the local newspaper... with pictures! He goes on to argue that though this sounds terrifying this might actually be the best thing that ever happened to us.

- It is interesting to consider how Jesus directs the conversation. Why do you think Jesus, after the woman accepts His offer of living water, does He ask her about her husband? What do Jesus' thoughts on water have to do with her interactions with men? [This is a tricky question but is one of the most important observations that needs to be made about this passage. The idea that Jesus is getting at is this: Before Jesus can give her something to satisfy her, He has to expose what she has been and is currently going to for satisfaction. Just like how you can drink water and it will leave you thirsty, she has been going to men and they have been leaving her wanting. One can easily imagine the scenario where she begins a relationship and it fulfills her for a time but eventually the newness and wonder wears off leaving her "thirsty" again, having to search for a new relationship.]
- The main thrust and the good news of this story is that Jesus pursues a woman with a seemingly unquenchable thirst and offers her a way to be satisfied. He doesn't just point out that what she has been going to won't satisfy her. Read the follow passage that John records a few chapters later in his Gospel to help us see what exactly Jesus is offering instead.

Read John 7:37-39:

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- What is the living water that Jesus is ultimately trying to offer the woman? [The Holy Spirit, His own Spirit. This is a simple pat answer, you don't have to dwell here.]
- In the book of Galatians we learn that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus says that if a person will simply ask He will fill us with his Spirit and produce this fruit in us. If these 9 fruit of the spirit were true of a person's life how might the person be "satisfied" and no longer "thirsty"?
- Ok lets read the final section.

Read verses 27-30

- Why do you think John included the detail about the woman leaving her water jar? [This is getting at the idea that her thirst has been quenched.]
- Now that we have a good picture of Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well, let's talk about what this means for us today.

Apply

- In what ways do you experience "thirst"? What do you run to instead of Jesus to satisfy you? (relationships, media, sports, alcohol, food, image, others approval, new purchases)
- What would it look like for you to find satisfaction in Jesus this week instead of the things that leave you thirsty?
- Lets finish our time in prayer.

Pray

In the passage Jesus simply tells the woman to ask. Praying for yourself and those with you, let's ask Jesus to:

- Reveal the things that we have been running to to satisfy us that don't.
- Fill us with His Spirit that we would have the fruit of the Spirit and experience satisfaction in Him.