



Discussion Guide Stories Worth Sharing – Part 4 LEADER GUIDE

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Hey leaders! Throughout our summer series, "Stories Worth Sharing", we're excited to help our church see the character of Jesus and that we all have impactful stories to share. Just like we'll hear the Gospel in these stories, people can hear the Gospel through OUR stories!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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**"God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly
into the hearts of those who pray."**

[Louis de Montfort]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Jesus "has to go" through Samaria and initiates an unlikely conversation with an unnamed woman who is Samaritan, religious, uneducated, immoral, and socially despised. Jesus does this because people like her are thirsty for restoration and only he can do that. The only way to quench her spiritual thirst with "living water ... that becomes a spring of water" is to believe in the one who can give it, Jesus the Messiah.
- **John Ch. 4 Commentary & Jesus and the Outcast Woman at the Well**
 - Use this commentary and video scene (from "The Chosen") for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **Jesus Welcomes Our Mess at the Well**
 - This would be an encouraging resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.

Share about a time when someone went out of their way to encourage, bless, or help you. How did that make you feel and/or impact you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you;
my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory."*

[Psalm 63:1-2]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows what the theme of today's discussion is.

God desires fertile faith in Jesus in order to continually quench our deepest thirst!

PASSAGE || Leader Note Have a couple read about half of the passage aloud slowly.

- John 4:1-26

DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share, looking for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two REMINDERS: 1) Every question does NOT have to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit leads! 2) The answers do NOT have to be read aloud ... they are simply there for guidance!

1. In the sermon we heard, *"Jesus' plan is to help us see our internal thirst in order to seek the only water that satisfies."* As you reflect on your life over the past few years, what have you sought out to satisfy your internal thirst that has not satisfied you? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. What does Jesus' decision to travel through Samaria reveal about His mission? *Jesus' decision to travel through Samaria, rather than the longer route, demonstrates His commitment to breaking social and ethnic barriers. It reveals His mission to reach all people, not just Jews. By engaging with a Samaritan woman, Jesus shows that salvation is for everyone, regardless of their background or societal status.*
3. In what ways does the living water Jesus offers differ from the physical water from Jacob's well? *The living water Jesus offers symbolizes eternal life and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the physical water from Jacob's well, which temporarily quenches thirst, the living water Jesus provides leads to a perpetual fulfillment and spiritual renewal that satisfies the deepest needs of the soul.*
4. What does the Samaritan woman's response to Jesus' offer of living water reveal about her understanding and spiritual state? *The Samaritan woman initially misunderstands Jesus' offer, thinking in terms of physical water. Her response, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water," shows her limited understanding and focus on practical needs. However, it also indicates a yearning for something more profound and lasting.*
5. In the sermon we heard, *"Recognize your sin and the fact that people (and idols) can not quench your internal thirst!"* Take a moment to be honest about the current state of your internal thirst. What might you be putting in the place of Jesus to satisfy your internal thirst?
6. How does the woman's perception of Jesus change throughout their conversation? *Initially, the woman perceives Jesus as a mere Jewish man, then as a prophet when He reveals knowledge of her life. By the end of their conversation, she begins to consider the possibility that He might be the Messiah, showing a growing recognition of His true identity and authority.* How has your perception of Jesus changed through personal, intimate time with Him?
7. In what ways does the Samaritan woman's past affect her initial reaction to Jesus? *The Samaritan woman's past, marked by broken relationships and societal shame, likely makes her wary and defensive. Her initial reactions to Jesus are cautious and somewhat skeptical, reflecting her experiences of judgment and exclusion. However, Jesus' respectful and insightful engagement gradually opens her heart to His message.* In what way(s) has your past impacted Jesus' invitation to you to be satisfied by Him? How can we encourage you today?
8. How does Jesus' approach to evangelism in this passage serve as a model for believers today? *Jesus' approach is personal, respectful, and patient. He initiates the conversation with a simple request, listens actively, addresses deeper needs with compassion, and reveals spiritual truths progressively. This*

encourages believers to build genuine relationships, listen empathetically, and share the gospel with sensitivity and insight.

9. How does the woman's testimony to the townspeople reflect a transformation in her life? *The woman's testimony reflects a radical transformation from shame and isolation to boldness and influence. Her encounter with Jesus empowers her to share her experience openly, indicating a newfound sense of worth and purpose. Her testimony leads many to seek Jesus, showcasing the impact of personal transformation on evangelism.*
10. In what ways does this passage encourage us to evaluate our own spiritual thirst and seek fulfillment in Christ? *This passage encourages believers to reflect on their own spiritual needs and recognize that true fulfillment comes from Christ alone. It challenges us to move beyond temporary, worldly satisfactions and seek the living water Jesus offers. By doing so, we can experience the deep, lasting fulfillment that only a relationship with Christ provides.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

In John 7:38–38, we read that “Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.’” Do you believe His words? Are you living like you believe this is true? Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting today, **what is a step of obedience that you can take?** Here are a few questions to consider ...

- Do you believe Jesus is God in the flesh and the Savior of the world?
- Have you asked for and received His living water?
- How are you drinking His living water daily?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

Satisfied By “Living Water”

- Pray that the Spirit's presence flows through every part of our being, washing away all that hinders us from truly knowing and serving God.
- Pray that we are changed from the inside out. May He fill us with peace, joy, and strength, so that we may live as vessels of God's love, pouring out His goodness to a world in need.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Optional* *We include a monthly spiritual practice that can be shared with your group after you gather. Our hope is for this to enhance what we're learning and discussing together, so share about your experience with the practice at the beginning of your gatherings or throughout the week!*

Welcoming Prayer is an invitation to welcome everything, knowing that everything that happens to us is something we can learn and grow from. It also helps us consent to God's presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to anything that happens to us and around us. Give it a try!

- [Welcoming Prayer](https://rockbridge.cc/welcoming-prayer) or rockbridge.cc/welcoming-prayer