

Series: Receiving life by believing in God's Son (a Gospel of John study)

Sermon Text: John 4:1-30

Kids Word: Worship

(*This is the only account in all 4 gospels)

We know from John 20:31 that John is writing these things so that we can know that Jesus is the Messiah who offers eternal life to all who will trust in Him. And we will see that very clearly in today passage.

The question of WHY God rescued and redeemed us in the first place is a VERY good question to ask. He didn't just redeem/rescue us FROM something, He rescued us FOR something. He rescues us FROM receiving the just and righteous wrath of God for our sin and rebellion. And sometimes we get so wrapped up in THAT we were rescued, that we forget WHY we were rescued. Well, today Jesus is going to answer the question of WHY we were rescued/redeemed/saved. And interestingly enough, He's going to answer it while He is in the middle of rescuing/redeeming/saving this Samaritan woman.

Why did God rescue us? So that you and I could do what we were originally created to do...Worship God, our Creator. That's our...

BIG IDEA: God saves us so we can be true worshippers.

Consider the following:

- “Worship” comes from the old English word “worth-ship” which means to acknowledge the worth of someone (see Revelation 5:12 at the throne of heaven, all are saying “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” They are acknowledging the worth of the God). The primary Greek word in the New Testament (and used here) is proskuneo, a compound word which means “to bow before, to prostrate oneself in of show respect and honor to someone, to kiss the hand as a token of reverence.”
- Something very noteworthy is going to happen in our story today. It is the FIRST TIME Jesus Himself proclaims that He is the Messiah! John, the gospel writer had proclaimed Jesus, John the Baptizer proclaimed Jesus. The Father and the Holy Spirit proclaimed it at his baptism. But this is the first time that the proclamation of the Messiahship of Jesus comes from His own lips, and whom He makes that proclamation to is both astounding and revealing. WHY? Because the proclamation is not made the nation's High Priest (the religious top dog) or to any the religious establishment. In fact, it isn't made in anywhere within Jerusalem or Judea. It is made in Samaria to a triple outcast – A Samaritan, a woman, and a woman with a very checkered past.
- And while this may be a rebuke to the nation of Israel, who had rejected Him, It should be seen primarily as a declaration on the part of Jesus of his heart for all nations. The whole world is His mission field, and no one is beyond redemption. Revelation chapter 3 tells us that the multitudes before the throne are saying the Lamb of God (Jesus) is Worthy because He purchased for God with His blood people every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Scripture makes it clear that Salvation is not exclusive to any one group but is for any and all who believe. Whoever believes will not perish but have everlasting life; Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

A couple of other things to observe in this passage:

- We will see clearly on display both Jesus’s humanity (in his weariness and thirst) and His deity (in his omniscience and providence).
- It’s also instructive to notice contrast the between the Samaritan woman and Nicodemus from chapter 3. She is the polar opposite of Nicodemus, but they both needed Jesus. And this woman did not seek Jesus out as Nicodemus did. Instead, Jesus sought HER out!

Let’s consider some key ideas and applications in our text.

1 So then, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing; rather, His disciples were), 3 He left Judea and went away again to Galilee.

- The Pharisees already hated John the Baptist because he called out their hypocrisy, calling them broods of vipers and then pronouncing damnation on their heads. Jesus was going to be even less popular than John because Jesus had the same message to the religious leaders, but He also could do miracles, and was gaining more followers. Therefore, to avoid further confrontation for now, Jesus is moving His ministry to Galilee.

4 And He had to pass through Samaria.

- Literally in the Greek, “it was necessary, it was required” for Him to go through Samaria. It was not necessary geographically (there were other ways get to Galilee and most Jews did because they didn’t want anything to do with the Samaritans), but it was necessary providentially. And Jesus had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman at a well.
- A Typical 1st century Jew reading this account, would say “Oh no! Not Samaria!!!” What was the problem with the Samaritans? The Samaritans were hated and despised by the Jews as half breeds because centuries earlier the Jews in that area had intermarried with pagan idolaters and pretty much abandoned Judaism for a corrupt version, including building their own temple on Mt. Gerizim as a substitute for the temple in Jerusalem. They did hold the 1st 5 books of the Bible were legitimate but not the rest. The Jews considered the Samaritans as worse than the pagans because they should have known better! In fact, the Samaritans were so despised by the Jews that in John 8, when the Jewish leaders were trying to call Jesus the worse thing they could think of, they said to Jesus “You are a demon-possessed Samaritan.” Side note: After Jesus said the 2 greatest commandments were to “Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself” and someone asked Him “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus gave them parable of what? “The Good Samaritan” Jesus chose a Samaritan to be the hero! That was a royal poke in their self-righteous eyes.
- Jesus, no surprise, did not despise the Samaritans. He didn’t see the Samaritans as the enemy, He saw them as a mission field. In fact, after his resurrection, right before his ascension, he told his disciples (Acts 1:8) “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Pentecost) and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and Judea, and SAMARIA, and to the ends of the earth.” Jesus is about to practice what He preached.

5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob’s well was there. So, Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- The town was Sychar, about a 20 mile walk from where they would have started--not flat either, it was up and down. It was about the sixth hour – noon, high noon, hot! Wearing (Greek kopiao – spent the point of exhaustion) and at noon, under the blazing sun, He sits down on the edge of the well. Very, very tired and very, very thirsty. Notice that the historical, geographic location was identified (“the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph” see Genesis 33:18-20), which Biblical authors loved to do because it is a real history book about real people doing real things in real places.

7 *A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus *said to her, “Give Me a drink.”*

- Two things are very interesting here: 1) She’s by herself in the middle of the day, and 2) Jesus talks to her! The women typically came at dawn or dusk to draw water for their daily needs of cooking, cleaning, drinking, washing clothes. Either before it gets really hot or after it has cooled down in the evening. Why is she coming at noon? We can’t be certain, but it would be a reasonable thing to assume that this was a woman who did not have a good reputation in town—five husbands and living a man she wasn’t married to. As such she would likely have been despised and ostracized by the other women from town. So, she goes to the well when the other women wouldn’t be there.
- Jesus takes the initiative and talks to her, asking her for a drink. In that culture it’s a shocking thing for Him to do because Jewish men didn’t address a woman they didn’t know directly in public. In fact, most Jewish rabbis (teachers) didn’t even to talk to the women of their own family in public. But that was a man-made religious rule, and Jesus didn’t care about those rules. By the way, there is no record in all four gospels that Jesus ever did any miracle to quench His own thirst, satisfy His own hunger, or provide anything for Himself. Just saying. Why didn’t he ask his disciples for water? They weren’t around.

8 *For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food.*

- How many disciples does it take to get food? All of them! IF Jesus wanted was preparing for a one-on-one evangelistic encounter, which He was. So now it’s just Jesus and the woman. The woman is very surprised, not by Jesus’s request, but the fact that he is even talking to her at all.

9 *So the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, though You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

- How did she know He was a Jew? Perhaps from his dialect, must most probably from His clothing; the robe he wore, the tassels on his garment which was the traditional Rabbi (Teacher) garb. Her response is basically “Why are you asking me, a Samaritan? Don’t you remember you despise us!?” The Greek phrase here is literally the Jews “do not use the same utensils.” Specifically, the Jews were not allowed to do was to share eating or drinking utensils with Samaritans, because they were considered unclean. Which is exactly what Jesus was asking to do! So even by talking to her, much less asking to drink from her vessel, he is breaking “the rules” (By the way, Jesus broke a lot societal “rules”, but never God’s!). Then Jesus turns the table, and offers this woman something called living water, hers for the asking. He starts out thirsty, asks her to give Him a drink. Then identifies her as the thirsty one and He the source of water!

10 Jesus replied to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

- You know what’s so great about this? Jesus is freely offering something she desperately needs but didn’t ask for. She doesn’t even realize she needs it. We know he’s talking about salvation because we know the story, but she doesn’t know that yet. So, we need to cut her some slack!
- They are at a well, so He describes what He has to offer as “living water.” It’s a metaphor. Regular water is necessary for physical life; living water is necessary for spiritual life. Not only is that a great analogy to use in that particular situation, but it also has OT foundations. For example, in Jeremiah 2:13 God said disobedient Israel “has forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves broken cisterns that can hold no water.” Isaiah says, “The redeemed in Him will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.” And “Behold! Every one that thirsts, come and drink water.”
- Notice two key words here – Gift and Ask. Gift - the free gift of God. Paul uses the same word in Romans 6:23 the free gift. If it’s earned, it’s not a gift. If you pay for it, it’s not a gift. He is offering as “gift of God.” Ask – What do you have to do to receive this gift? Ask. In fact, that is all we can do. This is the uniqueness of the gospel. In opposition to all other religions, which says “Do this, do this, do this, do this, and God will accept you. Live this morality. Do this ceremony. Do this ritual. Better yourself, and God will accept you.” The Gospel of Christ says, “Whoever you are, wherever you are in life, all you have to do is ask.
- This woman is still trying to figure Him out. She might reasonably be assuming living water was what was in the well. It was spring fed, a hundred feet deep, consistently given water from Jacob’s time until then. 2000 years! That’s pretty impressive. So, she responds in a natural, physical world kind of way...

11 She said to Him, “Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water? 12 You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?”

- The conversation, in her mind probably, is getting a little weird. Is this guy delusional? Having heat stroke? Dehydrated? “Are you greater than Jacob who gave us this well?” she asks. And she’s thinking “No way!”, but she couldn’t be more wrong! Jesus, bless His heart, is not giving up on her (a role model for us to follow!). He is now going to make a clear distinction between the kind of water in Jacob’s well, and the kind of water He is offering.

13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”

- Jacob was a great man, dug a wonderful well, stood the test of time for 2,000 years. But drink from it today, you’re going to be thirsty again tomorrow. And the next day. And the next day. In verse 14, Jesus gets specific. What He is offering isn’t physical water of any type. It is living water...eternal life. She didn’t realize it, but this was exactly what she’s has been searching for. Fallen man does not seek after God but instead flees from God (that’s scriptural). But the irony is that while man is fleeing from God, man is also desperately seeking after the things only God can give. Peace, joy, fulfillment, meaning, relief from guilt, something to fill their emptiness. They just don’t realize only God can do that. You can look all around us today and

see all the things people are trying to do to put into their lives to fill the hole that only God can fill. As St. Augustin said, “Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.”

- It looks like she was trying to find meaning, fulfillment, it in a string of failed personal relationships. I’m sure each time she married she said, “this is the one that will make me happy, this is the one that will last.” Only it didn’t. She may not know exactly what he’s talking about, but it sounds good, and she wants it. So, she more or less goes with the flow saying, “Sure, sign me up.”

15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water.”

- “Give me this water...if you have it, give it to me.” But inside she’s probably thinking “I don’t think you have it, because there’s really no such thing.” It probably strikes her as wishful thinking. This offer sounds too good to be true, which is not an unreasonable response from an unbeliever to the gospel. “For the wages of sin is death, but the FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Yeah, right. In an unexpected turn, Jesus steers the conversation to her personal life. He does this is a rather bold and unusual command. This is not just a clever ploy to reveal his bona fides as a prophet of God, or to set her up for a “gotcha” moment. But he has a reason for it.

16 He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” 17 The woman answered and said to Him, “I have no husband.” Jesus *said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true.”

- The scriptures tell us Jesus knew what was in the heart of all men and women. He knows their thoughts, their history, knows everything there is to know about them. He knows her history. Her sinful life has been exposed, she can’t hide, there’s nowhere to go. Part of the gospel message is to bring the sinner to face with their sinfulness, because faith must be accompanied by what...? Repentance! Repentance is not a WORK that earns you salvation. But it is an attitude, a frame of mind that accompanies faith in Christ.
- If we say – “Change your life, then you can come to Christ.” – that’s not the Gospel. But if we say, “Come to Christ, and you don’t need to change anything at all.” That not the gospel either! The true Gospel says, “Come to Christ as you are, where you are, and God will give you power to change and live a life that honors and reflects His holiness.” Like the woman caught in adultery in John 8 – Jesus told her, after all her accusers left “I don’t condemn you.” Now what? “Go and sin no more.” Basically “Cut that out!” She’s unwilling to tell the whole truth, so Jesus tells it for her. We don’t know any details of the 5 failed marriages, but it wouldn’t be a stretch to think she probably played a part in the breakups. I read this “demotivational poster” about relationships which said, “The one constant in all your failed relationships is YOU.” Ouch! Plus, if she had been totally faultless (like her first 5 husbands died due to accidents or natural causes...talk about your bad luck), Jesus probably wouldn’t have brought them up. But He did. Regardless, she is certainly living in an immoral relationship now. Think of the shock you would feel is a total stranger were to reveal a detailed knowledge of your past, particularly those parts of your past about which you are most

ashamed. And now she knows she is not talking to any ordinary/delusional man, but someone who speaks from God...

19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

- She realizes this man can’t know this unless God is telling Him. Perceive (Grk. theoreo) means “to come to the knowledge of.” She has come to the knowledge that he is no delusional stranger; He is, in fact, a prophet... a spokesman of the living God. Now that she knows He’s a prophet, she wants to know more. She’s going to ask Jesus a question about worship. We don’t know her thoughts or motivation to her question here (it doesn’t matter; what matters is Jesus’s answer). Some commentators think she is just changing the subject to avoid an uncomfortable topic. “He’s getting to personal with me, so I have to change the subject.” Perhaps, but I don’t think so. I doubt she thinks she can distract a prophet of God along the lines of “Look Jesus, a squirrel!” Here’s what she said...

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.

- I tend to think she legitimately wanted to know “Where should I go to worship?” If she is feeling the weight of any God-given conviction, if she wants to be right with God, to go and bow before Him, TO WORSHIP this is a legitimate request. It’s an honest question because the Jews say the temple in Jerusalem was the appropriate place to worship God, but her tradition said the temple here at Mt. Gerizim.

21 Jesus said to her, “Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews.

- Being divine, Jesus knows...in less than 40 years, the genuine Jewish temple in Jerusalem and the Samaritan on Mount Gerizim are going to be completely destroyed, for good, by the Romans (in response to the Jewish rebellion). God was fulfilling his covenant with Abraham wherein He promised that He would make Abraham a great nation, and out of that nation (the Jews) would come the Messiah, who would bring salvation not just to the Jews, but to the whole world. Abraham and his descendants were chosen by God for this purpose, they had God’s revelations (or as Paul said, the Jews were “entrusted with the auricles of God.” Rom 3:2). This is why Jesus says “You worship what you don’t know, we worship what we do know. Salvation is from (out of) the Jews.” Then comes THE single-most definitive text in the gospels, if not all the New Testament, on the matter of worship...

23 But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- What does the Father seek? True worshippers. What does it take to be a true worshipper? Worshipping God in spirit and in truth. It is so appropriate that this incredible truth about God seeking true worshippers comes in the middle of this story of individual salvation. Because Salvation itself is a tremendous act of worship!!! Acknowledging/Receiving Christ as Lord is the FIRST act of worship in anyone’s life because you cannot bow the knee to God in any

meaningful way until you have bowed the knee to God in answer to HIS command to obey the gospel of His Son. True worship begins with salvation, in believing and confessing Jesus as Lord. Fallen, old-nature unregenerate people can never truly worship. They have no desire, and no ability, to worship God. That's not a judgment, not a slam, not a holier-than-thou opinion. That's just a fact. We must first bow on knee in submission to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- JESUS'S GIVES US INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO WORSHIP.
 - IN SPIRIT – TRUE WORSHIP COMES FROM THE HEART. The crucifixion of Jesus ended the entire Old Testament system of external, ceremonial, symbolic worship and priestly intercession and sacrifice. There will be no need for temples, for the priesthood, altars, sacrifices, priestly clothes incense, candles, etc. The splitting of the veil not only symbolically showed that we could enter God's presence, but that God's presence was free to go out dwell among us! We don't have to go to the temple to be in God's presence. His presence is everywhere. This has always been true, and the rending of the veil is a vivid visual aid to remind us of that fact. Instead, genuine worship comes from the depth of our soul, from our inner spirit, from the very core of our being (e.g., Mary's Magnificat - When Mary sang her song of praise to God after being visited by the angel, she cried out "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." That is worship from the heart).
 - IN TRUTH – TRUE WORSHIP AFFIRMS THE TRUE GOD. Some Christians might think, if my pastor didn't preach (or preach so long), we'd have more time for worship. But the fact is, if the pastor didn't preach, we wouldn't know how to worship. Our worship is informed by our understanding of the revelation of God in Scripture. Our worship only goes up as high as we go down into God's word. The deeper we go into the truth about God, the higher we go in worship. Superficial knowledge of God leads to superficial worship. If you want to increase your worship game, learn more about who God is. The more we see God as He really is, the more we will naturally respond with worship (e.g., Exodus 4:31 after Moses told the Israelites he was there because God was setting his people free. Look at what happened! "So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed low and worshiped." Their (and our) natural response to seeing God for Who He really is, it to respond in WORSHIP).
- So, our conclusion here is this: Christ is ushering in a new era of worship, that does not focus on externals but on what is internal and real and is genuine. Now, every place is a sanctuary, and every believer is a priest that can go directly into the presence of God. All you need to worship is the truth in the Scripture and a heart that loves God. So why is Jesus Christ redeeming this Samaritan woman? So that she can become what the Father is seeking, and what she CANNOT become unless she is redeemed, a TRUE WORSHIPPER. Why did Jesus Christ redeem you and me? Same reason! Christ didn't just rescue us FROM something, He also rescued us FOR something. Back to the story: The Samaritans may have corrupted the religion of their fathers, but they knew enough to know that a Messiah had been promised. The woman acknowledges as much in verse 25...

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."

- Imagine her bringing this up, standing before the Messiah Himself. Maybe she's thinking, "Prophets are good, but we're not going to have the full truth until God speaks to us through His Messiah." Jesus then drops a bombshell on her. (This is a goose bump moment.)

26 Jesus said to her, "I am He, the One speaking to you."

- "The Messiah has come, and He's standing right in front of you! This is one of the most glorious statements in all of scripture! And the first time we see Jesus identifies Himself as the promised Messiah. Yahweh was God's personal name He gave to Moses when Moses asked, "When I talk to the sons of Israel, and they ask me "who sent you, what is His name?" what should I say? God answered, "I AM WHO I AM" Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you" (Ex. 3:14).
- Jesus here revealed Himself to her using the Greek equivalent of "I AM" which is "ego eimi" the emphatic I AM statement. He is saying "I am the I AM." Which as we will see in this Gospel, Jesus is going use it quite a bit (23 times). You and I might need a little history lesson to understand what Jesus was claiming when He said this but make no mistake, every Jew in Jesus's time know exactly the claim Jesus was making every time he used the phrase "Ego eimi" I AM. One more point: Jesus clearly points something else out here: that the Messiah, the anointed one, would not only be a prophet, (speak FOR God) but would also BE God Incarnate.

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What are You seeking?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?"

- They were amazed at Jesus's "breach of etiquette" but didn't question it. Sometimes the best/wisest thing you and I can do is to not question God, but just to observe what He is doing, and to trust what He is doing. At some point, the change fell in the meter, and it clicked with this woman, and she understood Who was standing in front of her and what He was offering, because of what happened next...

28 So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and *said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?" 30 They left the city and were coming to Him.

- Her salvation is so manifestly evident that immediately she is the human instrument the Lord uses to bring people in her village to salvation. Through this encounter she has overcome whatever shame she had, she's not no longer skulking around avoiding people. In a hurry, she left her waterpot which would have slowed her down. She headed back to the city to share her news. The text actually says, not "said to the people," but "said to the men." Why men? Because, typically at the gate of every village in this time/culture the older men met daily, and adjudicated the issues of the town, and listened to what the townspeople had to say.
- So, she ran to these men and told them her story. After relating what had just happened to her, instead of making a statement, she asks a question instead of making a statement. She asks, "Is it possible He is the Messiah?" If she had said to them, "I just met the Messiah." They likely would've said "Ha! Right! The Messiah just came to see YOU? Good one. How gullible do you think we are? Next!" But instead, her question was an offer of "check it out for yourself and you decide." She wanted them to discover what she had discovered. Which they did! Skip

down to verse 30 and we see the impact of her efforts. Then verse 39 says, “From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of this woman who testified.” This is the heart of our gospel message even today, “Come and meet Jesus Christ! Who offers eternal life for the asking.”

So, what’s your NEXT STEP?

- Remember, our next step always begins with faith in Christ. Either placing faith in Him for the first time or exercising faith to repent, change, and grow. Either way, His Spirit will help you.

Quotes/Additional thoughts:

- **Context:** The Gospel of the Apostle John, the son of Zebedee, provides a clearly stated purpose. *John 20:30-31* says, “**Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**” Some people demand to have all their questions satisfied before bowing to Jesus, yet John claimed his limited account was enough to bring anyone to faith. As we read it, our Savior and friend emerges from the pages as a real person in the real world. Jesus shows us what we could become, if we too would rely on His infinite Father who will gladly supply whatever we need.
- **Life in his name:** Life is the Greek word, “zōē”, which means “Life, Living, Lifetime, Life-Giving” and is where we get the word, “zoology” in English. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says it’s “used in the NT of life as a principle, life in the absolute sense, life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son to have in Himself, Jhn 5:26, and which the Son manifested in the world, 1Jo 1:2. From this life man has become alienated in consequence of the Fall, Eph 4:18, and of this life men become partakers through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jhn 3:15, who becomes its Author to all such as trust in Him, Act 3:15, and who is therefore said to be 'the life' of the believer, Col 3:4, for the life that He gives He maintains, Jhn 6:35, 63. Eternal life is the present actual possession of the believer because of his relationship with Christ, Jhn 5:24; 1Jo 3:14, and that it will one day extend its domain to the sphere of the body is assured by the Resurrection of Christ, 2Cr 5:4; 2Ti 1:10. This life is not merely a principle of power and mobility, however, for it has moral associations which are inseparable from it, as of holiness and righteousness. Death and sin, life and holiness, are frequently contrasted in the Scriptures.”

Articles/Songs/Videos:

Helpful thoughts for discussion leaders:

1. Go for a single, not a home run...don’t drag the night out; realize more people = less deep sharing.
2. Keep discussion around 30mins. Once you hit the “sweet spot”, spend your time there.

Challenge Questions

Review the BIG IDEA: God saves us so we can be true worshippers.

-Simple questions...What is God teaching you? What are you going to do about it? How will it help you love & serve others?

Preparation questions for John 4:1-29.

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Application questions from John 4:1-29.

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Here are some great resources for digging deeper into community group life...

How life together looks <http://austinstone.org/stories/film/item/140-missional-community-lukes-story>

Rethinking what we do https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvWnXYSELF4&feature=player_embedded

Numerous articles to provoke thought <http://toddengstrom.com/archives/>

What groups of 2-3 might look like <http://toddengstrom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LTG-Overview.pdf>