Pacific Community Church
Growth Group Sermon Questions

Date: November 22nd, 2026
Sermon Series: Standalone
Sermon Title: "When Assumptions Get In The Way"
Primary Text(s): John 4:1-42

1. **Read John 4:1-42.**

2. **Tell us about a time you felt misunderstood or judged because someone made an assumption about you. What did it feel like to be seen through someone else's assumptions rather than understood for who you really were?**

   Leader's Notes: We all know what it feels like to have someone make assumptions about us without knowing our full story. Encourage the group to reflect on how it feels when people make assumptions rather than take the time to understand us.

3. **What assumptions do you think the Samaritan woman had about Jesus when He first approached her? What surprised her about the way Jesus treated her?**

   Leader's Notes: The woman was surprised that a Jewish man would speak to her, let alone ask her for a drink. There was a long history of ethnic and religious hostility between Jews and Samaritans. There were also cultural boundaries around men speaking publicly with women. She likely expected Jesus to keep his distance.

4. **Jesus crossed significant cultural, religious, and gender boundaries to engage with this woman. What boundaries do we maintain today, even unintentionally? What might following Jesus require of us to reconsider?**

   Leader's Notes: Jesus challenged the social norms of his day by treating someone others might have avoided as worthy of his attention.

5. **The Samaritan woman had a complicated life story, yet Jesus didn't reduce her to her circumstances. What labels have you placed on yourself based on your circumstances? How does Jesus' response challenge those labels?**

   Leader's Notes: Her five marriages and current relationship situation were not barriers to receiving God's gift. We can similarly define ourselves by our failures, disappointments, relationships, or perceived lack of success.

6. **Jesus knew the woman's story before she told Him. If God already knows, what makes it hard for us to be open and vulnerable before Him?**

   Leader's Notes: We often approach God with a polished version of ourselves, hiding our struggles or trying to demonstrate that we have things together. Yet Jesus already knows us completely. Explore the difference between knowing intellectually that God sees us and actually living with the freedom of being fully known and loved.

7. **Jesus offered the woman living water, but she initially misunderstood what He meant. What are some things we pursue today hoping they will satisfy a deeper thirst?**

   Leader's Notes: The woman initially thought Jesus was offering a more convenient source of physical water. We can make similar mistakes by looking at career success, wealth, achievement, or even religious activity for lasting fulfillment. Discuss why these things cannot ultimately provide the life and satisfaction Jesus offers.

8. **The woman left her water jar behind and immediately went to tell her community about Jesus. What does her response reveal about the relationship between encountering Jesus and sharing our faith?**

   Leader's Notes: Her encounter with Jesus changed what mattered to her. She didn't wait until she had all the answers or a perfect story to tell. She simply invited others to come and see. Discuss what can sometimes prevent us from sharing our experiences of Jesus with others.

9. **If our church genuinely saw people the way Jesus sees them, what would need to change about the way we welcome, include, and engage with others?**

   Leader's Notes: Jesus didn't simply tolerate the Samaritan woman. He took her seriously and entrusted her with a significant role in bringing others to faith. Consider whether our church creates opportunities for people with different stories and backgrounds to belong, contribute, and grow.

10. **What is one part of my story I need to bring honestly before Jesus? Or what is one assumption about another person that I may need to surrender?**

    Leader's Notes: Invite the group to move from discussing the sermon to now personally responding to it. The leader may need to share first to break the ice.