
IT WASN'T THE WATER HE CAME FOR,
IT WAS ME!

-WOMAN AT THE WELL



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INTRODUCTION

JOHN 4:1-42

It wasn't the water
He came for,
It was me!

-Woman at the Well



The story of the Samaritan woman is compelling. She is famously known as the woman at the well. Her story captivates our hearts with the core themes of the Gospel. In reaching out to her, Jesus profoundly illustrates His boundless love and compassion for everyone, transcending societal barriers. The Samaritan woman's fervent enthusiasm deeply inspires us. She eagerly spreads the transformative good news of Jesus to her community.

This passage is a profound testament to the boundless love of Jesus. It shows that His work extends salvation not just to the Jews, but to every soul on this planet. Jesus, our perfect Great High Priest, intercedes on our behalf. He forges a vibrant new covenantal relationship between God and humanity. Through His awe-inspiring sacrifice, our sins are not merely covered. They are completely atoned for. This grants us the miraculous gift of new life. It enables us to thrive in the fullness of His abundant grace.

The powerful story of the woman at the well reveals the heart of Jesus. He passionately reaches out to the least of these! He cares deeply for society's outcasts. The Samaritan woman was judged as inferior because of her gender, ethnicity, and past. Yet, she found herself embraced in Jesus's love. Her desperate need for salvation transcended all societal labels. This story is a stirring reminder. No one is beyond the transformative grace of God. This applies regardless of their circumstances. We must fervently share the Gospel with our neighbors. We should extend God's love indiscriminately. Our focus should be especially on those whom society casts aside as unworthy.

Finally, this account shows that Jesus satisfies not only our physical needs. He also satisfies our spiritual needs: whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst. If we follow Him, we can rest in the promise that the troubles of this world are temporary. We can endure them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This workbook was made to help you get deeper into the word of God. Begin this study with prayer and ask the Lord to reveal His Word to you. The first section is the full portion of scripture to study. Take your time and feel free to mark this portion up. Highlight the sections that speak to you and stand out:

- Where does the story take place
- Who are the main characters?
- Is there conflict?
- Is there a command?
- Is there a warning?
- Is there a promise?
- Is there a revelation of the character of God?
- What is the key theme of this passage of scripture?

The next sections are questions to reflect upon for this passage of scripture.

Finally, the last section is how can you apply this passage of scripture to your daily walk with the Lord. What does the Lord reveal to you and about and His love for you?



UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

John 4:1-42.

⁴ Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John — ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

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¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, 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, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you – I am he.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

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³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

SETTING

Where does this passage of scripture take place?

CHARACTERS

Who are the main characters and how are they described?

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

KEY EVENTS

What are the significant events that happen in this passage of scripture?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

What is the historical background of the people and location?

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT

CULTURAL CONTEXT

What is the cultural context of this passage of scripture?

TENSION

Why is there tension between Jews and Samaritans?

JESUS' APPROACH

JESUS' INITIATIVE

Reflect on Jesus' willingness to engage with an outsider, both geographically and socially.

JESUS' QUESTIONS

What specific questions did Jesus ask? How did they lead the conversation to a deeper level? How did the woman react to His questions?

JESUS' APPROACH

REFLECTION

Consider how Jesus' approach can serve as a model for how we interact with others, regardless of status or background.

THE WOMAN'S TRANSFORMATION

HER INITIAL RESPONSE

Examine her initial reaction to Jesus' words, noting her curiosity and eventual recognition of Jesus as the Messiah.

THE WOMAN'S TRANSFORMATION

THE LIVING WATER

Study the concept of living water. What is its significance in the context of this story? Reflect upon how it relates to spiritual thirst and eternal life.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ENCOUNTER

GOD'S GRACE

Reflect on the concept of God's grace as demonstrated in Jesus' encounter with the woman. How can this be applied to our own lives?

BREAKING BARRIERS

How does this encounter encourage you to seek God's grace to be a witness of His love?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ENCOUNTER

REFLECTION

How does this encounter encourage you to seek God's grace to be able to be a witness of His love?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

PRAYER

Spend time with the Lord asking Him for opportunities to share your faith.

SERVICE

Look for opportunities to serve others, especially those who are marginalized or in need. Where can you begin to serve others?

REFLECTION

How has this story impacted your life and how can you apply its lesson to your daily walk? What is God calling you to do in obedience to His Word?



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