

John #3: The Woman from Samaria
John 4:1-26

Objectives: We want to begin to understand our own journey of relating to Christ. We want to understand that no one is too sinful or far from God to receive salvation. We want to deepen our understanding of the Good News that Jesus offers and get excited to share our story with others.

Getting to Know You (5 minutes)

The goal is to have something to help students get to know one another... This would be a good thing for a younger student to lead.

Launch (3 minutes)

“This semester we are going to discuss different passages in the gospel of John. John was one of the people who knew and followed Jesus. For the next few weeks we are taking some time to look at how Jesus interacts with people who have very diverse backgrounds.

To review, last week we saw Jesus interact with a powerful, wealthy religious man named Nicodemus. We learned that no one is so good that they do not need to be made new in God. This week we are going to see Jesus interact with someone who is almost the complete opposite of Nicodemus.”

Note- this is a long passage. We are going to focus on the interaction of Jesus with the woman and what He offers her.

Explore

Cultural background- There are a few cultural realities that can help us better grasp this amazing story.

- At this time in history, a Jewish Rabbi would never speak to a woman, especially alone.
- Jews and Samaritans had hated one another for hundreds of years.
- Samaritans had a different religious belief and Jews considered them to be spiritually unclean.
- A good Jewish person would never eat with or share utensils with a Samaritan.

Read John 4:1-26

- **How would you describe the woman? Why do you think these descriptions are**

significant? (*Samaritan (wrong religion); wounded (on 5th husband); possibly ashamed (getting water at the hottest time of the day to avoid people); bold, curious, honest*)

- **How would you describe Jesus?** (*tired/thirsty, human, kind, more direct than normal*)
- We have the basic scene set for our story tonight. A Holy Jewish Rabbi, intentionally interacts with a vulnerable outcast with a shady past.
- **How would you describe the tone of the interaction in 7-15?** (*pretty light hearted and respectful. The woman seems curious and open*)
- **Read 16-18. How do you think the woman felt as Jesus revealed some very personal parts of her story? Why?** (*embarrassed, ashamed, defensive*)
- In that culture it was very shameful to have 5 husbands and to be living with someone who did not love you enough to marry you. **What are things that cause shame in our culture?**
- **What does Jesus offer to this woman who clearly felt tired, alone and ashamed?** [*living water (10); eternal life (14); salvation (22); an opportunity to be a God worshipper (24)*]
- **In what ways is this teaching good news to you? What sounds good to you?** (*it is good that no one is too far from God. Living water bubbling up to eternal life sounds amazing. Removing my shame and replacing it with the honor of being a part of God's family*)
- Jesus is offering to remove the woman's shame and to give her new life, new honor and a new family. **How does the woman respond? Read 27-30; 39-42** (*She believed, then went and told her people in the town and many of them believed as well*)

Apply (in small groups)

- **What do you learn about Jesus through his interaction with this woman?**
- **For this woman, her shame could have been a barrier keeping her from the love of Jesus. What is something that keeps you from the love of Jesus?**
- **Often people contrast shame with honor. What are ways Jesus offers honor to the woman?** *(even though Jesus knows her shameful past, he offers her a spot in his family.)*
- **In your own words, how would a person receive the offer of honor from Jesus?** *(John 1:12-13 is a good place to start!)*
- **Why do you think she was so excited to immediately tell her community about her interaction with Jesus?**
- It is clear that this woman was just starting her journey of following Jesus, yet she was able to lead many to also follow him. God loves to use people who are still in process to share His Good News. Including you 😊 **Who is one person in your “community” (here or back home) that you would like to share your story with?**
- **Pray that Jesus would remove our shame and that we would receive his honor. Pray that we could walk in freedom in our new life.**

Announce

-