

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 05.07.2023

THIS IS THE WAY – John 4:7-18

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Danny tells us “Moses met with God on a mountain called Sinai. In the minds of some elevation served as a buffer between the nation that occupied the desert floor below and God’s presence above. Sinai served as a threshold or stopover on Israel’s way to the Land of Promise. It was where recently liberated people met the God who set them free. But while Moses was on the mountain things didn’t go so well back at base camp. Impatience caused the people to pressure Aaron to make them an idol. Breaking rule number one of God’s top ten commandments. As the story goes, Aaron threw some jewelry into the fire and out came a gold calf. As Moses approached the camp, first he heard then he saw the people worshipping the image. The scene was R rated for sure. In his anger he slammed the first edition of the Law to the ground. Shattering tablets of stone. This is a good reason to never leave your sibling in charge. Those guilty of idolatry died that day. But Moses’ intercession spared Israel from severe judgment. He returned to the summit and surprisingly God met with him again. Considering Israel’s sin, the interaction is telling. Get this instead of moving away or moving on God came near.” The bottom line is that God is kind and its His kindness that leads us to repentance. John chapter 4 details how Jesus’ kindness lead a woman with a colorful past to salvation and freedom. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. **What struck you most from Pastor Danny’s sermon?**

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:1-9

Today we will be studying about Christ talking to a woman who was a Samaritan. She was a woman with a colorful past. She was probably hated by all of the other women in the village because she was very immoral and lived in adultery. This was the reason why it was necessary for her to come and get water in the hottest part of the day instead of coming in the morning or the evening when it was cool. It was easier to get her water during the hot part of the day than it was to listen to the gossip and hatred of the other women. Here we see that Christ is able to change any person no matter how sinful that person may be.

1. **Where were the disciples? What might the Samaritan woman have thought when she came to the well in the middle of the day and found a Jewish man sitting next to it?**
2. **How might the woman have felt having a conversation at the town well?**
3. **Why did Jesus ask the woman at the well for a drink? (vs 7)**
4. **What two issues does she raise in verse 9?**

The Samaritan woman would have been dually surprised that someone was at the well, and that the person was a Jewish man who wanted to talk. This was no accident. Jesus was purposeful in reaching everyone with the gospel.

“PROMISES” in 2023

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:10-15

- 1. The Samaritan woman and Jesus have two different ideas about “living water”. What were they?**
- 2. How does this reveal a misunderstanding of satisfaction? How can you relate to this misunderstanding?**
- 3. Why was the living water Jesus described attractive to the woman?**
- 4. If Jesus was living water, why didn’t He make it easier on her to receive it? What was her responsibility in the exchange?**

Jesus talked about the water and described living water that gave new life, but the Samaritan woman thought he meant running water, like a river or stream. The woman wanted living water that would never leave her thirsty, because she would not need to go to the well every day and see the people of her town. Pastor Robby explains, “The woman has to recognize who the source of living water is. It’s more than head knowledge; it’s a relationship with Him... She has to act on it. She has to physically ask Him for the water.”

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 4:16-18

- 1. Why does Jesus ask the woman to get her husband?**
- 2. In what way do we see a demonstration of Jesus’ divinity in this passage?**
- 3. What does Jesus reveal about the woman’s misplaced thirst in verses 16-18?**

The woman had been married five times and lived with a man that was not her husband. She was an outcast and perhaps could not go to the well in the morning because she feared having to talk with the other women and hear their snickering. Jesus engaged the woman with intentional conversation that addressed her deepest needs. As they spoke, she discovered more and more who Jesus was: a man, a prophet, the Christ.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

KINDNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING: In her memoir about the journey from being a committed lesbian to a committed Christian, Rosaria Butterfield says that, as a non-Christian, her impression of evangelical Christians was that they were poor thinkers, judgmental, scornful, and afraid of diversity. After publishing a critique of an evangelical Christian group in her local newspaper, she received an enormous volume of polarized responses. Placing an empty box in each corner of her desk, she sorted hate mail into one and fan mail into the other. Then she received a two-page response from a local pastor. “It was a kind and inquiring letter,” she says. It had a warmth and civility to it, in addition to its probing questions. She couldn’t figure out which box to put the letter in, so it sat on her desk for seven days. “It was the kindest letter of opposition that I had ever received.” Its tone demonstrated that the writer wasn’t against her. Eventually, she contacted the pastor and became friends with him and his wife. “They talked with me in a way that didn’t make me feel erased.” Their friendship was an important part of her journey to faith.

- 1. The woman’s concept of Jesus transformed over the course of her conversation with the Messiah. How has your view of Jesus transformed over the course of your life?**
- 2. Why do some believers continue to let their past condition prevent them from experiencing joy in relationship to Jesus now? How would you counsel a person like that?**

“PROMISES” in 2023

- 3. It is clear by the Samaritan woman’s reaction that Jesus speaking to her made for an uncomfortable situation from her view. Yet Jesus continued getting to know her and spoke life-giving truth to her. Who can you reach out to that, prior to this study, you may have been uncomfortable reaching out to?**

PRAYER – Thank God for Jesus, who is living water and the reason you never have to thirst again. Ask Him to draw you closer to Him as you seek to never let your past or present condition prevent you from surrendering your life to Him.

“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? (Rom. 2:4)