



The Gospel of John has been labeled an intimate gospel because of the way Jesus personally interacts with others. In chapter 3 we studied Jesus' personal conversation with Nicodemus, and today we'll study Jesus' personal conversation with a Samaritan woman in chapter 4. Before discussing our passage it's important to know that there was a history of animosity between the Jews and Samaritans. Because of this, most Jews would have never traveled through Samaria to get to Galilee even though it was the shorter route. Instead, they would have traveled to Galilee via the Jordan River to avoid the Samaritans.

1. There are times in the Christian life when we should avoid people, but there will be many occasions we need to be the light of the world. Where do you need to have a greater engagement with those around who you are far from Jesus?
2. **Read John 4:1-6.** On Sunday we learned about the strained relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus chose to walk into a territory where this hostile relationship existed. Share about Jesus walking into your life to meet you in your circumstances.
3. **Read John 4:7-12.** Jesus' pattern was to engage with people who were far from God, and this woman fit that description. Throughout His life Jesus associated with sinners and tax collectors (see **Matthew 9:10-13** and **Luke 15:1-2**). How does this make you feel?
4. While asking this woman for a drink, Jesus turned the conversation from physical to spiritual. **Read John 4:13-20.** Think about Jesus' interaction with this woman and discuss what we can learn about engaging people in spiritual conversations from his example.
5. It seems like Jesus touches a sore spot in this woman's life. She has been divorced several times. Jesus knows the areas of our life that are broken and in disarray. How can we lovingly expose sin in someone's life while showing grace upon grace?
6. **Read John 4:21-26.** Jesus teaches this woman that worship can take place anywhere and needs to be done in spirit and truth. Do you have anything from your past that hinders you from grasping this truth?
7. As the story comes to a conclusion, Jesus teaches the disciples how to talk to all the wrong people. **Read John 4:31-42.** Thinking about the harvest, where do you see God opening doors in your life to share the love of Jesus?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for an opportunity to talk to others about Jesus.