



That you may believe...
Study Lesson Week 4

This week's title: The Living Water - **John 4:1-42**

Highlighted verse: *"...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"* - **John 4:14**

Day 1: Read John 4:1-42

1. Read John 4:1-42 at least once, jotting down initial observations.

Day 2: Read John 4: 1-18

1. When reading the Bible we should seek to understand the author's original meaning as best we can. Sometimes this involves considering the historical context too.

a) Do you think John meant to show a contrast between Nicodemus in chapter three and the Samaritan woman in chapter four? List some differences between Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman. Why do you think John may have described these encounters with Jesus so close together?

b) Historically, it was sinful for Jewish men to talk with Samaritan women. What do we learn about Jesus from his encounter with this woman?

2. What do you think Jesus meant by "living water"? How do you understand the thirst Jesus talks about?

Day 3: Read John 4: 18-42

1. What decision did the women face?

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2. Read John 4: 35-38 and Matthew 9:36-38. What is the harvest and who are the harvesters?

Day 4: Read John 20:31

1. Consider how John 4:1-42 relates to John's purpose in writing this Gospel. "...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). What do we learn about Jesus from his declaration in John 4:26?

2. Read John 4:39-42. Notice how often the word believe appears in these verses. What did the Samaritans believe about Jesus?

Day 5: Read John 4:1-42

1. Jesus speaks of living water in this passage. How has Jesus quenched your thirst with living water?

2. Jesus was willing to speak with a person others would have avoided. Can you think of some people that may be viewed as despised by the church today? How can we follow the example of Jesus?