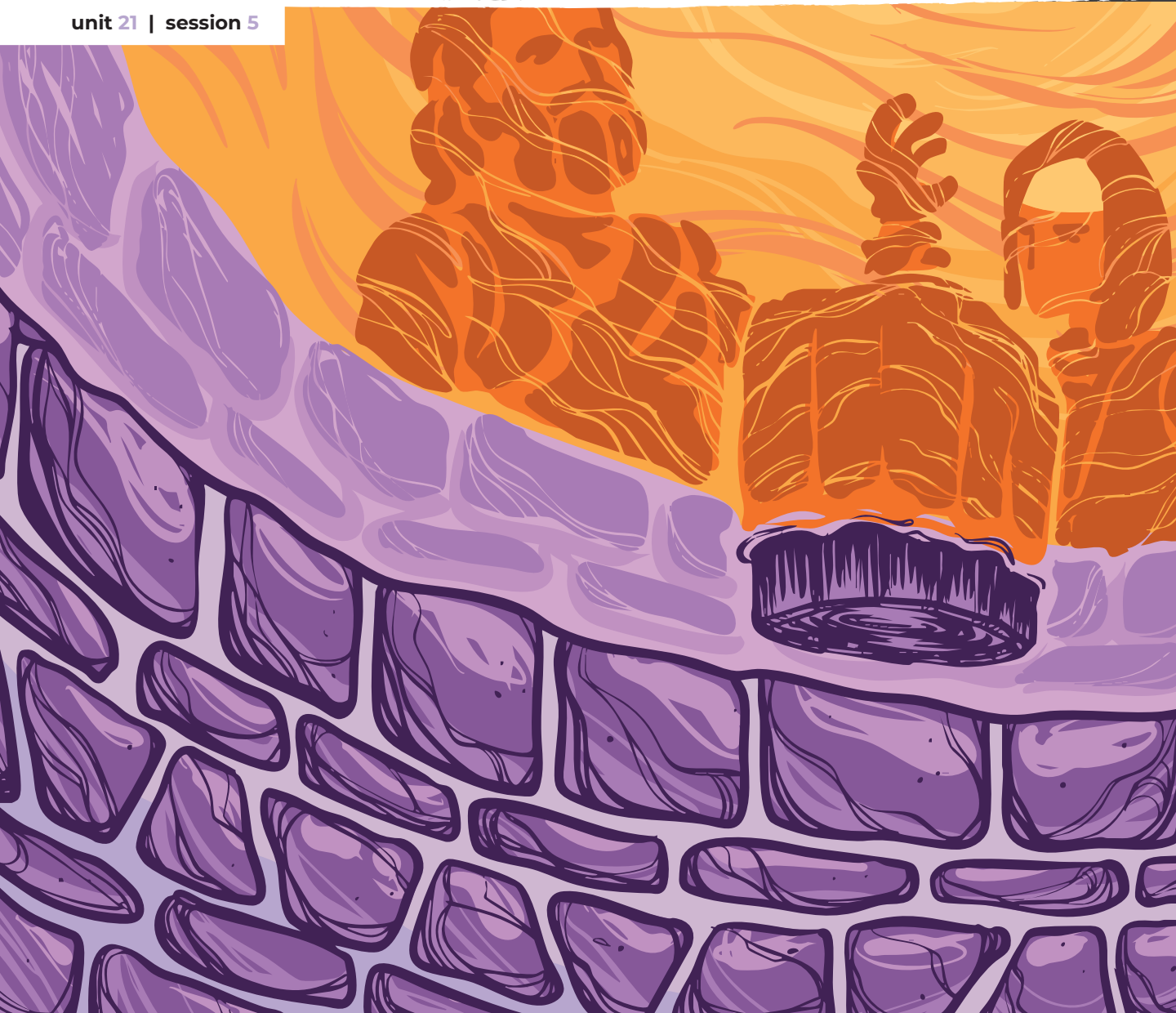


LIVING WATER

unit 21 | session 5



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that a day was coming when worshipers would not focus on the physical location of their worship, but they would worship God in Spirit and truth. Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, our worship is no longer confined by geography. We worship Jesus as the Savior of the whole world, wherever we are.

EXPOSING SIN LEADS TO FREEDOM

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

John 4:1-42

GOD'S LOVE BREAKS BARRIERS

JOHN 4:7-14

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, 8 because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. 9 "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water." 11 "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'?" 12 You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." 13 Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

GOD'S LOVE SATISFIES

JOHN 4:15-30

15 "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." 16 "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here." 17 "I don't have a husband," she answered. "You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. 18 "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour 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, because salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he." 27 Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They left the town and made their way to him.

MAIN POINT.

Jesus knows us fully and still loves us deeply.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CHRIST AS RECONCILIATION

Ever since the fall of the first man and woman in the garden of Eden, God and human beings have been estranged. Sin resulted not only in an estranged relationship with God but also in creating opposition between God and humanity. Sin is an infinite offense against an infinite God. Thankfully, God loves His enemies and has sent Christ to be the reconciler between us and God. Through Christ's death, God provides the means for that broken relationship to be restored and renewed (Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:18-19).

DISCUSSION

GOD'S LOVE BREAKS BARRIERS

JOHN 4:7-14

- How does the woman react to Jesus speaking to her?
- ♥ • How does culture value some people more than others? What does Jesus's interaction with this woman teach us about our worth?
- ✝ • Read Jeremiah 2:13. What is the difference between the well water and the water Jesus offered? How does the living water change our lives?

GOD'S LOVE SATISFIES

JOHN 4:15-30

- Read verses 19-24. What point was Jesus making?
- 📖 • Was Jesus's attitude toward the woman condemning or something else? What does this show you about His heart?
- 👤 • What did the woman do after Jesus exposed her sin? What does this help you realize?



WHO AROUND YOU NEEDS TO HEAR THAT GOD LOVES AND VALUES THEM? HOW CAN YOU INTERACT AND SHARE HOPE WITH PEOPLE CULTURE IGNORES?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

We're a culture that chases emotional highs and runs after adrenaline. We seek what makes us feel good. But the problem is that feeling good wears off after a while. Emotions fade; adrenaline diminishes. When we begin to feel sad, bored, lonely, or empty, we look for the next fix—for anything we can find to make us feel better. In a way, we've learned to numb the voice deep within us saying, "This isn't enough. This isn't what you need. There's something better." The truth is that temporary highs will disappoint us. And chasing them will wear us out. Why? God didn't design us to chase worldly comforts. He designed us for a relationship with Him. He designed us to depend on Him for peace, joy, and contentment. Since Eden, we've searched everywhere else but in a relationship with God to fill an emptiness that only grows and deepens without Him. In Jesus, we find real satisfaction that lasts—even when life is stressful, lonely, and sad—because it's rooted in the assurance of eternal life with God.



DAY ONE

JOHN 4:7-9



We've talked a lot about how Jesus offers abundant life. We often read this on paper but struggle with living it out and experiencing it for ourselves. Many of us are walking in this abundant life, while others of us haven't experienced it yet. Maybe you don't know Jesus and you're searching for answers. You may wonder if He really loves you or if you could fit into the "Christian" life. The passage this week shows us a powerful example of how Jesus offers abundant life to all people, regardless of who they are or what they've done.

Verses 7-9 teach us that Jesus does not have favorites. He sees all people the same and offers each the same invitation. The encounter in these verses was anything but normal. First, Jesus approached a woman in public by Himself. This may sound weird to us, but during Jesus's day, this was very uncommon. Next, this woman was a Samaritan. Not only did Jews and Samaritans not associate with each other, but many of them hated one another. Jews held prejudiced beliefs about people from Samaria. But Jesus saw her as a person created by God. He talked with her at a well, and the conversation changed her life forever! Jesus called her out of sin and into new identity.

The truth is Jesus sees you and He loves you as you are! He makes no distinction and plays no favorites. The abundant life is open to anyone who believes. As a student, you may have a list of reasons why you think God shouldn't love you. Each of those are a lie. You can come to Jesus as you are.

- **WHEN YOU READ ABOUT JESUS APPROACHING THIS SAMARITAN WOMAN, WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND?**
- **WHAT LIES ARE YOU BELIEVING THAT MAKE YOU QUESTION GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU? IDENTIFY THEM AND GIVE THEM TO GOD.**

PRAY

LORD, THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME. THANK YOU FOR LOVING ALL PEOPLE AND FOR SENDING JESUS TO DIE FOR ALL PEOPLE. HELP ME TO LIVE A LIFE THAT REFLECTS YOUR LOVE.



DAY TWO

JOHN 4:10-15

Have you ever had anyone share a bold claim with you? In other words, has someone ever told you something that you had a really hard time believing because it seemed bizarre? Usually, these bold claims only carry weight if the person making the claim has a track record of being truthful. We more easily believe others when they've proven to be trustworthy.

Picking back up in John 4, we see Jesus and the Samaritan woman continue their conversation. Jesus approaching this woman wasn't ordinary, but then He continued to engage her. Jesus told her that He was the Living Water. Jesus pointed to drinking water as a temporary remedy for thirst and to Himself as eternal water that satisfies our thirst forever. As Jesus spoke, she became more curious.

The abundant life begins with seeing that Jesus offers something better, something much more than the temporary comforts of this world. Jesus made a bold claim that He fulfilled perfectly with His death and resurrection. Many of us may struggle with believing Jesus's words. Maybe our friends and family have let us down. Maybe one of them made a promise or gave us hope but then didn't come through. Maybe you've been on the other side and let someone else down too. Jesus kept all of His promises to us. When we read His claims, we can know with certainty that He won't fail. His promise that we won't thirst again is true. When we accept the gift of salvation, Jesus meets our deepest need, our spiritual thirst.

- **IN WHAT WAYS HAVE PEOPLE FAILED YOU? HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO TRUST OTHERS AND EVEN GOD?**
- **IN THESE VERSES, JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE WATER THAT WILL NEVER RUN DRY. WHAT COULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR THIS CLAIM TO SHAPE EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE?**

PRAY

**LORD, SOMETIMES I STRUGGLE TO BELIEVE TRUTH.
HELP ME TO BLOCK OUT THE LIES AND FILL MY
HEART AND MIND WITH YOUR TRUTH. HELP ME TO
LIVE BY FAITH.**



DAY THREE

JOHN 4:16-18

Having the ability to read minds could be helpful, right? But if people could read our minds, would that always be a good thing? Probably not! Our thoughts aren't always pure or godly.

As the conversation continued between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, she struggled to understand who Jesus was. She was curious and interested in what He had to say, but she thought Jesus offered unlimited drinking water. If that was the case, she wouldn't have to carry a heavy water jug under the hot sun to the well each day. Jesus asked her a question to dig a little deeper and revealed that He knew her heart, her sin, and her shame. When the woman realized what Jesus knew, she understood that He wasn't an ordinary person. Jesus intended to show her that He was the Living Water, the Messiah. He met her exactly where she was to show her this truth.

Maybe you feel stunned that Jesus knows everything about you and still pursues you. But this truth is comforting. Why? You don't have to hide. Actually, you can't! Jesus sees you—all of you—and says, "I love you!" We can't do anything to earn God's love or forgiveness. We certainly don't deserve it. But God offers us Living Water through His Son's sacrifice. He sees our sin and our shame, and instead of casting us away, He comes close to us and meets us where we are. He calls us out of our sin to follow Him. Will you hear His call today?

- **WHAT SIN OR SHAME HAVE YOU BEEN TRYING TO HIDE FROM GOD? CONFESS IT TO HIM RIGHT NOW.**
- **HOW SHOULD KNOWING THAT JESUS LOVES YOU, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE, CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOVE OTHERS?**

PRAY

LORD, IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME AND STILL LOVE ME. I KNOW I CANNOT EARN YOUR LOVE. LEAD ME ON TO LOVE OTHERS AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME!



DAY FOUR

JOHN 4:19-26

God is not bound to time or space like we are. Don't forget, He's the one who created those things! Even though He isn't bound by time and space, He is still directly involved in them. In fact, God loved us so much that He came to us through Jesus.

The conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman moved from surface level to deeper understanding. After Jesus revealed that He knew her sinful past and present, the woman asked about where true worship happened. Jews believed true worship happened in Jerusalem, where the temple stood. Maybe she was trying to change the subject and distract Jesus from discussing her sin, but He shared a shocking truth: A time was coming when anyone could worship God in Spirit and truth anywhere, not just in Jerusalem. And get this, Jesus then shared with her that He was the Messiah. The first person Jesus told was a woman, a Samaritan, and a known sinner!

Do you want to know God's character? Look at Jesus. He is not only the visible picture of what God looks like, but He is God! This woman had an encounter with God in the flesh, and it changed her forever. If you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, this means that you know God. He also lives in you through the Holy Spirit. You interact with people every day who are looking for abundant life—for Living Water. They're looking to sports, grades, relationships, technology, and other temporary pleasures. But all of these things make terrible gods. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus is the way to eternal life and He offers the gift of salvation to all people—to the very worst of us sinners. And once we encounter Jesus, we're never the same.

- **WHAT DOES THIS CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AND JESUS TEACH YOU ABOUT JESUS?**
- **HOW SHOULD KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU LIVE EACH DAY?**

PRAY

LORD, THE FACT THAT YOU PUT ON FLESH AND CHOOSE TO LIVE IN US IS MIND-BLOWING! HELP MY LIFE TO REFLECT THAT YOU LIVE WITHIN ME! I DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED.



DAY FIVE

JOHN 4:27-30

Think about some of the greatest news you've ever received. It could be about an unexpected, excellent grade you got on a test. Maybe you found out school was dismissing early for the year. The feeling that we get after receiving good news is hard to beat. It lifts our spirits and brightens our day. When you receive great news, it's really hard to keep it to yourself. You want to celebrate it with someone and really take in the moment!

The conversation in John 4 between Jesus and the Samaritan woman ended on an exciting note. The woman started off alone at a water well, fetching her daily supply of water. When Jesus showed up, everything changed. There's no way she could have realized how the course of her life was about to shift, but that's exactly what happened. One conversation over a well changed the course of the woman's life and gave her hope. After talking with Jesus, she dropped her water jug, ran into town, and openly shared about her experience, describing Jesus as the Messiah. We can almost sense her excitement and joy!

Once you experience the love of God, you cannot be the same. Because He offers abundant life, we cannot help but speak about it to others. We love sharing great news with people, but shouldn't we desire to share the news about Jesus even more? We must wrestle with our tendency to care too much about what others think. As believers, we know the best news. We're called to share it!

- **COMPARE HOW YOU TALK ABOUT THINGS YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT WITH HOW YOU TALK ABOUT JESUS. WHAT'S THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE?**
- **IF JESUS OFFERS ABUNDANT LIFE, HOW SHOULD THAT CHANGE THE WAY THAT YOU TALK ABOUT HIM TO OTHERS?**

PRAY

LORD, SO MANY DISTRACTIONS PULL ME AWAY FROM SPEAKING ABOUT THE HOPE I HAVE IN YOU. DECREASE THOSE DISTRACTIONS, AND INCREASE MY EXCITEMENT FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL!



PUBLISHING TEAM LEAD

ALECIA BRYANT

We all struggle with loneliness. Sometimes, the feeling is overwhelming. We wonder if anyone understands us, if anyone sees us, if anyone cares. Jesus understands; He sees; He cares. While these truths sound nice, we often struggle to embrace them fully—that the Savior of the world and King of kings gets us. But He does. Jesus was born in the lowliest of circumstances—in a cave or room for animals to escape the weather. He felt hunger and thirst. He was tormented by Satan with every temptation you could imagine. He experienced loss and grief. He was betrayed by friends, left alone in moments when He needed community. He endured excruciating pain on the cross, feeling every bit of it. Why? Because Jesus came to save us—to save you. He wouldn't be able to take our place unless He became like us—unless He experienced fully what we experience, yet without sinning. So, Jesus did just that and proved the Father's great love for us (John 3:16). You're never alone. You're never unseen. You're never uncared for. You're deeply and perfectly loved.

Alecia Bryant



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