**1. Motivate**

What is the thirstiest you have been?

* after being in a sports competition
* when I exercise
* building a deck on the hottest day of summer
* after fasting since midnight before a medical procedure
* after running a marathon
* after being stranded in a lifeboat on the ocean
* when we ran out of Cokes (sodas, pop, Dr. Pepper, … )

**2. Transition**

Usually our physical thirst is met at the end of the ordeal.

* Physical thirst is one thing, spiritual thirst is another
* Only Jesus can truly satisfy my thirst.

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_96dnsuq1> If you have no   
wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/y6f72ks6>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Reveals a Greater Thirst

John 4:7-14 (NIV) When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but 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."

Why was Jesus alone at the well near Sychar?

* they were traveling north to Galilee
* went through Samaria
* stopped midday to rest
* disciples went to town for food

What might account for the woman being at the well at this unusual time of the day?

* most of the women went early in the day to avoid the heat
* this lady was there alone, even though it was hot
* she apparently wanted to avoid the normal group
* we learn later she was a person of loose character and didn’t want a confrontation with conservative, uppity neighbors

Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus spoke to her?

* Jesus was a Jew, She was Samaritan, she was a woman – two major barriers
* Jews didn’t associate with Samaritans
* relative to a Jewish rabbi, a Samaritan woman was at the bottom of the social ladder

After his initial request for a drink of water, what additional references to water does Jesus make?

* if you really knew who I am, you would ask me for *living* water
* I could give you water that would keep you from ever getting thirsty
* actually you would end up being a source of this living water

How do you know that the woman misunderstood what Jesus was saying? She may have even been sarcastic in her response.

She is taking Jesus literally – at least at first.

* she asks for that special water, she doesn’t want to get thirsty any more
* she doesn’t want to have to come to the well each day

How is the world’s need for salvation and eternal life like thirst?

* sensors in part of our brain chemically monitor substances in the blood
* certain levels trigger the thirst impulse, the need to drink liquid … now!
* our lives will encounter feelings and events that result in unrest and disturbance
* then we realize that something must be done to make things right – a spiritual thirst for God’s intervention

How can confusion about spiritual things open the door for more discussion?

* provides opportunity to clarify spiritual truths
* you gain a better understanding of what they don’t know
* helps you speak to the things they really don’t understand

Note Jesus’ use of water as a metaphor to teach about salvation. He also used bread, light, and breath. ⇨ Jesus provides all that is needed to sustain (spiritual) life.

Think about some everyday objects – how might we use these to communicate Truth or confront people with a need in their lives?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Everyday Object | Jesus meets a need |
| Car:  Garden:  Road detour:  Fishing rod:  Food: | Jesus gets you to where you need to be  Jesus provides life and growth and beauty in our lives  You need to change the direction in your life, you can’t get to heaven in the direction you’re going  Jesus wants to pull you into His family  You’re starving spiritually – you need some real spiritual nourishment |

3.2 Jesus Reveals Our Sin

Listen for Jesus revealing what He knows.

John 4:15-18 (NIV) The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

What indicates the woman still did not have a spiritual understanding of what Jesus was saying to her?

* thinks Jesus is talking about some special water
* takes him literally
* maybe thinking how she wouldn’t have to come to the well each day (in the heat of the day, so as to avoid others)

Why do you think Jesus asked her to call her husband?

* He wanted to confront her with her true needs
* she had to be able to confess her problems
* Jesus wanted to help her realize her true thirst
* she needed to realize why she needed the “water of life”
* voicing her marital situation helped her confront her failure

Why is it difficult to confront people about sin in their lives?

* seems like an accusation
* they get defensive
* they put up all kinds of defenses, excuses
* gets the conversation off track

Why is it essential that this woman, and any of us, be confronted with the sin in our lives?

* that is our basic need

This may be one of the hardest parts of witnessing … the Holy Spirit must do the convincing.

* a person must be aware of the sin in their lives
* they must be convicted (convinced) of the reality of the sin
* they must *see* it as sin
* they must agree with God that it is sin (this is confession)

Why would sharing your own testimony of how Jesus forgave your sins ease the transition into confronting sin?

* you are admitting to someone your own foibles
* it is a personal experience – someone else cannot deny your own experience
* it is real life … someone can identify with your feelings, your attitudes
* you are not standing in condemnation of them, you are saying you were in the “same boat”

3.3 Jesus Reveals He Is the Messiah

Listen for how the woman’s life was changed.

John 4:25-26 (NIV) The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

What were the woman’s expectations of the Messiah?

* He is coming
* when He comes, He will explain everything to us
* He would make issues of how and where to worship more plain

How was/is Jesus more than what she understood Messiah to be?

* Jesus would (and can) fulfill our various life thirsts
* Jesus wants a personal relationship with each of us
* He is more than just a conquering hero
* He makes available peace with God and peace within ourselves

The woman tries to change the subject of her need to the concept of the Messiah. In what ways do people try to change the subject when you witness to them?

* the church is full of hypocrites
* what about all the different denominations?
* isn’t the Bible just another collection of stories and myths?
* Christmas trees are a pagan practice, why do you have one?
* I’m not good enough to come to church
* how can you believe in creation, science knows things evolved

Note Jesus’ response to the sidetracking comment about Messiah … “I who speak to you am he” Why is this statement the climax of the encounter?

* Jesus has gained her interest
* He has confronted her with her sinful condition
* now he presents the solution to her problem

Why is it important to continue to bring people’s focus back on Jesus rather than try to debate all the sidetrack issues?

* Jesus is who they need
* Jesus is the one who forgave their sins
* Jesus is the one who loves them

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* these other issues are not the main thing
* keep the main thing the main thing …
* Jesus’ love for them is the main thing

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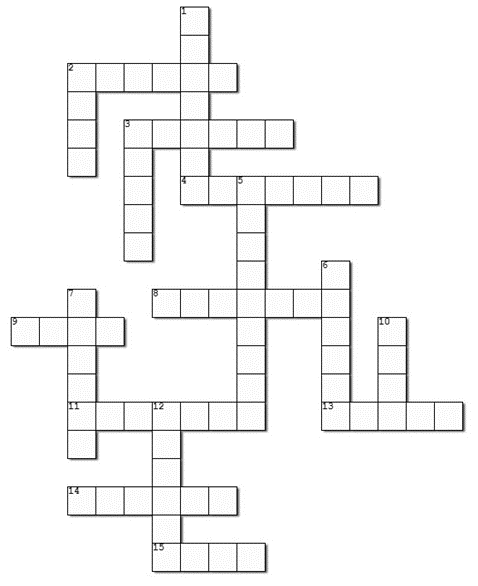
Remember.

* When did Christ come into your life?
* Think about that moment. Thank Jesus for saving you.
* If you cannot identify that moment or you have not yet begun a relationship with Christ, reach out to your pastor or another believer and ask for help.

Connect.

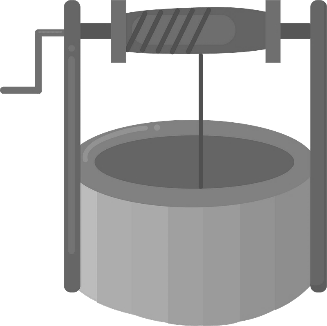
* Who around you may feel isolated like the woman at the well?
* Take a moment this week and write a note, make a call, or send a text.
* Let that person know you love and care about him or her.
* Jesus saw the woman and her need. Help someone feel seen.

Fast.

* If you are medically able, skip a meal or two one day this week.
* Jesus moved the woman from thinking about a physical need to a spiritual need.
* Fasting can help us prioritize the need for spiritual food more than physical food.

Remember, the clues and words all come from John 4:7-18 & 25 – 26. (NIV) If you get stuck go to <https://tinyurl.com/y6f72ks6> for help and other Family Activities

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