

Lesson 8

LIVING WATER

John 4:1-26

Key Verses: 13,14

1. Where did Jesus go and why (1-3)? See a map for Samaria's location (4-5). Why did Jesus "have to"¹ go through there? What ethnic problem was involved here (9)?
2. Where did Jesus stop and how was he feeling (6)? Who came to the well, why alone and why at noon? How did Jesus initiate a conversation (7)? How does her answer express the social barriers between them² (9)? Why was Jesus not hindered by these barriers?
3. How did Jesus' reply introduce who he is and what he could give her (10)? How did she view Jesus at this point (11-12)? How would you describe the progression of this interaction?
4. How did Jesus contrast the water in the well with the water that he gives (13-14)? How do people try to satisfy their "thirsts"? Why do people remain empty and unsatisfied? What is the living water and why and how does this truly satisfy (7:37-39; Jer 2:13)?
5. How did she respond to Jesus' offer (15)? Why do you think Jesus told her to bring her "husband" at this point (16)? How did she answer and how did Jesus graciously reply (17-18)? What are some false wells that hinder you from receiving the living water?
6. What deeper issue did she bring up and why (19-20)? What does this reveal about her? What did Jesus tell her about true worship (21-24)? How was Jesus the fulfillment of her hope and thirst (25-26, 28-29)?

¹ In this Gospel, the Greek for "had to" ("must") usually means it was necessary as a divine appointment.

² See NIV footnote: "do not associate with Samaritans" can be "do not use dishes Samaritans have used."