

LIFE APPLICATION

**PASSAGE: John 4:1-26**

LAUNCH

Were there any times when you were treated badly, marginalised or rejected?

Did anyone call you any cruel nicknames? How did you feel and how did it change your behaviour?

DISCOVERY

- John 4:4 Jesus was on his way from Judea back to Galilee. Because of their mutual hatred, Jews usually avoided the direct route through Samaritan territory. Scripture says, however, that Jesus 'needed' to go through Samaria. Why do you think he needed to go?
- John 4:7 Generally women came in groups to draw water either early or later in the day to avoid the heat. Why did the Samaritan woman come alone at the hottest part of the day?

UNDERSTANDING

- Often we end up adopting the labels other people put on us, whether they are welcome or not. What kinds of labels do you think the people of this town placed on this woman? How might you feel if you'd been through as many relationships as her?
- Do you have any negative labels that have been placed on you? In what way might you need to reject them?
- John 4:9 What social and religious barriers does Jesus break by his simple request for a drink? Why did Jesus break the social protocol to speak with the woman?
- What social protocols might you need to break to reach out to those who need Christ?
- Did your parents encourage you not to associate with people of certain social classes, backgrounds or ethnicities? How did you feel about it? How does the fact that we are all sinners in need of a Saviour help to remove our prejudices?
- Jesus does not confront the Samaritan woman with hard truths about God's judgement or the need to adjust her behaviour. Instead he shoots for the heart and talks about her affection towards God. Why is this a far more effective strategy? In what sort of situations might we want to apply it?
- John 4:13-15 Jesus makes a distinction between well water that only temporarily satisfies our physical thirst, and living water, which eternally satisfies our spiritual thirst. God gives each of us a thirst for a personal relationship with Him that can only be satisfied by receiving His living water. How would quenching this woman's spiritual thirst redirect her from sin to Jesus, and transform her life? How have you seen this change in others or yourself?
- How is your affection towards God and what threatens it the most right now? Pray that you will be able to reject this broken cistern right here and right now

## APPLICATION

- Take a moment to think about all the barriers that God has broken down for you. Pray out loud in the group and express your gratitude to God for breaking down these walls.
- In your closing prayer time, ask God for eyes to see the barriers that separate you and others and for the compassion and courage to break down those barriers so that you may offer others this living water.
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<https://www.woodside-church.org/files/design/Love%20The%20World/Love%20the%20World%20Small%20Group%20Study%20Guide.pdf> is the source of this study although some questions have been altered and some added. The whole series looks excellent & may be suitable for a group mini series.