

Small Group Discussion Guide

Living Water

John 4:1-26

Introduction

Opening Icebreaker Question:

- If you could have one wish granted today, what would it be? (Give everyone a few moments to share, encouraging a mix of lighthearted and serious responses.)

Context of the Passage:

- In John 4, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well, and this interaction reveals deep truths about who Jesus is and how He satisfies our deepest longings. As we explore the passage, we'll reflect on the idea that Jesus offers living water to satisfy our souls.
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Part 1: Jesus as a Jewish Man

Scripture Reference: John 4:1-15

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What is something you often long for or wish you could have?**
 - Feel free to share both tangible and intangible desires, such as relationships, success, or peace.
- 2. Jesus asks the woman for a drink. Why is this significant, especially in the context of Jewish and Samaritan relations?**
 - Consider the historical tension between Jews and Samaritans. Why would it be surprising for Jesus, a Jewish man, to ask a Samaritan woman for help?
- 3. When Jesus talks about "living water," how do you think the woman initially understood His words?**
 - How might her confusion about Jesus' meaning reflect our own misunderstandings of spiritual truths at times?

Application Question:

- **When do you find yourself feeling spiritually thirsty or unsatisfied?**
 - What areas of your life do you often turn to in search of fulfillment, and how does Jesus' offer of living water address those needs?
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Part 2: Jesus as a Prophet

Scripture Reference: John 4:16-19

Reflection Questions:

1. **Why does the woman recognize Jesus as a prophet after He speaks about her life?**
 - How does Jesus' divine knowledge about her help her see Him in a new light?
2. **How do you think Jesus' insight into her life impacted her understanding of her own situation?**
 - What role does acknowledging our brokenness or unmet needs play in experiencing the fullness of Jesus' satisfaction?
3. **Jesus confronts the woman's sin, but He does not condemn her. How does His approach differ from what you might expect from someone pointing out your faults?**
 - What does this tell us about the way Jesus deals with our struggles?

Application Question:

- **In what ways has Jesus revealed truths to you about your own life or spiritual journey?**
 - How have these revelations deepened your relationship with Him?
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Part 3: Jesus as the Messiah

Scripture Reference: John 4:20-26

Reflection Questions:

1. **How does Jesus redefine the concept of worship for the woman?**

- What does He mean when He says that worship won't be about a specific place, but about worshipping in spirit and truth?
- 2. **Why is the woman's declaration that she believes the Messiah will come significant?**
 - How does this set the stage for Jesus' revelation to her? Why is it important that Jesus explicitly tells her, "I am He"?
- 3. **Why is it important that Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah in this moment?**
 - How does this interaction highlight both His divine mission and His care for individuals?

Application Question:

- **Do you see Jesus only as a good teacher, prophet, or do you see Him as the Messiah who brings true satisfaction?**
 - How does recognizing Jesus as the Messiah change the way you approach your spiritual needs?
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Conclusion and Reflection:

Final Reflection Question:

- **What are some of the things you turn to for satisfaction that might not fully fulfill your spiritual thirst?**
 - Consider what "temporary satisfactions" you rely on. How can you begin to turn to Jesus more consistently for true fulfillment?

Closing Prayer Request:

- Pray that each person may experience the living water Jesus offers, acknowledging where we may be seeking satisfaction in the wrong places, and asking for His help to seek Him as the true source of fulfillment.
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Action Step:

- This week, reflect on your thirst and dissatisfaction. When you feel parched, pause and ask, "Am I turning to Jesus for living water in this moment?" Try to identify one

area where you can lean more into Jesus' satisfaction than the temporary things the world offers.