

# “Closer Walk” Bible Study

## The Gospel Of John Chapter 4:1-42

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

### Getting us started

1. When you were growing up, who were the people you were told to avoid? What part of the city or country would you be warned about? What would have happened if you had gone there?
2. What causes you to skip a meal? What causes you to eat too much unintentionally?

### Getting us into Scripture

3. What is significant about this story taking place in Samaria?
4. Since “nice” girls did not come to draw water at noontime (“the sixth hour”), why do you think Jesus risked his reputation to ask a favor of this woman?
5. How would you describe the woman’s response?
6. How did Jesus turn the tables on her in verse 10?
7. In the woman’s reply, what is she really saying? How is she like Nicodemus (3:1-21)?
8. Why does Jesus change the topic of conversation so abruptly to her personal life (v. 16-18)? What strikes you about the way he responds to her claim not to have a husband?
9. Why do you think this woman changed the conversation to focus on a religious controversy? In this story, what does Jesus mean by telling her that God is interested in worshippers who will do so in “spirit and truth”?
10. What is significant about Jesus choosing this woman as the first person to whom he revealed himself (see vv. 39-42)?
11. Why were the disciples surprised to find Jesus with this woman?
12. What does “leaving her water jar” reveal about Jesus’ impact on the woman? How did she affect others?
13. How is Jesus’ figurative speech once again misunderstood (see 2:19; 3:3; 4:10)? Why does he continue to speak like this? In what ways is God’s will like food for him?
14. How does the parable of harvesting apply to the disciples?
15. Given the social barriers between Jews and Samaritans, what do verses 40-42 teach you about Jesus?

### Getting Scripture into us

16. What social, ethnic or religious barriers have you overcome in Jesus’ name?
17. What aspects of Jesus’ conversation could you use as a model for your own discussions with searching friends?
18. What are you constantly “thirsting” for? How has Jesus satisfied you?
19. Considering your interest in “spiritual things,” are you more like the disciples or the woman? Why?
20. Is doing God’s will as essential to you as eating food? Why?
21. What do you learn from the woman about telling others about Jesus? From the parable (vv. 35-38)?