



Week Four

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for giving us this circle of friends and this time together. We want to experience what you have for us here. Help us to be open to you, your grace, and your love. Amen.

Talk It Over

During this series, we have been looking at some key stories from the life of Jesus through the eyes of the Apostle John who traveled with Jesus. This week we read a story about a woman whose life was changed because of Jesus and who, in turn, encouraged others to experience Jesus.

- The best reviews in life are from people who have had personal experience. This woman shared about her experience and others listened. Are you quick to seek out and appreciate recommendations or reviews? Why or why not?
- What sorts of reviews are you quick to trust?

Read John 4:7-9 (MSG)

Part of the story presented here is the fact that Jesus broke social norms in this interaction for the sake of extending love to the woman at the well. He didn't succumb to the cultural barriers and walls expected of him. Instead, he pushed outside of expectations for the sake of connecting with this woman.

- Tell us about a time a cultural norm or barrier left you feeling separated from love or connection.
- While walls and barriers are sometimes put up by others or culture, we can all put up our own walls as well. In what ways do you see people around you putting up their own walls that separate them from connection or love?
- In your own life, how do you put up walls?

Read John 4:10-19 (MSG)

In this story, we see Jesus knows the women's story and sees her needs. It appears Jesus isn't thrown off or surprised by this women's story, need, and desire. In fact, according to this story, Jesus approached this woman at the well and claimed to be the solution for her our deepest thirst.

- What are some of the deeper felt needs you see in the people around you?
- From what you see, what are some of the common ways we try to get our deepest felt needs met?
- How have you experienced Jesus move towards you despite the less polished parts of your story?
- Are there any areas of your life this season that feel undone but your thirsty to see Jesus work in?

Read John 4:23-30 (MSG)

Central to this True Stories series has been this idea of John wanting to tell people about what he saw Jesus do so that others could come to believe in Jesus too. In this specific story with the woman at that the well, we see this woman following that same sort of pattern of "I want to tell you about my time with Jesus so you can check him out yourself". This woman's interaction with Jesus mattered so much to her she had to tell people about what happened and who Jesus might be.

(Content continued on the next page.)

- Who are the people in your life you most want to encounter Jesus firsthand? Why do you want them to experience Jesus?
- In what ways do you think you can share Jesus with that person this season in a respectful way? Tell us how you have come to this conclusion. Where do you think you are operating with wisdom? Where are you operating with fear?

Read John 4:35 and John 4:39-42 (TPT)

This story ends by pointing to the power of this woman’s story. *As we answer these questions, please feel free to chime in even if you don’t believe in Jesus.*

- In general, in what ways are you comfortable about sharing your love of Jesus, your faith story, or your Jesus story with others?
- In general, what ways do you want to get better at sharing your Jesus story with others? Consider your own developmental story with Jesus and faith. Who impacted you and how?
- Is there anyone in your life you are on the fence about inviting to Easter services? If so, what is your concern?
- What is one thing you can work on to be more open to sharing Jesus with others?

Closing Prayer

God, help us to experience and encounter all that you are for our sake, the sake of our growing relationship, and for the sake of us helping others experience your love. Help us to live wisely, respectfully, and kindly open with our faith story in ways we encourage others to seek you. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don’t feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.