

Believe and Have Life*The Gospel of John***John 4:1–26****Read John 4:1–26.**

1. Why is Jesus travelling through Samaria? (vv. 1–4) (See attached map.)
2. In chapter 1, John gave us a glorious view of the Word, through whom all things were created, and announced that this Word had become flesh (v. 14). Where in this passage do we see that Jesus, the Word, has indeed taken on the weakness of humanity? (vv. 6–7)
3. Jesus is breaking a Jewish taboo in his interaction with the Samaritan woman. What does the passage tell us about the relationship between Jews and Samaritans? (v. 9b)
4. What other taboo does Jesus break in this passage? (4:27a)
5. Women would ordinarily come to the well together, and they would normally come early in the day to avoid the midday sun. Why do you think this woman is coming instead by herself, at a time of day when she is unlikely to meet anyone? (Consider verse 18.)
6. What is the promise of the living water that Jesus speaks of? (v. 14b; * Is. 12:1–3)
7. In verse 12, the Samaritan woman asks, “You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You...?” (NASB). What do verses 13 and 14 suggest is the answer?
8. In verse 20, the woman brings up an issue that has fueled hostility between the Jews and Samaritans for hundreds of years. What is this issue?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

9. What fact about God has so often been forgotten in the controversy about where he should be worshipped? (v. 24a; Acts 7:48–50)
10. What type of worship does God desire? (vv. 23–24)
11. Worshipping God “in truth” requires true knowledge of him.¹ Where is such true knowledge uniquely to be found? (1:14, 17–18; 14:6; * Heb. 1:1–3)
12. Whose help do believers need to be able to worship God in the way he requires? (3:5–6; 15:26; 16:13)
13. What does Jesus clearly affirm for the first time in verses 25–26?

Why is it remarkable that Jesus chooses to reveal the truth about himself to this particular person? (Review questions 3–5.)

14. The real question facing the woman and us is this: “By what is a human being to live—... by what she knows and what lies within her reach, or by what is from above and she does not have ... but must be given her by him who ‘came down from heaven’?”²
 - a. How do you think the woman’s life would continue to look if she chose the first option?
 - b. How do you think her life would change if she chose the second option?
 - c. Read Jeremiah 2:13. Consider the choice you have made for your life. Ask God to pry you away from “what you know,” away from your broken cisterns, and lead you to the living water he gives from above.

¹Bruce Milne, *The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of John* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1984), 89–90.

²Herman Ridderbos, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997), 155.



<http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CP051GOSPELMAPS.htm>