

## Week 6 Discussion Questions

**Text:** John 4:1-54

Icebreaker: What is your favorite brand of bottled water? Or Least Favorite?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Why is the woman at the well surprised that Jesus is willing to talk to her?  
Jews and Samaritans have a hostile relationship and would usually avoid interacting with one another. Her expectation of a Jewish man at the well would have been to be ignored or even treated poorly.
3. What is another biblical story that involves a Samaritan and what do we learn from it? (Luke 10:25-37).  
The Parable of the Good Samaritan tells us that we are to love God and love our neighbors (This is where Calvary's mission statement comes from). The parable leaves us with the idea that we should consider those who are different from us, even those we would consider our enemies, as our neighbors. Essentially, anyone we come in contact with should be treated with mercy and grace.
4. Read Galatians 3:23-29. What common theme do you see between these three passages (John 4, Luke 10, and Galatians 3)?  
The Gospel is for everyone. No one is outside the reach of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ and obeying his word is what brings us into his family and unifies us Him and one another.
5. Water has been a common theme throughout the book of John so far. What has the water symbolized and what does it mean that Jesus is now offering "living water"?  
The water of the jars at the wedding in Cana was originally meant for purification, but the wine symbolized His blood that has a greater efficacy to wash away one's sins. Similarly, the water of baptism symbolizes a purification, but Baptism of the Spirit has the power to save. The water symbol at the well seems to reference its need for sustaining life, and Jesus is offering a "living water" that is able to sustain you into eternal life.
6. Why does John tell us the time of day the Samaritan Woman is at the well?  
This Samaritan woman is at the well "at the sixth hour," which would have been around noon, during the heat of the day. The task of getting water from a well in this context often involved walking long distances, carrying enough water to supply their family or community with all their water needs for the day. Providing the water for their family was an important and labor-intensive responsibility. It was customary for women to go together to draw water in the cool of the morning or evening in order to make their work easier. The implication of a woman coming to

draw water alone at midday is that she has some kind of shame she is hiding or has been ostracized from her community because of it.

7. Jesus reveals his extensive knowledge about the root of the woman's shame and guilt, not to create more shame, but to reveal his identity as the one who has the power to take it away. What is the Samaritan woman's response to Jesus' revelation of his identity?

She recognizes him as a prophet, the Messiah, and cannot help but go to everyone she knows and tell them about Jesus. She is not ashamed to share her story. Her boldness to proclaim Christ's identity brought many others to Him.

8. What is your natural response to Jesus' knowledge of your own sin and shame?  
Are you inclined to hide and allow the shame to have power over your story? Or are you inclined to share boldly all that God has done in your life, giving Him the glory in all things?

9. The Samaritan woman is an example of a "Confident Witness," boldly telling all who would listen about her encounter with Jesus, the Messiah. What would it look like for you to boldly tell others about the sins and shame in your own life in order to be a witness to what Christ has done?

- The first step might be recognizing whether you have allowed Christ's forgiveness to overcome your shame.
- Having a willingness to tell your story to others and be vulnerable.
- Being confident in your knowledge of who Jesus says he is so you can tell others about Him.

10. Share one way you have witnessed Jesus working in your life this week.