

6. This is the only place in the Gospel where Jesus speaks of himself as the Messiah before his trial. What do you think is his intent? What is the challenge he is offering us?

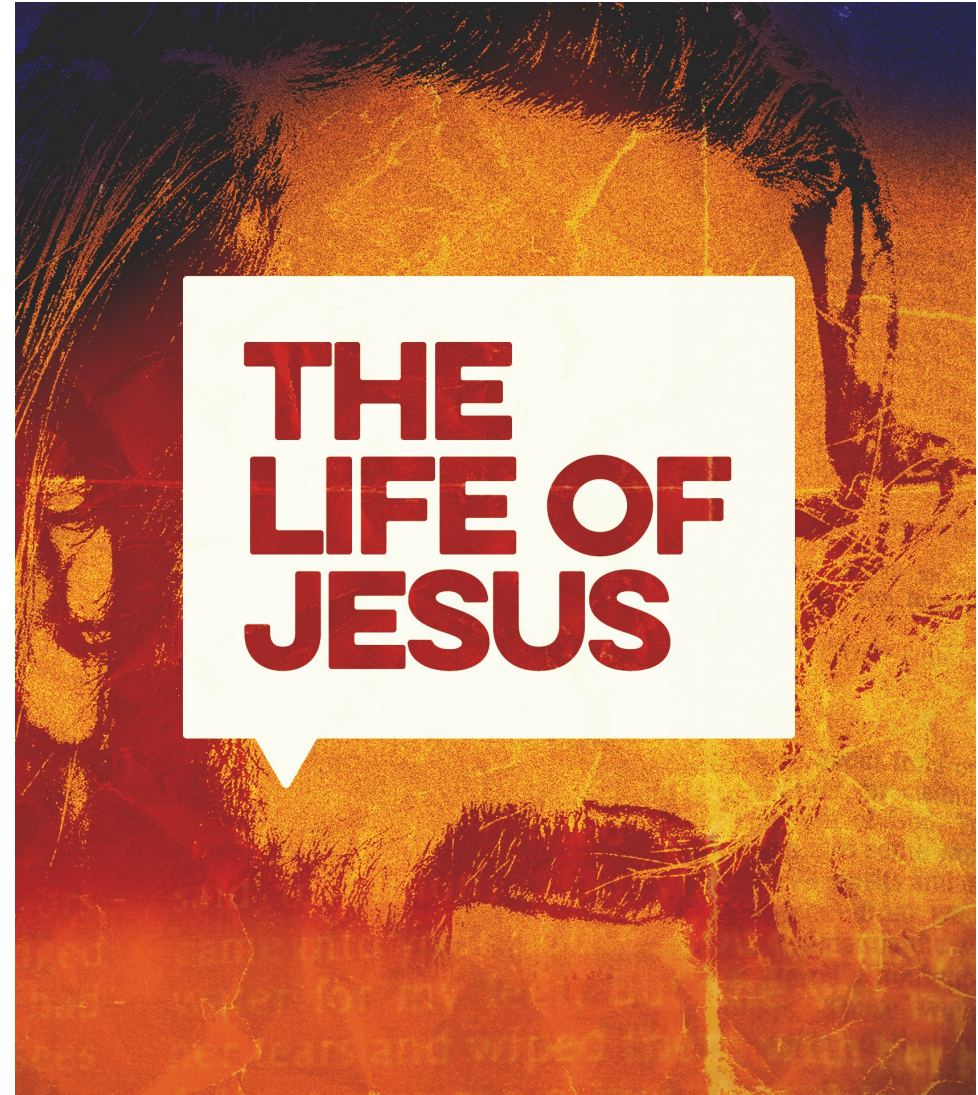
7. When your soul is running on empty, how does Jesus refill you to overflowing?

## PRAYER

Lord, help us to live more and more for you so our souls can overflow with your love for those around us. Help us to be so full of your Spirit, your Living Water, that your peace, strength and joy overflow on our fellow workers, family and friends. Help us to stay thirsty for you so you can keep filling our souls with your amazing goodness and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

**NORTH:** Jan. 31/Feb. 4 | **SOUTH:** Feb. 7/11 | **CHAPEL:** Feb. 18



## JESUS & THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Pastor Sarah Seibold



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](http://FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES)

# JESUS & THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

**READ:** John 4:1-30

John recounts one of Jesus' most tender moments in his ministry, his encounter with a shame-filled woman around a well, not just any well, but Jacob's well. Tradition says this well belonged to Jacob, a patriarch of the Jews and Samaritans. Even Jesus knows this is a special well but he still reminds her that everyone who drinks from this well will thirst again. Notice, it is the noon hour. Why does this matter? No one goes to the well at this hour because it is too hot. But this woman does because she doesn't want to meet people there who will remind her of her shame.

It was scandalous for Jesus to begin a conversation with her: there were racial tensions between Jews and Samaritans; a rabbi should not meet with a woman alone nor drink water from the cup a Samaritan woman provides; and going into a Samaritan town to buy some food was unheard of.

Jesus reminds her of her past and present situation. She is amazed. Her soul is thirsty and Jesus wants to fill her soul to overflowing. Obviously, there is more to the story that we will never know. However, the key is this: This woman came to the well empty like her bucket...both physically and spiritually. But she left filled and forgiven and free! Then the crazy thing happened, she went back into the town, to the very people she was trying to avoid and talked to them about this incredible encounter with this rabbi at Jacob's well at noon.

Mike Breaux, a former teaching pastor at Willow Creek Church, once described the end result of this woman's encounter with Jesus, "When your truth gets hooked up with his truth, it equals freedom. And she was free. And she was full." She had to tell others what had just happened to her. Her soul was overflowing. She was excited and couldn't be silent. When your soul is full of the goodness and mercy of God, you can't help but overflow! It just comes out. Stay thirsty for God so he can keep filling you up and you can overflow with his goodness and mercy on all those around you! That's what encouraging others with the love of Christ is all about!

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What were Jesus' reasons for going to Samaria, which any other Jew would have avoided because it was not politically correct?
2. Have you ever walked into a place and felt like people were talking about you? Can you understand why this woman wanted to avoid people?
3. How is this story a good example that God needs you to have just a little faith to start revealing himself to you?
4. Why is it important for our faith walk to keep asking and praying honest prayers?
5. How does Jesus define true worship to this woman? (v. 23) What implications do his words have in regards to the Temple in Jerusalem?