

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

The Gospel of John (9)

Living water

INTRODUCTION

There are many stories about people like you and me in the Bible. This passage describes the encounter between a Samaritan woman and Jesus. Thanks to this encounter, this woman's life changed and this can happen to us as well. Also, in her conversation with Jesus, a hidden part of her life was revealed: Jesus' Gospel leads us to repentance. When we worship Jesus, we should be fulfilled by this living water.

SCRIPTURE | John 4: 1-26 (ESV)

1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

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QUESTIONS

1. (Verses 5-7) Let's think about the encounter between the Samaritan woman and Jesus. The woman was surprised when Jesus started to talk to her. Why such a reaction? (She was a woman, Samaritan and divorced.) How does Jesus get over these hurdles?
2. (Verses 10, 13-14) Jesus tells the woman that she needs living water. What does he mean by this? The water Jesus offers is able to fulfill anyone, it is the water of eternal life. (See Tim Keller.)
3. (Verses 15-18) When the Samaritan woman says she wants this living water, why does Jesus tell her about her marriages and divorces? These were her biggest problems in life. How should these be handled?
4. What do we usually think can bring us happiness and satisfaction? Does it really make us happy?
5. (Verses 23-24) Jesus talks about the importance of worship. When we do not worship God through the Holy Spirit and Jesus (in spirit and truth), we tend to find other things to worship. What do you think of this?

READING (REFERENCE)

Tim Keller, Encounters with Jesus, p.27

Jesus says there's nothing outside of you that can truly satisfy the thirst that is deep down inside you. ...And Jesus is saying, "I can give it. I can put it into you. I can give you absolute, unfathomable satisfaction in the core of your being regardless of what happens outside, regardless of circumstance."

PRAYING

- We can be thankful because Jesus comes to us and loves us whoever we are, whatever our limits and hostile reactions are. Let's thank him because we are able to worship him with joy through Jesus and the Holy Spirit's inspiration.
- When we are separated from Jesus and do not worship God anymore, we tend to give too much importance and value to other things. We end up being controlled by these. If you notice anything like this, take time to repent and come back to Jesus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch time meeting (Akasaka, 17 Tue; Kasumigaseki, 18 Wed; Otemachi, 19 Thu)
Obento project (21 Sat)
Vision meeting (22, Sun after worship)
Grace City gospel (23 Mon)
Lunch time meeting (Jimbocho, 24 Tue; Marunouchi, 25 Wed; Otemachi, 26 Thu)
Crossroad Bible study (from March, 3 Sun 1:30 – 2:45 at KDDI HALL Lobby)