

## Community Group Discussion Questions

“Water Cooler Conversation – part 2” John 4:16-26 January 20/21

### Getting Started

We will at one point in our life find ourselves at empty wells to quench a thirst that God can only satisfy. We often choose to treat our condition by behavioral modifications, but today we seek heart transformation.

Share with us some of the ways you tried to satisfy your spiritual thirst for meaning, significance, and purpose before you found Jesus Christ?

*(possible answers: seeking power through positions, being a workaholic, earning money, cars, clothes, relationships, sex, drugs, and rock n roll ;-), sports, travel, being a people pleaser, being a people user, seeking popularity)*

### Going Deeper

- I. Empty Pursuit of Relationships: (Vs. 16-18)
  - A. Multiple Lovers: “for you have had five husbands ” (Vs. 18)
  - B. Mosaic Law: “the one you now have is not your husband” (Vs. 18)
  - C. Merciful Language: “what you have said is true” (Vs. 18)
    - Jesus Confronts, but doesn’t Condemn
    - Jesus Confronts, but doesn’t Condone
    - Jesus Confronts, but doesn’t give Conditions

The woman in this story chose to find significance through relationships, but that obviously wasn’t an enduring answer for her. In her desperation, she set aside many moral and cultural norms.

What do you learn from how Jesus spoke to her?

How does that help you as you seek to speak truth in love to others who are seeking significance in all the wrong places and all the wrong ways?

II. Exhausting Practice of Religion: (Vs. 19-24)

- A. Huge Misunderstanding: "...where people ought to worship" (Vs. 20)
  - B. Historical Marker: "hour is coming, and now is here" (Vs. 23)
  - C. Holy Mandate: "worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (Vs. 23)
1. Clarification of Terms: "true worshippers" (Vs. 23)
  2. Call to Turn: "seeking such people to worship him" (Vs. 23)
  3. Command to Trust: "must worship him in spirit and truth" (Vs. 23)
- Worship without Spirit leads to Legalism
  - Worship without Truth leads to Liberalism

HOLY SPIRIT CAUSES US TO BE:

SAVED by TRUTH  
LED by TRUTH  
HELD by TRUTH  
LIVE by TRUTH  
SPEAK the TRUTH  
LOVE in TRUTH  
WORSHIP in TRUTH

People all over the world worship things, yet Jesus causes us to ask, "Is what you are worshipping the truth? Is it worthy of your highest praise and devotion?" Think about what so many people choose to do on Sunday mornings and afternoons: sleep in, go to the park, go to brunch, watch a movie, watch sports, hang out with friends, etc.

**How are each of these a 'less than' substitute for true worship of God?**

Notice how each of the above activities actually have a grain of truth in them: rest could be similar to Sabbath rest, enjoying nature is similar to appreciating the Creator who made nature, eating celebrates the good things we have available to us, watching movies shows how we appreciate a good story where good triumphs over evil, sports shows how we like to 'belong' to a social group as a fan, and hanging out with friends shows that we value relationships. Each of these is a shadow of true worship and community. **How could you have a conversation with a non-churched friend to explore the similarities and differences of what each of you chooses to worship? Why should they consider Jesus?**

III. Enduring Pursuit of a Redeemer (Vs. 25-26)

- A. Clear Confidence: “I know that Messiah is coming” (Vs. 25)
- B. Clear Confession: “I who speak to you am He” (Vs. 26)

*Take Away:* Worship is not bound to a location, but instead it is a lifestyle that engages the heart, mind, will and emotion towards the truth of Jesus Christ.

Share with us about the time that Jesus made Himself known to you.

Or

Share with us who you are praying that Jesus will reveal Himself to during this 21 day fast and prayer time.

**Prayer Requests**