

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome/Cards/Online
- B. Series
  - 1. People who were nothing like...
  - 2. Accepted- No matter how different we are, I see you as a person worthy of value and honor

**II. WE**

- A. In Andy Stanley book asked three questions...
- B. **How much sand would someone need to drink in order to quench their thirst?**
  - 1. Nonsense question right?
  - 2. They don't relate...
  - 3. If you survived you'd just be thirstier.
- C. **How much money/stuff would someone have to accumulate in order to satisfy their need for acceptance?**
  - 1. Again looking at it that way doesn't make much sense either.
  - 2. You can have the one without the other
  - 3. Yet we all know people who have tried... maybe they are sitting in your seat
- D. Last question... **How many relationships would someone have to pursue to satisfy their need for a relationship with God?**
  - 1. Again no real correlation... but many people have tried it only to find hurt.
- E. We were all created to be in a relationship with God.
  - 1. Sin ruined it.
  - 2. Separated(s) us from our heavenly Father... last week

- F. And whether we believe in a God or sin or not we've all felt it.
  - 1. A restless, nagging feeling like there's supposed to be something more to life... something is missing... this isn't how things are supposed to be.
- G. Jesus described it as a thirst.
  - 1. A thirst we all try to quench in some way
  - 2. Relationships/marriage/ kids/food/sex/alcohol/work /entertainment (sports/video games)/achievement/ wealth/thrills/ and maybe worst of all religion.
  - 3. The crazy thing is they seem to work at first...
  - 4. But just like soda or beer when you are actually thirsty... they feel cold and wet and refreshing but in the end you're left more dehydrated than when you began.
  - 5. **Deep down we're thirsty and we don't know why.**
- H. Perfect example is seen in Jesus' conversation with someone we only know as the Samaritan Woman.
  - 1. Had used marriage and relationships to quench her thirst.
  - 2. 5 husbands. Emotional toll (widow or not)
  - 3. Each time hoping this new one would be the one to fix everything.
  - 4. Small village... everyone knew... relatives of exes were her neighbors...
  - 5. If anyone craved and needed acceptance it was her...
  - 6. That's why Jesus makes sure he meets her...

### III. GOD (John 4:1-42)

#### A. V. 1-4

1. "Have to?"
2. Not really... most Jews used a different route... MAP

#### B. Jews and Samaritans

1. Samaritans- Ancestry was mixed with Jews and Gentiles
2. Jews were the "pure race"
3. Hated each other.
  
4. Also divided by religion (rare for that part of the world)
5. Samaritans worshipped at the sight of the first Jewish tabernacle on Mt. Gerazim
6. Jews worshipped in Jerusalem at the sit of Solomon's Temple.
  
7. So normally a Jewish rabbi wouldn't step foot into Samaritan territory... but Jesus knows there is a thirsty soul in need of reviving... so he HAS to go through Samaria.

#### C. Meeting

1. Around noon Jesus and his disciples (including John the author) stop in a town called Sychar for lunch.
  
2. As the disciples go into town to get food Jesus stays at a well about 1.5 miles outside of town called Jacobs Well... named after the Father of the 12 tribes of Israel.
  
3. A woman from the town comes to get water and Jesus asks her for a drink.

#### D. V. 9

1. "Do not associate" = "Don't use the same cups"
2. The only thing lower than a tax-collector was a Samaritan
3. Only thing lower than a Samaritan was a Samaritan woman.
  
4. Men, especially Jewish Rabbi, did not speak to women.
5. Jesus did more to elevate the status of women than any other religious figure.
  
6. She has anger in her response... Almost flippant

#### E. V. 10

1. "Don't dismiss me too quickly"
2. Living water- usually meant the fresh water bubbling up from the bottom of the spring.
3. Gets her attention

#### F. V. 11-12

1. Well is 135 ft deep... Jesus has no rope or bucket
2. "Who do you think you are? You're better than our founding Father Jacob who gave us this well?"
3. "Look weirdo. I'm fine. I don't know or trust you..."
4. "The water I get is good enough... it's worked so far..."
5. "Don't really need what you're offering"

#### G. V. 13-14

1. Not talking about what you think I am...
  
2. I'm talking about something that will quench your thirst forever... and give you eternal/real/full life...
  
3. Sounded better than essential oils and Rhodan and Fields all rolled into one.

#### H. V. 15

1. "Yeah give me this magic water... I'm in!"
2. She thinks her need is physical thirst...
3. She wants an easier life, not having to go to the well all the time...
4. Her immediate needs blind her to her true need

#### 5. Our daily life often keeps us from finding real life

6. So Jesus does something that seems almost cruel.
7. Instead of explaining where she's misunderstood... he goes for the core of her pain... her real thirst that she's been trying to quench with the sand of relationships...

#### I. V. 16-18

1. Let's get rid of this sand so you can actually be refreshed.
2. Let's get rid of the false acceptance you've been chasing so you can experience true acceptance.
3. You're right you don't have a husband... you've gone through 5 and are now using someone else's.
4. Do you see your real need now?
5. Woman... "Yeah this is getting awkward" "Let's change the subject"

#### J. V. 19-20

1. Dodges the question.
2. **It's easier to be religious than confront our true need.**
3. Jesus gives her a break.
4. Explains to her that soon people won't need to worship in temples or holy places...
5. Soon God would dwell in people's hearts.
6. Thinking her diversion had worked she tries to end the conversation and get out of there before it gets awkward again...

#### K. V. 25

1. "That's nice." "Whelp see ya later."
2. But just a nice little conversation is not why Jesus had come to Samaria...
3. As she's turning to leave... Jesus drops the bomb
4. Gives her the good news... better than she could have hoped.

#### L. V. 26

1. Tires screech.
2. The whole time? This man who knew my past but still spoke with respect... gave me the time of day...
3. Who offered me full/refreshing/new life... is actually the one who can give it?
4. I think clarity flooded her mind and heart in that instant...
5. She had been uninterested, even annoyed by this man... now she knew her life would never be the same.
6. And right at the moment... the disciples come back.

### M. V. 28-29

1. Notice the detail of the water jar... (eyewitness)
2. **When our true need is met, other "needs" don't seem as important**
3. People might have answered... "Lady, everyone knows everything you've done..."
4. But there was something different... she was excited... happy... the shame was gone!
5. So they went to check it out for themselves... and discovered what she discovered...
6. **Jesus is the ultimate source of satisfaction.**

### N. V. 39-42

#### IV. YOU

- A. Are you thirsty?
  1. Have you experienced that restless, longing, the feeling that there is supposed to be more to life than what you've been experiencing?
  2. No matter what you try it just doesn't live up to its promise?
  3. Maybe there's supposed to be more to this Christianity thing than you've been experiencing?
  4. **We have to admit we have a thirst in order for it to be satisfied...**
  5. **Then we have to stop drinking sand and...**

- B. JF or not... What's your sand?
  1. What are you using to quench that deep down thirst?
  2. Relationships? Entertainment? Cars? Money? Religion?
  3. If you don't know... ask your spouse, mom, friends.
  4. Hint might be your social media account
- C. Difficulty is they aren't all bad... and they might actually work for a while... until it doesn't.
  1. Until it's just not as satisfying as it used to be and you move on to more, or something or someone else.
  2. Drinking sand leaves you thirstier and thirstier

#### D. Our true need is true life

1. Knowing and trusting your heavenly father...
2. Knowing who you are, why you are, and what your purpose is.

#### E. Allow Jesus to quench your thirst.

1. Accept the water of life he offers.
2. Find purpose and meaning and happiness.

#### F. **Simple prayer: Heavenly Father, I need something else. Give me your living water. Give me the life you offer.**

## V. WE

- A. Nothing wrong with entertainment, relationships, working hard, money...
- B. But when they become our hope for satisfaction we will always end up empty and thirsty.
- C. What if whether you had a lot or a little, whether things were going well or difficult... you had deeper satisfaction that circumstances couldn't effect?
- D. A sense of meaning and purpose... a reason beyond yourself for getting up in the morning?
- E. What if at the end of your life your family didn't argue about who gets your stuff but looked back on a life that enriched theirs and were thankful for every minute they got to be with you.... And are looking forward to seeing you again.
- F. That's the life Jesus offers all of us.
- G. That's the power of his acceptance.

## H. Jesus' acceptance revives a thirsty soul.

## QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of "3 days in the desert without water" to "swimming in a crystal clear spring," describe your level of "thirst." Explain your choice.
2. Reread John 4:7-26 as a group. What stands out to you about Jesus and the woman? Share your observations.
3. Jon said our true need is true life. How would you explain that idea in your own words? Do you agree or disagree?
4. a. We all have our favorite "sand" that we use to quench our thirst. What do you think were some of the "sands" your family turned to in your childhood?  
b. How would life have been/be different if Jesus was allowed to quench that thirst instead?
5. Who in your circle of influence also seems thirsty and in need of Jesus' acceptance? Pray for them in your group, and consider inviting them, sharing the message, or having coffee and chatting about these things.