

The Journey from Empty to Full

John 4:1-34 (HCSB)

When Jesus knew that the Pharisees heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went again to Galilee. ⁴ He had to travel through Samaria, ⁵ so He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from His journey, sat down at the well. It was about six in the evening. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give Me a drink," Jesus said to her, ⁸ for His disciples had gone into town to buy food. ⁹ "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked Him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would ask Him, and He would give you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," said the woman, "You don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do You get this 'living water'?" ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are You? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." ¹³ Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life." ¹⁵ "Sir," the woman said to Him, "give me this water so I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." ¹⁶ "Go call your husband," He told her, "and come back here." ¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," she answered. "You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. ¹⁸ "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus told her, "Believe Me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans! worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants 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" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will explain everything to us." ²⁶ "I am He," Jesus told her, "the One speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then His disciples arrived, and they were amazed that He was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do You want?" or "Why are You talking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the men, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to Him. ³¹ In the meantime the disciples kept urging Him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But He said, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." ³³ The disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought Him something to eat?" ³⁴ "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work," Jesus told them.

1. We must face the truth about ourselves.

- Dishonesty can provide a short-term escape but a long-term sentence.
- Not dealing with the past, robs us of our future.
- You will have to accept grace, not guilt.
- Your skeletons can be Satan's greatest weapon, or God's most powerful tool.
(1 John 1:9)

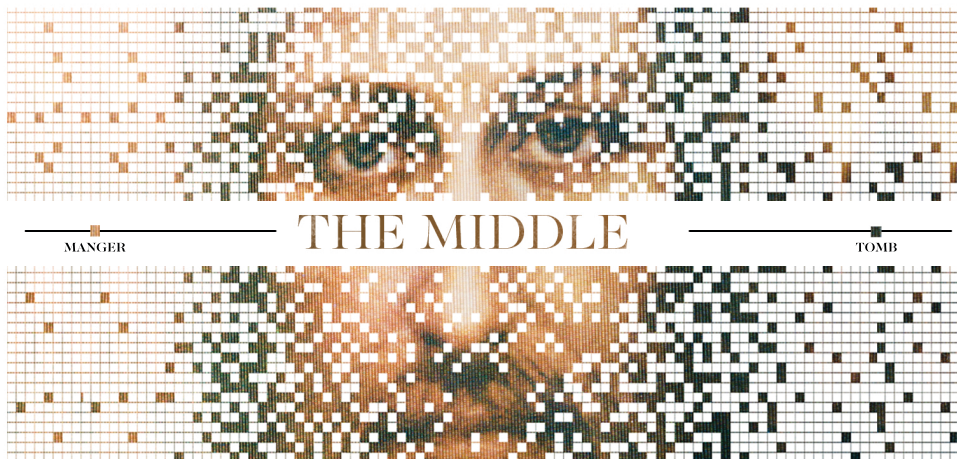
2. Identify the broken cisterns in your life. (Jeremiah 2:13; 2 Corinthians 4:4)

Keys to identifying the cisterns in our life:

1. Does it distract me from my purpose?
2. Does it hurt others?
3. Does it cause a decrease in my appetite for God?

An unfulfilled life is a life void of an appetite for God.

3. Find something you desire more. (John 4:28-34)



SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL

JOHN 4:1-42

#NVSTORYSHARE

CONNECT THE STORY

What happened in our last story? What key principles or truths did we discover through the story of the Samaritan woman at the well? Can someone retell the story?

TELL THE STORY

Tell the story: as best as you can, do not stop and teach, try not to make points (Commentary), just tell the story.

REBUILD THE STORY

As a group: chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. Like – “What happened first?”, “What happened next?”, “Did we leave out anything?” Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

ASK QUESTIONS

- Where do you see yourself in this story?
- What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?
- What do we learn about man in this story?
- What is Jesus teaching you personally through this story?
- What application/adjustment do you need to make in your life due to the truth discovered in this story?

ADULTS

- Jesus crossed the barriers to share the Good News. Are you prepared to share the Good News anytime and any place?

COLLEGE

- We have a tendency to look to worldly things to satisfy us, to give us purpose, identity, and belonging. What was the Samaritan woman hoping would satisfy her?
- What are things in our culture today that people use to try and satisfy our deepest longing?
- How simple was the woman’s testimony? Sharing what God has done in your life is powerful. Discuss some ways to lead into sharing your story with someone.

STUDENT

- What type of people are treated like an outcast today? How would Jesus treat them?
- What happened to the city of Sychar because of Jesus’s acceptance and love for this woman?

CHILDREN

- Older Child – What did Jesus say that the woman at the well really needed?
- Older Child – How did the woman respond when she realized who Jesus was
- Younger Child – What are some things that people need to live?
- Younger Child – How can our sins be forgiven? Is that something we need?

KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL

- What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman to give Him?
- What did Jesus say He would give her if she asked Him for a drink?
- Was Jesus talking about actual water that you drink? What was He referring to?
- What did the woman do after listening to Jesus?
- Who will you be kind to this week and tell about Jesus?

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

MONDAY

READ JOHN 4:1-26.

How did Jesus balance nonjudgmental compassion with uncompromised truth in His relationship with the woman? How can we do the same in our relationships with others?

What did Jesus's offer indicate about who He was? What desires or longings do we often look to the world to satisfy today, when the ultimate fulfillment will only be found in Jesus?

"Living water" here is largely referred to running water, like that of a stream or river. It would have been cleaner than stagnant water from a well, but Jesus meant something more than clean water. He was referring to eternal life. Once she realized that Jesus was no ordinary man, the conversation changed as He told her about all she had done. She knew He was the Messiah—the true source of redemption and life.

TUESDAY

READ JOHN 4:27-30.

How did the living water she found spur her to tell others about Jesus out of joy and compassion, rather than obligation? What can we learn about her urgency, given that she left her jar?

How would you describe the disciples' attitude toward Jesus when they came back to Him? Why do you think they responded in that way?

The disciples seemed confused as to Jesus's purpose. They were speechless as to what Jesus was doing in speaking to a Samaritan woman. The woman responded to Jesus by going and telling everyone. The disciples did nothing.

WEDNESDAY

READ JOHN 4:31-34.

Why did the disciples urge Jesus to eat? What does Jesus's statement about food in verses 32 and 34 reveal about what truly satisfies, particularly in light of the previous discussion on living water?

What were the disciples focused on in this passage? How might their focus have been different if their dependency on and gratitude for Jesus had been more like the Samaritan woman's?

Because Jesus's disciples were focused exclusively on the earthly tasks of satisfying their hunger and thirst, they were oblivious to the spiritual realities taking place around them in the lives of the Samaritans. Ultimately, even more than food and water, the people needed Jesus—as do we. Because of that, all believers are equipped to share with others the way to meet their needs through Christ by telling of His grace, love, and salvation. Jesus taught them to prioritize God's mission of expanding the Kingdom above all earthly purposes.

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

THURSDAY

READ JOHN 4:35-42.

Jews in Jesus's day predominantly looked upon Samaritans with disdain, yet Jesus chose to first reveal His identity to a Samaritan—and an adulterous woman at that. What person or group of people are you currently critical of? How would Jesus interact with this group? In what ways could you use your relationship with them to exemplify Jesus's grace and goodness? How could it draw you both into a deeper relationship with Him? Why did the Samaritans come to faith? How might God have used the example of the woman—the repentance, freedom, and redemption she had found—to draw them to Himself? Ultimately, the Samaritans came to faith, not by any human efforts, but by the grace of God as He called them into relationship with Himself. But in His good purposes, God worked through the woman's bold witness to do so. The Samaritans became closer in relationship to Jesus by becoming closer in relationship to her, as she showed them firsthand how good Jesus's mercy, grace, and life really are—just as we can do in our relationships.

FRIDAY

REREAD JOHN 4:1-42.

What are you relying on as the "food" (v. 34) to sustain you this week? If this is anything other than Jesus, what will be the result? If it is Jesus, how will this affect your relationships with others?

What excuses do you typically make when confronted with the opportunity to guide someone to discover life in Jesus? How does Jesus's teaching in this passage speak to those excuses?

What specific opportunities do you need to take to "reap the harvest" in your life right now?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **John 4:13-14**

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

MONDAY

READ JOHN 4:1-26.

How did Jesus balance nonjudgmental compassion with uncompromised truth in His relationship with the woman? How can we do the same in our relationships with others?

What did Jesus's offer indicate about who He was? What desires or longings do we often look to the world to satisfy today, when the ultimate fulfillment will only be found in Jesus?

"Living water" here is largely referred to running water, like that of a stream or river. It would have been cleaner than stagnant water from a well, but Jesus meant something more than clean water. He was referring to eternal life. Once she realized that Jesus was no ordinary man, the conversation changed as He told her about all she had done. She knew He was the Messiah—the true source of redemption and life.

TUESDAY

READ JOHN 4:27-30.

How did the living water she found spur her to tell others about Jesus out of joy and compassion, rather than obligation? What can we learn about her urgency, given that she left her jar?

How would you describe the disciples' attitude toward Jesus when they came back to Him? Why do you think they responded in that way?

The disciples seemed confused as to Jesus's purpose. They were speechless as to what Jesus was doing in speaking to a Samaritan woman. The woman responded to Jesus by going and telling everyone. The disciples did nothing.

WEDNESDAY

READ JOHN 4:31-34.

Why did the disciples urge Jesus to eat? What does Jesus's statement about food in verses 32 and 34 reveal about what truly satisfies, particularly in light of the previous discussion on living water?

What were the disciples focused on in this passage? How might their focus have been different if their dependency on and gratitude for Jesus had been more like the Samaritan woman's?

Because Jesus's disciples were focused exclusively on the earthly tasks of satisfying their hunger and thirst, they were oblivious to the spiritual realities taking place around them in the lives of the Samaritans. Ultimately, even more than food and water, the people needed Jesus—as do we. Because of that, all believers are equipped to share with others the way to meet their needs through Christ by telling of His grace, love, and salvation. Jesus taught them to prioritize God's mission of expanding the Kingdom above all earthly purposes.

THE MIDDLE

MY
TIME
WITH
GOD

THURSDAY

READ JOHN 4:35-42.

Jews in Jesus's day predominantly looked upon Samaritans with disdain, yet Jesus chose to first reveal His identity to a Samaritan—and an adulterous woman at that. What person or group of people are you currently critical of? How would Jesus interact with this group? In what ways could you use your relationship with them to exemplify Jesus's grace and goodness? How could it draw you both into a deeper relationship with Him? Why did the Samaritans come to faith? How might God have used the example of the woman—the repentance, freedom, and redemption she had found—to draw them to Himself? Ultimately, the Samaritans came to faith, not by any human efforts, but by the grace of God as He called them into relationship with Himself. But in His good purposes, God worked through the woman's bold witness to do so. The Samaritans became closer in relationship to Jesus by becoming closer in relationship to her, as she showed them firsthand how good Jesus's mercy, grace, and life really are—just as we can do in our relationships.

FRIDAY

REREAD JOHN 4:1-42.

What are you relying on as the "food" (v. 34) to sustain you this week? If this is anything other than Jesus, what will be the result? If it is Jesus, how will this affect your relationships with others?

What excuses do you typically make when confronted with the opportunity to guide someone to discover life in Jesus? How does Jesus's teaching in this passage speak to those excuses?

What specific opportunities do you need to take to "reap the harvest" in your life right now?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **John 4:13-14**