

"HE DWELT AMONG US"

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 5 Chapter 4

***"Open mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy word."
Psalm 119:18***

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He will lead us, guide us and teach us as we study God's wonderful Word. The Bible is called "The Word of God" because God is actually speaking through the written word. It is very important that we pray and ask the Lord to help us to hear what He is saying. Take time right now, before you begin, to seek His guidance so that He might prepare your heart and mind to receive.

DAY #1

Read **John, chapter 4**. Now, go back and record the important facts from **verses 1-30**. Refer back to "Fact Finding Helps" from lesson 4, day #1 to remind you how to find the key facts. Then write a brief title for this section.

Title:

Day #2 *Pray before you start your lesson each day.*

In **John, chapter 3**, Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions (**John 3:1-21**). In **chapter 4**, we see a woman who meets Jesus, not by her own plan or doing, but just in the course of her everyday activity. After reading **John 4:1-28**, respond to the following:

- 1) Describe the many *differences* between Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman.

- 2) Identify any *similarities* you see between these two people.

****Historical Background**** Jews, as a whole, despised the Samaritans. The Samaritans were considered half breeds (1/2 Jewish, 1/2 Gentile), with a polluted form of religion. The normal prejudices of the day prohibited public conversation between men and women, Jews and Samaritans, and especially between strangers. The typical Jewish Rabbi would rather go thirsty than violate these proprieties.

- 3) Read **John 4:10**. Picture yourself there. Jesus was aware of all the pain and disappointment this woman had experienced in her life. He knew of her failed attempts to be fulfilled. Imagine the look of compassion as He spoke. Read A-E on the left below, as you carefully look at each statement in this verse.

The truth is, there are thousands of women around us with the same emptiness. They need to know what Jesus told that women by the well. In the A-E spaces on the right below, explain as if to one of these women, what each of the phrases from **John 4:10** can mean *to them*. Example: A. Explain the fact that God has gifts of grace, love, mercy, strength and comfort to bestow upon us.

Jesus said	What people need to hear today
A. "If you knew the gift of God.	A.
B. And Who it is Who speaks	B.
C. You would ask	C.
D. He would give to you	D.
E. Living water."	E.

- 4) In light of **John 4:15**, do you think that the woman understood the message Jesus was conveying? Explain your answer, with any insights you might have.

- 5) We see in **John 4:17-18** that this woman had been involved in relationships with many men, in and out of marriage. We know that God instituted marriage and wants us to honor it. But if a

relationship with a man could totally satisfy the innermost needs of a woman (and visa versa), she would not have felt a need to keep moving on to new relationships. Whether you are married or single, reflect on and answer the following questions:

- A. How and with whom do we find fulfillment for that innermost longing and emptiness? Share scriptures that support your answer, if possible.

- B. Write a prayer of request to the Lord that He would help you to draw from the "*Well that Satisfies.*"

"God can take the place of anything, but nothing can take the place of God."

DAY # 3 Read John 4:19-24

The conversation now turns to religion. The woman referred to the fact that her people had their own religion. History tells us that their religion was a mixture of Jewish beliefs with other forms of worship.

****Quote** Billy Graham was once asked to give his opinion on a certain subject. His response was: "The issue isn't what I think, but I'll tell you what God thinks as stated in the Bible."**

- 1) We would do well to follow the example of Mr. Graham. When questions arise about how to know and worship God, there is no better authority for us to rely upon than *God Himself*. Share from the following scriptures how you can respond with *God's* opinion when someone says, "I have my own concept of God."

A. **John 4:23-24**

B. **John 14:6**

C. **John 3:16-18**

- 2) Write out and commit one of the three above scriptures to memory.

****Scripture Memorization**** The secret of memorizing scripture is review, review, review. It is helpful to write the scripture verse on a 3 X 5 card and carry it or post it in a place where you will see it regularly. Be sure to practice quoting the reference of the book, chapter and verse. The next most important step is to pray and look for opportunities to use and share the scripture. Then it becomes

yours!

- 3) Carefully read again **John 4:23-24**. Describe in your own words what Jesus meant when He said there are two vital factors of true worship, *spirit* and *truth*. Explain the importance of each.

- 4) Share what it means to you personally that the Father actually is seeking *you* to worship Him.

DAY #4

Read **John 4:31-54**. Now go back and list the important facts in this section. Give a short title to this section.

Title:

DAY #5

*The encounter of Jesus with the woman at the well was a
“divine appointment.”*

- 1) After reading **John 4:6-27**, list as many reasons as you can which could have kept Jesus from sharing with this woman.

- 2) What are the reasons which keep you from sharing with a neighbor, person you happen to sit next to in a doctor's office, or someone at work?

- 3) Often we don't speak out because we don't feel others will listen. We often judge by external factors. But be confident! **Everyone needs Jesus!** Sometimes we don't speak because we don't know what to say. Say a prayer right at that moment and ask for *His words* to speak. From studying the first few chapters of John, you now have "Words of life" stored in your heart. Describe how the encouragement found in **John 14:26** and **Luke 12:11-12** can help you remember the Lord is there to help.

- 4) Stop and pray that the Lord will give you a "*divine appointment*" to share with someone about Jesus this week. *When He does*, come back and describe the encounter in the blank below. Remember, even just a few words are like a small seed that can flourish and grow.

- 5) Read **John 4:32-34**. In light of the context, what did Jesus mean by "His food" in **verses 32** and **34**?

- 6) From **John 4:35-38**, describe the opportunities and blessings that await us as we become laborers in God's field to reach out to the lost.

- **Point to Ponder**** In **verse 35**, we are told that the fields (of souls) are ripe for harvest. This reminds and encourages us that often people are more ready to hear than we are to share. We have the words of "LIVING WATER" and the world is dying of spiritual thirst!

- 7) Explain the *snowball* effect of the "Good News" spreading to others as described in **John 4:28-30** and **verses 39-42**. What insights do you gain as you ponder this?

DAY #6 **Read John 4:42-54**

- 1) From **verses 44-46**, we see that word was spreading about the uniqueness of the teaching and abilities of Jesus. Unlike Nicodemus, who came with religious questions, and the Samaritan woman, who had a moral and emotional need, why and with what attitude did this nobleman come to Jesus?

- 2) Unfortunately things like position (as with the nobleman), power, and possessions can sometimes buffer people from knowing their need for God. Many feel that they have the resources and ability to handle life. Those who have previously had no "felt" apparent need or time for God often call out to Him in time of crisis. It's been said, "There are no atheists in fox holes." Share from your own experience or the experience of others, how you have seen this to be true.
- 3) Notice from **verse 50**, the nobleman took Jesus at His word even *before* he heard that his son was well. We need to be careful not to put words into God's mouth and claim promises that He hasn't promised. But we should *always* be absolutely confident in the promises He *has* given us and count on them even *before* we see the finished proof.

"GOD SAID IT...I BELIEVE IT...AND THAT SETTLES IT!"

Claim the following promises for your life, and describe how having the assurance that God keeps His Word can affect your life.

	GOD'S PROMISE	APPLICATION IN YOUR LIFE
A. Hebrews 13:5b	For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."	
B. Luke 12:29-32	"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."	
C. James 1:5	"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."	

***"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."
Ralph Waldo Emerson***