

Bible Stories for Adults

The Samaritan Woman at the Well

John 3:22 - 4:42

Opening

Gathering: What types of secrets do people try to hide from God?

Today's Focus: After a few months ministering to Jews in Jerusalem and Judea, Jesus revealed Himself to Samaritans and they accepted Him as their Savior.

Key Verses: *Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.* John 4:14

We know that this man really is the Savior of the world. John 4:42

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Samaria (1 Kings 11-12)

What did God do with the nation of Israel after Solomon turned to the gods of his foreign wives?

1 Kings 11:29-33

Where did Jeroboam select for the capital of this northern nation of Israel?

1 Kings 12:25

Where was Israel's capital for most of the nation's existence?

1 Kings 16:23-24

Faith of the Samaritans (2 Kings 17)

How faithful to God did this new nation begin?

1 Kings 12:26-29

What eventually happened to the nation of Israel and why?

2 Kings 17:21-23

Why were the Israelites still in Assyria when this book was written?

2 Kings 17:6

What happened to the land of Israel, Samaria?

2 Kings 17:24

How did this melting pot of people learn about God?

2 Kings 17:26-28

Did this group of non-Jews become faithful to God?

2 Kings 17:29, 33, 41

Help to Rebuild the Temple (Ezra 4)

How did the Samaritans react when the Jews returned from exile and wanted to rebuild the temple?

Ezra 4:1-3

How did the Samaritans handle this rejection?

Ezra 4:4-5, 24

What happened when the Jews listened to prophets Haggai and Zechariah and started building again?

Ezra 5:1, 3, 5

How did King Darius respond to the Samaritans request to stop the Jews?

Ezra 6:7-8

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Reconstruction of the City Walls (*Ezra 4; Nehemiah 4*)

Did the effort to rebuild the city walls meet any opposition?

Ezra 4:6, 12

Note: King Xerxes married a Jew (*Esther*) who saved Jews from annihilation

Did they meet any opposition when they tried again under Nehemiah's leadership?

Nehemiah 4:1-3

How did the Samaritans respond when the wall reached half its height?

Nehemiah 4:6-8, 11

Did this threat stop the efforts?

Nehemiah 4:16-18

What other opposition did Nehemiah resist?

Nehemiah 6:1-14

Between the Testaments

Manasseh, a renegade Jew, married a daughter of the Samaritan Sanballat (Nehemiah 13:28)

Founded a temple on Mount Gerizim (next to Shechem) to rival Jerusalem's

129 BC - John Hyrcanus (Jewish leader) attacked Samaria and destroyed temple on Mount Gerizim

Ecclesiasticus called the Samaritans "*no nation ... the foolish people that dwell in Shechem*"

Rabbis said: *He who eats their bread is as he who eats swine's flesh*

Those Beloved Samaritans

How did Ezekiel show the Jews' feelings towards the Samaritans in his condemnation of Judah?

Ezekiel 16:46-47

What horrible curse name did a group of hate-filled Jews come up with to call Jesus?

John 8:48

Jesus Travels to Galilee (*John 4:1-4*)

What was the normal path Jews took to travel between Judea and Galilee?

Matthew 19:1

What path did Jesus decide to take on His trip to Galilee in today's story?

John 4:4

What had Jesus been doing in Judea?

John 3:22-23

Why did Jesus decide to leave Judea at this time?

John 4:1-3

What did John the Baptist think about Jesus' disciples baptizing more than him?

John 3:26-30

Jacob's Well (*John 4:5-6*)

Where did this story take place?

John 4:5-6

What do we know about this place?

Genesis 33:18-19

Genesis 48:21-22

Joshua 24:32

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A Forbidden Encounter (*John 4:7-9*)

What happened while Jesus rested by Himself at Jacob's well?

John 4:7-8

Notes: This well was over 1/2 mile from town, People normally used the village well
Women fetched water in morning and evening, It was noon

Woman was obviously an outcast trying to avoid contact with others

Despite Jesus being tired and thirsty, why was it amazing that He had asked for a drink?

John 4:9

Notes: It was improper for any man to speak in public with a strange woman

Rabbis were forbidden to greet any woman in public

Strict rabbis wouldn't even acknowledge a wife/daughter/sister

Living Water (*John 4:10-15*)

How did Jesus answer her question in a way to tell her who He really was?

John 4:10

How did the woman misunderstand Jesus' revelation?

John 4:11

Notes: The well is over 100 ft deep fed by water percolated through the ground

Travelers carried leather bags for drawing well water, disciples had theirs in town

Living water referred to running water from a stream

What did the woman think about this stranger knowing where to get living water in the area?

John 4:12

How did Jesus try to explain that He was talking about a different type of water?

John 4:13-14

It is said that mankind needs air, food and water to have life. How does this apply to Jesus?

John 20:22

John 6:48

Revelation 21:6

John 1:4-5

How did the woman reply mockingly to this ridiculous statement?

John 4:15

No Conversion Without Conviction (*John 4:16-18*)

How did Jesus begin to show her the need to understand what He is saying?

John 4:16

How did this both reveal her need to us and how this stranger might help?

John 4:17-18

Note: Jews allowed women to divorce twice, at most 3 times; 5 times was wicked

Mount Gerizim or Mount Zion (*John 4:19-24*)

Realizing now that Jesus had to be from God, how did she respond to His accusations?

John 4:19-20

How did Jesus answer this controversial question and bring her further toward conversion?

John 4:21-24 (*Galatians 3:26-29*)

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Conversion (*John 4:25-30*)

- How did the woman show that she was beginning to understand what Jesus was saying?
John 4:25
Samaritan bible only had Pentateuch (1st 5 books); knew little of Messiah, expected a teacher
- What final blow did Jesus then throw?
John 4:26
- What forced the woman to stop asking questions?
John 4:27
- How did she react to this strange talk she had just had with Jesus?
John 4:28-30

The Result of Traveling Through Samaria (*John 4:31-42*)

- Why did Jesus reveal Himself this early in His ministry?
John 4:31-38
- What did the villagers think of what this outcast woman was saying?
John 4:39
- What did the people think after they heard Jesus for themselves?
John 4:40-41
- What important lesson was taught by this walk through Samaria early in Jesus' ministry?
John 4:42

Spread of the Gospel (*Acts 1:8*)

- How does Jesus being called the Savior of the world parallel the growth of the gospel in Acts?
Acts 1:8
John 2:23; 3:22; 4:4; 4:42
- How does this parallel our own calling to witness of our faith?
Matthew 28:19-20

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How do I respond to those who have attacked me?
(*Genesis 34; 2 Samuel 16:5-13; Nehemiah 4:4-5; Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:14-21*)
2. How have I gone out of my way to avoid people I didn't like?
(*John 4:4, 9; Genesis 43:32; 46:34; Exodus 8:26; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 10; Romans 12:16; Galatians 3:26-29*)
3. When have I tried to look more spiritual than others?
(*John 4:1-3; Matthew 6:1-18; 23:5-7; Luke 18:9-14; 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10; Galatians 6:12-14*)
4. When have I felt satisfied by the Holy Spirit similar to how water satisfies me after being very thirsty?
(*John 4:10-14; 6:35; 7:37-39; Psalm 42:1-2; 107:9; Isaiah 44:3; 58:11; Matthew 5:6*)
5. How do I respond to knowing that Jesus can tell me everything I ever did?
(*John 4:29; 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 44:20-21; 94:11; 139:1-4; Proverbs 15:26; Matthew 9:4; Acts 1:24; Revelation 2:19*)