

# WATER TO LIVING WATER

CORE PASSAGE: JOHN 4:7-11,13-15,19-23,25-26

## CONTEXT

In John 3, Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that belief in Jesus's death to pay for sins was required to enter the kingdom of God. In John 4, Jesus revealed to a non-Jewish woman with a sinful past that religious tribalism had no place in His mission to redeem sinners. Though Jews and Samaritans generally steered clear of one another, Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman who needed the eternal satisfaction only He could bring.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus came to give eternal life to all who believe in and worship Him.**

As you examine John 4:7-11,13-15, 19-23,25-26:

- Identify how Jesus crossed societal boundaries to share the gift of eternal life.
- Consider Jesus's assertion that true worship involves worshiping in Spirit and truth.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Performs His First  
Miracle at the Wedding  
in Cana (John 2:1-11)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus at Night  
(John 3:1-21)

**SESSION STUDY: Jesus Speaks with a  
Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)**

Jesus Cleanses the Temple  
(John 2:13-22)

John the Baptist Scales Back  
His Ministry (John 3:22-36)

Jesus Performs His Second  
Miracle in Cana (John 4:46-54)

### Daily Readings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> John 4:1-10  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> John 4:27-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> John 4:11-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> John 4:39-42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> John 4:19-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 42     |



Scan this QR code  
to access this session's  
Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:7-11,13-15

### JESUS GIVES US LIVING WATER.

*Highlight each reference to drinking or water. Note whether each reference seems to be literal or figurative.*

**7** A woman of Samaria came to draw water. “Give me a drink,” Jesus said to her, **8** because 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’? . . . **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. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.” **15** “Sir,” the woman said to him, “give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and come here to draw water.”

### CHURCH CONNECTION

Jesus crossed barriers to share the truth of Himself and the gospel. As believers today, we are to do the same, taking the gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

**Key Concept:** Jesus came to give eternal life to all who believe in and worship Him.

Jesus and His disciples paused their journey to rest in a Samaritan village called Sychar (vv. 3-5). Jesus sat by a well “about noon” (v. 6), when a woman approached to draw water. This was unusual because women generally drew water at the beginning or end of the day when it was cooler, and they generally drew water in groups. With the disciples on an errand to buy food (v. 8), Jesus asked the woman for a drink.

The woman felt surprised Jesus would even talk with her. The disdain between Jews and Samaritans ran deep, and Jewish animosity toward Samaritan women could be particularly acute. Her surprise increased when Jesus offered her “living water” (v. 10), a phrase that could signify either fresh, running water from a spring or refreshing salvation from God (see Isaiah 55:1-2; Jeremiah 2:13; Zechariah 14:8). The woman’s initial response revealed she was thinking only of literal water. But Jesus was sharing with her that He gives the gift of eternal life.

**With what groups of people do you feel reluctant to share the gospel? Why?**

By speaking of recurring thirst, Jesus noted that nothing in this world can satisfy the human soul. The author of Ecclesiastes captured this sentiment vividly when he wrote: “‘Absolute futility,’ says the Teacher. ‘Absolute futility. Everything is futile’” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). True and abiding satisfaction comes only from the salvation Jesus offers. The psalmist put it like this: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God” (Psalm 42:1).

Jesus satisfies the thirst in our souls not by removing it. Rather, He places a self-replenishing spring of spiritual refreshment inside each person who trusts Him as Lord and Savior. That spring is the Holy Spirit. In John’s Gospel, the gift of living water is understood to be the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would pronounce before a crowd in Jerusalem, “The one who believes in me . . . will have streams of living water flow from deep within him” (John 7:38). John added that “he said this about the Spirit” (v. 39).

**How have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s spiritual refreshing in your life?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 4:19-23,25-26

### JESUS CLARIFIED WHAT WORSHIP IS AND THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.

*Circle each statement Jesus made about worship.*

**19** “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but 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 in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. . . . **25** The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” **26** Jesus told her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**EVANGELISM:** It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. Missionary effort on the part of all is a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

**Key Concept:** Jesus came to give eternal life to all who believe in and worship Him.

Realizing Jesus was, at the very least, a prophet with some level of inspiration from God, the woman brought up a point of religious dispute between Jews and Samaritans. Jews recognized Jerusalem as the proper site of temple worship in keeping with God's instructions to Moses, David, and Solomon. Samaritans, who only recognized their version of Genesis through Deuteronomy as Scripture, believed Mount Gerizim in Samaria was the proper site of worship. The woman wanted to know which viewpoint was correct.

Soon the answer would be neither, Jesus said, though He declared the Jews were correct about old covenant worship (v. 22). With Jesus's coming, true worship was elevated beyond the visible and temporal realms. True worship now involves worshiping in Spirit and truth (v. 23). The only people able to render true worship are those given new spiritual life by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. These believers worship Jesus, the truth incarnate (14:6). God desires His people to worship in this way.

**How does the health of our personal relationship with Jesus impact our ability to worship in Spirit and truth?**

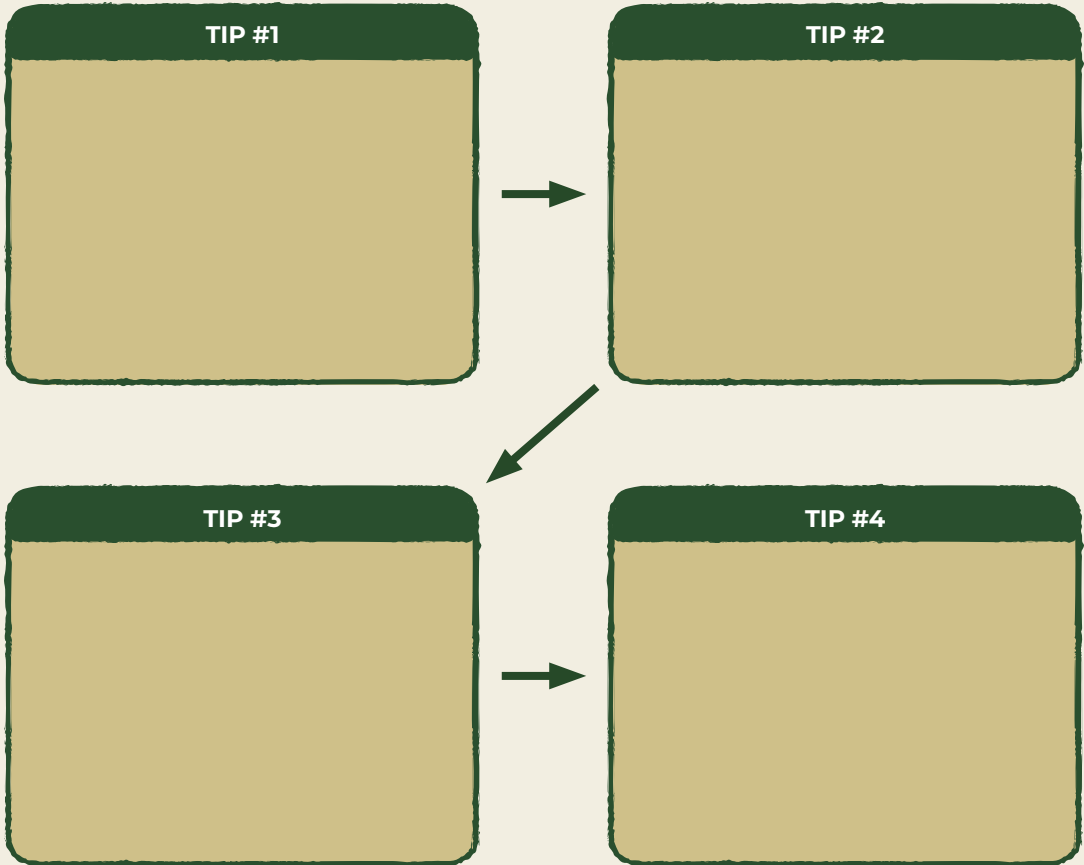
The woman realized Jesus's statements related to the coming Messiah, the One promised in the Old Testament who would remedy sin's curse. Samaritans expected the Messiah to be a teacher. He would be the prophet like Moses foretold in Deuteronomy who would "tell them everything" (Deuteronomy 18:18). Because the Messiah was the great explainer, it was natural for the woman to anticipate he would explain the mysteries Jesus had presented.

Jesus responded by revealing Himself as the Messiah to the Samaritan woman. The phrase translated "I . . . am he" entails only two words in Greek translated "I am," the same two words used repeatedly by Jesus in John's Gospel to present Himself as the fulfillment of messianic expectations. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (6:35), "I am the gate" (10:7), and "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25). By making an "I am" statement to the Samaritan woman, Jesus revealed Himself as the fulfillment of the deepest hopes of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles.

**How can you take the gospel to people who do not realize Jesus is the Messiah?**

## TALK AROUND THE WATER COOLER

Read John 4:7-26 and list how Jesus gave us an example to follow in having spiritual conversations.



What might keep us from turning common conversations into gospel sharing opportunities?

**Key Concept:** Jesus came to give eternal life to all who believe in and worship Him.



## HEAD

What are some ways you can study about Jesus to know Him more deeply?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 42. Express your soul's need for God (vv. 1-2). Tell Him reasons you feel sad or spiritually dry (vv. 3-5, 9-10). Ask God to comfort you with His love (v. 8). Recommit to follow Him (v. 11).

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HEART

How might your life evidence spiritual dryness and thirst, and how can you address that thirst?



## HANDS

How can you encourage other believers to share regularly the good news of Jesus Christ?



# WHY WE CAN TRUST THE RESURRECTION

By Bob Bunn

Within hours, myths surrounding the resurrection of Jesus began circulating on the first Easter morning. In his Gospel, Matthew explained that the religious leaders in Jerusalem made a deal with the Romans to cover up the empty tomb. As a result, the story of a stolen body gained traction among skeptics (Matthew 28:11-15).

## A MAJOR MYTH

More than two thousand years later, doubters still embrace this myth, even though no one had a good reason to steal the body of Jesus. Few Romans would have wanted to nurture a story about Jesus's resurrection. If anything, they would have tamped down any messianic fervor a resurrection story could ignite. Likewise, the Jewish leaders understood that Jesus's resurrection would threaten their authority and their own messianic interpretations.

Of course, the disciples were blamed for the stolen body, but even they didn't have a good reason for robbing Jesus's grave. In fact, they seemed more surprised than anyone by reports of an empty tomb, even though Jesus had foretold it on multiple occasions. Plus, they never would have risked their lives to overpower trained Roman soldiers.

## OTHER MYTHS

So, the "stolen body" theory really holds no water. In fact, none of the so-called "arguments" against the resurrection stand up to scrutiny. While trying to paint the Easter story as a myth, these "explanations" become myths in themselves:

1. **The Swoon Theory:** Jesus just passed out on the cross and revived in the cool air of the tomb. Of course, this completely ignores the soldier who thrust his spear into Jesus's side to ensure He was dead. It also doesn't explain how a man who was recovering from torture and crucifixion managed to roll away the stone.
2. **The Hypnosis Theory:** Everyone who saw Jesus was the victim of a mass hallucination, possibly a hypnotic suggestion planted by Jesus before His death. One would need to believe that hundreds of people would have fallen under the same spell across the course of six weeks. Then they'd have to explain how Saul of Tarsus saw and spoke to the risen Christ years after the Lord's return to heaven.
3. **The Wrong Tomb Theory:** In their grief before the sun came up on Easter morning, the women simply visited the wrong tomb. But this idea has two

major problems. First, John and Peter ran to the tomb after sunrise and found it exactly as the ladies described it. Second, the Romans could have pointed people to the correct tomb with Jesus's body still tucked away inside. This argument actually supports a resurrection.

## BETTER EVIDENCE

In contrast to nonsensical explanations, two very important realities provide solid arguments in favor of Jesus's resurrection. The first is the abundance of eyewitness accounts. Since Jewish law discounted the testimony of women, no group trying to perpetuate a hoax would claim women as primary witnesses. But Christianity affirms the women's witness because we know the resurrection is true.

Plus, as mentioned, the women were not the only witnesses. Hundreds of people encountered the empty tomb and the resurrected Christ. From Peter and John on Easter morning to the travelers on the road to Emmaus on Easter evening to the apostle Paul outside Damascus, biblical history offers a plethora of testimonies regarding the risen Savior.

But for many, the greatest evidence of the resurrected Savior is the transformation seen in the lives of the disciples. Almost overnight, this band of cowards hiding in a locked room became an army of bold witnesses in the temple courtyards. The more their enemies turned up the heat, the more determined they became to share the gospel with as many people as possible.

Honestly, it's hard to imagine them enduring persecution—and ultimately sacrificing their lives—for a hoax. If the resurrection were some kind of scam, they would have come clean as soon as the suffering hit. Yet they remained faithful to the end.

## WHY IT MATTERS

The resurrection of Jesus is vital to us because it provides the backbone for our faith. In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, the apostle Paul outlined a spiritual domino effect that topples everything we hold dear if the resurrection isn't true. If resurrection is impossible, then Jesus wasn't raised. If Jesus wasn't raised, then the gospel is a fraud. If the gospel is a fraud, then our faith—and our eternal hope—is worthless.

If our faith is worthless, we are the most pitiful people on the face of the earth. We could be out doing whatever we wanted with no guilt or consequences instead of following the teachings of a dead man. Nothing would really matter because Jesus isn't really alive and will never really come back either to judge us or reward us.

But Paul put the brakes on the dominoes with one simple statement of faith: "As it is, Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). As a result, we know that He is alive. Our faith is not in vain. Our hope remains secure. And no amount of skepticism or philosophical theories can change that. He is risen indeed!

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## THE SON HAS COME

The eternal Son of God entered history with humble beginnings as a baby but fulfilled prophecies from Old Testament writers. He came as fully God and fully man to grow in wisdom and stature. He was baptized and tempted but never sinned because He was the spotless Lamb of God we needed to take away the sins of the world. Loved by some and hated by others, Jesus disrupted the religious standards of the day to usher forth the kingdom of God to bring salvation to all nations. He truly is greater than us, for He is the Son of Man and the Son of God, our Savior.

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