

KNOWING THE TRUTH**Jesus Quenches our Thirst****John 4:4–42**

“...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst...” John 4:14

1. Most Jews went around Samaria to avoid contact with Samaritans, whom they considered “unclean.” Who were the Samaritans and why didn’t the Jews associate with them (vs. 9)? (See 2 Kings 17:24–41.)
2. What present day situations may bring up similar tensions over gender, class, or race?
3. Read this week’s passage. Why do you think that Jesus, a Jew, goes through Samaria? What is surprising about his question to the Samaritan woman (vs. 7)?
4. Most women usually traveled to wells in large groups. Why do you think the Samaritan woman comes alone and comes during the hottest hour of the day?
5. From verse 10, what three things must the Samaritan woman know and do that anyone who wishes to come to God must also know and do?
6. What differences are there between water of this earth and the living water that Jesus speaks about? (vss. 10–15) Who is this living water? (Peek ahead to Jn. 7:37–39.)
7. What does Jesus tell the woman to do in verse 16? What does this reveal about the kind of “well” that the Samaritan woman is drinking from daily? Is she satisfied? Explain your answer. What kinds of “wells” do you drink from? Are you satisfied?

8. According to Jesus, in verses 21–24, what is worship? What kind of worshippers does God seek?

9. What connections are there between thirst and worship in this passage?

10. Jesus speaks about “a time...coming” three times in verses 21–24. What could he be referring to?

11. After her encounter with Jesus, what does the woman do? (vss. 28–29) What do you learn about Jesus in the Samaritan woman’s testimony and people’s response to her testimony? (vss. 39–42)

12. List a few things that stand out in what Jesus says to his disciples in verses 31–38. Why do you think that John includes these verses about the harvest in the middle of his story about the Samaritan woman and Jesus? What does the harvest metaphor mean to Jesus’ disciples and to Christians today?