

# WEEK 5: KNOWING (*ABOUT*) JESUS

## INTRODUCTION

What is the difference between knowing *about* someone and *knowing* someone?

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Do you remember a time or a series of events that changed your relationship with someone; where you felt as if you began a more meaningful relationship with them? Perhaps you progressed from knowing about them to knowing them? If so, will you share the experience with us?

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## DISCOVER

### Jesus Reaches out to His Children

Read John 4:1-30 & 39-42

(Verses 1-10)

Who begins the dialogue; Jesus or the Samaritan woman? How is the dialogue kicked off?

(Refer to **John 4:7**)

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The Samaritan woman doesn't realize who (Jesus) it is that is speaking to her, nor the significance and value of the gift He desires to give her. She is caught up with the racial tensions between Jews and Samaritans (**verses 9**) so she is steering the conversation in that direction. But Jesus is focused on her spiritual well being so He abruptly changes the direction of the conversation in **verse 10** onto her and her spiritual condition.

In **(Verse 10)** He offers the woman a free gift from God, which He describes as “living water”. What do you think Jesus means by “living water”? (What is “living water” and what is the *source* of “living water”?)

(Refer to **Jeremiah 17:13** and **John 7:38-39**)

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**(Verses 11-12)**

How does the woman react to His offer?

(TIP: Does she seem to understand the significance of Jesus’ offer? Does she seem to understand the metaphor, “living water”?)

(Refer to **John 4:11**)

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Do you think that this is a common reaction to Jesus in our society today? Why?

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## **DISCOVER**

**Jesus Meets His children on Their Level, Where Ever They Are At**

**(Verses 13-14)**

How does Jesus work with her to overcome her spiritual ignorance and worldly mindset?

(Refer to **John 4:13-14**)

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In **verses 13-14**; Jesus uses some metaphors such as; “you will never thirst again” and “a spring of water welling up to eternal life”. What do you think He is intending to communicate through these metaphors? What do they mean? (Think about the big picture of what God is communicating. Think about the symbols God used through the setting (location and occasion): the hot sun, the need for water to survive, the well, constant trips back and forth to the well, an eternal *spring* of “living water”, no more trips to the well, etc.)

(Refer to **Isaiah 12:3**; **Isaiah 44:3**)

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(Verse 15)

In **verse 15**; based on the woman’s response to Jesus’ teaching on the spiritual, what does the woman seem to be focused on? (Is she thinking in spiritual terms or still in worldly terms?)

(Refer to **John 4:15**)

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**Jesus is both the *author* and *perfecter* of our faith**

(Verses 16-19)

What does Jesus do to help her overcome her lack of faith and understanding of Him?

(TIP: What does He do to help her understand that He is God, supernatural and divine?)

(Refer to **John 4:16-19**)

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**The Heart of Jesus (His desire)**

*Discuss verses 19-24*

Her view of religion was material (temple) and location (her father's mountain) based. Jesus explains that God desires a spiritual relationship with us, grounded on Biblical truth. Location and material are inconsequential. Jesus desires a truthful, personal, spiritual relationship with the omnipresent, Spiritual God.

**(Verse 25)**

In verse 25; does the woman appear to have a change in priorities / a change in heart?

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**(Verse 26)**

In verse 26; now that Jesus has the woman's attention and she is ready to listen, what truth does He reveal?

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**The Results, Overflows and Evidences of Knowing Jesus**

**(Verses 28-30)**

In verses 28-29, do you notice a change in her priorities and heart? How so? Why do you think she experienced such a radical change in her heart?

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In verses 29-30; what do you notice about her testimony... is it complex... is it from the heart... is it sincere/genuine... is it overly rehearsed? Would it inspire you? Why?

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**(Verses 39-42)**

(Skip down to verses 39-42) Does it appear that the Samaritan woman's testimony impacted those that heard her? Why or why not?

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Do you see any similarities between the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus and the town people's encounter with Jesus?

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How did Jesus help increase their faith and understanding of Him? Do you think they believed in Jesus by the woman's testimony (verse 39) OR after they had a personal encounter with Jesus (verse 42)? Why?

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Do you think they knew *about* Jesus or *knew* Jesus from the woman's testimony (verse 39)? What about after Jesus spent a couple of days with them? Why?

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(Speculate for a moment and provide your opinion) Do you think the Samaritan woman did much evangelism before her personal encounter with Jesus? Why? Do you think she did much after her encounter with Jesus? Why?

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**APPLICATION; knowing Jesus**

What are some examples of "physical water" equivalents today in Washington DC year 2004?

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Why do you think that Jesus "told her everything she ever did"?

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Why do you think Jesus speaks with metaphors and symbols from time to time (i.e. living water, spring, never thirsting, sheep, shepherd, true vine, etc.)?

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Pretend for a moment that you are trying to progress from knowing about someone to knowing them personally. How would you go about achieving this?

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What can we do to progress from knowing about Jesus to knowing Jesus?

(TIP: How can your above response about knowing a friend more personally be applied to- getting to know Jesus more personally?)

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Do you remember a time or event that greatly deepened your relationship with Jesus (a tough time, good time, a miracle, an answered prayer, education, etc.)? If so will you share it with us?

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### **THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER**

What is my number one priority in life; physical water (things of the world) or living water (God)?

Do I know *about* Jesus, or do I *know* Jesus?

Do I have a *sincere, genuine* zeal in my personal testimony of Jesus?

Is my testimony based on other peoples' experience or teaching of Jesus, OR based on my *personal* experience with Jesus?