



Sunday Teaching Guide

That You May Believe: Week 1

March 12, 2023

Bible Texts

- John 4:1-42
- John 7:37-38

Sermon Notes

- For the people who heard this story in the first century when it began to circulate, it would have been alarming that Jesus traveled through Samaria. There was an animosity between Jews and Samaritans that extended for generations. But Jesus ignored all that and, in this story, once again widened the invitation of grace. Finding a woman at a well, Jesus began a conversation that addressed shame, belief, invitation, and life.
- In Samaria and Israel, water was found in streams, the Dead Sea, filled with salt water, and water carried from wells. Living water was different. It was the unexpected rains that brought everything to life. Jesus used this metaphor of living water to describe how he would bring life into the lives of those who followed him.
- The Samaritan woman left behind her water jar, one of her most important possessions. She discovered something so much better than the well she was sitting at and the life she had been living.
- She also stopped worrying about her shame. She didn't care what time it was or what guilt she had because of her past. She had found the Messiah, she had found Jesus, and He had promised that her life would never be the same again. Rather than sitting there, contemplating what that meant, she ran to tell everyone she knew.
- When we encounter Jesus, we're invited to believe. No matter our story, our shame, or the past that holds us back, we encounter Jesus, experience change, and drop all that we thought we were after and run to tell others about his amazing grace, mercy, and love.

Reflection Questions

- Have you ever been embarrassed and tried to avoid people?
- Why do you think the woman tried to hard to avoid other people in her community?
- How do you think she felt when she saw Jesus standing by the well? Why do you think she kept going?
- Why do you think she still went to the well when she saw Jesus?
- How would you describe Jesus to others?
- What do you think it felt like for the woman when she realized who Jesus actually was?
- What are some things you're currently choosing instead of your relationship with Jesus?

Prayer for the Week

- God, help us to recognize the things we're choosing instead of you, and help us to seek you first. As we follow you, help us share the life we've found through our faith. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Isaiah 12:2-3
- Isaiah 55:1-3
- Revelation 21:6