

Week Beginning: 19th March 2017

Worship Series: #4 in series **NO SHORTCUTS**

living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

Theme Verse

Jesus says "...whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14

Remember This Week

When you stand by a deep well with no bucket, Jesus is there. He is at your side in the heat of the day and at the height of your fatigue, in the most daunting of challenges and the most hopeless situations with an invitation to drink his life-giving water. The life he gives will never run dry, no matter how shameful your past or broken your present. He offers healing, wholeness and a relationship with him now and for eternity. So drink and be truly satisfied.



**As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

Psalms 42:1-2a

Lord Jesus Christ, you know our deepest thirst for love and life and you meet us at that need with an invitation to drink and be satisfied forever. Help us to drink deeply and often at the well of your living water that we might be satisfied by your grace, experience the joy of wholeness and be sustained to life eternal. Draw us deeper into that life now as we grow in grace together as your people. We ask this in your precious name. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows for the past week.*
2. *Accountability time! How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What is your non-alcoholic 'go to' drink when you are really thirsty?*
4. *When you were growing up: Who were the people you hung around? Were there certain areas around your neighbourhood/community that you avoided?*

It's the black hole that all of us have tried to fill. A black hole of discontent that devours relationships and possessions, all the while screaming, "I need more!" An inner restlessness, a nagging irritation, a sense that things are not as they should be. All of humanity is thirsting for someone or something to fill that deep craving of the soul. It's a thirsting that often seduces us to take a shortcut towards inferior substitutes that deprive us of any hope or fulfilment. There are no shortcuts to wholeness but today we are nudged back to the one who can perpetually refresh and restore our aching souls and satisfy the parched and painful places of our lives.



Read John 4:4-42

First thoughts/reflections

5. *What part of this reading spoke to/touched or challenged you the most?*
6. *What questions did this passage raise for you?*
7. *Have you ever had someone approach you who you thought would never have talked to you? How did that make you feel?*
8. *Have you ever approached someone who you normally wouldn't talk to? Why did you talk to them? How did they react?*



9. *We live in a world consumed by thirst. What are the deeper soul cravings that everyone in this world is searching for? What are the wells you run to to fill these things your souls thirst for?*

The relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans is interesting. There was a centuries old feud that existed between the two. In 720 B.C. when the Assyrians invaded and captured Samaria, they resettled it with people from other nations who intermarried with the Jewish residents. To “true” Jews this loss of racial purity was an unforgivable crime. The southern kingdom, when invaded and carried off to Babylon, did not lose their identity and later these “pure” exiles returned to Jerusalem. They refused the help of the northern mixed Samaritan people to rebuild the temple and deep animosity ensued. This quarrel started about 450 B.C. and was still bitter in Jesus’ time.

10. *What do you make of the phrase in John 4:4 that Jesus “had to go through Samaria?”*
11. *If you look at this encounter as an example of how to witness, or to share your faith with someone else, what are some principles or guidelines you observe at work here in what Jesus said and did?*
12. *What is this “living water” that Jesus spoke of?*
13. *How do these additional verses affirm or elaborate on the living water offered by God? John 7:38 Revelation 21:6 Revelation 22:17 Isaiah 55:1,2*
14. *When Jesus started connecting at a deeper level with the woman, she tried to deflect the question by asking something else (John 4:14-16). Why do we, like the woman at the well, try to dodge or dance around difficult questions?*
15. *What is the woman’s attitude after she leaves Jesus at the well? What hints does the text give you?*
16. *How does that contrast with the disciples? Who do they bring to Jesus? What can you learn from that in your own life?*
17. *Jesus interaction with the Samaritan woman progresses from “I see you, I know you, I love you, and you belong to me.” To what degree have you experienced that same progression in your own life?*



18. *How would you tell someone who does not follow Jesus about the satisfaction that Jesus brings to your life?*
19. *What are some ways that you can take an ordinary conversation about every day things to a deeper conversation about the things of God? Brainstorm*
20. *Jesus took the initiative to initiate a discussion with the Samaritan woman. Who will you take the initiative with in the coming week to have a discussion with about Jesus?*



- * Praise God for his love that crosses all cultural, social, religious and ethnic boundaries. Thank Jesus for always being there at your point of deepest need with an invitation to drink his life giving water. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal those deep thirsts of the soul that you are trying to satisfy.
- * Ask God to open doors and give you wisdom to speak to others about spiritual issues and the Gospel.
- * Ask God to open the hearts of the people you are talking to about Jesus.
- * Pray for boldness to seek out the genuine needs of those around you and for the Holy Spirit to empower you to share Christ with those who may not be like you.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, Christ will satisfy your deepest thirst. Amen.

