



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Pure



EPISODE

04

DISCUSSION ►

Jesus said He came to . . .

- proclaim good news to the poor
- announce freedom for prisoners
- bring recovery of sight to the blind
- release the oppressed

This claim is recorded in Luke 4. The claim is fleshed out a bit in the boxed section. Which needs can you relate to personally?

- **Poor:** feeling destitute materially, emotionally, relationally, or spiritually
- **Captive:** boxed in or controlled by others such as your parents, your past, your work situation, or just society in general
- **Blind:** unable to see clearly, make sense of it all, or figure out how to make life work
- **Oppressed:** dominated or tormented by inner demons, addictions, anger, or forces that seem to be more powerful than you

Which do you sense is most likely to provide you the freedom or power you are looking for to satisfy your deepest needs? And why do you think so?



- [] Rules: a solid system of do's and do not's
- [] Stuff: a lot of inanimate material possessions
- [] People: relationships with other human beings
- [] God: a relationship with a divine being
- [] Self: something within, yet untapped
- [] Combination: a mixture of some or all of the above

.....

FOR REFLECTION

Which of these statements rings true to you?

- Jesus can't help me.
- Jesus wants nothing to do with me.
- Jesus is making an offer too good to be true.
- Jesus is more interested in me being good than in me myself.
- Jesus is interested in me even though He knows all about me.

Try reading the whole story of Jesus and the woman of Samaria as told in John 4. As you do, underline anything that stands out or that you have questions about.

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming.”

“When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”



Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

.

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." —JOHN 4:4–30, 39–42

Based on what you just read, would Jesus be the kind of person you would like to know?

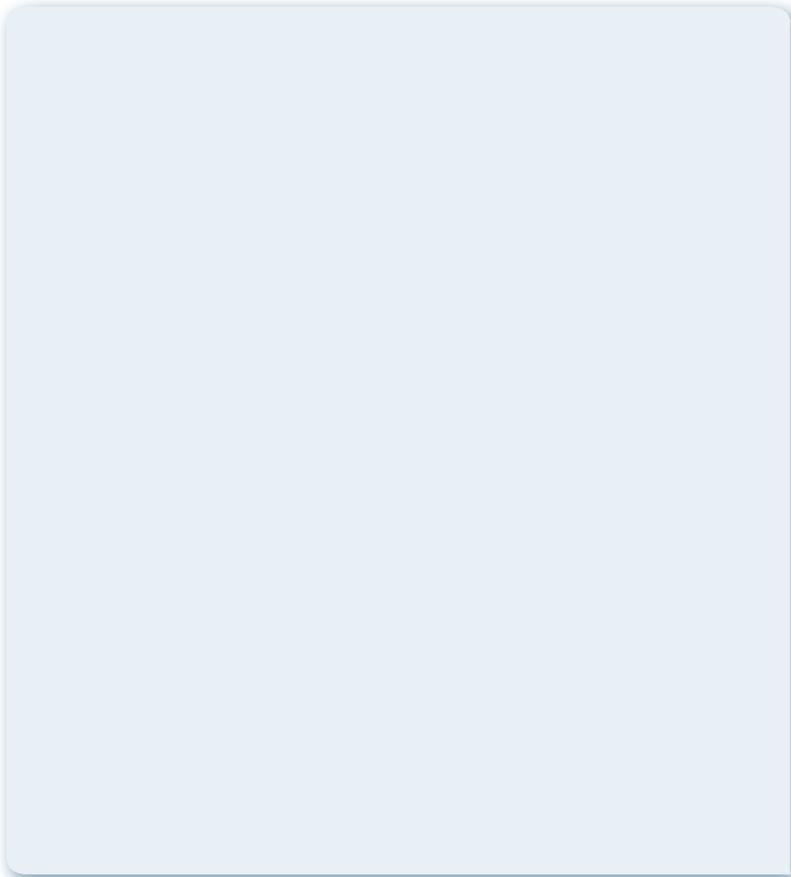
Yes! No! Maybe

Why or why not?

If you would like to know more about Jesus, try reading one of the accounts of His life found in the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Start with any of them; they are all good! Use a modern translation that's understandable. If you have a Bible that is difficult to understand, buy a more up-to-date version. Your H20 leader can probably help you choose a good translation.

Oftentimes, writing out our thoughts helps us clarify our thinking. Now that you have had four weeks of study, what thoughts or questions do you have about Jesus?





*I am the way
and the truth
and the life.*
—JESUS, JOHN 14:6

