

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of June 28, 2015

John 4:7-15

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

### Common English Bible (CEB)

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." <sup>8</sup> His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

**Connection Questions:**

1. The image of water is used throughout the Bible in seeing and understanding God in a clearer light. Talk about the image of water and how this image connects you to God.
2. Because of the Jewish law, Jewish men were forbidden to have conversations with women in public. Discuss the implication of this law – its concern for men and women conversing in public.
3. Throughout history, women's rights have been limited. In your opinion, why has this been true?
4. Discuss the cultural taboos Jesus challenged by talking to this woman at the well and why he did it.
5. The Samaritan woman wasn't sure why Jesus was talking to her so she asked questions. Why is it important to ask questions as we seek to grow in our faith?

6. What was it about Jesus in this situation that finally helped the Samaritan women see God in a new way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What questions do you have about God? Discuss the questions and let the group respond to the issues.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. After reflecting on this story about Jesus and his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, respond to this statement: God, who has known more pain than we ever will, does not leave us comfortless but will walk with us forever.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Jesus said to this woman, "I bring you living water." Does Jesus bring living water to you? If so, how?