

Small Group #3 | Fake Love vs. the Real Thing

INTRO

Has anyone ever confronted you about an issue in your life?
How did they do it well? What made you listen? What turned you off?

Today, Jesus meets a woman who is avoiding others by going to a well when she knows no one else will be there. (In the ancient Middle-East people gathered to collect water at dawn and dusk when it was still cool, not in the heat of the day.) His wandering conversation helps them both be real. Today we'll get a chance to be real with Jesus too.

PASSAGE

JOHN 4:4–26
(NIV)

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ 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.)

¹⁰ 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."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but 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."

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

¹⁸ 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."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

QUESTIONS

1. Jesus initiates this conversation, but it would have been easier to ignore this woman. What barriers did he overcome? Why do you think he crosses all these barriers to talk with this woman?
2. Jesus gets metaphorical with the woman and offers her "living water." What do you like about his offer?
3. Jesus helps the woman stop hiding and be real. If Jesus had met you at the well, what might he bring up with you?
4. The woman asks an honest question when she asks about worship and waiting for the Messiah. What does the text suggest she felt when Jesus claimed to be the Messiah? Why do you think Jesus reveals this about himself to her?

APPLY

We have an opportunity to metaphorically meet Jesus at the well today and take him up on his offer of living water. Let's read this worksheet together to unpack his metaphor and decide how each of us want to respond to Jesus.



[Click Here for the Worksheet](#)

**SPIRITUAL
PRACTICE**

Start each day by admitting the places deep inside where you crave love, friendship, acceptance, admiration, intimacy, etc. Bring this to Jesus and ask him to satisfy your deepest longings.