

PROMISES WORTH KEEPING

# "A Scandalous Conversation!"



## GROWTH GUIDE OCTOBER 13, 2024

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: John 4:5-29; 39-42

### AUTHOR

John, one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus, is the author. A fisherman by trade, he was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. John wrote his gospel around AD 85-90 to new Christians and non-Christians who were searching. His purpose in writing was to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. Jesus' love is a main theme in John's gospel. John also wrote John 1, 2 & 3 and Revelation.

### CONTEXT

It is still early in Jesus' ministry but already opposition is building against him, especially from the Pharisees. They did not like Jesus' popularity or his message which challenged most of their teachings. As our scripture passage opens, Jesus has left Jerusalem and traveled north toward Galilee. To go from Judea to Galilee meant passing through the territory of Samaria which Jews avoided, as they despised the Samaritans. Jesus did not let this deter him and took the shorter route through Samaria. Jacob's well is referred to. It was on the property originally owned by Jacob. Twice each day, morning and evening, women came to draw water.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 4:5-29 and 39-42. Why do you think the Samaritan woman came to the well at noon? What was scandalous about this encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman?

2. Jesus shared the Good News with the woman, crossing barriers to do so. What barriers keep us from sharing the Good News and how could we overcome them?
3. Jesus talked to the woman about living water. What did he mean by this? In the Old Testament, many verses speak of thirsting after God as one thirsts for water. Read the following: Psalm 42:1, Isaiah 55:1, Jeremiah 2:13, Zechariah 13:1. By saying he would give living water that could quench a person's thirst for God, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah. Only the Messiah could give this gift.
4. What was the woman's response to Jesus' offer of living water?
5. What did Jesus say the water would give those who drink it?
6. How did Jesus challenge the woman? Is Jesus challenging a part or parts of your life? What will be your response?
7. Our souls hunger and thirst and need spiritual food and water. Do we deprive our souls or are we feeding them? What can satisfy our hungry and thirsty souls? Do we make this a priority?
8. The Samaritan woman went from being spiritually thirsty to meeting the Messiah and being empowered to go back to the village and witness about the Messiah. It must have taken courage for her to do this. Are you witnessing to others about Jesus? Are there challenges involved?

### ENCOURAGEMENT

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who strengthens me.

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