

Read: John 4:1-42

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL The Biblical account of Jesus and the woman at the well contains the longest conversation that Jesus had with anyone. Her story reminds us that Jesus didn't care about cultural boundaries or traditional rabbinical rules. Jesus sees and values us all.

1 In His conversation with the Woman at the Well, Jesus reveals His divine nature to her in three ways. Who is Jesus, as revealed in John 4:10-14? Jesus is (gives) the _____. In John 4:16-19 Jesus reveals himself as a _____. How does He reveal himself in John 4:24-26? Jesus is the _____.

2 The dictionary definition of the word marginalize is, "To relegate to an unimportant or powerless position within a society or group." One who is marginalized is treated as an outsider: unimportant, insignificant, or of lower status. The Samaritan woman in tonight's story might be considered a "marginalized" individual. Discuss three ways, either because of her condition or her conduct, that the Woman at the Well was a marginalized member of society. How does this kind of marginalization happen today?

3

God chose this woman to be the first person to whom Jesus revealed himself as Messiah. Jesus held the longest recorded conversation with her of anyone in the Bible! What does this tell you about God's character? Does He leave anyone out of His plan for salvation? Read Luke 4:18 and Revelation 7:9. What are our human tendencies when encountering people of different customs, cultures, or even points of view? How did Jesus treat people who were ostracized, or not considered worthy of His attention according to the culture of His time? Use the Woman at the Well as an example. Can you find other examples in scripture?

4

Throughout scripture, water is used as a type, or symbol, of the Holy Spirit and refers to the divine nature and power of God. What does Jesus mean by offering the Woman at the Well "living water?"

5

Jesus' words about worship to the Woman at the Well were revolutionary. Worship would no longer be confined to a single geographical location. Read John 4:21-24. What does it mean to worship in spirit and truth? The spirit of a person refers to the part that connects and communicates with God. Does spirit refer to God's spirit or our own? Or both? Can we truly worship without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit? Go to Philippians 3:3. Try reading it in The Message version.

6

When it comes to good news, we can't help but bear witness. We can't wait to tell others! The Samaritan woman left her water vessel and ran to tell everyone in the village. Read John 4:28-42 and Acts 8:5-25. Pay attention to Jesus' words about sowing and reaping. How far did one woman's

testimony go?

Encouragement to take home:

The story of the woman at the well is a beautiful example of God's great love, truth, redemption, and acceptance. Jesus is the living water that we need. Not only does Jesus accept her, but He accepts us, too, when we put our faith and trust in Him as the Living Water and when we do, we can know for certain that the well will never run dry! He wants nothing more than for us to experience His great love. He sees you.... right where you are today.