



Come and See... Deeper Study Notes

Breaking Down Barriers (John 4:1-26)

Here, Jesus shows himself as the true Jew living out the covenant made in Genesis 12. Take some time to reflect on these questions relating to the sermon:

- Have you created any barriers which stop people meeting Jesus? How can you turn these into bridges?
- How are you doing personally with allowing God's living water to wash away any stale water? Perhaps you need to ask the Lord to reveal if there are things you're substituting for the living water or areas you need to let him clean?
- When you consider sharing the gospel, who are the people you find it hardest to love or the places you find it hardest to visit? What is it about them that get's in the way of you sharing this truth [*perhaps skin colour, location, language, rituals, religion, values, ancestry, history, differing customs*] ?

Deeper Study Questions

- Consider this story in light of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus (3:1-21). What contrasts do you see between the two dialogues? What similarities?
- If you were to stereotype these two characters today, where might you encounter them?
- These two conversations offer us a model for sharing the gospel (evangelism). Cover the right-hand column below and see what principles you come up with for the seven stages. Within each, there is lots of scope for conversation around what is happening, how we might act, spot any dangers. Consider both Jesus' point of view and that of the Samaritan women.

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| 1. John 4:1-6 | Connect with people socially |
| 2. John 4:7-8 | Establish and grow a common interest |
| 3. John 4:9-14 | Allow your spiritual side to shine through: in action and word |
| 4. John 4:15-16 | Don't go too far, too fast (rely on the Holy Spirit) |
| 5. John 4:17-18 | Show grace not condemnation |
| 6. John 4:19-25 | Don't get distracted from the gospel and their need for salvation but also be respectful of concerns (clear the 'rocky ground') |
| 7. John 4:26 | Offer the challenge to follow Jesus |

Of course, this is not really a model but a growing relationship—soaked in prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit, dependent on your context. Still, these 'stages' may help you identify where you are at with those you're praying for and how to move forward.

- Take this model (or your edited version!) and imagine a modern day setting (e.g., the playground; a specific work place). Discuss how this might look in reality. Consider what barriers we have that Jesus didn't; how might we build bridges to manage these?
- What stages do you find easy? Where do you struggle or feel you need more understanding.
- Consider what areas you might want to spend some time developing. Pray for one another. Seek help in finding further resources.