

Icebreaker:

What is a favorite drink to quench your thirst or a favorite food to feed your hunger?

Questions:

1. Why do you think John mentioned that the woman left her water jar?
2. Jesus overcame social and cultural barriers to meet with the Samaritan woman. How can we overcome similar barriers today? What are some of those barriers?
3. In verse 29, the woman said, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." Would that excite you or make you nervous?
4. While the woman returned to her village, what conversation were Jesus and his disciples having? Why the disconnect between them? What does this disconnect suggest?
5. Why was the woman so much more effective at inviting people to meet Jesus than the disciples were?
6. Jesus tells his disciples "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." Are there times where it feels like doing God's work is as essential as eating food? Do you know someone who lives that way?
7. In this incident, with whom do you most identify? Why this identification?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Jan Edds, Penny Little, Ann Loudonback, Star Paterson, Gloria Rottman, and Ronnie Jordan's brother Jerry.

From the ZPC monthly Prayer Calendar [available at zpc.org/prayer or at the Welcome Center].

- > Pray for Lisa Prince and those who gather for the Christian spiritual formation class at 10:30 at ZPC.
- > Pray for Karl and Sue Dahlfred, missionaries to Thailand. Please give them wisdom for how to help refugees.

Thanks again from all of us (Jerry, Sally and Scott) for leading another season of ZPC Home Groups! This is the last week of our session as we end by Memorial Day. This week, discuss the differences you see between the woman at the well and the disciples. See how she invited others to come and meet Jesus, the Messiah, while the disciples seem a bit confused. What might we do this summer season in our own lives to help family, friends and neighbors meet Jesus through our words and actions?

1. The woman left her jar as she went back into the town of Sychar very quickly. Her wording in verse 29 shows her excitement. Perhaps she also knew she would return to the site and get her jar when she saw Jesus again. Perhaps because Jesus was the living water, she didn't have to carry home the well water just yet.
2. Barriers: Jesus as a Jewish man wasn't supposed to talk to a woman by himself, especially one who was living with a man who wasn't her husband. It wasn't appropriate. She was a Samaritan – the Jews and the Samaritans hated one another. Barriers for us: It might be talking to someone who has diametrically opposed values to us. Who are the people in our lives that are awkward, uncomfortable, or difficult for us to talk with? Is there someone right now like the woman that Jesus might want us to talk with?
3. For most, we would be nervous as we think about Jesus seeing the wrong we've done. Talking to Jesus who knows all your secrets could be frightening! But it could be exciting to know that he could see right through you, knowing your fears and failures, and still seemed totally accepting of you.
4. The disciples wanted Jesus to eat food they had brought back. When he said he had food (to do God's will), they were confused. Jesus is talking spiritual while they are concerned with physical. Perhaps they even missed an opportunity to talk to someone in town about Jesus, and instead just focused on buying food for their Rabbi.
5. The woman is visibly excited and her vulnerability gets people's attention. The people probably knew her story and were intrigued. She goes into town with the intention to bring people back while the disciples just bring back food. The disciples apparently didn't see the chance to meet and talk to the Samaritans as the woman did.
6. This is a fascinating analogy that food is doing God's will – basically that to be with people and to show them Jesus brings spiritual nourishment. Who is that person for you who see God's work as essential as eating? When have you felt what you were doing was exciting, life-giving, that you were in God's will while you were doing that?
7. Do you identify with the woman – maybe alone, disconnected from God, but open to Jesus to show her the truth? Do you identify with the disciples – who are focused on getting food, not a bad thing but less important than the people opportunities right around them? Could we begin to identify with Jesus, who sees the bigger picture, and chooses to care for the woman in need rather than eat?

Thank you again for leading your Home Group this year!