

HE LOVES YOU, AND NOT JUST YOU

JOHN 4:1-42

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 8, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:1-42 (ESV)

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Who first told you about Jesus's offer of eternal life through faith in him?

SERMON RECAP

This week, our church started an initiative called “Reach One,” which is focused on developing a lifestyle that slows down and sees the ones around us the way God sees the one. In the four weeks leading up to Easter, we will look at different interactions that Jesus had with “the one” person right in front of Him to learn from Him how to see the one and love the one.

In John 4, Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman shows that:

- Jesus knows you. He knows everything about you: your past, present, and future, all that you have ever done, your joys, sorrows, hurts, pain, sin, and shame.
- Jesus loves you. He loves you right where you are, not to get something from you, but because he created you and is for you.

...And not just you! Jesus knows and loves everyone in the world, and has given everyone a thirst...

- ... to believe that this world is not all there is, and that there is someone who can put an end to all their sin, shame, pain, and sorrow.
- ... to belong – not just to be known and tolerated, but to be understood and treasured.
- ... to be loved by someone who will sing over them, serve them, seek after them, shelter them, and shepherd them to a world without sin.

Jesus, the Christ, the Promised King, is the One who can quench all these thirsts. He alone can save “the one” from their sin and satisfy their soul. Jesus is the Savior of the world! The field is white for harvest in our city, so let's see “the one” and tell them about the One who knows them, loves them, and offers them living water that wells up to eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read John 4:1-42 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share simple observations about it.
2. What is the setting of the story? (vv. 4-6)
3. Who are the Samaritans? What is their relationship to the Jews? (vv. 9, 12)
4. How does the “living water” Jesus offers differ from physical water? (vv. 13-14)
5. Jesus identifies himself as the Messiah (Christ). What is the history and meaning of this title? (vv. 25-26) How is it different from a mere prophet? (v. 19)
6. What happens in the town of Sychar at the end of the passage? (vv. 39-42)

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What might the setting of the story reveal about Jesus's will to pursue the Samaritan woman? (vv. 4, 6, 9, 27)
2. How do the words and actions of the Samaritan woman reveal her thirst to believe, belong, and be loved? How does Jesus fulfill these longings?
3. Read John 17:1-4. What work was Jesus sent by the Father to accomplish? What is the picture of “eternal life” in John's writings? (see also: John 3:14-16; 5:24; 6:40, 54; 10:28; 1 John 1:2; 5:20)
4. What shift does Jesus announce in the manner of how God's people worship him, and why is this good news for the

world? (v. 21)

5. What is the main point of John 4:1-42 in one sentence?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Pastor David offered two immediate and practical ways for us to respond to the sermon:
 - By texting one person who may not know Jesus personally to encourage them, pray for them, and share how God knows them and loves them. Spend some time discussing and praying for these people.
 - By visiting ReachOneDC.org to receive a “Reach One Starter Guide” containing resources to help you practically think through, “How can I intentionally, prayerfully, personally reach people one at a time this week?” Open the Starter Guide and commit to specific steps outlined on the Reach One Rhythm Card.
2. Think about the different groups of people you interact with on a daily or weekly basis. Who are some “ones” around you who need to know where the fountain of living water is found? Who can you invite to church over the coming weeks and on Easter?
3. Read Revelation 7:9-17. Take some time to encourage one another and pray for Christ’s return and the fulfillment of these promises.