



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Soul & Body-Saving & Healing

TEXT: John 4:1-54

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: I love humanity: It's people I can't stand!" Those well-known words from a member of the "Peanuts" gang still make us chuckle. But our smiles hide the fact that we sometimes feel exactly like that. John says very little about Jesus' contact with the multitudes. But long sections of the Gospel are devoted to conversations Jesus had with individuals. Jesus was open, warm, and vitally interested in people.

In John 4 we see Jesus reach out first to a woman, then to his disciples, and finally to a grieving father. Watching Jesus give himself to people with love and compassion will help us care for those God puts in our paths.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss how you can turn an ordinary conversation into a discussion about Christ?
2. Read John 4:1-26. Why do you think Jesus "had to go through Samaria" on his way to Galilee (v. 4)? Jews normally went around Samaria to avoid contact with the hated Samaritans.)
3. What is surprising about Jesus' question to the Samaritan woman (vv. 8- 9)? - What present-day situations might arouse the same racial, religious, and sexual prejudices?
4. How does Jesus' offer of "living water" contrast with what the woman thinks he means (vv. 10-15)? - What does this offer of "living water" mean in a Christian life and experience?
5. Why do you think Jesus brings up the woman's long list of past marriages and her present adulterous relationship (vv. 16-18)?
6. Why does the woman suddenly change the subject and begin talking about the controversy over the proper place of worship (vv. 19-20)?
7. How does Jesus handling of her question about this Samaritan-Jewish controversy (vv. 21-24)?
8. What principles can you draw from Jesus' conversation with the woman to help you in discussing the gospel with non-Christians?

9. Read John 4:27-42. From your reading of this passage, do you think the Samaritan woman genuinely believed? What do you see in the passage that supports your position?

10. How is the disciples' confusion about food (vv. 31-33) similar to the woman's confusion about living water?

11. 11. After his encounter with the Samaritan woman, what specific lessons does Jesus apply to his disciples and to us (vv. 34-38)?

12. Read John 4:43-54. Discuss how the royal official's attitude toward Jesus differs from the response Jesus had already anticipated (see v. 44).

13. What does this "second miraculous sign" Jesus performed (v. 54) reveal about him?

14. What has Jesus taught you in this chapter about meeting the specific needs of those around you?