

# **2016 Fellowships Joint Bible Study (04/2016)**

## **Student's Version**

### **The Samaritan Woman**

#### **Background**

“After the Assyrians captured Samaria in 722–721 BC, they deported all the Israelites of substance and settled the land with foreigners, who intermarried with the surviving Israelites and adhered to some form of their ancient religion (2 Ki. 17–18). After the exile, Jews returning to their homeland, the remains of the southern kingdom, viewed the Samaritans not only as the children of political rebels but as racial half-breeds whose religion was tainted by various unacceptable elements (Ne. 13; cf. Jos., Ant. xi. 297–347, esp. 340).”

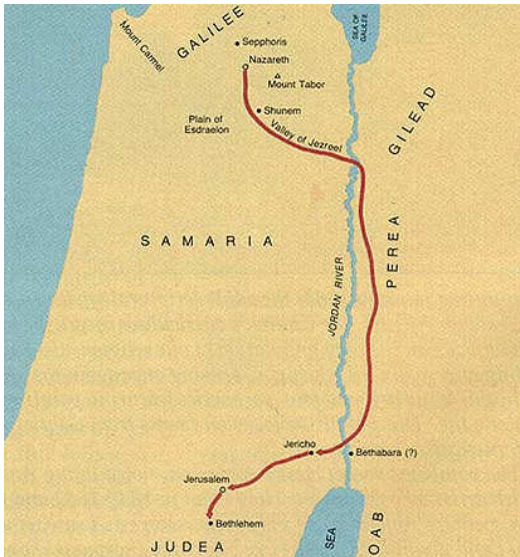
(Carson, D. A. The Gospel according to John)

#### **Read John 4:1-6 - Context**

Where was Jesus traveling from and to?

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Look at the map. The most direct route for the journey is through Samaria. However, in Jesus' time, the Jews would not go through Samaria. Instead, they went east of the Jordan River, then north, then west.



#### **Read John 4:7-26 - An Encounter with Jesus**

To the Samaritan woman, who was Jesus? What was her impression of Him ...  
*when Jesus asked her for water to drink (verses 7-9).*

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*when Jesus told her about the gift of living water (verses 10-15).*

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*when Jesus told everything about her marital history (verses 16-19).*

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*when Jesus explained to her what is true worship about (verses 20-26).*

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What is living water for Samaritan woman? For Jesus?

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Why do you think the woman had five husbands?

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What is revealed about the character of the woman (John 4:17-18)?

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Why do you think Jesus asked about her husband?

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What was Jesus' answer to the woman's question about the place to worship?

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**Reflection and Sharing:**

The Jews looked down on the Samaritans. Have you ever experienced any racism or discrimination? How did you feel and what did you do? How has your past experience changed you today?

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Jesus "had to" go through Samaria to meet the Samaritan woman and told her about the living water. To you, who are your Samaritans?

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**Read John 4:39-42 - After Meeting Jesus.**

Do you think the woman believed that Jesus is the Messiah at the end? Why?

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How did town's people know about Jesus in the beginning? How did they know more about Jesus later?

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**Reflection and Sharing:**

How did you hear about Jesus? Who introduced you to Him?

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What are you doing in order to get to know Jesus more?

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*(Bible study leaders: Please finish on time by 8:30PM and join the wrap-up in the sanctuary. Thanks!)*