

**First!** Go to YouTube and watch “John: 1-12” by the Bible Project Guys.

**Next,** the focus today requires some “light reading” from the Bible to help with the background. Here’s a list of scriptures that you would benefit from reading ahead of time:

- Genesis 12:4-7
- Genesis 33:18-20
- Joshua 8:30-35
- Joshua 24:1-28

**Then,** read John 4:1-45 (yes all of it) and get a good grasp on the scene that unfolds between “the woman at the well” and Jesus. Also, try to visualize how the background of Shechem and its significance to the Israelite people comes into play visually and symbolically (It may be helpful to google some photos of Jacob’s well and Mt. Ebal and Mt Gerizim, etc)

**Now,** it’s time to think and answer a few questions:

1. At this point in your study, why do you think Jesus *had to pass* through Samaria? (This assumes something beyond the mere fact it was a favorable travel passage to Galilee).
2. Is there anything significant about the fact that Jacob and Joseph are mentioned in the beginning of the chapter?
3. What could we know about the water well itself that would be helpful to the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman?
4. What are all the cultural issues surrounding the fact that Jesus chooses to speak to the woman in the first place?
5. What is your opinion of the conversational posture of the woman? Defensive? Suspecting? Annoyed? How would this narratively shape the understanding of where the conversation ends up with the woman?
6. If God is spirit, and he must be worshipped in spirit and truth, then why do humans so often get tripped up on the physical representations of God’s presence? (Mountains, temples, church buildings, church auditoriums, worship services, etc). How does this story ultimately challenge our understandings of God’s presence and expectations?
7. What does a life of ‘drinking from the streams of living water’ look like? Why do you think the woman and the people of her village so eagerly accepted this new way of thinking about God and themselves? What piece of the story tells us that Jesus was also excited with anticipation?

**Finally,** spend some time quietly thinking and praying about the presence of God. Think about his truth. What stagnant, old ways of doing things do you need to let go of? How can a fresh, liberated desire of God empower you to live more fully and abundantly? Ask God to help you with this. Ask for accountability and encouragement from your study group/family.