

Week One: Choose to Ask
John 4:4-42

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Read John 4:4-26. Who asked the first question? What happened as a result?
2. Do you think Jesus was aiming to have a spiritual conversation with the woman at the well? When you ask questions, do you need to drive the conversation in a spiritual direction? Why or why not?
3. Read Colossians 4:6. Salt is used to flavor and to preserve, too much and it overpowers the taste of food. How do you add “salt” to your conversations without overpowering the discussion?
4. According to Jewish customs (or boundaries) at the time, Jesus should have avoided the woman. She was a female Samaritan with a shady past. Yet he chose to ask her for help in getting a drink. Whom do you seek to avoid? Why? Is the boundary that you have actually a barrier to keep that person away or truly a boundary?
5. How do you show others that you care by the questions you ask?
6. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the opportunities to ask questions to show that you care. Pray about the boundaries that you have and ask God to break them down if they are unhealthy.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Look again at John 4:4-26. Once Jesus asked the first question, the conversation was off and running. What questions did the woman ask Jesus?
8. The woman at the well didn't assume her understanding of the conversation. She asked several questions of Jesus in order to clarify her understanding of what he was explaining to her. What questions do we bring to Jesus?
9. Do you think it is okay to question God? Why or why not? (See Jeremiah 33:3 and Matthew 7:7-8 for insight.)
10. As the conversation continued, the woman moved from asking Jesus questions to telling Jesus her understanding of who Jesus was and what the Messiah will do. Who do you think Jesus is?
11. Read John 6:35, 8:12, 9:5, 10:7-9, 10:11-14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1-5. How is Jesus described in these verses?
12. Do you need to ask someone to help you know Jesus better? What can you do to know more about Jesus or to have a

more personal relationship with him?

13. As you close your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask to know Jesus better. When we know Jesus better, we can share who he is and what he does with others.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

14. Read John 4:27-38. The disciples returned from wherever they had been and joined Jesus at the well. What is their reaction to Jesus' conversation?
15. Based on their reaction, what do you think the disciples might be assuming?
16. Don't you love the last part of John 4:27? "But no one asked...." What was the only question the disciples asked Jesus in the verses John 4:27-38?
17. Do you see yourself in the disciples? So often, we get wrapped up in the physical details of day-to-day living. We miss the bigger opportunities to celebrate what God is doing in the lives of those around us or in our own lives. How can we become more attuned to what God is doing in our lives and in the lives of others?
18. Jesus tells his disciples to open their eyes and look (verse 35). As you end your FIFTEEN, pray that God will open your eyes to the opportunities to see him working in your life and the lives of those around you. Thank God for his work that has already been happening without your knowing it!

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

19. Read John 4:10-30. Jesus refers to living water and a spring of water that wells up to eternal life. He is pointing to the fact that he is the source of eternal life. By the end of the passage, does the woman at the well understand who Jesus is?
20. When we choose to ask questions in order to understand, we are giving up the opportunity to assume, and it may feel like we are giving up our opportunity to be heard. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
21. As Jesus interacted with the woman and answered her questions, his opportunity to be heard was grown. Why was the woman open to Jesus' teaching?
22. When you are known, truly known, it can be a vulnerable feeling. Yet, we are known and loved by Christ—even in all our sinfulness—just like the woman at the well. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, reflect on how well Jesus knows you AND how well he loves you. If you are in a space that allows, reflect on the words of Tauren Wells' song, "Known," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbQ6Lfh5L14>

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

23. Do you need practice in seeking to understand others' points of view? Look at this article by Franklin Covey. <https://www.franklincovey.com/the-7-habits/habit-5.html> List a take-away that you can put to use.
24. Have you had an encounter with Jesus? If so, describe it. If you're not sure, what would you expect it to be like?
25. Read John 4:28-30, 39-42. How did the Samaritans react to the woman's news?
26. What do you think the disciples were thinking and feeling as they watched Jesus interact with the Samaritans for two days?
27. Who do you identify with more: the woman, the crowd of Samaritans, or the disciples? Why?
28. The power of Jesus' influence was felt far beyond just the woman as she told others about him and they pressed him to stay two more days to teach them himself. As you conclude your final FIFTEEN this week, pray for God to open doors to new conversations through the power of questions and to magnify his influence through you in ways that you do not expect.