SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY DEC 10

John 4 · week 4 of 21

Living Water for a Thirsty Town · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 4 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Dec 7
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Dec 8
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Dec 9
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 4 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Dec 10

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 4:14 · NASB**
>
> *"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."*

A tired Jesus at a well, a woman with a past, a town that comes running, and a father who believes a word. Watch how Jesus moves each person from a need they feel to the gift they need.

John 4 *Living Water for a Thirsty Town*

KEY VERSE 4:14

Theme of the chapter. Jesus crosses every wall a man could build (race, religion, gender, shame) to offer living water that ends the soul's thirst. He is the Messiah, the Savior of the world, who seeks true worshipers, and whose word alone is enough to give life.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

water	**9**	vv. 7, 10, 11, 13, 14 (×3), 15, 46
worship	**7**	vv. 20, 21, 22 (×2), 23, 24 (×2)
believed	**4**	vv. 39, 41, 50, 53
Samaritan / Samaritans	**5**	vv. 9 (×3), 39, 40
Father	**3**	vv. 21, 23 (×2)
drink	**3**	vv. 7, 9, 10

JOHN 4:1–6 The Road and the Well

1 OBSERVE *Where was Jesus going, which way did He have to go, and what condition was He in when He reached the well (4:3–6)?*

> From Judea to Galilee. "He had to pass through Samaria" (4:4). He was "wearied from His journey" and sat by the well at about the sixth hour (4:6).

2 INTERPRET *John uses the same "must" word here that he used in 3:7, 14 and 30. Was the road through Samaria a shortcut or an appointment?*

> Sproul allows it may simply have been the direct route. Guzik and Henry read purpose: "there were people there who needed to hear Him" (Guzik). The study lands with purpose: a woman and a town were waiting.

JOHN 4:7–15 Living Water

3 OBSERVE *What does Jesus ask for, and why is the woman surprised (4:7–9)?*

> "Give Me a drink" (4:7). She asks how He, "being a Jew," asks a drink of "a Samaritan woman," because Jews have no dealings with Samaritans (4:9).

4 OBSERVE *Contrast the two waters in 4:13–14.*

> Everyone who drinks the well's water "will thirst again." Whoever drinks the water Jesus gives "shall never thirst," and it becomes "a well of water springing up to eternal life" (4:14).

5 INTERPRET *What does Jesus mean by "living water"? Read 7:38–39 and Jeremiah 2:13.*

> The life He gives by the Spirit (John explains it in 7:39). Jeremiah calls the LORD "the fountain of living waters" whom Israel forsook for broken cisterns. Spurgeon: "You must be the emptiness, and he must be the fulness."

6 APPLY *What broken cisterns have you dug for yourself, things you keep going back to that leave you thirsty again?*

> Personal. The study's own confession names "drinking from broken cisterns."

JOHN 4:16–26 Spirit and Truth

7 OBSERVE *What does Jesus tell the woman about her life (4:17–18), and how does she respond (4:19–20)?*

> She has had five husbands, and the one she has now is not her husband. She calls Him a prophet and raises the question of where to worship, this mountain or Jerusalem.

8 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Henry: "Reproofs are ordinarily most profitable when they are least provoking." Guzik: "her sinful life had to be confronted." Why did Jesus bring up her husband, and how did He do it without crushing her?*

> To heal her, not shame her. He named the truth plainly and kept offering Himself. Sproul thinks her question about the mountain was a deflection, and Jesus let her ask and answered.

9 INTERPRET *What does it mean to worship "in spirit and truth" (4:23–24)?*

> Sproul: worship must "come from the depths of our souls" and follow God's Word, not felt needs. Guzik: "To worship in truth means you worship according to the whole counsel of God's word." The place no longer matters (4:21); the Father seeks such worshipers.

10 OBSERVE *What does the woman say she knows, and how does Jesus answer (4:25–26)?*

> "I know that Messiah is coming." Jesus answers, "I who speak to you am He" (4:26). It is the first "I am" (*egō eimi*) in John.

JOHN 4:27–42 The Harvest

11 OBSERVE *What does the woman leave behind, where does she go, and what does she say (4:28–29)?*

> She "left her waterpot," went into the city, and said, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" (4:29).

12 INTERPRET *The disciples offer food; Jesus says, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me" (4:34). What fed Him at the well that bread could not?*

> Doing the Father's work, reaching one woman and through her a town. The harvest He points to (4:35) is the Samaritans already crossing the fields toward Him (4:30).

13 OBSERVE *Why did the Samaritans first believe, and why did many more believe later (4:39–42)? What do they call Jesus?*

> First "because of the word of the woman" (4:39). Then many more "because of His word" (4:41): "we have heard for ourselves." They call Him "the Savior of the world" (4:42).

14 APPLY *The woman's whole message was "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done." What could your testimony sound like in one sentence?*

> Personal. She did not need training; she told what He did.

JOHN 4:43–54 The Second Sign

15 OBSERVE *Who comes to Jesus in Cana, what does he want, and what does Jesus say first (4:46–48)?*

> "A royal official" whose son was sick at Capernaum asks Him to come heal his son. Jesus says, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe" (4:48).

16 OBSERVE *What does Jesus finally say, and what does the man do (4:50)? How does he confirm it (4:51–53)?*

> "Go; your son lives." "The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off" (4:50). His slaves meet him; the fever left at the seventh hour, the same hour Jesus spoke. "He himself believed and his whole household" (4:53).

17 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Guzik: "In fear, the nobleman ran from Capernaum to Cana; in faith he walked from Cana back to Capernaum." Spurgeon traces his faith from a spark to a blaze. Where is your faith on that road?*

> Personal. Sproul's point: the man believed God, not merely in God.

18 APPLY *What prayer are you waiting to see answered before you will trust His word on it?*

> Personal. "Go; your son lives" (4:50) came with no sign at all.

WORD STUDY

19 WORD *proskyneō (G4352), to bow down, to worship. "Worship" words fill 4:20–24. What does the picture of bowing down add to Jesus' words about spirit and truth?*

> Worship is surrender of the whole self, not attendance at a place. The Father seeks men who bow from the inside.

20 WORD *sōtēr (G4990), Savior. In the Gospels this title appears only in Luke 1:47, 2:11 and here (4:42). Who first called Jesus "the Savior of the world," and why is that striking?*

> Samaritans, outsiders the Jews despised. Read 1 John 4:14.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK
Season 1, Episode 8, "I Am He" (4:1–42)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Read 4:3–4. Which direction was Jesus traveling when He passed through Samaria? Which way does the episode show?

> From Judea to Galilee (4:3). The episode has them going the other direction.

C2 OBSERVE

The show names the woman Photina. What does John call her?

> John leaves her unnamed: "a woman of Samaria" (4:7). The name Photina comes from later church tradition.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 4 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.