

Week 2 -JOHN 4:1-42

A shunned woman

The Samaritan Woman

LETS TALK

1. Have you ever had a bizzare encounter with a stranger?
2. In what environment do you feel your most authentic self?

Gather
EST. 2014

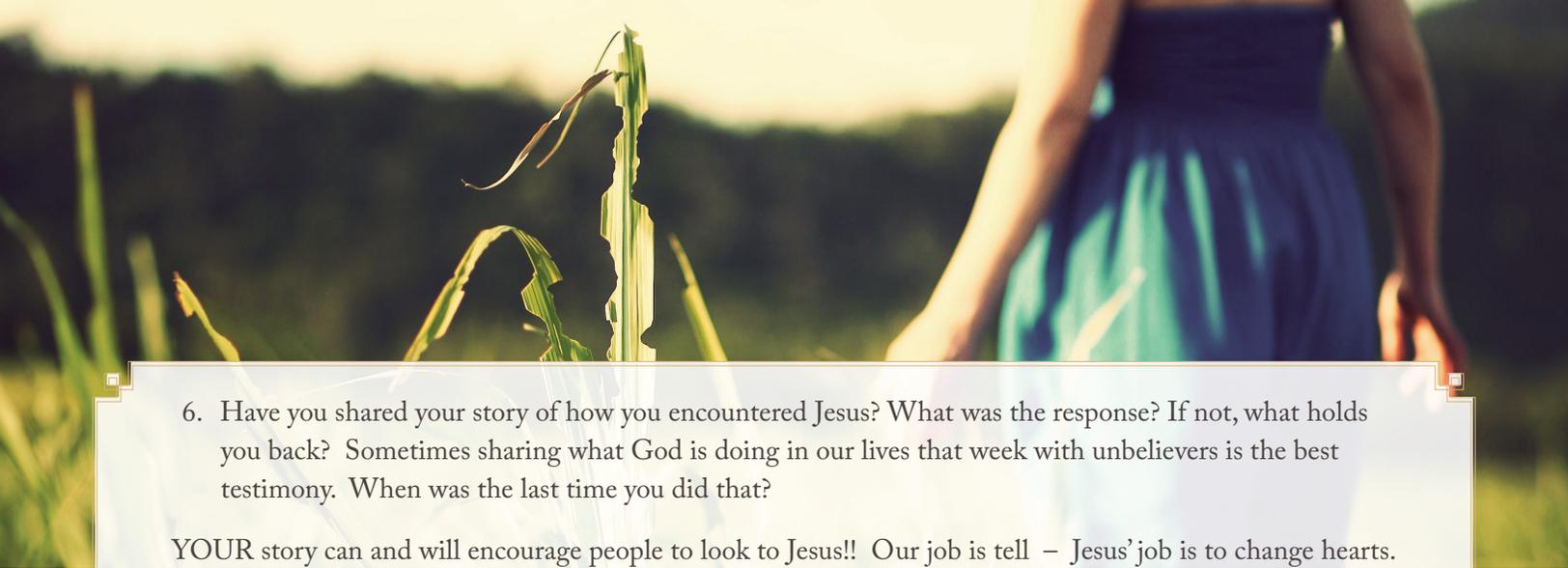


READ JOHN 4:41-52

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

1. What different themes do you notice throughout this passage?
2. At this time, Jews considered Samaritans to be 'unclean' which is why the disciples were so surprised to see Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman. How do you think this is significant in the message Jesus is trying to convey? Has your own bias stopped you from sharing the Gospel with those you assume are not open, or you can't relate to?
3. Jesus says to the woman, "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of the Truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for, those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship." (John 4:23) The Message. Jesus is talking about authenticity here. Do you find it easy to be authentic in worshipping God? What could be holding you back?
4. Read vv. 27-38 again. The disciples were so blinded by their opinion of Samaritans as a whole that they missed the point Jesus was trying to show them. Jesus is for everyone and the harvest is ripe. The Samaritan woman understood what Jesus was telling her because she was ready for Him. Is there anything blinding you from seeing that people, right in front of you, need Jesus? Take a moment to consider your 'circles of people' who might be 'right in front of you' waiting to hear the gospel.
5. Who do you most identify with in this story, the woman, the disciples, or the crowd? Why?

'Many of the Samaritans from the town believed in him because of the woman's testimony' v.39. A simple statement with a huge challenge! The Samaritan woman shared her story with the people of her neighbourhood and because of that, many people believed! Her story was not a crazy experience or miracle healing. She simply told them of her encounter and conversation with Jesus, and they believed.

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6. Have you shared your story of how you encountered Jesus? What was the response? If not, what holds you back? Sometimes sharing what God is doing in our lives that week with unbelievers is the best testimony. When was the last time you did that?

YOUR story can and will encourage people to look to Jesus!! Our job is tell – Jesus' job is to change hearts.

PAUSE and REFLECT:

As a group, quiet yourselves and ask Jesus the questions below. Take some time to simply listen. Write down what he brings to your mind and after a few minutes share those thoughts with the group. It's ok if nothing comes to mind. Someone else in your group may share some things that encourage you.

Jesus how do you see me?

Is there someone that needs to hear a testimony of how great you are?

NOW WHAT

1. What has challenged you in this passage?
2. Pray that Jesus would allow you to see the harvest around you that is ripe and ready.
3. If you have not yet written out your personal story of encountering Jesus, do so this week. Ask Jesus if you should share your testimony with a friend or neighbour.

PRAYER FOCUS

As you pray, thank Jesus for how he has pursued you and allowed you to encounter him in a way that makes your story YOURS.

Pray that he would give you boldness to share your story with others in your life and trust that your story is enough!

Remember to thank him that none of this is in our own power but in the power of Jesus.



Written by Becki Baxter

Becki is a mom of two rough and tumble boys (with one more on the way) and married to Sam who's wit is unmatched and constantly keeps her laughing. Her heart is committed to encouraging women to pursue God and live out the full purpose He has for them.

