

# The Gospel of John (4:27-42)

## A House Church Outline



### 1. Praise *(Purpose: To worship God)*

- What are you thankful for this week? *(let the group's secretary write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Song Service
  - Sing a few songs of praise to God

### 2. Pray *(Purpose: To carry each others' burdens and to seek the Lord)*

- What challenges did you have this week? *(write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook)*
- Go into a season of prayer

### 3. Review *(Purpose: To learn accountability)*

- Tell us how it went with what you promised to do in last week's meeting? *(e.g. Who did your share your faith with this past week? Who did you minister to? How did actioning your I WILL STATEMENT go?)*
- *Where people have failed to fulfil what they said they would, do not be harsh with them but gently encourage them to try again in the coming week. Give them more support by phoning or joining them in the week.*

### 4. Give *(Purpose: To be good stewards of our monies)*

- This is the time to return tithes and offerings. If done electronically, kindly ensure that you get the bank account details of your local church from your treasurer. Don't forget to complete an envelope and to send the breakdown to him/her.

### 5. Discover *(Purpose: To learn to listen to God, and be obedient to His Word)*

- **Notes for the facilitator**

- Read *Desire of Ages (DA)*, p. 190-195
- "When the disciples returned from their errand, they were surprised to find their Master speaking with the woman. **He had not taken the refreshing draught that He desired, and He did not stop to eat the food His disciples had brought. When the woman had gone, the disciples entreated Him to eat.** They saw Him silent, absorbed, as in rapt meditation. His face was beaming with light, and they feared to interrupt His communion with heaven. But they knew that He was faint and weary, and thought it their duty to remind Him of His physical necessities. Jesus recognized their loving interest, and He said, 'I have meat to eat that ye know not of.'" (DA 190).
  - Among the Jews it was considered highly improper for a man, and beneath the dignity of a rabbi, to converse with a woman in public – *SDA Bible Commentary*
- "The disciples wondered who could have brought Him food; but He explained, 'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to accomplish His work.' John 4:34, R. V. As His words to the woman had aroused her conscience, Jesus rejoiced. **He saw her drinking of the water of life, and His own hunger and thirst were satisfied. The accomplishment of the mission which He had left heaven to perform strengthened the Saviour for His labor, and lifted Him above the necessities of humanity. To minister to a soul hungering and thirsting for the truth was more grateful to Him than eating or drinking"** (DA 190).
- "The woman had been filled with joy as she listened to Christ's words. The wonderful revelation was almost overpowering. Leaving her waterpot, she returned to the city, to carry the message to others. Jesus knew why she had gone. **Leaving her waterpot spoke unmistakably as to the effect of His words. It was the earnest desire of her soul to obtain the living water; and she forgot her errand to the well, she forgot the Saviour's**

- thirst, which she had purposed to supply.** With heart overflowing with gladness, she hastened on her way, to impart to others the precious light she had received” (DA 191).
- ““Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did,’ she said to the men of the city. ‘Is not this the Christ?’ **Her words touched their hearts. There was a new expression on her face, a change in her whole appearance.** They were interested to see Jesus. ‘Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him”” (DA 191).
    - Vs 29: “... told me all things that ever I did”’: Somewhat of an exaggeration. She probably reasoned that if Jesus knew the dark secrets of her life, nothing else could be hid from Him.
    - Vs 29: Is not this the Christ? She tactfully stated her discovery in the form of a question and invited the villagers to examine the evidence for themselves.
  - “As Jesus still sat at the well side, He looked over the fields of grain that were spread out before Him, their tender green touched by the golden sunlight. Pointing His disciples to the scene, He employed it as a symbol: ‘Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.’ **And as He spoke, He looked on the groups that were coming to the well. It was four months to the time for harvesting the grain, but here was a harvest ready for the reaper”** (DA 191).
  - Vs 36-37: “**Here Christ points out the sacred service owed to God by those who receive the gospel. They are to be His living agencies. He requires their individual service.** And whether we sow or reap, we are working for God. One scatters the seed; another gathers in the harvest; and both the sower and the reaper receive wages. They rejoice together in the reward of their labor” (DA 191).
  - “In the words spoken to the woman at the well, good seed had been sown, and how quickly the harvest was received. The Samaritans came and heard Jesus, and believed on Him. **Crowding about Him at the well, they plied Him with questions, and eagerly received His explanations of many things that had been obscure to them. As they listened, their perplexity began to clear away.** They were like a people in great darkness tracing up a sudden ray of light till they had found the day. But **they were not satisfied with this short conference. They were anxious to hear more, and to have their friends also listen to this wonderful teacher.** They invited Him to their city, and begged Him to remain with them. For two days He tarried in Samaria, and many more believed on Him” (DA 192).
  - “The Pharisees despised the simplicity of Jesus. They ignored His miracles, and demanded a sign that He was the Son of God. But **the Samaritans asked no sign, and Jesus performed no miracles among them,** save in revealing the secrets of her life to the woman at the well. **Yet many received Him.** In their new joy they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world”” (DA 192).
  - “Jesus had begun to break down the partition wall between Jew and Gentile, and to preach salvation to the world. **Though He was a Jew, He mingled freely with the Samaritans, setting at nought the Pharisaic customs of His nation. In face of their prejudices He accepted the hospitality of this despised people. He slept under their roofs, ate with them at their tables,—partaking of the food prepared and served by their hands,—taught in their streets, and treated them with the utmost kindness and courtesy”** (DA 193).
  - “**The stay of Jesus in Samaria was designed to be a blessing to His disciples, who were still under the influence of Jewish bigotry.** They felt that loyalty to their own nation required them to cherish enmity toward the Samaritans. **They wondered at the conduct of Jesus. They could not refuse to follow His example, and during the two days in Samaria, fidelity to Him kept their prejudices under control; yet in heart they were unreconciled.** They were slow to learn that their contempt and hatred must give place

to pity and sympathy. But **after the Lord's ascension, His lessons came back to them with a new meaning.** After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they recalled the Saviour's look, His words, the respect and tenderness of His bearing toward these despised strangers. When Peter went to preach in Samaria, he brought the same spirit into his own work" (DA 193).

- **"The gospel invitation is not to be narrowed down, and presented only to a select few, who, we suppose, will do us honor if they accept it. The message is to be given to all.** Wherever hearts are open to receive the truth, Christ is ready to instruct them. He reveals to them the Father, and the worship acceptable to Him who reads the heart" (DA 194).
- **"The Saviour did not wait for congregations to assemble. Often He began His lessons with only a few gathered about Him,** but one by one the passers-by paused to listen, until a multitude heard with wonder and awe the words of God through the heaven-sent Teacher. **The worker for Christ should not feel that he cannot speak with the same earnestness to a few hearers as to a larger company. There may be only one to hear the message; but who can tell how far-reaching will be its influence?** It seemed a small matter, even to His disciples, for the Saviour to spend His time upon a woman of Samaria. But He reasoned more earnestly and eloquently with her than with kings, councilors, or high priests. **The lessons He gave to that woman have been repeated to the earth's remotest bounds"** (DA 194).
- **"As soon as she had found the Saviour the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. The disciples saw nothing in Samaria to indicate that it was an encouraging field. Their thoughts were fixed upon a great work to be done in the future. They did not see that right around them was a harvest to be gathered.** But through the woman whom they despised, a whole cityful were brought to hear the Saviour. She carried the light at once to her countrymen" (DA 195).
- **"This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life.** The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life" (DA 195).
- *Read John 4:27-42. Preferably let one person read it. Let everyone then put down their Bibles and get the group to reconstruct the passage in their own words. This teaches the group to be careful in quotation Scripture correctly and to use it as the basis of their discussions.*
- **Discussion Questions (use only a few).** *The notes in italics after some of the questions below are for the facilitator, and not to be read out to the group.*
  - What did the woman do as soon as she left the well? Do you think that she went to the same people that she may have been trying to avoid by coming to the well at noon?
  - Since this lady was likely shunned by her local community, what do you think gave her credibility and influence in vs 30?
  - Why do you think the town's people begged Jesus to stay with them, risking that He may expose their own life secrets?
  - What are some of our biggest fears when conversing with people about Jesus? What can we learn from this story to help us overcome these fears? (*ask one question at a time*)
  - Since Jesus spent only two days in Samaria, what do you think he shared with them?
  - Why do you think Jesus calls doing God's work His "food" (vs 34)?
  - How does doing the will and work of God satisfy and fill a Christian in more ways than food fills the stomach?
  - What do you think Jesus meant by the words of vs 35?

- What are some harvest fields around us that are already white, while we may only be thinking of future harvests?
- What impact does a personal testimony have on the sharing of the gospel?
- How often do the sower and the reaper do their jobs at the same time when farming? In the spiritual realm, how is it possible for sowing and reaping to co-exist? (*ask one question at a time*)
- What do you think is the lesson of vs 38?
- The Jews hated the Samaritans and did not associate with them. Describe what you think the disciples felt and experienced during the 2 days of interaction with the Samaritans? What lesson was Christ trying to teach them? (*ask one question at a time*)
- Read vs 42 again. Why is it important in today's setting to get first-hand knowledge of the gospel through the Bible, instead of a second-hand version through others?
- **Application Questions** (*select a few depending on your time. One has to be the I WILL STATEMENT*)
  - What people were influential in leading you to believe in Jesus?
  - What sowing and/or reaping activities are you involved in at the moment?
  - Are there prejudices or fears that are preventing you from sharing the gospel with some people?
  - Is there someone with whom you'd like to share your testimony with this week? Who are you thinking of?
  - I WILL STATEMENT: Formulate an I will statement in response to what you have discovered in the Word. Let the group's secretary also record these in an A4 notebook. Ensure that everyone gets a chance to give their I WILL STATEMENT. You have to be specific. E.g. "I will share what the testimony of my conversion with 2 of my colleagues this week, as the Lord creates an opportunity."

**6. Share** (*Purpose: To be witnesses of our faith*)

- Do you have anyone you could share today's lesson with this week? *Be specific.*

**7. Closing prayer**

*Prepared by Shandrell Penniken / Northern Conference*