John Series IV
You Need Living Water Given by Jesus
January 30, 2015

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of easy, fun and dynamic ice breaker games to get your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & stressful life. Prepare their minds to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prepare a few songs that help to bring your members to come to the throne of God. As you worship, help your members to encounter God and experience God’s presence. During this time, the cell leader should also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: ____________, and their needs are: ________________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:
- 07/31 – 08/03 1/25-2/22 Equipping Class
- 1/31 All Church Men’s Conference
- 2/14 Valentine’s Day Dinner
- 2/28 Men’s Breakfast

C. Newcomer: ________________ Identify newcomers before cell meeting.
Sick members, friends or relatives: ________________ Please also discuss how you may show that you care about them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how it may be applied in their everyday lives.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (Try and listen to the sermon online once again.)
1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? How did God talk to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: You Need Living Water Given by Jesus

Scriptures: John 4:7-30; 39-42
Memorizing Verse: but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Samaria used to be one of Israel’s cities. When Rehoboam, one of Solomon’s sons, became king in Solomon’s place, the kingdom was divided because Jereboam, Nabat’s son, rebelled, and took a large portion of the kingdom with him. Israel was divided into the northern kingdom, known as Israel; while the southern kingdom, was known as Judah. The capital city of the northern kingdom was Samaria. In 721 B.C., the Assyrian army captured the Israelite capital at Samaria. As a result, the Gentiles who were brought into Israel intermarried with the remnants. Their descendants became so-called Samaritans. Because of this, the Jews wouldn’t recognize Samaritans as pure Israelites.

When Jesus left Judah for Galilee, unlike what all Jews would do to avoid a Samaritan area, Jesus purposely didn’t take the detour but instead, he went right through Samaria. He came to a town called Sychar, just for this thirsty Samaritan woman. He meant to deliver her from sins and gave her the living water so that she would no longer be thirsty.

1. Jesus is the Lord who gives living water of life (v.7-18):
   A) The Samaritan woman was thirsty (v.7- ): 1) Jesus proactively talked to the Samaritan woman (v.7): The Samaritan woman had come a long way to the well at noon time. It appeared that she intentionally tried to avoid people because she lived in sin and did not want to be judged. Jesus understood her. He was determined to help her. Instead of pointing out her sins, Jesus politely asked her to give him a drink. 2) The Samaritan woman was curious about what Jesus did. The Jews had long held the Samaritans with contempt because they were descendants of the intermarriage between people of the Northern Kingdom and the pagans. They were considered unclean. Due to this historical and traditional background, Jews would never associate with Samaritans. Nevertheless, Jesus disregarded all of these things and talked to
the Samaritan woman.

B) Everyone who drinks the water of life will never thirst (v.10–14): Everything that the Samaritan woman wanted in her life was in vain. The Lord Jesus led her to understand:

1) Whoever drinks the living water will never thirst (v.10): Everyone who drinks the water of the world will be thirsty again. That is to say, all things in the world never will satisfy our innermost desires. Only by drinking the living water of God, will we receive God’s salvation and the Kingdom of God.

2) Jesus supersedes Jacob (v.11–12): The Samaritan woman thought the living water had to be deep inside Jacob’s well as that well was considered the deepest back then. She questioned Jesus, “Are you greater than our father Jacob?”

3) The water Jesus gives is living water (v.13–14): Jesus is the living water for our lives. As we believe in Jesus, we receive the living water of life. It is like a spring of water welling up to eternal life, so we will never thirst.

C) The Samaritan woman longs for the living water (v.15–18): The Samaritan woman lived in sin. She tried so hard to grab everything, but nothing satisfied her. The living water Jesus referred to would satisfy her, fill her emptiness and help her to not thirsty anymore. How great the living water is! She pleaded to Jesus to give her the living water. Jesus did not promise to give her living water, but asked her to bring her husband to him. This pointed to her sin. She lived with six different men, including the one she was presently living with, but none of them was her husband.

2. Belief in Jesus is the only way to obtain the living water of life (v.19–30):

A) Our Messiah came from Judah (v.19–22): 1) The Samaritan woman was trying to change the subject. As soon as Jesus disclosed this woman’s sins, she knew that Jesus was not ordinary person. She didn’t know Jesus was God. She thought Jesus was a prophet, a messenger of God. Instead of facing her own stain of sins, she questioned Jesus about the different

B) The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth (v.23–24): Now that God’s salvation has arrived, we should worship God in a new way – worship God sincerely. 1) We should worship in truth: It doesn’t matter where or how you worship. The true worshiper will worship the Father in truth. Jesus is the truth and the way. By believing in Jesus, we will be able to worship God in truth. 2) God is spirit, so we must worship in spirit: After we receive the salvation from God, our inner most being will be revived and we will know how to worship God in spirit.

C) Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior (25–26): 1) The Samaritan woman was hoping that when the Messiah came, all her problems would be solved. (v.25) 2) Jesus was the Messiah she had been waiting for. (v.26) Jesus testified that he, himself, was the Messiah; he purposely came to the well in Samaria to deliver the woman and help her to keep away from sins and transgressions.

3. The ministry of living water (27–30; 39–42):

A) The woman tells people about Jesus (27–30): As Jesus’ disciples returned from the town with food, they were surprised to find Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman, disregarding the Jewish code of conduct. While none of his disciples spoke about it, the Samaritan woman believed in Jesus and received the living water of life. The life in her was no longer the same, and she was no longer thirsty. She then started to live completely differently. She used to be in hiding and was afraid of seeing people as she tried to avoid criticism, but after she met Jesus, she went into the town and told people what she had received and experienced. She shared with others the experience of her encounter with the Messiah, Jesus.
B) The testimony of a changed life along with God’s Word will make people believe (39- 42): Everyone was curious about the life changing story of the woman and so they all came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus. They came to meet with Jesus, since Jesus might tell them everything they had ever done. When they met Jesus and heard what Jesus said, they would believe that Jesus was Messiah, the Savior.

Discussion: (Please pick the questions that are suitable for your cell group’s needs.)

1. How would you share exciting stories with other people? Try and share one thing.
2. Why would people need the living water of life?
3. How do you obtain the living water of life? What is the benefit of receiving the living water of life.
4. What is true worship? What should you do to enter into a true life of worship?
5. What can be done to let the living water of life flow in your cell group and send out the good news to your friends?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank you and we praise you. You are the origin of the living water. You have mercy on us, deliver us and give us the living water of life. You renew and heal us, so that we can live a different life and are able to testify your glorious name. O Lord, may our worship be pleasing to you. May our service be full of your manifestation of almighty power so that we may influence this generation. Thank you, Lord! We pray in Jesus’ name. AMEN!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into groups of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.