

2. Who Is Jesus, and Why Should I Care?

So Jesus left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

Now Jesus had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, . . . and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” . . .

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?” . . .

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” . . .

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.” . . .

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you, I am he.” . . .

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” (John 4:3-29; excerpts)

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- _____ Ask his advice. What would you want to know?
- _____ What reaction would you expect from Jesus?

Take a moment and pair up with another person in your group. Ask each other: “What brings you to the well?”

Personal Questions:

Can you see yourself as the woman at the well, looking for water and being found by Jesus? How do you think the people in her town responded when she told them about her conversation with Jesus?

What are you seeking?

For further explorations about these and other related questions and Christian responses to them, we invite you to read Chapter 2 in *Beginnings: Along the Way: A Participant's Companion*. This chapter provides some answers to the question, “Why do Christians make such a big deal out of someone who lived 2000 years ago?” We present some of the basic beliefs Christians have about Jesus, including what makes Jesus unique and some of his prescriptions for a meaningful life. Finally, we discuss why Christians have this strange notion that Jesus was somehow “God-in-the-flesh.”