

Samaritans and Jewish/Samaritan tensions – The Samaritans originated in the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, who possessed the hilly territory west of the Jordan River and north of Jerusalem. After the conquest of Samaria by the Assyrians in 722 BC, we first see a distinct group called “Samaritans.” The Samaritans themselves contend they are the pure descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, who kept the pure Israelite religion (from “our father Jacob”), which the Jews corrupted when they were exiled to Babylon. Jews viewed the Samaritans as half-Israelite, half-gentile, claiming that when the Assyrians took the region, they moved in and intermingled with the remaining Israelites. In other words, each side viewed the other as unclean, apostate, and second-class citizens. This led to intense hostility between the two sides. Some Jews claimed Samaritan food was equivalent to swine flesh. The Samaritans hold **Mt. Gerizim** sacred in the same way Jews hold Jerusalem sacred. Gerizim is the mount of blessing and Ebal is the mount of cursing in Deut. 11:29, Deut. 27, and Joshua 8. See background videos on Shechem and Samaritans – links available at <https://cbcbonham.org/discipleship>.



Setting of John 4: Sychar, Jacob’s Well, and “this mountain,” Gerizim.

Memory Verse #11: Living Water: John 4:14 – *Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall _____ be thirsty, but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to _____.”*

Walking in His Dust: Talmidim leave our pain at Jesus’ feet: Colossians 1:13-14 *For He _____ us from the domain of darkness, and _____ us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have _____, the _____ of sins.*

Lesson notes & questions:

In Samaria

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

(You may wish to spend time in prayer before answering.)

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or loving my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification on?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

APPLY!

- Share your “Lesson Reflections” responses with the group.
- Read **John 4:5-9** – How is Jesus feeling? Is ministry supposed to be easy? How is He breaking down barriers with this simple question in verse 8?
- Read **John 4:10-14 and John 7:37-39** – What does Jesus mean when He says, “living water?”
- Read **John 4:15-20**- Do you believe Jesus is calling out an obstinate person’s sin or showing a broken person compassion (i.e., being “El Roi,” the God who sees me)? Why do you take this position (be a Berean!)?
- Read **John 4:21-24**- How can we be assured we worship in spirit and truth? In what areas might we be at risk of becoming like the Samaritans (close to the real thing but ultimately false)?
- Read **John 4:25-30**- Have a conversation with God about the waterpots he wants you to leave behind.
- How are we like the unnamed woman?
- What do we learn about following Jesus?
- What do we learn about evangelism?
- What do we learn about worship?
- What do we learn about a believer’s response to ethnic tensions and socioeconomic differences?

GO!

What is God saying to you, and how are you responding?

Matthew 9:37-38 – the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.

What is something you are excited about right now?

Psalms 37:4 Delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

What is a big challenge you are facing right now?

Gal 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens and fulfill the Law of Christ.

Who is on your heart right now and why?

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

Review the last lesson’s GO section. What prayers has God answered?

Philippians 4:8 Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Pray for one another!