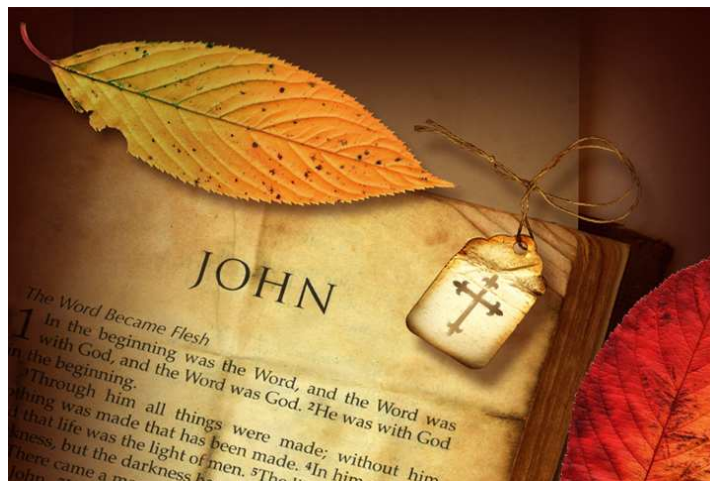


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

# *The Gospel of John*

## *Week #5*

### Discussion Guide



October 9/10, 2010

### *“Stirring Curiosity”*

Pastor Bruce Humphrey  
Acts 8:26-35, John 4:7-15

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

**Next week:** October 23/24  
*“Managing Jesus”* Pastor Neal Nybo  
John 6:5-13

**The Gospel of John**  
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**Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

**Acts 8:26-35**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"<sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth."<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

*Notes:*

**John 4:7-15**

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

*Notes:*

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**Discussion Guide**

**Scripture**

1. Read the Acts 8:26-35 scripture. What was God's instruction to Philip?
2. What do you think God meant by "join" the chariot? (v. 29)
3. What does this say about the value God places on open conversations about faith?
4. Read the John 4:7-15 scripture. How does Jesus feel about Samaritans?
5. Why does Jesus use a Samaritan woman to share the gospel?
6. How does Jesus lead the woman to discover who He is?
7. What convinces her that Jesus is the Messiah?

**Sermon**

Key Words: **information – curiosity – Samaritan – conversation**

*"Spiritual conversations do not have to be insensitive or boring. We don't need to associate spiritual conversations with situations that are uncomfortable or forced. Those who think spiritual conversations always involve hijacking a conversation are making a faulty assumption." Bruce Humphrey*

8. At the beginning of their conversation, what faulty assumption does the Samaritan woman make?
9. Why does she hesitate to engage in conversation with Jesus?
10. How does Jesus change her attitude toward him without making her feel manipulated?
11. What did Jesus do to avoid giving "too much information" in his conversation?
12. What do you think Jesus was trying to achieve through his encounter with her? Was He successful?
13. What do the woman's actions reveal about the way Jesus affected her life?
14. If they had the "eyes to see" the potential for sharing the gospel in the Samaritan village, do you think the disciples would have been effective?? Why or why not?
15. What does this say to you about how Jesus values the everyday person in His Kingdom?

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**Life Applications**

**Personal:**

1. Reflect on what ways you may identify with the Samaritan woman.
2. What does this story reveal about Jesus' attitude toward sinful people?
3. Who are the "Samaritans" (the people you want nothing to do with) in your world?
4. Take a few moments to reflect on how you might reach out to them like Jesus did to the Samaritan woman.

**Small Group:**

1. ***Report from last week:*** For those that "washed feet," share your experience. How did you feel when you served? How do you think the receiver felt? How do you think Jesus felt?
2. What makes having a spiritual conversation within your small group a comfortable or easy thing to do?
3. Why might it be uncomfortable to have the same conversation with someone outside the group?
4. What things could you do, either individually or as a group, to help this process?
5. Practice exercise: Role play the conversation in Bruce's sermon between the businessman and the realtor. Substitute other vocations for the realtor and "rewrite" the script – have fun with it!

**Prayer:**

Pray for Jesus to fill you with His living water so that you might have the ability to share your faith with others like Jesus did – with love, compassion, acceptance, forgiveness and relevance.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:  
*John – Life Change Series*, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.  
*Book of John*, Life Lessons with Max Lucado  
Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!