

# TakeFive

Biblical insights for the week of September 30-October 4, 2019  
written by Trish Carruth

## Conversations That Matter: *The Samaritan Woman*

### Monday — John 4:4-8

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Imagine being poor, homeless, traveling on foot, and dependent on others. This is where we find the King of Kings as our story unfolds; our Savior Jesus Christ, subject to the frailties of humanity, is weary and thirsty.

When we feel exhausted, we often isolate and focus on ourselves. We are more apt to grumble and snap at those around us. Yet, Jesus, though He is weary, chooses to reach out to this woman. He seizes this precise moment to initiate a life-changing conversation.

Have you been waiting for the perfect time to talk with a family member, friend, or coworker? Perhaps, an imperfect time is the right time.

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### Tuesday — John 4:7-9

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The Samaritan woman visits Jacob's Well, alone, in the heat of the day, rather than with respectable women who enjoy the company of others. She is an outcast who is ignored and rejected by her community. Yet, Jesus notices her and engages with her!

Jesus always meets individuals right where they are, right as they are! He isn't fearful of what others will think or how it will look (vs. 27). He crosses cultural boundaries (Jews didn't talk to Samaritans), and He crosses social boundaries (men, especially rabbis, didn't talk to women.) He has the longest conversation recorded in the Gospels with someone deemed unworthy by others.

Is there someone or a group of people you have deemed unworthy? Confess your prejudices and ask God to help you see people as He does, worthy of love and attention.

### Wednesday — John 4:7-28

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The flow of this conversation transitions repeatedly from a surface level topic to a deeply spiritual topic: from a simple question about water to eternal life; from addressing sin to worship; from salvation to the declaration that Jesus Himself is the Christ, the Messiah.

Our approach to conversations is likely different. We talk about surface issues. We avoid conflicts. We like to give advice. Yet, Jesus doesn't condemn, doesn't avoid the spiritual issues, and He doesn't tell her what to do. He allows her to share whatever she is thinking. He responds in unexpected ways, and He masterfully leads the conversation to Kingdom topics and ultimately to Himself. For today, ask God to guide your conversations and lead you to talk about topics that point to Jesus.

### Thursday — John 4:25-44

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After her conversation with Jesus, this Samaritan woman's heart is moved; she is excited and highly motivated to tell others about Jesus.

In seeking leaders, we tend to seek out the seemingly qualified, the person who is perfectly put-together. Yet, Jesus chooses a woman from a despised ethnicity, an outcast in her own community, who is caught in a cycle of sin. As she leads her community to the Messiah, she-becomes a highly unlikely and incredibly effective first evangelist recorded in the Gospels!

Perhaps, you think God can't use you. But Jesus seeks the broken, those who encounter Him amid their messy lives. It's as simple as interacting with Him today and then telling others about that encounter.

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### Friday — John 4:31-44

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What prompted Jesus to initiate a conversation with this woman? How did Jesus know how to guide the conversation? How was He able to discern the underlying spiritual issues for this woman? Thankfully, Jesus tells us the answers to these questions.

If we are going to navigate conversations well, we need to connect to the same Source as Jesus. We need the living water and food that Jesus feasted on! His power, insight, and discernment came as He was "doing the will of God and accomplishing His work."

Jesus had many demands on his time and energy, yet Jesus often rose early to talk with His Father (Mark 1:35). If Jesus found sustenance as He interacted with His Father and then did what the Father told Him to do, wouldn't we want to do the same?

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