

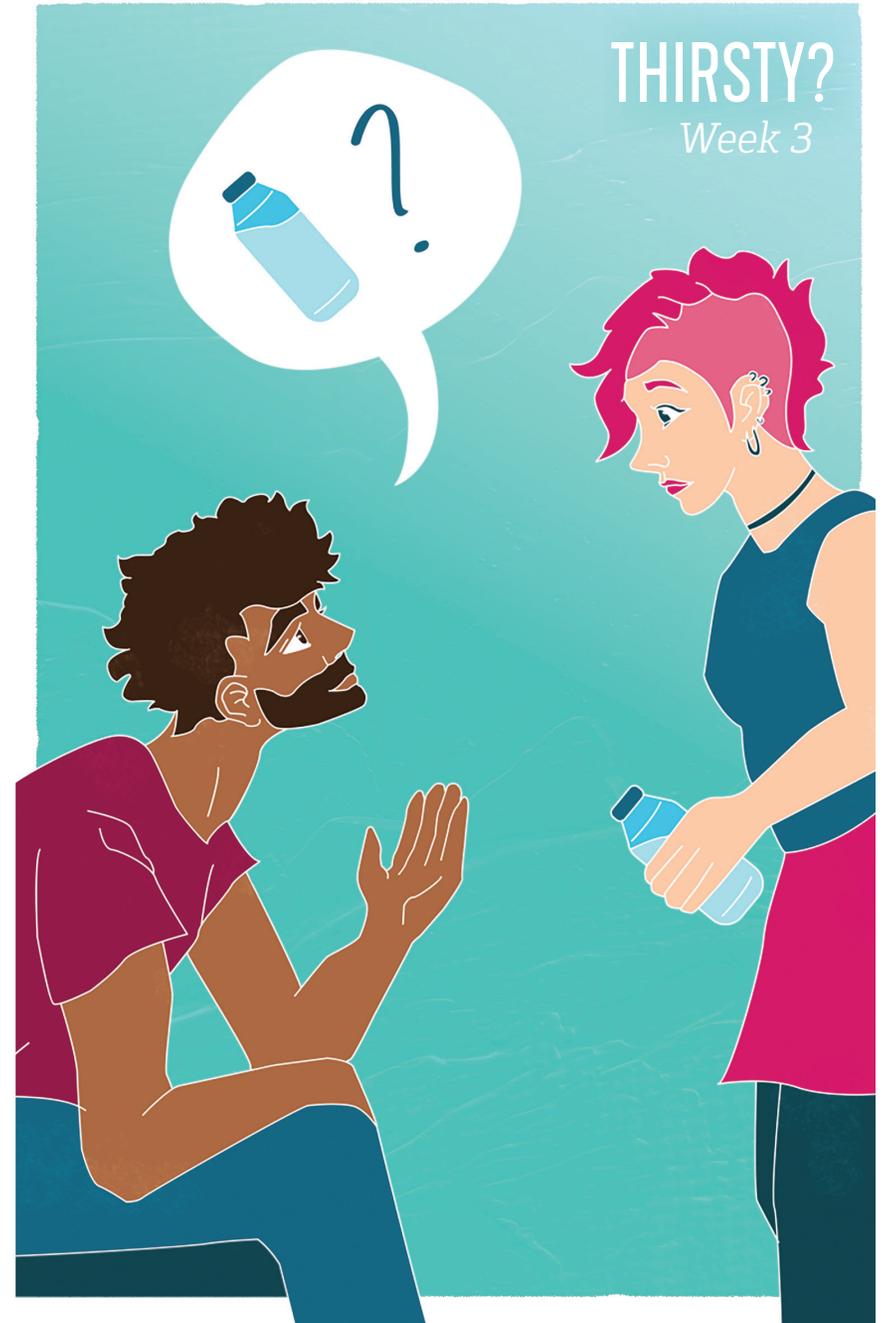
Apply

Right now (Come and see):

When this woman leaves her water jar, it symbolized her leaving the things that she used to turn to for satisfaction. This act of turning away from the things that have failed to satisfy us and turning towards Jesus, our source of living water, is essential for following Jesus. This is what Christians call "repentance". Is there something that you want to turn from (repent from) in your life today? If so, let's take a couple minutes to tell Jesus what we want to turn from, and then let's pray for one another, that as we "repent" God would fill us to overflowing with the living water of his Spirit!

This week (Go and do):

As soon as this woman encountered Jesus and turned from her old life, her immediate next step was to tell her whole community what Jesus had done for her. Part of what it means to follow Jesus is to testify to the people around us about what Jesus has done for us. What is something that Jesus has done for you in the last couple months? Have you experienced forgiveness, healing, or provision? Has God shown you any signs of his love for you? Write this experience down as a simple testimony. Who will you share this testimony with this week?



⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ 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.) ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks 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." ¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

Intro

This story starts off saying that Jesus "had to go through Samaria". This was actually something that most Jewish religious leaders would avoid (Jewish and Samaritan people had a long history of conflict around ethnic and religious differences). John wants us to see that Jesus is up to something!

Discuss

1. What cultural and gender barriers was Jesus crossing when he asked this woman for a drink? Why do you think he did that?
2. Why do you think Jesus' offer of "living water" sounded so attractive to this woman?
3. How do you think someone with her relational history would be viewed by her town?
4. Jesus and this woman had a profound conversation about her life, her history, worship, and ultimately Jesus revealed his identity as the Messiah. What are some of the things this woman might have felt during their conversation? What would have been surprising?
5. Why do you think her first impulse was to go and invite her whole town to meet Jesus?
6. What impact did her actions have on the rest of the town? How do you think their perception of her changed?