

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 23, 2017

John 4:1-18

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John”²—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—³ he left Judea and started back to Galilee.⁴ But he had to go through Samaria.⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ 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.)¹⁰ 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.”¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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.”¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

Connection Questions:

1. Why have cultures throughout our human history often considered divorce as a societal taboo?
2. In the Jewish faith in Jesus' time, men could divorce women but women only divorced because of fornication. Discuss why you think men were given this preferential treatment.
3. Divorce is a painful ordeal. Discuss the various issues people have to deal with when they go through a divorce.
4. Until recently one out of two marriages ended in divorce. Why do you think there are so many divorces and what could the church do to improve those statistics?
5. The Jewish law prevented men from talking to women in public. Jesus knew the law and yet he talked to the Samaritan woman at a public well. Why did he do it?

6. Divorce was rare in Jesus' day and yet this woman had been divorced five times and he knew it. She was considered an outcast. How does his interaction with this woman relate to what he was trying to teach others about God's love?

7. Often today when couples that are involved in a church get divorced, they quit attending. Why do you think this happens?

8. This Samaritan woman in the scripture was so affected by her interaction with Jesus that she couldn't stop telling others about her encounter. What do you think she shared about the encounter?

9. In certain churches people are not allowed to join if they have been divorced. Likewise some pastors can't marry couples who have been divorced. Why do certain churches have such strong stances on divorce?

10. Discuss issues with which children of divorce are confronted. How can the church minister to children who go through divorce?