

## JOHN 4 BIBLE STUDY

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### John 4:1-6 Bible Study

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**JOHN 4:1-6** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), <sup>3</sup> He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But He needed to go through Samaria.

### Why did Jesus leave Judea?

### Why would the Pharisees be after Jesus?

The Pharisees' claim to fame was codifying the laws that God gave to Israel via Moses into a dizzying array of do's and don'ts, and then trying to keep them, or at least maintaining the appearance of it. In so doing, they lost sight of God's original intent behind these Mosaic laws, became proud, judgmental and hypocritical.

### Where are "Samaria" and "Sychar" (John 4:5)?

Samaria was the region in the middle of Israel, between Judea to the south and Galilee to the north, and Sychar was a city in Samaria about 30 miles north of Jerusalem.

### Who are "Jacob" and "Joseph" (John 4:5)?

### Why was Jesus "wearied" & what does that mean (John 4:6)?

### Why did "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9)?

The twelve tribes of Jews that settled in Israel eventually split into the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. After conquering the northern kingdom in 722 BC, Sargon of Assyria exiled its upper class to Assyria and re-populated the northern kingdom with people from other nations that he had conquered, who intermarried with the lower class Jews left behind. Rejected as impure by the Jews in the south, the mixed race northern Jews - now called "**Samaritans**" - set up their own temple and religious services on Mt Gerizim.

### Why do you think Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water?

### What is the "living water" (John 4:10) that Jesus is talking about?.

### Why the abrupt change in topic in John 4:16?

Her understanding is blocked by a particular sin, so Jesus pinpoints it to take it out of the way.

### What was that sin?

It was \_\_\_\_\_. She had "**had five husbands**" (John 4:18), and the one she was now with wasn't her husband.

### Being with a man who isn't her husband is self-explanatory but what's wrong with her having had five husbands?

It would be okay if she was a five-time widow but the context and her reaction make this unlikely. Chances are, she had been divorced a number of times and/or been with men who weren't her husband. The Greek word translated "husband(s)" in this passage is *andros*, which literally means, "adult male" and appears 215 times in the original New Testament. It is translated into English, "man" or "men" 155 of those times, and "husband(s)" only 50 of those times. So John 4:18 could very well have read, "**for you have had five men, and the one whom you now have is not your husband...**"

**What do you think of her reply in John 4:19? What would an average woman have said at this point?**

Instead of lashing out in indignation at a stranger for exposing her sins, she tacitly admits them and humbles herself, and starts to see Jesus in spiritual light: **"Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."** (John 4:19)

**According to Jesus, what is the proper place to worship God?**

According to Jesus, **"true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,"** (John 4:23) not in some designated place.

**But doesn't the Bible also say that Christians should go to church?**

The word **"church"** is found 120 times in the New Testament and always refers to a gathering of Christians, not a place to go; the Greek word translated "church" is *ekklesia*, which literally means an assembly or gathering of people. That a church is not a place is especially clear in 1 Corinthians 14:23, which starts, **"if the whole church comes together in one place..."**

**What was the main purpose of the temple in Jerusalem?**

**What does God care about?**

That we **"worship in spirit and truth"** (John 4:23).

**The "spirit" is God the Holy Spirit, but where do we find "truth"?**

In the Bible. In John 14:6, Jesus declared that He is the truth, and John 1:1 & 1:14 declare that Jesus is the Word.

**What three identities did the woman sequentially ascribe to Jesus?**

**"J \_\_\_\_\_"** in John 4:9. **P \_\_\_\_\_** John 4:19. **C \_\_\_\_\_** in John 4:29.

**And what is the first thing she did thereafter?**

Ran to tell others about Jesus. With no formal training.

**When did the fever leave the nobleman's son?**

"Yesterday at the seventh hour" (John 4:52), meaning 1PM of the day before his servants confirmed the healing.

**What did the nobleman do until he could confirm what Jesus had said?**

He "**believed the word that Jesus spoke to him**" (John 4:50) and kept walking as Jesus instructed.

**Should we do any differently?**

John 4:43-54 A Prophet Has No Honor

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**When had Jesus testified, "a prophet has no honor in his own country"?**  
(Matthew 13:54-58)

**So why did the Galileans receive Him this time?**

John 4:45 says some of them had seen His m\_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.

**Are they now true followers of Jesus?**

There is a difference between a follower and a consumer of Jesus.