



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 4:1-9 Study Hints for Discussion

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why do you think Jesus did not want to talk to the Pharisees who had heard that He was baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist?

Jesus knew there was a time and place for everything, and His Father had more important work for Him to do than argue with some Pharisees who had no interest in learning the truth, repenting of their sins, and being baptized. They just wanted to ask Jesus questions like those they asked John the Baptist. Later, in Jerusalem, Jesus did debate with the Pharisees.

2. Why do you think Jesus had to go through Samaria?

Jesus could have travelled around Samaria to go to Galilee. Going through Samaria was quicker and shorter. Jesus travelled through Samaria to teach His disciples what He expected of them as His disciples relative to the Samaritans. Jesus and His Father knew that in Samaria at that time They could save a Samaritan woman and a whole city, people who would believe in Jesus the Messiah, unlike some contentious Pharisees in Judea.

3. What was important about the place where Jesus rested?

Jacob had bought some land there; he had dug a well there; he had given the land to Joseph; Joseph was buried there. [A Samaritan woman would meet Jesus there and come to believe that He was the Messiah and lead her home city to believe in Jesus too.]

4. How did John describe the fact that Jesus is fully human and fully divine?

Earlier in John chapters 1-3, John described many aspects of Jesus' character and nature, even quoting Jesus, that showed He is fully divine. In chapter 4, John described Jesus in way that show Jesus is fully human. After a long walk Jesus was tired. Jesus was thirsty, but He needed the woman to give Him a drink. Jesus could have worked a miracle, but when He was tempted in the wilderness by the devil, He showed that He would not use miracles to meet His own personal needs. It would have taken a miracle for Jesus to get a drink from Jacob's well apart from the help of someone else. Jesus did not work a miracle to provide food for himself; rather, He sent the disciples into the city to buy food. All these efforts and dependencies are very naturally human, which people who are fully human do and experience. Later, Jesus suffered real pains when dying on a cross.

5. Why was the woman surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink?

She said Samaritans and Jews will not share things in common. Jesus would need to share a bucket or pitcher with her, and the Jews would have considered using a bucket or pitcher of a Samaritan unclean and defiling.

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