

## Thirsty No More

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*Bible stories present us with intriguing case studies related to nursing. Consider this story from John 4 featuring a Samaritan woman. In this culture, Jews (like Jesus) and Samaritans despised each other, but they both longed for the Messiah, someone from God who would one day set all things aright. Notice in this story that the woman drew water from the well during the hottest hour of the day, when no one else would likely be around. This suggests that she was a social outcast in her village.*

#### [Read John 4:5-30:](#)

<sup>5</sup> So [Jesus] came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ...<sup>9</sup> 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.) <sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> 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?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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." <sup>15</sup> 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."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." <sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> 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." <sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem..."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he." ... <sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.



### Discuss:

- What were the woman's physical, social, emotional, and economic needs? How did Jesus connect these needs to her spiritual needs?
- Identify the various ways that Jesus attempted to meet her needs.
- How did the woman change as a result of her encounter with Jesus? How did she experience healing in her life?
- Imagine if Jesus had not assessed the woman's spiritual needs. How would the outcome of the story be different?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Do a quick self-assessment – what are your current physical, social, and emotional needs? In what ways might these needs be connected to a deeper spiritual need? How can you invite Jesus to meet your spiritual need this week to seek deeper healing in your life?
- *External:* If Jesus had not assessed the woman's spiritual needs, he would not have been able to address her real longings and desires. How do you think you can proactively assess patients' spiritual needs in your clinical or work settings?