

Week 4 - Spirit & Truth

Jesus vs. other gods!

In this week's reading, Jesus has a life-changing conversation in Samaria and does two miracles that demonstrate His healing power in a dramatic way...

1 - Praying With Faith

This week Pastor Ryan encouraged us to pray with faith. Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China, wrote in his journal - "You can depend on it; God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." Have you experienced this to be true?

2 - Watch Pastor Scott's Video for Journey to The Cross - Week 4

The readings follow the Journey to the Cross devotional booklet!

3 - Scripture reading - When Jesus passes through Samaria, He encounters a Samaritan woman. While much has been speculated about her, the main point John wants us to take away is that the "place" where we pray and worship has changed! John's readers knew that both the Samaritan temple on Mt. Gerizim AND the Jerusalem Temple had been destroyed, but Jesus reveal that God's Spirit dwells in those who believe, not in a building...

Read John 4:19-24 - Jesus in Samaria

- *There is a beautiful interaction with Jesus and this woman in which He demonstrates compassion and humanity in taking her questions seriously. Like Nicodemus last week, she is genuinely seeking the Kingdom of God, but is thinking in terms of the correct physical location. Where does Jesus tell her we now pray and worship?*
- *John's readers had the same questions as the woman, because they knew the Jerusalem Temple had been destroyed. How would Jesus' words have encouraged John's Jewish Christian readers?*
- *The woman is surprised, but the New Covenant looked forward to the indwelling of the Spirit: **Read Jeremiah 31:31-33, Ezekiel 36:25-27***

Read John 5:1-9 - Jesus heals at a pagan temple!

- *This is an odd story, but archaeology has shown that the Pools of Bethesda was the site of a pagan temple to the Greek god of healing, Aesclepius. So Jesus heals a Jewish man not just so he could walk, but so he could get out of that place and go worship the true God.*
- *What question does Jesus ask the man? Why do think He phrased it this way?*
- *What question might Jesus ask us that would challenge our faith?*

Pray together!

- **Use the Week 2 prompt in the United in Prayer section in the booklet!**



A DISCIPLE'S WALK THROUGH
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Above - Samaritan priests prepare for a gathering on Mt. Gerizim in the Central Hill Country of modern Israel

The Samaritans

The Samaritan people in Jesus' day were an ethnically mixed group comprised of remnants of the 10 northern tribes of Israel with various Gentile groups. When the armies of Assyria conquered the area 700 years earlier, they moved these other racial exiles into the region to intermarry.

Because the Samaritans were an ethnic mix, they were not allowed to worship at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, they built their own sanctuary at the top of Mt. Gerizim. It was destroyed by a Jewish official named John Hyrcanus about 140 years before our story in John 4.

There are still a few hundred Samaritans living on Mt. Gerizim today. They have a high priest and gather for an annual Passover sacrifice each Spring.



LIFE GROUPS

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