**Growth Group Bible Study**

“Encountering Jesus”

Encountering the Thirst Quencher

Lesson 3

January 21, 2018

**Reading** John 4:1-42

**Opening Questions**

1. Have you ever had a time in your life that you were really thirsty?

2. What is your favorite “thirst quenching” drink? (water, Gatorade, juice?)

**Study**

1. According to verse 4, Jesus “had” to pass through Samaria on His way Galilee. Why?

2. What are some of the strange things about Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman, by herself, who is gathering water at noon?

3. What are some of the differences between this encounter with Jesus and the encounter of Nicodemus in chapter 3? What does that tell us about the mission of Jesus?

4. What did the term “living water” (vs10) mean in normal usage in those times? Jesus uses it to refer to “the gift of God.” What is this gift? (cf. John 3:16).

5. What is the thirst that all humans feel and which Jesus alone can fulfill? How does that thirst manifest itself in our lives—where do you see “thirstiness” showing up in your life?

6. What does it mean that the water Jesus gives will be “a well of water *springing up* to eternal life?” What does it mean to “overflow” with the water that Jesus gives?

7. How do you suppose the woman was pursuing relationships in order to fill up her life? What springs do we tend to pursue in order to feel fulfilled? Why do these always make us more thirsty?

8. How does the woman look to religious tradition as an answer for her thirst? How do we look to religious traditions instead of to Jesus? How do you know when religion has become a replacement for Jesus?

9. How does the woman deflect the offer of Jesus? How do we deflect Jesus’ offer? How do distractions get in the way of accepting the gift?

10. What did Jesus mean that his food is “to do the will of Him who sent me” (vs34)? Why do you think that we tend to mistrust God’s will and feel like we can find better food by following our own plans? How does doing the will of God sustain us?

11. The Samaritans end up believing not just based on the woman’s testimony, but firsthand experience (vs42). Why is firsthand experience of Jesus so important to a walk with Him?

**Application**

1. Read Isaiah 55:1-3. How have you personally been spending money on what is not bread? What would it look like to abandon false sustenance for the Bread of Life?

2. How can you drink the living water of Jesus throughout your day (at work, at home, at play)? What practical steps can you take to keep coming back to the well?

3. Who do you know that needs a drink from the Living Water? How might you be able to initiate an invitation to drink from Jesus?