

Week Beginning: 15th March 2020

Worship Series: #4 in series



Deep Cycle



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.”

John 4:42

Remember This Week

Intimacy = in-to-me-see.

Your thirst will never be quenched by the external wells of life. Only by Jesus. Jesus Christ encounters us at our dry well and invites us to drink deeply from the well of his life and love. That's a vicarious living that will deeply satisfy. For to be known by Jesus is to be loved and to be loved is to be known.



My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalms 139:15-16

Heavenly Father, no one knows us more intimately than you, our creator and redeemer. You know what each of us needs from you at this moment. Minister to each of us through your word as we gather together as your people, in Jesus name, Amen



1. *Share one high and low since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Who is the one person who knows you the best?*
4. *What elements of a relationship would you say are important for developing intimacy?*
5. *How intimate would you say your relationship with Jesus is at the moment?*

Reality television is on the rise. Australians are living vicariously through the experiences of the reality TV stars – from the safety of our own homes. Living vicariously is safe - we don't have to risk our own heart or our own reputation - but it's not real. The network stations have latched on to the deep desire or deep deficiency in our lives, namely that we are always looking for more. We live dehydrated lives where we are thirsting for something more, something different, but we always keep returning to the same wells hoping our thirst will be quenched. What is your well? Food? Marriage? Children? Perfectionism? Isolation? Withdrawal? Power and Control? Addiction? Busyness? Denial? Have you spent too long drinking at a well that will never satisfy? There is another well, one that promises life, one by which we are known and loved. Jesus invites you today to drink deeply from his well and be completely satisfied. It's an encounter that will transform your life, as you discover the deep intimacy that comes from being loved, seen, accepted, included, forgiven and known.

Read John 4:5-26

6. *What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?*
7. *How would you react if you had just gone to the well to draw water and were suddenly confronted with a stranger talking about living water?*
8. *Throughout this passage it seems that the woman does not completely understand the fullness of who Jesus is until he reveals it to her? How do you encounter the fullness of who Jesus is?*





It might well be worth asking the question, 'Which Jesus do you follow?' It seems that there are many different kinds of Jesus that people have come to follow. There is Jesus my best friend, Jesus my wingman, Jesus my Lord, Jesus my Saviour, Jesus my genie in a bottle a.k.a Jesus the prayer answering guy. All of these titles, all of these approaches capture an element of who Jesus is, but none offer the complete picture. Like the woman at the well, Jesus invites us to experience an intimate relationship with him. A relationship where he sees us completely and invites us to experience him deeply.

9. *How would you describe the Jesus you follow? What title from the list (or one of your own) best fits your idea of Jesus? How have you formed that image of Jesus?*
10. *The woman came to the well with a jar to draw water from the well. She left it behind after encountering Jesus. What might you need to leave behind with Jesus so you can be filled with his living water?*
11. *The life Jesus offers to us is a vicarious one. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "I no longer live but Christ lives in me". What does it mean for you that Christ lives in you?*

Read John 4:27-42

When Christ lives in us, things change. The woman from the well has her priorities changed. She leaves her water jar behind and takes off to tell others in the town what Jesus has done. Many of them believe her enough to go and check Jesus out for themselves. Notice that she does not make a clever theological argument, she simply tells of her encounter with Jesus and recounts what Jesus said to her. These people respond to the woman's story but really only develop their own faith in Jesus when they encounter him for themselves.

12. *How important a role did the woman have in helping the others come to faith in Jesus? How is it similar/different to our role? How do we do mission in this COVID-19 age?*
13. *Jesus says in this passage that his food is to do the will of the Father and to finish his work. Have you ever experienced the satisfaction of seeing someone come to faith in Jesus? What happened? How did it make you feel?*
14. *People come to faith in Jesus in many different ways. Jesus said that it is true that one reaps what another has sown. God is at work in every life calling people to himself. How can being aware of the sowing and reaping analogy, help you in your witnessing to Jesus?*

A true encounter with Jesus is an encounter with life, the kind of life that is infectious. It does not just take hold of us but it can't help to be shared with others.

In verse 35, Jesus said, 'Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.' When we look at the world around us it is easy to not see a world ready for harvest, but instead to see a dry and barren land where the things of God seem to be dying away. Ironically, while there seems to be a move away from church, there also seems to be an increase in spiritual awareness and exploration among people today. The religious landscape in which we operate is constantly changing.

15. *How do you live in a world that seems increasingly hostile toward Christianity?*
16. *How does changing your perspective of the world from a barren wasteland to a field ready for harvest change your attitude to evangelism (sharing Jesus with others)?*
17. *When you share Jesus with others, the nature of your relationship with him is also apparent. How close is your relationship with Jesus at the moment? What might help you to deepen your relationship with him?*

- * Praise God for the gift of life and intimacy given to us through his son Jesus.
- * Thank God for the work he has done in calling all people to be his. Ask him to help you be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom to speak in appropriate ways and empower you to witness boldly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ knowing when to plant a seed and when to reap the harvest.
- * Pray for the Church to prosper in this COVID-19 crisis as it finds creative ways to share the gospel as a scattered Church.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:
Name, Christ will satisfy your deepest thirst. Amen.

