

ONE CONVERSATION

AT A TIME

[LEADER PREP GUIDE]

GETTING STARTED

On a piece of paper, write down every name, title, or role that labels you in this life.
(Example: mom, dad, uncle, aunt, boss, coach, brother, sister, teacher, business owner, artist, etc.)

Place a star next to the ones that involve the most of your time, attention, and energy.

Leader Note: As a group, individually share the list you wrote down and the roles/titles/names you starred. If you are in a large group, try using a package of labels for people to write on, and then have them place the labels on a big sheet or board for group discussion. Look for patterns.

OVERVIEW

What impact can one conversation have? Let's be really honest for a moment: time is precious. Life is busy and most of our days are spent moving from one thing to the next just to get everything done. We want to spend our time on the things that matter, but it can be difficult to see the bigger picture, and we can miss the opportunity to impact the Kingdom with a single conversation. Jesus was pulled in many directions, too, but He was always ready to stop, listen, and speak into the lives of the people around Him. As His followers, we too can see that simple conversations can lead to opportunities. And those opportunities can lead to life change.

Open up and read John 4:1-30

Leader Note: Use the following questions to make sure everyone understands the passage. Then, read the "One Conversation at Time" summary before moving on to the application questions.

UNPACKING THE VERSES

1. Whom did Jesus talk to in this passage?
2. What was at stake for Jesus as He intentionally engaged this woman? Why do you think it was important that He spoke with her?

Leader Note: She had several issues against her: a woman, a Samaritan, and a known sinner. It was a serious cultural and religious infraction for Jesus to talk to her, as evidenced by the disciples' shock and confusion.



3. What did Jesus and the woman discuss? How do her questions and responses reveal her spiritual state? What did Jesus see about her?

Leader Note: She revealed some spiritual awareness and seeking in her questions to Jesus. He knew about her many relationships, but He also knew what she really needed—His Living Water

4. Because Jesus embraced an opportunity to speak to this woman, how did her life change, even within the passage?

Leader Note: She believed in Him; she brought more people from her town to meet Him. She received His salvation and a community!

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Jesus allowed His time, mission, and personal space to be interrupted so that life change could happen through one conversation. He replaced this woman's shame with His grace and He gave her a new identity in Him. Though her life looked lonely and sinful, His love easily extended to her. This same grace is for us, too. And once we recognize our identity is found in being His, we are more free to live in such a way that allows us to be available to others who need Christ's truth, healing, and restoration.

Your time, schedule, and energy may seem so limited and precious, but the right conversation is always worth it:

- When you are tired, embrace the conversation.
- When you don't think you have enough time, embrace the conversation.
- When someone else needs you simply to listen, embrace the conversation.

LIVING IT OUT

1. Think back to the roles/titles/names you wrote down at the beginning. Do you allow these titles to flow from your identity as God's child? Or do those titles determine your identity? Do you know that you are called and created as His son or daughter?

2. What are things in your life that make it difficult for conversations to happen?

3. What do you need to add or subtract in your life to allow conversations to happen for the sake of those people God brings into your path?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Son. Thank You for sending Him fully human to this earth so that we can have a model and example of the way we should live and walk in this life. Thank You that Your Son embraced conversations. Thank You that conversations ushered in healing and restoration. Help us to surrender the things that distract us from recognizing people in our lives who need an encounter with You, who heals, restores, and gives new identities. Thank You for calling us Your sons and daughters. In Jesus' name we pray all these things. Amen.