



Sermon Discussion Guide

January 25th, 2025 | John 4:1-26 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am

Summary

In this week's sermon, Pastor Greg began with a story from his childhood about playing hide-and-seek and discovering the perfect hiding place under his parents' deck, where he could remain unseen in the darkness. He used this story to illustrate how many of us hide in the dark as well, afraid of what others would think if they truly saw our sin and brokenness. In John 4, we see that Jesus goes, gets, and gives. John tells us that Jesus "had" to pass through Samaria, a place Jews intentionally avoided, because his mission was to save the whole world. Jesus goes to meet this Samaritan woman in an unlikely place and at an unlikely time, showing that he intentionally meets people in their darkness. He does not stand at a distance calling her out, but instead sits with her and engages her with grace and truth. Jesus then gets to the heart of why she is hiding, revealing her misplaced search for "living water" in broken cisterns—particularly in the approval of men—rather than in God. Though Jesus fully knows her sin, he does not condemn her; instead, he shows her where his grace reaches deepest. Finally, Jesus gives her true living water, explaining that it is not earned through good works but received through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Through his sacrifice, Jesus offers forgiveness, satisfaction, and life that truly satisfies, an invitation that remains open to us today.

Discussion Questions (Read John 4:1-26):

Icebreaker Question: Can you think of a time when you tried to hide a mistake or failure? What motivated you to hide instead of being honest?

Jesus Goes (Into our Darkness)

- What are some common reasons people hide parts of themselves from others?
- In what ways can shame or fear keep us in the dark?
- What does it mean that Jesus doesn't call us out of the darkness from afar, but comes and sits with us in it?

Jesus Gets (To the Heart of the Matter)

- Why do you think the woman came to the well at noon instead of with the others?
- Where do you personally find yourself tempted to trade living water for something that cannot satisfy?
- How is Jesus' approach both truthful and gracious?

Jesus Gives (Us Living Water)

- What does Jesus teach about true worship in this passage?
- How does the promise of the Holy Spirit change the way we think about faith and obedience?
- What does it mean for you to step out of hiding and into the light of Jesus' grace?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- What is one step you can take this week to stop hiding and trust Jesus with the place you most want to keep in the dark?

Jesus meets us in our darkest places, knows us fully, and offers grace that truly satisfies. He invites us out from hiding—not to condemn us, but to restore and transform us.