



## God's Surprising Plan - John 4:1-9

### Focus

Being obedient to God's plan, Jesus is actively pursuing sinners because He is the one Savior of the world whom every human being needs. This passage is meant to help us see that in God's surprising plan no one is excluded from an invitation to the gospel, and therefore we should actively share the gospel with all people.

### Opening Question

What was the last conversation you had with someone – a non-Christian – about Jesus? How did it go? [This exercise will probably be most helpful if everyone in attendance shares.]

### Read

For the first week, as we kick-off this study, read all of John 4:1-42.

### Some Questions for Reflection

Why did Jesus leave Judea for Galilee? (vv.1-3)

Why did Jesus go through Samaria on his way to Galilee? (v.4)

How might verses 23 and 34 help us to understand why?

What is Jesus' condition when he arrives at the well? (vv.5-8)

Comparing Jesus' condition here with that in John 19:14-16, 28, what does it tell us about Jesus' mission to be the Savior of the world?

According to verse 9, what should we understand about the relationships between Jews and Samaritans in Jesus' day?

What makes the fact that Jesus initiates a conversation with this person so surprising, if not shocking?

What does this reveal about who it is Jesus came to save?

Compare this encounter with Jesus' previous encounter in John 3. What are the similarities and differences between the two people?

### **Closing Reflection & Applications**

Sunday's sermon stated that being absolutely assured (1) that every human being needs Jesus, and (2) that God Himself is on a mission to seek and save sinners is necessary if we're going to have courage, confidence, and motivation for evangelism. How might this be so?

Sunday's sermon drew attention to Acts 17:24-27. How might these verses be a further encouragement to evangelism?

As you reflect on the fact that the unbelievers with whom you work and live are there by God's design for the larger purpose of you sharing the good news of Jesus with them in the hopes that they will find God, how does that change how you view the purpose of your life?

The Christian author, Donald Whitney writes, "Evangelism is a natural overflow of the Christian life. We should all be able to talk about what the Lord has done for us and what He means to us. But evangelism is also a Discipline in that we must discipline ourselves to get into the context of evangelism, that is, we must not just wait for witnessing opportunities to happen." How can you be more disciplined in initiating evangelism opportunities?

How might you need to grow in order to converse more effectively with others about Jesus?

Who's one non-Christian you can begin praying for now who you could potentially invite to participate in the April Christianity Explored courses?