

## SMALL GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

### The Holy Gospel According to Saint John

#### Lesson #4

- 1) Have someone read Chapter Four and then take time to discuss it.
- 2) There are several place names, Judea, Samaria and Galilee in the first few verses. Get a map of the Holy Land and find these three districts. Here a Bible atlas would be helpful.
- 3) Note that Samaria lies between Judea and Galilee and was occupied by the Samaritans. These people were of mixed blood, part Jew and part Gentile. They were descendants of people left behind after the Assyrian deportation in 721 B.C. They worshiped on Mt. Gerizim.
- 4) There was hostility between Jews and Samaritans. In spite of this, Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water.
- 5) Jesus then enters into a conversation with the woman and speaks to her of living water, water which will quench her thirst eternally. What is going through this woman's mind?
- 6) Note that the woman asks for this water and so Jesus tells her to go and get her husband.
- 7) What is the attitude of our Lord when she says "I have no husband." Judgmental? Stern? Indifferent? Accepting?
- 8) How does the woman respond ... by changing the subject! Is that how some people behave when confronted by God?
- 9) Jesus tells the woman the hour is coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. What does this mean?
- 10) Note in particular verse 26 where Jesus states that He is the Messiah.

11) When the disciples return, the woman leaves and tells the people of Sychar to come and see Jesus.

12) Meanwhile Jesus instructs His disciples on what sustains Him, doing the will of His Father. Is that also our food?

13) The Samaritans persuade Jesus to stay with them and affirm that He is the Savior of the world (verse 42). We see here the first evidence that the gift of salvation, offered first to the Jews will also be offered to the Gentiles.

14) Jesus finally arrives in Galilee and there heals the son of an official from Capernaum. What was required of the official before his son was healed? What does that imply for us in our own relationship with God?