

## Study Guide #21 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of April 22, 2018

Title of the Lesson: Ends of the Earth Mission (i.e., International Mission)

This week's bible passages talk about the importance of being witnesses to people of other nations and cultures.

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

### Acts 1:8 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### John 4:1–42 (NIV)

**4** Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—<sup>2</sup> although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

<sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

<sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “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 Savior of the world.”

### Questions

- Now, let’s open our bibles to these two passages (Acts 1:8 and John 4:1-42).
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask what resonated with you the most and why?

- Context: Acts 1:8 is Jesus' final words to his followers spoken just before he ascends to heaven. John 4:32-37 is one of the key passages in the Gospels that shows Jesus' heart for people of other cultures, backgrounds, and places. In short, it reveals God's heart for the nations, a theme that is frequently emphasized throughout the story of the bible.
- Many have noted surprise that Jesus was even passing through Samaria due to the hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans. Can anyone enlighten the group on why there was such disdain (and even hatred) between Jews and Samaritans?
- Based on this, take a moment and discuss all of the cultural boundaries that Jesus crossed in order to share the gospel with the Samaritan woman.
- What was the result of Jesus' ministry to the Samaritan woman?
- What does this story teach us about God's heart for all people everywhere?
- Some scholars have noticed that the book of Acts could be outlined around the geographical terms mentioned in Acts 1:8 – witnessing in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Using such an outline, Acts 13-28 focuses on “ends of the earth” mission. Take a moment and conduct a brief survey of Acts 13 -28 (just quickly skim through the chapters – leaders, you may want to assign certain chapters to different individuals). What does the last half of the book of Acts teach us about God's heart for the nations?
- Take a moment and share about contemporary Christians that you know who are committed to international mission ministry. Specifically, what is it that these people are doing?
- How could Fellowship Church be more effective in engaging the nations with the gospel?
- Personally, what is God leading you to do based on this lesson?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically for what God is putting on each person's heart. Pray that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.