

# Ice Breaker

- Describe the world you are in with seven words.

- Jesus Christ: the greatest life.

# Reactions to Jesus' Teachings

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# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

John 3: Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

**3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**[b]**”

# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

- What did Jesus mean by “born again”?

# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

**5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[c] gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[d] must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”[e]

**9** “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

- What did Jesus mean by “born of water and the Spirit”?

# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

**10** “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.[f] **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,[g] **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”[h]



# Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus

- Why didn't Nicodemus believe in Jesus' teaching?

# What was the basic question Nicodemus had as he came to Jesus?

- His underlying question as discerned by Jesus was, “With all the uncertainty in the current mixed-up religious system, how does one enter God’s Kingdom?”

# What basic truth did Jesus emphasize in His answer to this Jewish teacher regarding new birth?

- His basic point: Entrance into God's Kingdom comes only by a spiritual birth from above.
- The logic: Recall how entrance is gained into any living kingdom — animal, human, or spiritual - only by being born into them.

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

- John 4: Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— **2** although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. **3** So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. **4** Now he had to go through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

- How did Jews get along with Samaritans?

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

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

**9** 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.[a])

**10** 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.”

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

- What did Jesus mean by “living water”?

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

**11** “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?”

**12** 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?”

**13** Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** 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.”

**15** 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.”



# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

- Where does Jesus draw “living water”?

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

**16** He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

**17** “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** 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.”

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

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

**21** “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** 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. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

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

**26** Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

# Jesus' teaching to the Samaritan Woman

- Did the Samaritan woman see that Jesus is the Messiah?

# Jesus passed through Samaria on His way to Galilee. Who were the Samaritans and why did the Jews avoid contact with them?

- They were a mixed population of Jews and Assyrians who settled in the North after Israel's scattering in 722 B.C. Their religion worshiped many gods for whom they built their own temple on Mt. Gerizim, also devising their own Pentateuch. Mutual hostility grew between them and the Jews, each having attacked the other's temple, with the result that most Jews viewed the Samaritans as worse than the heathen.

# What distinctions do you see between the Samaritan woman and Nicodemus?

- Their different racial, religions, moral and social backgrounds are obvious here. The two represent the up-and-outers and the down-and-outers. Note also that one was a religious seeker, the other an irreligious non-seeker.

# Reactions to Jesus' Teachings

- What were the differences between the reaction of Nicodemus and the reaction of the Samaritan woman to Jesus' teaching?

# Reactions to Jesus' Teachings

- Why do you think the reactions were so different?



# Conclusion

- Jesus came to heal us from psychological imbalances caused by a world that inflicted suffering.

# Application

- How would you plan to draw “living water”?

# My Experiences

- Have faith in God and figure out His plan for me.
- Be loving, kind, honest and enjoy what you love to do.
- Always have a backup plan for the worst.