

Prayer Updates



ENCOUNTERS WITH
CHRIST
Jesus' Life in the Gospel of John

**"Christ's Encounter with
a Wounded Wanderer"**

Message by René Schlaepfer January 21-22, 2006

HOSPITALIZED THIS PAST WEEK

Christine Lopez – intestinal virus
Diana Walker – stomach cancer
Dave Breuninger – back spasms
Pat Kenyon – emergency appendectomy surgery

HOME HOSPICE CARE

Jim Emmons – hospice care

HOME WITH THE LORD

Please remember Catherine "Cookie" Carson who recently lost her mother. Pray for God's very special comfort in Cookie's life who herself is disabled and resides in the Pleasant Care Nursing Facility. Encouragement cards may be sent to her at:
2990 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Changing lives Christ's way:

1. Close _____

The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John. . . When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. John 4:1,4

Key: Jesus _____

2. Common _____

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. John 4:5-6

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" John 4:7-9

Key: Jesus _____

3. Clear _____

• Keep it _____

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. . . Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:10,13-14

• Keep it _____

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." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 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." John 4:15-18

• Keep it _____

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. . . a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:19-24

Key: Jesus _____

4. Compelling

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:28-30

"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. . . the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 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." John 4:35-38

Key: Jesus

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible readings related to this weekend's topic

This week's memory verse:

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

Monday

Read John 4:1-10. The first point from this weekend's message was that Christ strategically placed himself in close proximity to hurting people. How can you do this (think of people in your neighborhood, workplace, school, etc.)?

In Jesus' day, people were very prejudiced against the Samaritans. In what ways do you struggle with being prejudiced?

What is significant about Jesus choosing this woman as the first person to whom He revealed Himself?

Ask God to help you develop closer relationships with people who are thirsty for the living water Jesus offers. Ask Him to reveal to you where you are prejudiced.

Tuesday

Read John 4:11-14. Our second point this weekend was that Jesus sought common ground... in this case, quite literally! Why did Jesus sit down by Jacob's well?

How can you build common ground with people around you?

Sports Computers Children Exercise Scrapbooking
 Crafts Gardening Movies Music Other:

Develop an idea list of people outside your normal church friends with whom you can develop a natural friendship that could lead to discussion of spiritual matters:

Ask Jesus to bring people into your life with whom you can develop common ground!

Wednesday

Read John 4:15-26. Our third point from this past weekend was that Jesus communicated simply and positively. What aspects of Jesus' conversation can you use as a model for your own discussions with searching friends?

The woman attempts to turn the conversation away from herself toward a religious controversy. What do you learn from the way Jesus handles this?

What do you think Jesus means by worshipping God "in spirit and in truth"?

How can you do this?

Today thank God for sending Jesus to you just as He came for this Samaritan woman!

Thursday

Read John 4:27-38. How does obeying the will of God supply similar essentials in your life that food does?

Are you more like the disciples or the woman at this point in your life? Why?

What does it mean that one sows and another reaps? How is this motivating for you?

Ask God to show you which fields He is calling you to work in!

Friday

Read John 4:39-42. Why did the Samaritans originally believe in Jesus (v. 42)? What new basis did they have for their belief (v. 42)?

How does this parallel your own faith journey?

What can you do to play the role of the Samaritan woman to your own townspeople, so to speak, this week?

Ask God to help you clear up misconceptions people may have about Christ and His message through your words, actions, and attitudes!

Saturday

Please polish up the memory verse for this week. Please spend time in prayer for the exciting kick-off to World Outreach Week this weekend. Pray that God will be honored and people will be inspired!